

Economic Forces Affecting Healing Relationships Perspectives from Africa



TANGAZA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, Nairobi

Fr Paul Chummar C. CMI



THE UNBRIDGEABLE GAP
BETWEEN
HEALTH POLICIES
AND REALITY
FOR THE MAJORITY OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICANS

...

The Unbridgeable Gap ...

- To be ill in Sub-Saharan Africa = the loss of one's existential possession
- For e.g.: Kenya
- There is no just and comprehensive health care system as there is in most of the developed countries
- Private and governmental health insurance systems in Kenya to which one has to contribute every month

The Unbridgeable Gap ...

- But, ... in most serious situations, such as surgery, the patient has to pay all the expenses!
- In Kenya, in a population of about 45 million, more than 40% do not have a permanent job or a permanent income ...!!!
- The average life expectancy of Africans is 60-65 years
- Most Africans die of one disease or another

Different approaches: *four* different groups

- *First group:*
- the majority of Africans still want traditional methods of healing, which include:
Inexplicable Traditional Medicines:
- healing methods by Witchdoctors, ...
- powers of Sorcery





PENIS EXPERT
TRY MY NEW STEERING METHOD-SO SMALL-SERIOUS METHOD-000
I HAVE YOUR LAST SOLUTION-TRY ME
CHEAPEST & CURED
CONSULTATION FEE \$50
NO PILLS NEEDED JUST SHOWS YOUR PENIS TO ME
I WILL WORK ON YOUR PENIS & YOU WILL LEAVE
WITH SURPRISE
PILLS DRUGS
RELATIONSHIP
1. POWER FOR WEAK PENIS, STRONGER AND
HANDLER
2. GIVES FEELINGS FOR SEX MENTALLY
3. STOP QUICK EJACULATION- DECADE EXPERIENCE
4. POWER FOR HAVING LONG SEX-MAKE IT LONG
5. SIZE- COVARIATION- TALL OR LARGER
1. IS YOUR WIFE/BOYFRIEND ASKING YOU TO GET MORE
2. IS HE WORKING IN BED
3. IS HE GETTING MORE
4. OR THERE SOMEBODY JEALOUS WITH YOUR RELATIONSHIP
5. DO YOU WANT TO GET MARRIED & THERE ARE SOME PROBLEMS
RELATIONSHIP
1. DO YOU HAVE SEX- PERIOD PAINS, LITTLE OR NO SEX
2. DO YOU HAVE VAGINAL PROBLEMS
3. DO YOU HAVE ANY STOMACH PAINS OR ALL OVER
PEOPLE- BODIES
HALLUCINATION- NIGHTS OR BAD DREAMS
CAUSES- KIDS, DRUGS, MENTAL, AND EVEN JUNGLE
WANT MORE

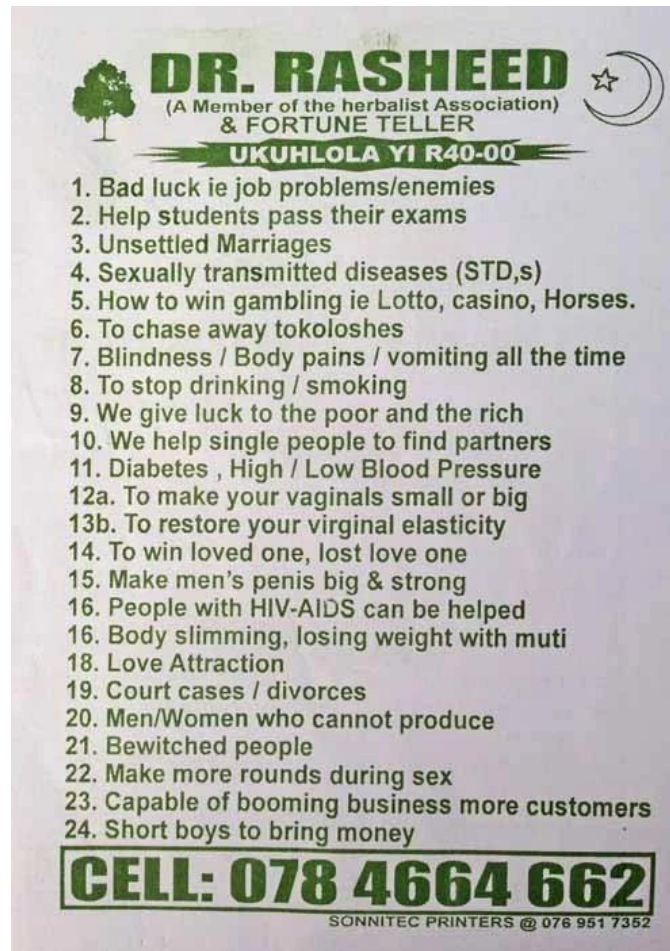
PROF. ASMAN ALI & ASSOCIATES
CHEAPEST
& CURES
CHANGE YOUR DOCTOR
NOW!!!
FOR PREGNANCY CASES & JOB
SEEKERS
PAY AFTER SUCCESS
INKINGA YOKUKHULELWA &
UFUNA UMSEBENZINI,
UKHOKHA EMVA KOKUSIZAKALA
24 HOURS HELPLINE:
CELL: 072 758 6839
THE BEST HEALTHCARE
ON TOP OF ASMAI ROAD
W/ DR. PHILIP CHAGWENI BELL
OPPOSITE AS TO DR. JOSEPH
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WE ACCEPT APPOINTMENTS ANYTIME
SPECIALTY: DR. ASMAI
DR. ASMAI & ASSOCIATES
7. WAKA- 7583
DAY 7583 & 7583



... if needed ..., also ... in the name of Jesus ...



„ Comprehensive Healing ...“



DR. RASHEED
(A Member of the herbalist Association)
& FORTUNE TELLER

UKUHLOLA YI R40-00

1. Bad luck ie job problems/enemies
2. Help students pass their exams
3. Unsettled Marriages
4. Sexually transmitted diseases (STD,s)
5. How to win gambling ie Lotto, casino, Horses.
6. To chase away tokoloshes
7. Blindness / Body pains / vomiting all the time
8. To stop drinking / smoking
9. We give luck to the poor and the rich
10. We help single people to find partners
11. Diabetes , High / Low Blood Pressure
- 12a. To make your vaginals small or big
- 13b. To restore your virginal elasticity
14. To win loved one, lost love one
15. Make men's penis big & strong
16. People with HIV-AIDS can be helped
16. Body slimming, losing weight with muti
18. Love Attraction
19. Court cases / divorces
20. Men/Women who cannot produce
21. Bewitched people
22. Make more rounds during sex
23. Capable of booming business more customers
24. Short boys to bring money

CELL: 078 4664 662

SONNITEC PRINTERS @ 076 951 7352

... with evidences of successful
treatments ...



Second Group

- *Second group go to ordinary dispensaries and health centres which do not have proper medical facilities, according to their financial capacity*



Second Group ...



Third Group

The third group who are financially well off prefer well established hospitals



Third Group ...



Third Group ...



Fourth Group



- Fourth group look for their treatment in foreign countries; the rich prefer the European countries and less rich go, for example to other developing countries, like South Africa, India, etc... .



Health Care Systems:

NHIF and Private Insurance Companies

- **NHIF** – National Health Insurance Fund – promises:
- “Under Category A (government hospitals), members would be able **to enjoy full and comprehensive cover** for maternity and medical diseases including surgery”
- The naked reality is that most government hospitals do not have either enough medical doctors and professionals, or medicines, or possibilities of treatment.

Private hospitals

- “For a good treatment, you need not go out of the country”, proclaims one insurance company’s advertisement.
- The most expensive and well established hospital, “Nairobi Hospital”, founded by the English, is now owned by the present “His Honourable President of Kenya” and His Family.
- And “The Karen Hospital” belongs to the “Former President”.

