



A Research Protocol to Investigate the Gendered Dimensions of Medical Practice and Access in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Egyptian Perspective

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Abstract

Gender inequity in medical practice and healthcare access remains a significant concern in Sub-Saharan Africa, including Egypt. A comprehensive analysis of how gender norms influence medical careers, clinical practice, and patient access within the Egyptian context is lacking. This protocol outlines a study to analyse the gendered dimensions of medicine in Egypt. Its primary objectives are to: 1) examine gender disparities in medical career progression and specialisation; 2) explore the influence of physician gender on doctor-patient interactions; and 3) assess gender-based barriers to healthcare access for patients. A mixed-methods, multi-phase design will be employed. Quantitative data will be gathered from national health databases and a cross-sectional survey of medical professionals. Qualitative data will be collected through in-depth interviews with physicians and focus group discussions with patients. Thematic and statistical analyses will be integrated. As this is a protocol, no empirical findings are presented. Preliminary literature suggests a concentration of female physicians in specialities such as paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology, while surgical fields remain male-dominated. The study is expected to generate a nuanced understanding of how gender shapes the medical landscape in Egypt. Expected recommendations will target medical training institutions, healthcare policymakers, and professional bodies to promote gender-sensitive practices and equitable career structures. Gender, medical careers, healthcare access, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, health equity. This protocol provides a structured framework for investigating gender dynamics in Egyptian medicine, aiming to fill an evidence gap and support the development of targeted interventions.

Keywords: *Gender equity, Sub-Saharan Africa, Healthcare access, Medical workforce, Qualitative methodology, Gender norms, Egypt*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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