

# Review of: "Establishing a Multi-disciplinary Adult Oncology Unit at Muhimbili National Hospital: Lessons Learned, Challenges, and Opportunities Amidst Tanzania's Growing Cancer Burden"

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The article presents several highly appreciated aspects. Firstly, the acknowledgment of the importance of engaging all stakeholders in the successful implementation of the adult oncology unit at MNH demonstrates a participatory and collaborative approach, essential for ensuring project success. Additionally, the emphasis on adaptability and openness to change as key elements of success indicates a willingness to adjust strategies according to changing needs and encountered challenges, reflecting a proactive and flexible attitude. The detailed description of the implementation process, from the initial evaluation of facilities to the expansion of personnel and infrastructure, highlights a commitment to transparency and accountability, thereby reinforcing confidence in the process. Moreover, the emphasis on multidisciplinary collaboration and integration of approaches to provide personalized and comprehensive oncological care reflects a holistic and patient-centered approach, contributing to improved treatment outcomes. Finally, the recognition of persistent challenges and continuous efforts to overcome them illustrates a commitment to continuous improvement and a proactive attitude towards obstacles, thus emphasizing the determination to ensure the long-term success of the adult oncology unit at MNH.

However, the article also raises some points of concern. Firstly, the absence of discussion on specific measures taken to address poverty-related cancers, such as infection-related cancers, despite their high prevalence in Tanzania, leaves a gap in understanding targeted efforts to address these specific health issues. Similarly, the lack of data on the effectiveness of community awareness and education programs to reduce cancer-related stigma raises questions about the actual impact of these initiatives on the perceptions and behaviors of affected populations. Additionally, the absence of details on policies to ensure equitable access to cancer care services, especially for disadvantaged populations and rural areas, raises concerns about inclusivity and fairness in healthcare delivery. Furthermore, the neglect to discuss specific challenges encountered during the implementation of the adult oncology unit at MNH, particularly regarding human resources, logistics, and continuous training, leaves a gap in understanding practical obstacles and lessons learned. Similarly, the lack of data on long-term outcomes of patients treated in the adult oncology unit, such as five-year survival rates and cancer recurrence, makes it difficult to evaluate the long-term effectiveness and impact of these services on patient health. Moreover, the lack of discussion on international partnerships or collaborations with other medical centers to strengthen capacity and improve oncological care outcomes in Tanzania raises questions about

collaboration efforts and sharing of best practices in the healthcare field. Finally, the absence of specific recommendations to overcome persistent challenges and further improve oncological care in Tanzania in the future leaves a lack of guidance on prioritized actions to progress in this crucial area of public health.