

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.

Thank you for allowing me to review, what I find, as the most interesting article I have read in quite some time. I appreciate the thoroughness of the descriptions of the complicated nature of the faith in the region. I also appreciated the strength in the attempt to reach all nine possible participants. With that, I have some questions.

You noted in your first paragraph, the treatment that Afa was to perform on the girl. How is this compatible with Afa's later comment that male healers could not touch female patients? Is it safe to assume that his healing session did not involve touching the girl mentioned in the introduction? That part is not clear.

In reference to your small sample size, would any of your themes be considered to have reached saturation? Some researchers have noted that saturation could start to occur in as few as six interviews. Also, you heard of nine possible healers in Dagbon. In your estimation, what is the approximate total population of healers in Dagbon, Muslim or otherwise?

Lastly, I would recommend that further study also be directed toward the herbal elements used during healing. Which ones were primarily curative? Which ones were primarily preventative?

Thank you again, for allowing me to review this study. I found the English writing to be excellent, since I could not detect any errors. I look forward to more research in this realm.