

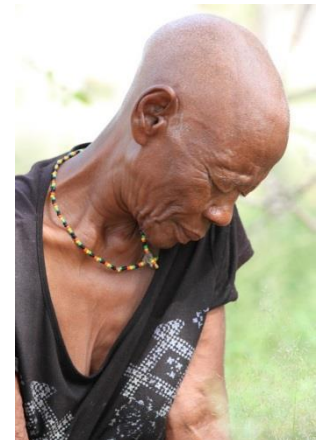
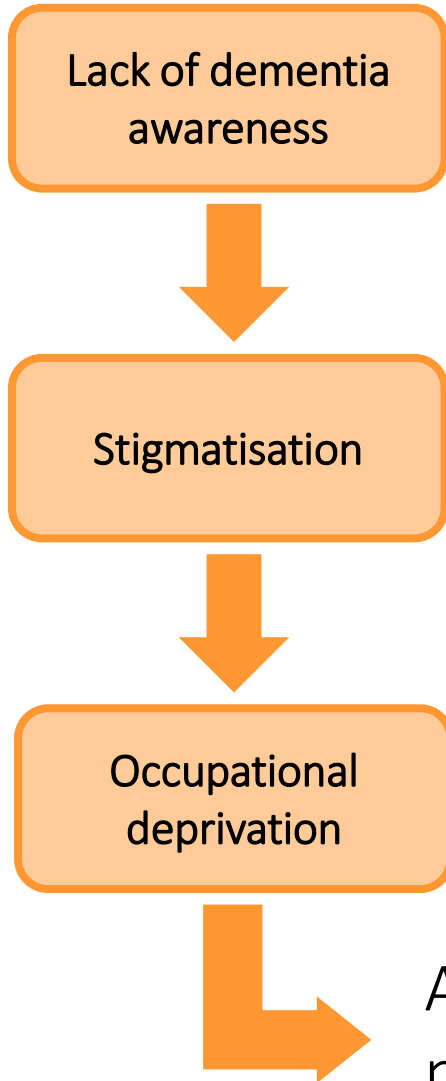


# AGEING AND FORGETFULNESS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA WITCHCRAFT ACCUSATION DEPRIVES OLDER PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA OF PARTICIPATION

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Aim of this study was to understand beliefs and perceptions relating to dementia in SSA.

The study consisted of a descriptive and explorative design in a cross sectional survey.

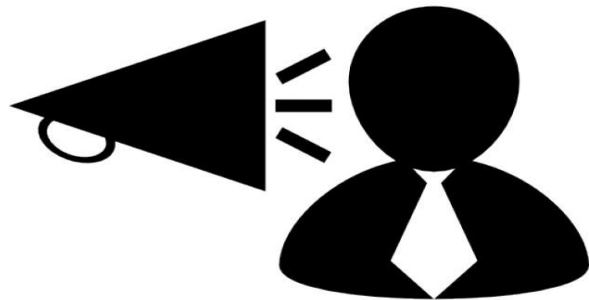


Tab. 1: Characteristics of respondents (n=1,642)

Category	Description	n	%
Sex (n=1,690)	Female	1,059	64.9
	Male	573	35.1
Age (n=1,607)		20.7 ( $\pm$ 8.36)	
Education (n=1,677)	Never visited any school	11	0.8
	Current pupil / went to school	1,086	77.2
	Currently student / went to university	260	18.5
	Graduated from university	49	3.5
Religion (n=1,382)	Christianity	1,292	93.5
	Islam	79	5.7
	Traditional	4	0.3
	Others	7	0.5

## Dementia awareness of respondents

23 % have heard about  
dementia (n=364)



Respondents who have  
heard about dementia tend to have  
knowledge about dementia.

(Fisher exact Test:  $p < 0.001$ )

22 % have knowledge about  
dementia (n=343)



Respondents with a  
higher education have  
greater knowledge about dementia.

