

# Youth Perspectives on the Future of Medicine in Nigeria: A Scoping Review

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## Abstract

The future of Nigeria's healthcare system is closely tied to its youth, a large demographic group. Their views on medical careers are vital for effective workforce planning and tackling systemic issues within the sector. This scoping review systematically maps and synthesises existing literature on the perspectives of Nigerian youth regarding the future of medicine. It examines their motivations, perceived barriers, and envisioned roles within the profession. The study employed a scoping review methodology guided by established frameworks. A systematic search was conducted across multiple academic databases and grey literature sources. Identified studies were screened against predefined inclusion criteria, with relevant data extracted and analysed thematically. Several dominant themes emerged. A prominent concern was brain drain, with many medical students and early-career doctors intending to practise abroad due to poor working conditions and remuneration. Additional key themes included the growing influence of digital technology on medical practice, strong calls for curriculum reform, and the impact of socio-economic factors on career access and choice. Nigerian youth hold a nuanced and pragmatic view of the medical field's future. While often deeply committed to healthcare, their perspectives underscore critical systemic problems, particularly workforce migration, which jeopardises the health sector's sustainability. Multi-sectoral policy reforms are needed to improve domestic training environments and retention. Medical education requires modernisation to align with youth expectations and global trends. Further primary research should explore underrepresented youth voices, including those in rural areas and related non-medical STEM fields. Medical careers, healthcare workforce, brain drain, medical education, youth aspirations, Nigeria, scoping review. This review consolidates the evidence on youth perspectives for policymakers and educators, offering a synthesised analysis of motivations, barriers, and visions for the future of medicine in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** *Medical workforce planning, Youth perspectives, Sub-Saharan Africa, Scoping review, Healthcare careers, Medical education, Nigeria*



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