

# 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 article constitutes a valuable ethnographic study that addresses, in a relevant and illustrative manner, Islamic healing, faith-based medical perspectives, therapeutic practices, and how the traditional culture of Dagomba influences this medical system.

From a theoretical point of view, it is supported in a cursory, somewhat superficial way. In this regard, I consider that salient aspects of cosmology and/or religiosity and Islamic liturgy could be included in the introduction, or in the discussion (e.g., monotheism, use of the Koran, role of other spiritual and celestial beings; eschatology; relationship between the body and the creation of man, etc.) that allow for better interpretation and explanation in relation to healing. They could also explain how religious references are designated, what place women occupy, if there are Quranic bases for the performance of healing, etc. On the other hand, it would be interesting to detail the role of divination practices in Islam, since these are usually condemned by other official monotheistic religions. It would be appropriate to analyze whether they are allowed in this case. Either they are a form of manipulation and magical use of religious elements by some practitioners, or it is an official practice that finds its foundation in the Islamic religion. Likewise, the concept of religious healing could be deepened as one of the constituent components of the local ethnomedical system, including the different types of etiologies, forms of diagnosis and Islamic therapy, the use of gestures or signs such as the laying on of hands, from the Koran, dances, etc. (I suggest consulting works by A. Kleinman and the concept of the health system).

Regarding the methodology, complete, detailed, and appropriate information is provided; it is suggested to delve deeper into literature referring to narrative and semantic analysis, such as grounded theory (see Glasser and Strauss, among others).

The stories and narratives are very illustrative and are discussed appropriately and in sufficient depth. Finally, there is an updated and sufficient corpus in terms of the reference bibliography.

Based on the above, I consider the article can be published prior to consideration of the points and observations that the authors consider relevant.