



The Role of Youth in Advancing Obstetric and Gynaecological Healthcare in the Republic of Congo: A Contemporary Perspective

Alain Makoumbou¹, Patrice Nkounkou^{1,2}, Serge Okombi^{1,3}, Grace Lemboumba^{1,4}

¹ Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville

² Department of Epidemiology, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville

³ Department of Surgery, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville

⁴ Department of Clinical Research, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville

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Correspondence: amakoumbou@outlook.com

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Author notes

Alain Makoumbou is affiliated with Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Patrice Nkounkou is affiliated with Department of Epidemiology, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Serge Okombi is affiliated with Department of Surgery, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Grace Lemboumba is affiliated with Department of Clinical Research, Marien Ngouabi University, Brazzaville and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Obstetric and gynaecological healthcare in the Republic of Congo requires strengthening. The potential role of the younger generation of medical professionals in this process needs clearer definition within the local context. This brief report provides a contemporary perspective on the perceived and potential roles of youth—defined as medical students, junior doctors, and early-career specialists—in advancing obstetric and gynaecological healthcare in the Republic of Congo. A qualitative, descriptive approach was used. Data were collected through structured interviews and focus group discussions with a purposive sample of senior healthcare practitioners, medical educators, and youth representatives within the specialty. Analysis identified key themes. Youth were seen as crucial for integrating new technologies and evidence-based practices. A prominent finding was that a large majority of senior respondents believed early, meaningful clinical involvement was the most important factor for retaining young talent. Significant systemic barriers to youth engagement were also reported. The youth demographic is a vital yet under-utilised resource for progressing obstetric and gynaecological care in the Republic of Congo. Their energy and familiarity with innovation are assets but require structured support and integration into healthcare planning. To harness this potential, we recommend: establishing formal mentorship programmes linking seniors and juniors; creating youth advisory panels within relevant professional societies; and developing targeted continuing professional development opportunities for early-career practitioners. Youth engagement, medical education, obstetric care, gynaecology, Republic of Congo, healthcare workforce This report contributes a focused, contextual analysis of the role of youth in a key medical specialty in the Republic of Congo, offering practical insights for policymakers and educators seeking to build a sustainable healthcare workforce.

Keywords: *Medical Education, Youth Engagement, Maternal Health, Sub-Saharan Africa, Healthcare Systems Strengthening, Human Resources for Health, Gynaecological Services*

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