(Chi<sup>2</sup>  $p < 0.001$ )

## Dementia awareness vs. education

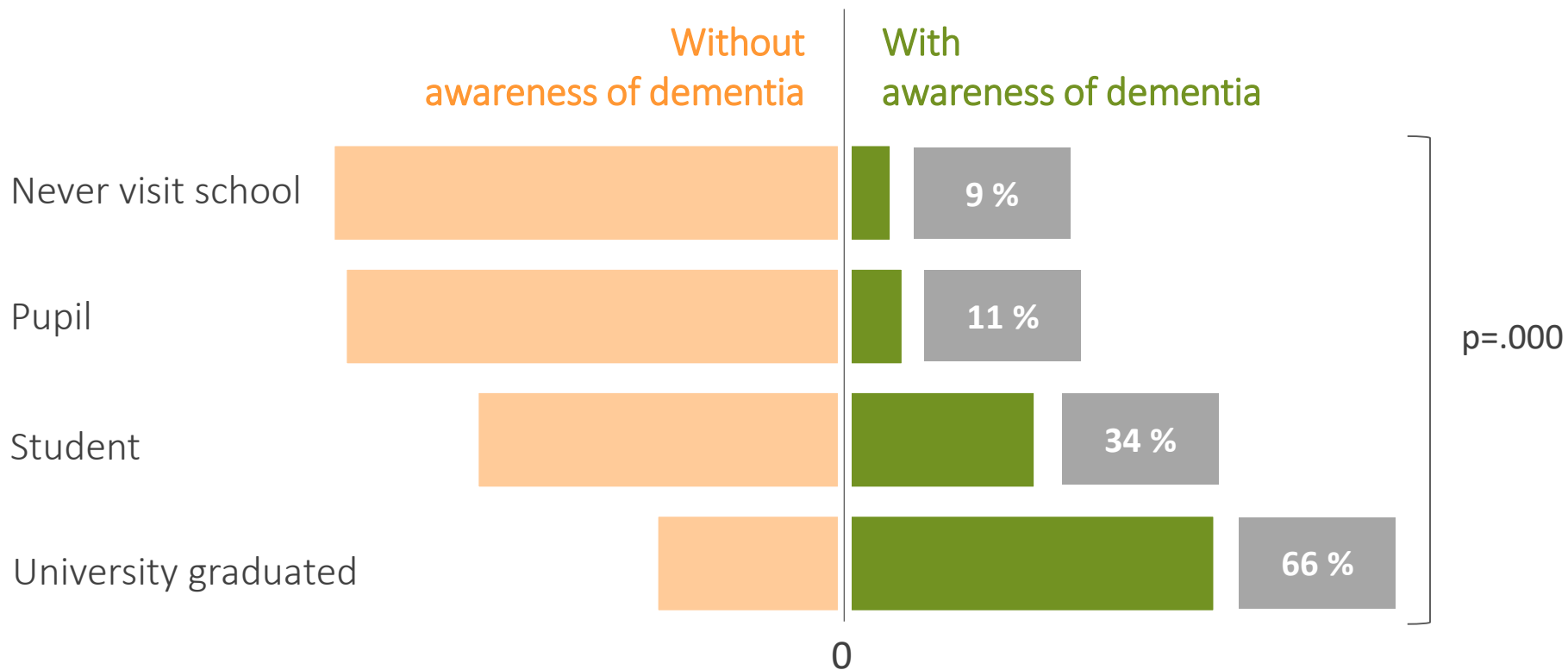


Fig. Dementia awareness vs. education. Have you ever heard about dementia?; n=1,363

## In Africa, accusations of witchcraft still a reality for many women

JACQUELINE MURRAY AND LAUREN WALLACE  
 CONTRIBUTED TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL  
 PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 25, 2013  
 UPDATED APRIL 9, 2018

In 1981, the United Nations declared Nov. 25 the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, inspired by the brutal assassination, in 1960, of the Mirabal sisters, political activists in the Dominican Republic. Today, millions of women continue to be the victims of myriad forms of gender-based violence.

## Ghanaian woman burned to death for being a 'witch'


Evangelical pastor among five people arrested for dousing 72-year-old Ama Hemmah in kerosene and setting her ablaze

A 72-year-old Ghanaian woman has been burned to death on suspicion of being a witch, prompting condemnation from the country's human rights groups.

### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

WILEY *Journal of Clinical Nursing*

## When people with dementia are perceived as witches. Consequences for patients and nurse education in South Africa

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 The "Gandhi" grant, received from The Norwegian Ministry of Culture, 2010

**Aims and Objectives:** To explore and describe the link between culture and dementia care with the focus on the influence of the belief in dementia as witchcraft and people with dementia as witches.

**Background:** In South Africa, especially in townships and rural areas, dementia is often perceived as connected to witchcraft rather than to disease. Persons labelled as witches—mostly older women—may be bullied, ostracised, beaten, stoned, burned, even killed.

