

Opinions on Health Research

Is health research done in the country benefiting both medical practitioners and ordinary individuals? by Thengo Kavinya

In Malawi, there is an increasing intensification of research activities in the context of malaria and the HIV and AIDS epidemic in particular, while such enthusiasm and engagement towards health research can be beneficial to growth and development of the nation, have the fruits of these activities benefited our population in a proportionate manner.

Malawi's has a wealth of organizations such as College of Medicine, Michigan State University, University of Liverpool, University of North Carolina, National Tuberculosis Control Program, just to mention a few who have been involved in research on a variety of diseases. Researchers believe that it is necessary to use real-life examples in order to save lives and prevent diseases in diverse cultural and geographical settings but is this true in our setting? Health research aims ensure that every citizen is provided with health services that are effective and efficient. I sought opinion from different individuals whether they felt if health research is benefitting health practioners and patients.

Caroline Kambalame

Student, NACIT

No, I think medical research is not helping patients but practically the medical staff for their academic advancement and knowledge.

Fiona Banda

Secretary, A&C Professionals

I don't think so, I would say mostly it benefits the medical personnel. You find that most of the times after research in a certain community they don't come back and tell us the findings and results. Sometimes research is done on terminally ill patients who die even before results are published, so you find the patients don't benefit but medical personnel only.

Peter Mizenje

Student, Malawi College of Accountancy

Medical research is benefiting only privileged individuals who can manage private hospitals where such recommendations of researchers are implied more than in public hospitals where patients are treated usually with utmost negligence.

Fred Dzuwa

Accountant

There are a many things in medical research that are researched in the country. Some are profitable to both patients and researchers through advocating and implementation of its recommendation. Some studies however only benefit the researcher in improving his/her knowledge, however this would indirectly benefit the patients as the medical personnel would have more knowledge about a particular condition.

Kennedy Magaletta

Former Data entry officer, UNC

I can say both no and yes. Basically research is a long process altogether and most organizations end up running out of funds before making the results known to the respondents thereby benefiting themselves, but out of experience medical research has always been helpful lets see how the malaria drug has been evolving around the years.

Georgina Mvula

Studnet, Polytechnic

My answer is yes, the aim of medical research is to advance the management of medical conditions i.e. to improve patient's care and simplify medical personnel's work and techniques.

Sellina Kambawuwa

Research assistant, Millennium Consulting group

No, I have never heard that any medical research being helpful to the country. As such I believe these researches only benefit researchers for their academic and financial benefit.

Chisomo Banda

Secretary, Ministry of Health

No. To my understanding I think research is actually benefiting the researchers only because there are a few who disseminate their results to the publics and let alone the ordinary person who contributed to their research.

Leonard Phiri

Accountant, Bicco International

I can say either yes or no. Why? I have heard of newly introduced drugs for instance for Malaria which shows that the researchers have done their job and its of benefit to both the ordinary citizen and the researchers themselves but on the other hand it can doesn't benefit the ordinary citizen if for instance they introduce a new drug which he/she cannot afford.

Pamela Kalilangwe

Shop attendant

No. I have seen and answered a lot of questionnaires about health topics but I haven't had a chance to read their reports or even to hear from them.