Some Realities ...

- Nairobi West Hospital:
- with minimum facilities: a bed, without the doctor's visit or any kind of treatment or medication, will cost about 4000 Ksh per day
- (average income of an ordinary daily worker in Kenyan = 400-500 Ksh = 4-5 US \$)
- income of an ordinary civil servant is between 10,000 and 15,000 Khs per month.
- The consultation fee for an outpatient to see the doctor is 2000 Ksh.

For the Poor: ... Mission Dispensaries

- Benedictine Sisters, started by Germans in Karen, a comparatively a posh area, run a dispensary, the consultation fee to see the doctor is: 1000 Ksh.
- The Assisi Sisters from a developing country who run a dispensary in a slum area charge 200 Ksh to see the doctor;
- but the waiting time could be hours, 4-5 hours ...!
- Even cheaper possibilities are not available, as far as I know.

„... not for the healthy, ... but for the sick ...“
St. Mary's Rehabilitation Centre, Mbiuni





Medicines

- Medicines are mostly imported from other countries: cheap and less effective medicines are mostly from developing countries like, Brazil, India, China ...
- Expensive and effective medicines are from Europe with their horrendous prices.
- The few pharmaceutical companies in Kenya and their products are not always safe.

Some of the deadly Diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa

- **UNIAIDS:**
- ***HIV/AIDS*:** 2015, there were 19 million [17.7 million–20.5 million] people living with HIV in eastern and southern Africa;
- **New Infections in 2015:** were an estimated 960 000 [830 000–1.1 million])

Some of the deadly Diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa ...

- **WHO:**
- ***Malaria***: The number of people infected with malaria parasites in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated in 2015 at [99–130 million]
- ***Diabetes Mellitus***: Around 25 million in Africa (2016),
- ... a new Epidemic in Africa ...?
- ***Tuberculosis***: The African Region bears the highest global TB/HIV burden and over 50% of TB cases in Sub Saharan Africa are co-infected with HIV out of 9.0 million people globally.

Some of the deadly Diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa ...

- ... and ... this too ...:

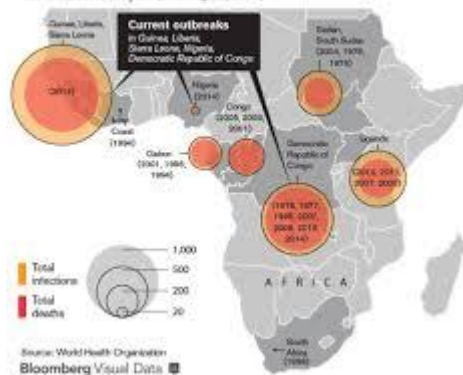


Ebola: Till end of 2015 registered infections: about 28.000 and total deaths: about 11.000



Confirmed cases and years (as of Aug. 25, 2014)

Confirmed cases and years (as of Aug. 25, 2014)



Figures up to 20 December 2015

Figures up to 20 December 2015

11,315

Deaths - probable, confirmed and suspected

(Includes one in the US and six in Mali)

4,809 Libana

3,955 Sierra Leone

2,536 Guinea

8 Nigeria

Source: WHO.



***... for treatable, but not properly
treated diseases ...***

One example: Diabetes Care



The top five African countries with highest costs of diabetes care

- 1. South Africa,
- 2. Kenya,
- 3. Zimbabwe,
- 4. Nigeria
- 5. Ghana.

Problems for the Diabetes Care

- “inadequate infrastructure,
- irregular supply of medicines,
- unaffordable insulin, ...
- disproportionate distribution of health care facilities,
- lack of information ...,
- lack of appropriate and locally adopted diabetes education,
- program for diabetes patients,
- lack of government support or subsidy,
- resulting in unaffordable costs”

Main Reasons for the Bad Health Care System in Africa

Lack of political will for better health care

Many African countries spend less than 10% of their GDP (Kenya: [in the budget, ... Thank God ..., at least in writing !!!] = 6%; Sub-Saharan Countries: ca. 5.5%) on health care.

