

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 a very interesting paper. The Dagomba ethnic group in Ghana is one of those African cultures which have been integrated with Islamic religious practices, making it difficult to distinguish between the beliefs and practices of the ethnic group and those of Islamic religious practices. I find this study an important contribution to documenting the health seeking and healing practices of people of this ethnicity.

The paper has relevance in helping to understand alternative health seeking and healing practices by some communities in West Africa. The following are my comments for the reflection of the authors.

I noted that the paper has not followed the conventional research paper style. It reads to me more like a story, allowing the authors to make several sweeping statements without referencing.

I am not too sure about these sentences in the abstract: “Faith-based healing practices are becoming widespread in Ghana”. “.....The study discovered that religious and faith-based healing practices, including Islamic-based healing, are rising in Ghana.” I am inclined to believe that faith-based healing was the main source of healthcare before the introduction of the current modern healthcare system through colonization. Therefore, unless you have data to the contrary, either the two are mutually widespread or faith-based may be declining, giving way to hospital-based healthcare.

By way of further research, I recommend interviews with health seekers and lay people to understand their perspectives on these forms of alternative healthcare practices.

The fact that no female healer was involved in the study makes the results of this study imbalanced.

I understand this study is focused on Dagbon. However, the Dagombas, Mamprusi, and Nanumba have the same ancestry; can you comment on the healing practices among those ethnic groups and whether they differ or are similar to that which is practiced by the Dagombas?