



# MUBARAKA INDIA

In India, FGM/C is mainly prevalent in the Bohra community. A 2018 study estimated that 75% of daughters (aged 7 and above) in the survey sample had undergone FGM/C. The Indian government is yet to take concrete steps towards eliminating the practice.

“ In the summer of 2016, I discovered that I too was a victim of FGM.

*I was on the bus having a conversation with one of my Muslim female friends. In the midst of talking about religion, she suddenly asked me if I was circumcised. I said, “no, that wouldn't have ever happened to me”.*

*A month later, a few people in my community started talking about it. I started to really think about it, and whether it had happened to me. I was traveling home one day when the memory came rushing in.*

*I was tricked into thinking that I'd be getting chocolate. Instead, I was taken to a shady-looking dimly lit house, where a lady was waiting for me and my grandmother. The lady asked me to lie down and spread my legs, which was an extremely strange thing for me to do.*

*She pulled my panties down and told me to stay still and that I won't be hurt at all. My grandmother sat there, watching. And then it happened. She cut my clit and put on some antiseptic. I cried out in pain. My vagina was bruised.*

*Finally, I was given the promised chocolate and taken back home to forget the day's event completely.*

*The truth is nobody knows why we practice FGM. It is imposed on us as a religious responsibility and as our ticket to be accepted and be married, so we go along with it.*

*This entire malpractice is existent to ensure and preserve patriarchy in societies.*

*We need to stand up for ourselves, ladies, and show people that we're not empty vessels and we can't be controlled to do whatever another pleases. We are human too.* ”



**Mubaraka's story was featured in Sahiyo's Faces for Change photo campaign in 2019.**

**For Mubaraka's full story head to [equalitynow.org/Mubaraka](https://equalitynow.org/Mubaraka)**

**FGM/C IS GLOBAL**  
but so is the  
movement to end it