There is also a shortage of trained health care professionals from Africa.

Results:

Lack of Health education for personal hygiene, sanitation, adequate nutrition, harmful traditional taboos and practices, lack of immunization

Corrupt political governance

- Africa in general – like my own home country, India - is notorious for unscrupulous political leaders, affecting the healing relationships.
- Often the corrupt political leaders and officers who have the say in health affairs hide behind their own *ethnic communities* and are protected.
- Tribal awareness and faithfulness to one's own tribe is stronger than one's own religious belief

Lack of clean water



“... our daily work ...”



Transportation of water



... water ...

- According to the WHO:
- more than 40% of all people in Sub-Saharan countries do not have access to safe drinking water live
- with some 300,000 people deprived of a clean water source

... water ...

- Moreover, 2016-2017:
- there were no rain falls in most parts of the Eastern Africa - Kenya, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania - causing drought, hunger and increase of diseases

A Vicious Circle

- Poverty causes diseases -
and diseases cause poverty
- Mainly due to a lack of economic
diversification
- and inequality in distribution of national
income.

Rapid urbanization ...

- ***Rapid urbanization and increased Westernization of lifestyles*** among the middle classes is causing an increase in the risk factors that cause non-communicable diseases, as silent killers:
- like heart diseases, stroke, cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases, “while 80% [of these diseases] occur in low and middle income countries, where most of the world's population lives”

Counterfeit Drugs

- More and more counterfeit drugs are in the market, from China, or even produced in African countries;
- there is also a serious lack of strict control by the government due to a lax approach and the corrupt system.

Traditional explicable African Medicines

- **Problems of traditional medicines:**
- These are herbs, roots, flowers of plants, barks of trees, honey, ... etc.
- But very often they are not effective with the modern diseases.
- ***Absence of Standardized Measurement:***
There are not even graduated instruments in the process of preparation of traditional medicines.

Inexplicable Traditional Medicines

- This involves the use of mystical, magical, psychic, Spiritism, supernatural, cultic practices and healing processes
- “Most people in many African communities, irrespective of their religious inclinations, believe that the origin of some the sickness or diseases afflicting them is supernatural”

... even good Catholics ...

- ***Deep Believe in Witchcraft and Sorcery, even among the “good Catholics”***
- Mystical and invisible forces: they are of two types: “good-, white or magic” and “bad-, or black magic”.
- Good magic is also called “magical medicine”.
- The “good or white magic is used to neutralise the effects of bad magic.
- “Witchcraft is a term used more popularly and broadly to describe all sorts of evil employment of mystical power, generally in a secret fashion”

Secretism

- “African traditional medical practice leads itself to secretism.
- The traditional healers believe that the moment the secret knowledge ingredients are unveiled, the medicine will lose its efficacy or potency ...
- Then: they exhibit elements of mysteriousness and mysticism.

Secretism ...

- Examples are the use of a dead person's saliva, human hair, bones and skull and asking a deranged woman to urinate on a pot or clay whose urine is in turn used for the treatment of that metal patient etc.”

Questions ...

- ***Question one:*** What concrete contribution could be given by the Missionaries to improve the health care and health awareness of Africans?
- ***Question two:*** How can we fight against the corrupt system which is the main cause of the bad health care system in Africa?

... or ...

*'The best time to plant a tree was
twenty years ago;
the next best time is today!'*

An African Proverb

A Way Forward ...

Do your best to improve the conditions
and
share your life with them ...,
... as Jesus did ...



Impacts of IACB ...

- For e. g.: Theme of IACB 2013, here in Rome:
- „... bioethical aspects of cognitive impairment and impaired humans ...“
- Thank you very much for your kind attention