

# Review of: "Implementing Task Substitution for Doctors and Nurses as a Key Element of Healthcare Reform"

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Thank you for this article, which is well-written and proposes task shifting/task substitution as a way to mitigate the challenges of efficiency in the health system. This article gives important insights into task substitution in developed countries and in Sub-Saharan Africa and other developing countries where there are critical human resource challenges affecting health care provision. The authors propose that advanced nurse practitioners could significantly alleviate resourcing challenges in Africa.

One critical question that remains is whether these advanced nurse practitioners will be able to implement advanced nurse practitioners in specialised practices such as oncology, cardiology, and other disciplines. Are there barriers to the implementation of ANP in SSA? Are there instances where the Advanced Nurse Practitioner programmes have been implemented in Africa, or in Nigeria, or indeed in SSA? The concept of task shifting has been prevalent for over 20 years, and it would be interesting to see if this has been implemented anywhere and what the impact of this implementation was. Could you provide specific examples of ANP/task substitution in Africa

If it indeed has been implemented, what has been the success rate and the potential challenges to the implementation of task substitution?

Additionally, it will require significant investment in training and re-education to be able to implement these changes. What is the likelihood that these can be met by those countries? What specific investments will be required by these countries to implement the task shifting? What is the cost of the task shifting relative to the status quo? Additionally, there are likely to be issues such as community perception; how would you propose to overcome that?

Additionally, it would be important for the authors to state and review the potential challenges to the implementation of task substitution. Otherwise, a good treatise on task substitution.