



Youth Perspectives on the Future of Medical Practice in Uganda: A Short Report

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Abstract

The future of medical practice in Africa is of considerable importance, with a large youth population set to influence its direction. Understanding the views of young people in Uganda, which has a substantial youth demographic, is vital for planning in medical education and health systems. This short report aimed to synthesise and analyse youth perspectives on the future of medical practice in Uganda, focusing on their aspirations, perceived challenges, and visions for the profession. A qualitative, desk-based synthesis was conducted. This involved a thematic analysis of existing literature, policy documents, and relevant grey literature concerning youth views on medical careers and healthcare futures in Uganda. No new primary data were collected. A dominant theme was the aspiration for a healthcare system centred on advanced technology and equitable access. A significant proportion of expressed views highlighted concerns about brain drain and the need for improved specialist training pathways within the country to retain talent. Ugandan youth envision a technologically advanced and equitable medical future but perceive significant systemic barriers, particularly related to workforce retention and training infrastructure. Stakeholders in medical education and health policy should integrate these perspectives into long-term planning. Priorities should include strengthening local postgraduate training and creating attractive career structures to mitigate brain drain. Medical careers, health workforce, youth perspectives, Uganda, future of medicine, medical education This report synthesises contemporary youth viewpoints to inform discourse on the future of medical practice in Uganda, offering a foundation for more targeted research and policy engagement.

Keywords: *Medical education, Health workforce, Sub-Saharan Africa, Youth engagement, Healthcare futures, Qualitative research, Uganda*



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