

Editorial

Health system issues, views and perceptions of Youth and Workers in Botswana and South Africa

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This issue is packed with interesting papers about topical issues and challenges faced by the youth, workers and communities in Botswana and South Africa. From studies conducted in South Africa, views of pharmacists on the implementation on the national health insurance were explored and some recommendations have been suggested on how to address the challenges identified by pharmacists who participated in the study. The perceptions of healthcare workers, notably midwives on neonatal mortality; those of workers about safety at workplaces; as well as the views about drug abuse among the youth from a settlement around Johannesburg, have been unveiled in studies presented in this volume. Other studies have concentrated on specific diseases such as tuberculosis treatment outcomes and health system issues such as the use of African Traditional and Complementary medicines as well as the parent-child communication about sexuality in the context of HIV prevention among high school learners.

With regard to studies conducted in Botswana, views of the youth about HIV self-testing were explored. This needs to be documented so that health promoters and decision-makers can have data necessary to address difficulties noted by this group. This is important because a recent systematic review has reported that HIV self-testing is associated with increased uptake of testing and helped people know their sero-status (Jonhson et al, 2017). The prevalence of HIV in Mining Townships is described contextually to establish trends of the infection in some districts. A case report from an Emergency Department shows that a non-traumatic spontaneous splenic rupture (NSSR) may be tricky to diagnose due to lack of classical signs but epigastric abdominal tenderness and pain should prompt clinicians to consider abdominal ultrasound for diagnosis.

Taken together, this volume presents a diversity of topics, settings and study populations. This makes for an enriching reading and reflections of topics that may require further investigations.

References

Johnson, C. C., Kennedy, C., Fonner, V., Siegfried, N., Figueroa, C., Dalal, S., ... & Baggaley, R. (2017). Examining the effects of HIV self-testing compared to standard HIV testing services: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 20(1), 1.

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