

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.

The title of the article is objective and clear. Well-constructed summary, arouses interest in reading, outlines the objectives and methodology of this article. This descriptive ethnographic study aimed to explore Islamic-based healing practices among the Dagomba of Northern Ghana to examine how Islamic religious beliefs and Dagbon traditional practices influence Islamic-based medical practices. The following questions were explored: (1) How is Islamic healing practiced among the Dagomba? (2) How does the Dagomba culture and health beliefs influence Islamic-based healing?

The Introduction shows significant religions in Dagbon are Traditional religion, Christianity, and Islam, with over 60 percent of Dagomba being Muslims. Different Islamic sects exist in Dagbon, even though the majority of Dagomba Muslims are Sunnis. Illnesses are believed to emanate from the spiritual, physical, and social worlds and enter the body or are triggered in the body system.

A descriptive exploratory qualitative design was adopted in this study to explore the experiences of Islamic-based healers, their healing beliefs, medical practices, and how Dagbon culture influences Islamic-based healing. A limitation of this study is its small sample size. Another found limitation it is not include female Islamic-based healers. Semi-structured interviews extended, with an average of 50 minutes, allowed the participants to share their healing perspectives and provide narratives about their healing practices.

Results and discussion were satisfactory presented:

- Participants demographics - six male healers, average age was 45 years, married, Muslims and Dagomba.
- Basis of healing in Islam - on having faith in Allah and His healing powers and following the traditions and practices of Allah's Prophet.
- Becoming an Islamic-based healer - acquiring Islamic healing knowledge, being an Islamic-based healer, and diagnosing illnesses.
- Forms of medicine - herbal medicines, prayers, and Islamic-based medicines, could be used separately or combined.
- Ritual practices and sacrifices, which include offering prayers, observing fasting and making sacrifices to Allah.
- Gendered medical practices and beliefs - different and separate treatments for male and female patients; although women have spiritual powers, they may not show that publicly; women are more prone to jinn possession.
- Medical pluralism - spiritually caused illnesses are better treated by Islamic-based, Christian-faith, and Traditional

healers. Depending on their beliefs, patients go to different healthcare systems and practitioners to access medicine and healing for their illnesses.

The objectives were achieved, and the research questions were answered.

References: Amzat & Razum (2014) is not found in the text. Creswell & Creswell (2018) is not found in References. Creswell & Poth (2018) is not found in References. Forero et al. (2018) is not found in References. Different date in Braun & Clarke: 2006 in the text and 2019 in References. Different co-author in Al-Rawi & Fethers (2012) in the text and Al-Rawi & Michael (2012) in References. In the text, after Figure 1 - Philosophically, Dagbon traditional (...), and other spiritual beings (Kwame, 2016). Kwame, 2016, "a" or "b"?

ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION.