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Ghanaian Healthcare Research and Reflection

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INTRODUCTION

- Health disparities continue to impact millions of people globally.
- Although advancements have been made, the people of Ghana deserve a more effective healthcare system.
- Ghanaians need equitable access to care no matter their geographical location.
- Access to care is dependent on geographical location, availability via the National Health Insurance Scheme, and financial stability of the population and providers.

BACKGROUND

- Structure of Public Healthcare in Ghana
 - Level 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 healthcare facilities are available
 - National Health Insurance Scheme (2).
- Private Healthcare in Ghana
 - Private providers and private health insurance is available at varying costs (4).
- Traditional Medicine in Ghana



MY EXPERIENCE

- Many standards of care in the United States are not easily translated to the Third World.
- Available technology is similar to remote areas in the United States.
- Privacy policies are much less apparent.
- People do not come in to be treated as routinely as you would expect.
- The people are some of the kindest people I have ever met.
- If the food is not spicy, is it really traditional Ghanaian cuisine?



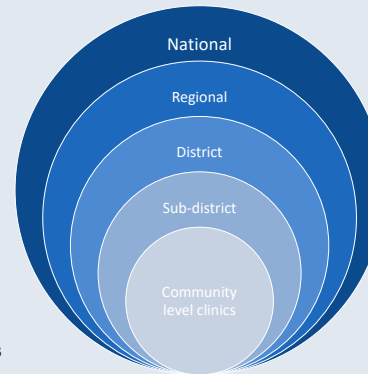
OBJECTIVES

The aim of this literature review was to:

- Provide a basic overview of the Ghanaian healthcare system and breakdown some of its complexities
- Analyze what aspects of the Ghanaian healthcare system are effective with specific focus on accessibility, affordability, increased education, and government involvement
- Recognize room for improvement within the Ghanaian healthcare system with specific focus on major disparities, barriers in rural areas, and government involvement

FINDINGS

- The same quality of care is not available in all healthcare settings, and often, people must travel considerable distances to receive the care they need (2).
- Recently, the Ghanaian government has made strides to help provide equitable care via the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) (5).
- The people of Ghana face health disparities that are not seen in the first world that pose tremendous stress on the healthcare system.
- Despite efforts made via the NHIS, many people will continue to go without quality due to financial barriers and lack of education regarding NHIS (2).



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