**Method:** One strand of findings from a larger international study is presented with in-depth qualitative interviews of one close family member and seven nurses caring

## Witchcraft belief is a curse on Africa Jean La Fontaine

Kristy Barnu was killed because his sister thought him a witch. In Africa, Christianity has only added to the toxicity of such beliefs



## Belief in witchcraft

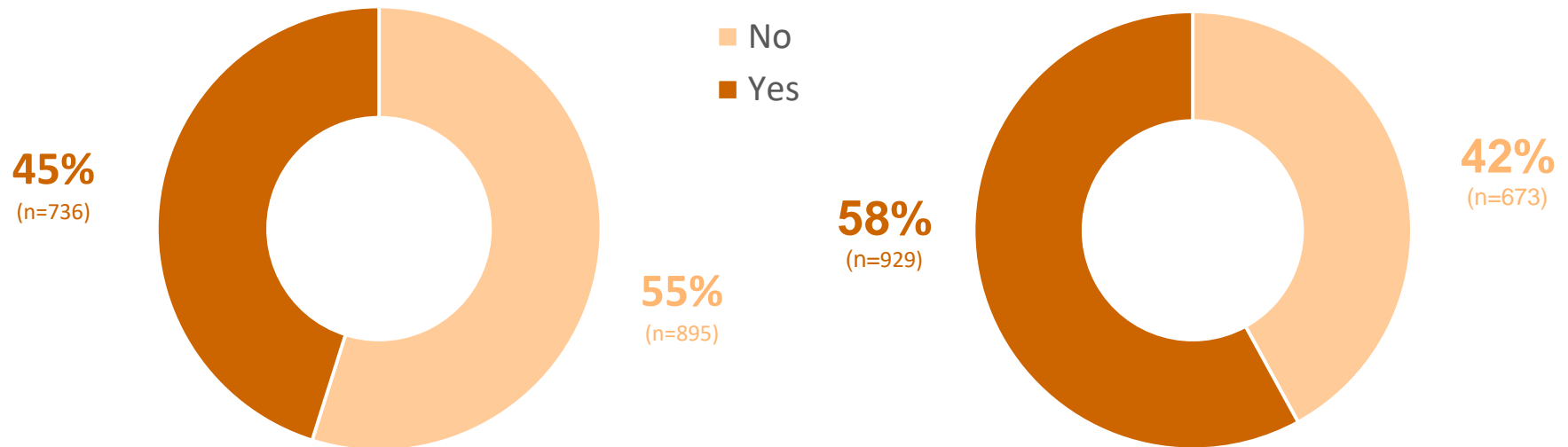
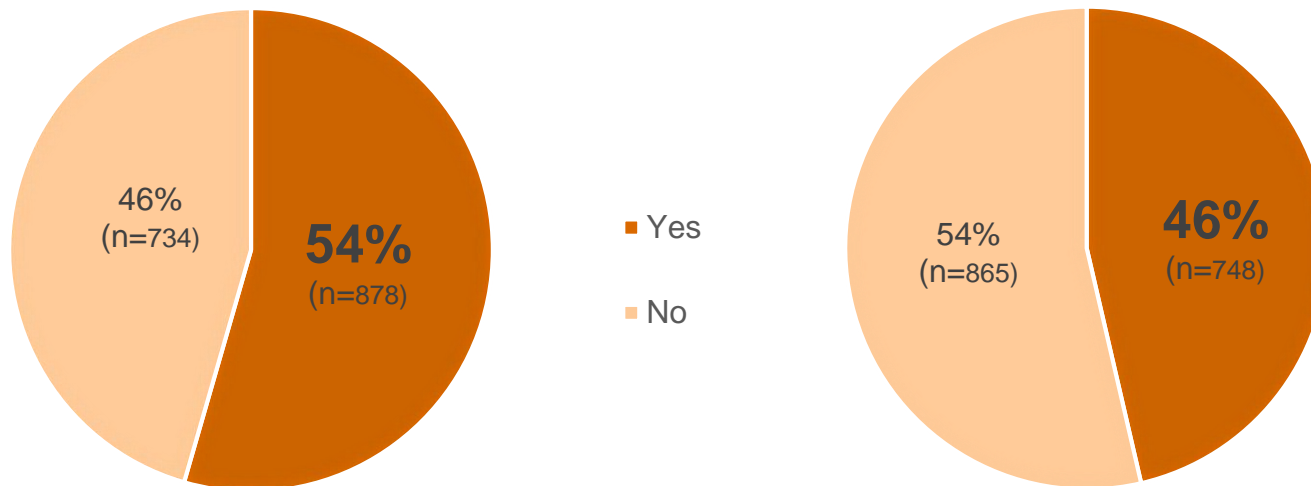


Fig. Believe in witchcraft as a spiritual power.  
Do you believe in witchcraft?; n=1,642

Fig. Fear of potential harm by witchcraft.  
Do you think witchcraft works?; n=1,642

## Accusation of witchcraft

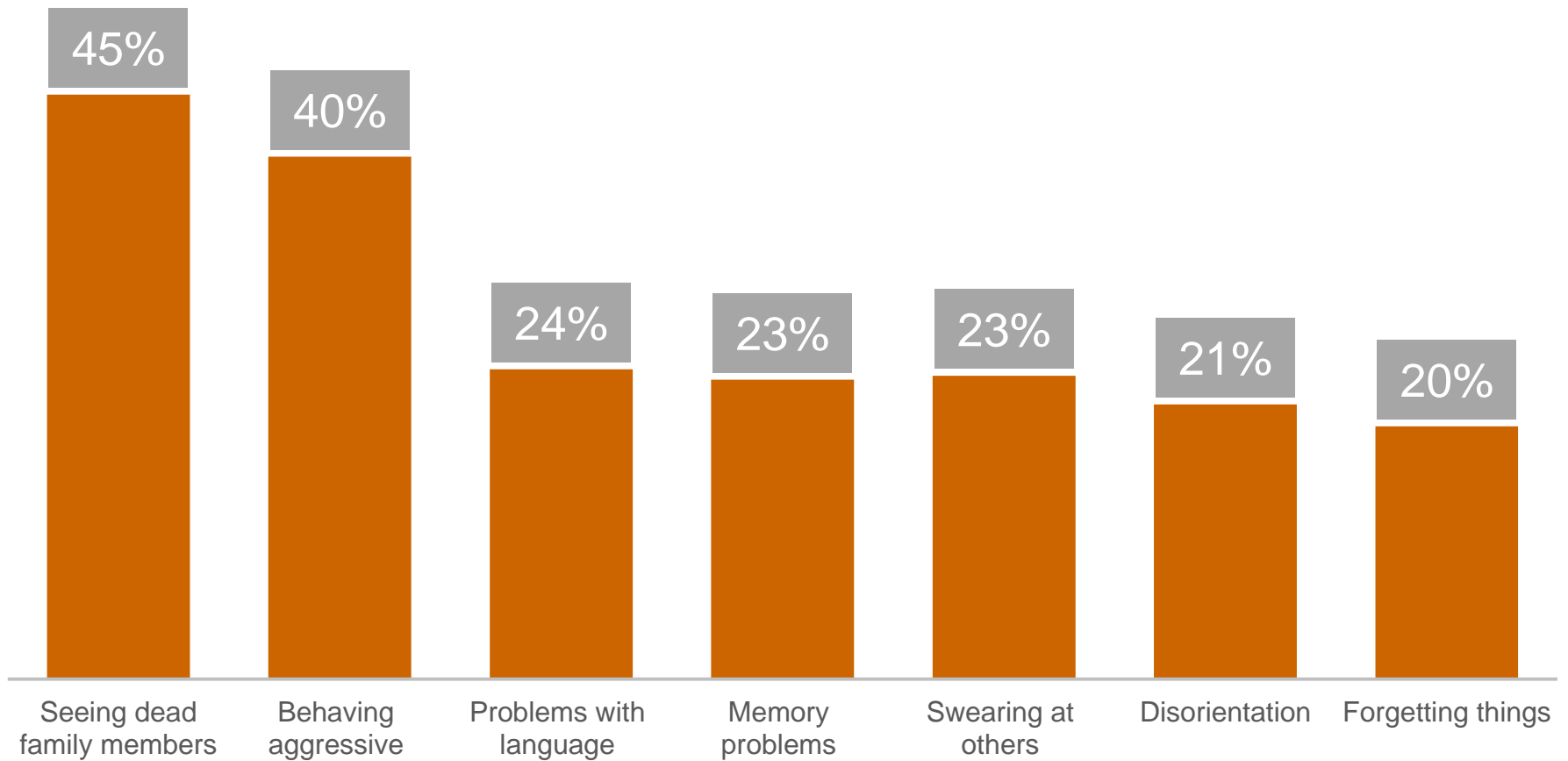


**Fig. Witchcraft belief in the family** (n=1,612)

**Fig. Contact to a person which has been affected by witchcraft** (n=1,613)



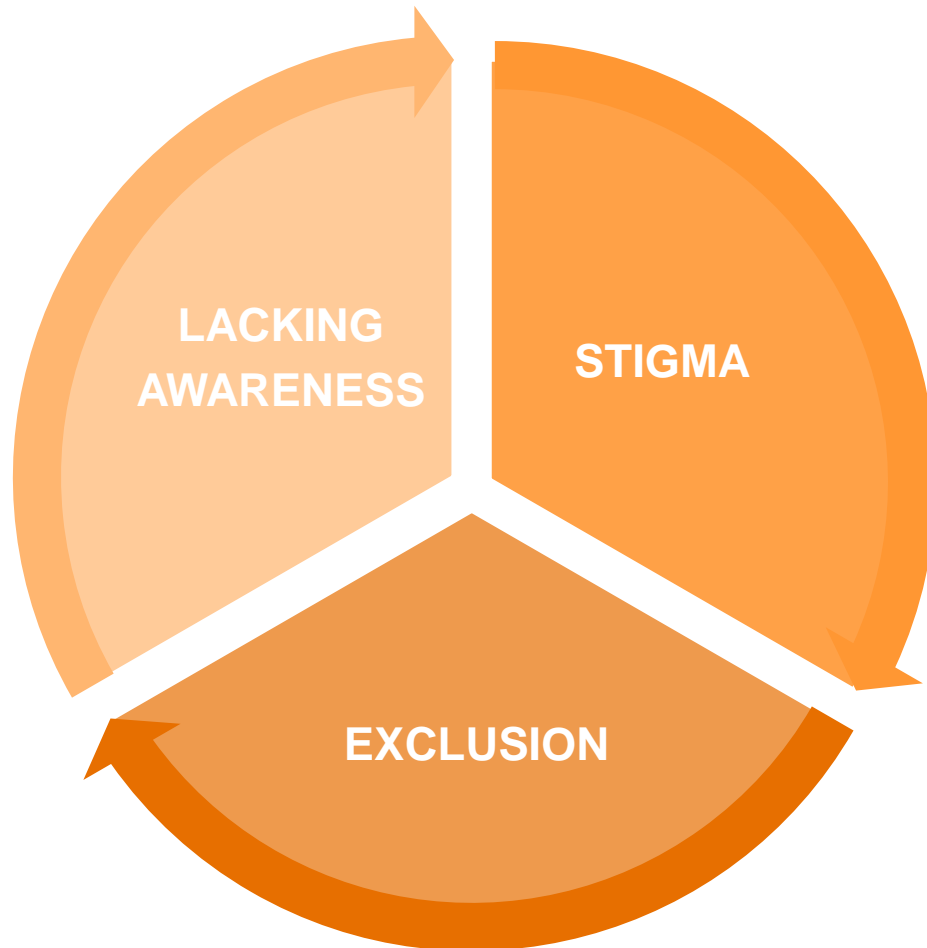
## Peoples behaviours linked to witchcraft



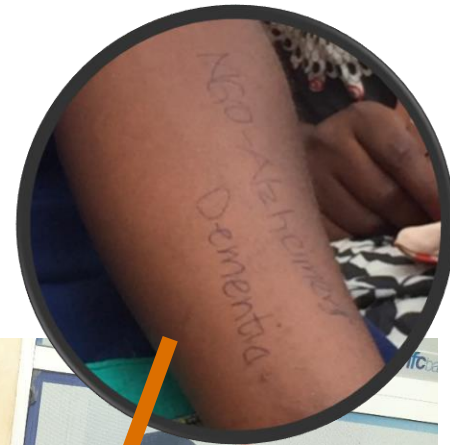
# “I lost my mind! Am I a witch?”



## Circular flow of missing awareness



## Involving the younger generation



## Acknowledgement



**Alzheimer's & Related Disorders  
Association of Ghana**  
Care and Support for Dementia



*“OUR VISION IS TO CREATE A SOCIETY  
WHICH IS DEMENTIA FRIENDLY AND DEMENTIA LITERATE  
WHERE A PERSON WITH DEMENTIA CAN LIVE  
WITH DIGNITY AND HONOUR,  
WHICH HE/SHE DESERVES.”*