



A Critical Review of Contemporary African Medical Practice: An Empirical Analysis from Gabon,

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Abstract

This book presents a longitudinal analysis of medical practice in a central African nation, focusing on obstetrics and gynaecology. It explores the interaction between international health frameworks, local healthcare delivery, and sociocultural contexts. This review critically evaluates the book's empirical analysis of challenges and developments in African medical practice. It aims to assess its contribution to understanding obstetric and gynaecological care within a specific national context and its relevance for a broader African audience. The review uses a critical appraisal methodology. It analyses the book's structure, the robustness of its empirical data collection—including clinical audits and healthcare worker surveys—the coherence of its argument, and the validity of its conclusions. The book's empirical analysis is a key strength, providing detailed insights often missing from broader regional studies. It effectively documents the persistent tension between standardised clinical protocols and locally adapted practice, particularly in maternal health. Its analysis of resource allocation trends is also noted as particularly insightful. The book is a valuable, data-rich resource that successfully grounds its analysis in a specific national context. It argues convincingly for the need for context-sensitive approaches to improve obstetric and gynaecological outcomes, rather than relying on generic policy prescriptions. The book is recommended for clinicians, health policymakers, and global health students with an interest in African medical practice. Its detailed national focus means it is best read alongside comparative studies from other African regions to build a more comprehensive continental perspective. Book review, African medical practice, obstetrics, gynaecology, maternal health, healthcare systems, Gabon, empirical analysis. This review synthesises the book's core arguments and empirical contributions, offering a critical assessment of its value to the literature on African obstetrics and gynaecology.

Keywords: *Sub-Saharan Africa, Evidence-Based Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Health Systems Strengthening, Medical Pluralism, Longitudinal Study*



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