



# Youth Perspectives on the Future of Medical Practice in Guinea-Bissau: A Brief Report

Malam Injai Camará<sup>1</sup>, Adulai Siga<sup>2</sup>, Teresa Gomes Vaz<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Lusíada University of Guinea-Bissau

<sup>2</sup> AECAR - Higher School of Commerce, Administration and International Relations

**Published:** 17 February 2021 | **Received:** 19 September 2020 | **Accepted:** 08 January 2021

**Correspondence:** [mcamar@outlook.com](mailto:mcamar@outlook.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18539385](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18539385)

## Author notes

*Malam Injai Camará is affiliated with Department of Pediatrics, Lusíada University of Guinea-Bissau and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Adulai Siga is affiliated with AECAR - Higher School of Commerce, Administration and International Relations and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

*Teresa Gomes Vaz is affiliated with AECAR - Higher School of Commerce, Administration and International Relations and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.*

## Abstract

Understanding the career aspirations and concerns of the next generation is vital for strengthening medical systems in Africa. In Guinea-Bissau, which faces significant healthcare challenges, the perspectives of youth considering medical careers are largely undocumented. This brief report aimed to explore the views of young people in Guinea-Bissau on pursuing a career in medicine and their vision for the future of medical practice in the country. We conducted a qualitative study using focus group discussions with purposively selected secondary school and university students in Bissau who had expressed an interest in health sciences. Discussions were transcribed and analysed thematically. Key themes included a strong desire to serve local communities alongside profound concern over systemic challenges. A prominent finding was that over half of the participants explicitly cited a lack of modern medical equipment and resources as a major deterrent to practising in the country after qualification. Youth in Guinea-Bissau are motivated by community service but hold pessimistic views about the feasibility of building a career within the current national health system, which they perceive as under-resourced. National health strategies should explicitly engage with youth perspectives. Investment in medical infrastructure and creating clear pathways for career development are urgently needed to retain future medical talent. Medical careers, health workforce, youth perspectives, Guinea-Bissau, medical education, Africa. This report provides insights into the aspirations and reservations of youth in Guinea-Bissau regarding medical careers, highlighting a need for systemic investment to secure the future medical workforce.

**Keywords:** *Medical workforce, Sub-Saharan Africa, Career aspirations, Healthcare systems, Qualitative research, Youth engagement, Medical education*



## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.



## REQUEST FULL PAPER

 **Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!



## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.



**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

### Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge