

## PROBLEM/ISSUE STRATEGIC ANALYSIS TOOLS<sup>1</sup>

### PROBLEM TREE: ANALYZING THE PROBLEM, ROOT-CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

Rottenly, we confuse between the problem, its root causes and its consequences. The problem is expressed in how people see it, whereas the root-causes are what cause this problem to happen, and the cons.

To elaborate on these distinctions, please examine the following cartoon.



**Figure 1: Ignoring the Root Cause Is a Sure Path to Failure!**

**Cartoon contributed by Transparency Morocco**

Like in the cartoon above, quite often we work on a side issue that will not address the root cause of the problem promising the problem to get worse, and we get exhausted.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpts from Nader Tadros, *Advocacy: People's Power & Participation*. People's Advocacy – All Right Reserved – 2010 ©.

The **Problem Tree**, which many of you are likely familiar with, is a useful tool that helps us distinguish between these three distinct aspects: the problem, root causes and consequences.

The following diagram of the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Egypt Problem Tree<sup>2</sup> illustrates how **Problem Trees** can be used to identify the problem, root causes, and consequences.

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<sup>2</sup> Nader Tadros, 1997. A report on FGM Coalition Building in Beni-Suef and Fayoum, Egypt.

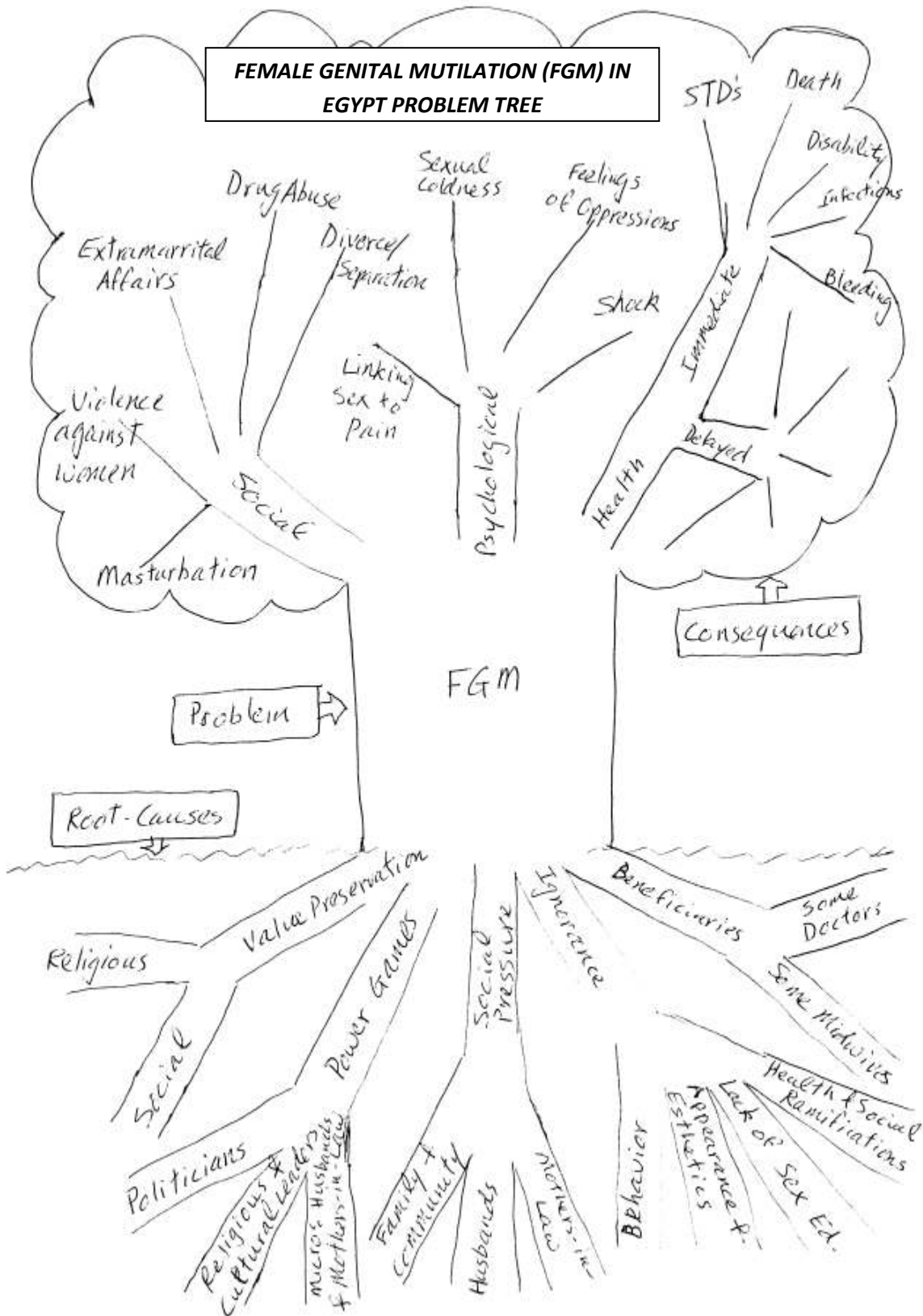


Figure 2:FGM in Egypt Problem Tree. Nader Tadros, 1997.