



# Attitudes on Albinism

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## Introduction:

Albinism is a defect of the skin of human beings which is characterised by absence of the colour pigment called melanin. It is the result of a mutation in genes which control skin colouration, so that the colour fails to develop. The skin of an albino is almost transparent and quickly damaged by exposure to sunlight. The mutational gene is recessive, so it is in a double clone (homozygous recessive).

People with albinism are normally persecuted on the basis of the belief that certain body parts of albinistic people transmit magical powers. This superstition, which is present in some parts of East Africa, has been exploited by witch doctors and others who use such body parts as ingredients in rituals, concoctions and potions with the claim that their magic will bring prosperity to the user.

Due to this belief, people with albinism have been persecuted, killed and dismembered, and graves of albinos dug up and desecrated. At the same time, people with albinism have also been ostracised and even killed for exactly the opposite reason – because they are presumed to be cursed and bring bad luck to the family and the clan at large.



## Method:

For this particular project there are no materials required apart from pieces of paper, pens and photocopier including printers. Some of these materials needed to be purchased but the others needed to be hired or being paid for the service which has been given to us for the accomplishment of the whole task, these are printers and photocopier without forgetting the computer. In order to make our project a success there was a need to make questionnaires which were given to about a hundred people, of them **fifty were males** and the other **fifty were females**, gender balance was considered.

In this particular case the people to whom we sent our questionnaires were of great importance, so they need not be forgotten in this part of materials and methods. The main method used here was the questionnaires from which we got the responses.



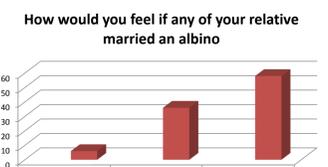
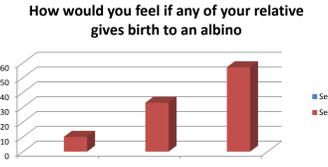
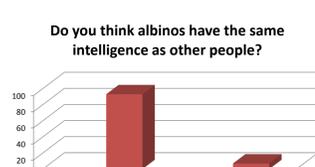
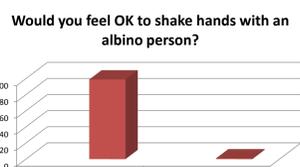
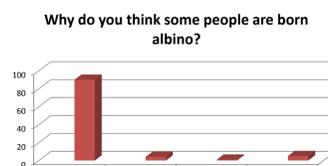
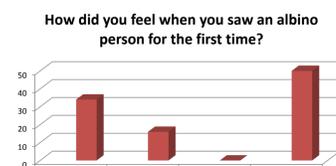
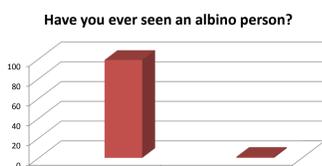
## Results:

Concerning the survey report on the attitude of the society towards albinism, the results obtained were as follows:

For the question which said “*have you ever seen a person who is albino?*” the results showed that 99% said Yes and 1% said No.

For the question which asked “*how did you feel when you saw an albino person for the first time?*” the results showed that **34% said they were surprised**

For the question which asked “*Do you think that albinos have the same level of intelligence as people who are not albinos?*” the results showed that 93% said albinos have the same level of intelligence as people who are not albinos and **7% said no they don't have the same level of intelligence.**



## Conclusions:

As from our introduction that albinos are normally persecuted on the basis of the belief that certain body parts transmit magical powers. We expected that most the responses would show a negative attitude towards albinos strongly but because we dealt with educated people, the responses are moderate. However the results show something as per the title of the project. According to what we obtained in our survey, most of the students have an education in the matter of albinism, that it is due to some biological reasons, nevertheless some of them showed different opinions. Had the survey been extended up to the villages, we could have obtained different ideas as compared to what we have obtained.

## Recommendations

After all we have obtained from the survey, and with regard to human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we have the following recommendations to make:

The Government should make a policy and enact strong laws which will prohibit and make sure that the killing of albinos which involve chopping off their body parts for the purpose of getting wealth it is stopped.

Generally the society should love and respect albinos, because they are human beings, the difference is just the colour which is the result of biological make-up. We should incorporate albinos in all social affairs.

All in all, if these views will be taken into consideration, under strong supervision of the government policy and laws, and the participation of the people themselves we will reduce the rate of killings of albinos.

## Further information:

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