

Review of: "Post-Pandemic Reflections from Sub-Saharan Africa: What We Know Now That We Wish We Knew Then"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

Thanks to Dr. Oleribe and colleagues for an insightful article. It does capture critical, thought-provoking areas that we all need to take cognizance of regardless of geopolitical differences, governance approaches, cultural differences, etc.

In addition to your points, I think it would be beneficial to also emphasise how several companies (upholstery, beverage drinks, textile, etc.) have built resilience within and have been able to quickly pivot to accommodate shocks. One could argue that the majority of these were for profit, but reflecting on this, it shows good examples of how a number of these shifts, though they swelled profits, were able to keep citizens employed and limit further financial catastrophes.

I feel the article could benefit from a limitations section to cover some of the nuances highlighted by other esteemed reviewers, especially with geographical disparities and other contextual equity-based nuances between the Global North and the Global South. In doing this, readers could understand that these views, reflections, and comparisons were made on a "no regrets" basis. I think it was quite evident that equity was a huge lesson from COVID-19 either across regions, within countries, or even within nuclear families (I say this from a personal perspective).

There are other key discussion points that may be extensively discussed in another paper if the authors wish. Additional areas of work could revolve around equity, insurance premiums, etc., where much-needed deeper dives may be needed to inform policy changes that will enable us to be better prepared for the next pandemic. More importantly, we need to be able to learn from these experiences given the exigencies - time, complexities, ambiguities, and forgetfulness – that we continue to encounter during crisis periods.

I would like to call the attention of the authors to a few typographical errors. Reference to the West African Medical Associations for the regulation of clinical practice is erroneously stated as the West African Association of Physicians instead of the West African College of Physicians (WACP).