

Review of: "“Healing is having faith in Allah, the healer, and the medicine”: An exploratory qualitative study of Islamic-based healing practices in Northern Ghana"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is an interesting study that aims to address an important gap in the literature about faith-based healing practices, particularly Islamic practices.

Here are some ideas that I hope the authors find helpful in improving their paper.

- For readers who are not familiar with Ghana's history, the introduction should include brief background information about its colonial past and the spreading of Christian and Islamic faith in Ghana.
- It would be beneficial to provide information about religious affiliation in Ghana; for example: "Religion was always and is still, to a large extent, an integral part of the lifestyle of the African in the traditional environment. Nevertheless, the national census (in Ghana) places Christianity as the dominant faith at 68.8 percent of the population, with Islam at 15.9 percent and traditional religion at 8.5 percent. Only 6.1 percent reported having no religious affiliation" (Quashigah, K., 2010, Religion and the Secular State in Ghana, Washington DC: International Center for Law and Religion Studies., <http://www.iclrs.org/content/blurbs/files/Ghana.pdf>).
- Authors suggest that "Research shows that faith-based healers and traditional medical practitioners are often the primary sources of healing in Ghana due to the inability of conventional medicine to treat certain illnesses or because of limited access to orthodox medicine and healthcare services owing to the high cost of treatment (Arozullah et al., 2020; Peprah et al., 2018)." A summary of each healing modality would be useful for readers who are unfamiliar with faith healing or traditional healing.
- Authors may consider the value of collaborative efforts between different healing systems, as described in Kpobi L, & Swartz L. (2019). Indigenous and faith healing in Ghana: A brief examination of the formalising process and collaborative efforts with the biomedical health system. *Afr J Prim Health Care Fam Med.* Jul 22;11(1).
- Authors claim that "Our results further show that patients regularly access multiple medical systems for medical therapy, a practice we call 'health shopping'. However, the study didn't include interviews with patients or statistics about faith-based healing in Ghana; hence, the authors need to clarify the basis from which they made such a conclusion.