



Youth Perspectives on the Future of Medical Practice in Djibouti: A Brief Report

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Abstract

Understanding the aspirations and concerns of the next generation is important for planning medical education and health systems in Africa. In Djibouti, a nation with a young population, youth perspectives on the future of medical practice have not been systematically explored. This brief report aimed to capture and describe the perspectives of Djiboutian youth regarding the future of medical practice, focusing on their motivations, perceived challenges, and visions for the healthcare system. A qualitative, exploratory approach was employed. Data were gathered through structured focus group discussions with university students and young professionals in health-related fields. Discussions were transcribed and analysed thematically. Analysis revealed a strong desire among participants for a more specialised and technologically advanced healthcare system. A prominent theme was the critical need for improved postgraduate training opportunities within the country, with most discussants citing the necessity to travel abroad for specialisation as a major deterrent to pursuing a medical career locally. Djiboutian youth are invested in the future of medicine but express significant concerns regarding pathways for advanced training and career development. Their perspectives highlight a potential risk of brain drain if domestic opportunities are not enhanced. Stakeholders should prioritise developing in-country postgraduate medical education programmes. Investment in medical technology and creating attractive career structures for specialists are also essential to retain and motivate the future medical workforce. Medical education, youth perspectives, workforce planning, Djibouti, career aspirations, specialisation This report provides insights into the views of Djiboutian youth on the future of medical practice, offering evidence to inform national health workforce and education policy.

Keywords: *Medical education, Health systems, Sub-Saharan Africa, Youth perspectives, Qualitative research, Human resources for health, Healthcare planning*



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