

## ABSTRACT

### FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN INDIA: NEED FOR A SUI GENERIS LAW

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The right to life and dignity is a fundamental right inhering in every individual. A healthy life and all round development is uncompromising on the face of culture and traditions. This paper reflects on this aspect of woman's life by focusing on an archaic custom of female genital mutilation or *khatna* in India. It begins by explaining what FGM is and then goes into its pervasiveness in India. Further, the socio-cultural dynamics relating to FGM is discussed along with the reasons for continuation of such a brute custom. The existent legal system pertaining to it is discussed and how a sui generis law can only help solve the problem is addressed. The necessary elements which need to be incorporated in the new enactment has also been recommended. Finally, the paper ends with the note that only bringing about a new codification won't help and providing ways in which this legislation can reach to the targeted audience.