



The Danger of 'Radio Naturopathy' Practice in Ghana

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Abstract

Review Article

Radio Naturopathy is a new term I coined in Ghana for those unqualified people who claim to be knowledgeable in naturopathy; frequent radio and other media houses to educate public on health issues. They mostly read health information from books and other online portals to cement their arguments. They demean conventional and public health practices in an era where the promotion of integration is being advocated. They further advertise their services to the general public to attend their naturopathic clinics. I have taken the best of my time to listen to most of them as well as the kind of health information and the danger it possesses to the healthcare industry in Ghana. However, the ignorant public assesses their services as they believe in these so called 'Radio Naturopaths'. They bombard the public and further call themselves "Doctors" as well. I have observed that, the media landscape in Ghana is a big problem in the development of modern Naturopathy. Additionally, weak regulatory mechanism is another problem we are faced with in Ghana if we are to succeed in development of modern Naturopathy. In other to weed out those unqualified radio naturopaths in Ghana; we need to develop a good standard in the profession of Naturopathy to meet International best practices.

Keywords: Radio Naturopathy, Ghana, Profession, Unqualified, Legislation.

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INTRODUCTION

What is Radio Naturopathy Practice?

I defined radio Naturopathy as the practice of so called Naturopathy by unqualified people who sit on radio and Televisions to educate the general public on health issues and in returned invite them to their centers for so called naturopathic services. They further have no background Naturopathic training from any accredited Naturopathic schools whether face to face or distance education. Their motive is to lure the innocent public just to make money. They are the major threat to modern Naturopathy in Ghana.

The Case of Radio Naturopathy

Interestingly, in Ghana, there are too many of these "radio Naturopaths". These radio Naturopaths are the cause of too many ill-informed medical educations in the country. These so-called radio naturopaths have infiltrated the radio and media landscape and bombarded the people with unscientific and theories which have no sound naturopathy principles. These are people who have not been or studied from any accredited state Naturopathy program.

Hence, do not understand the principle and standards of modern Naturopathy. They just gather any information they read from books or online theories which are outmoded in Naturopathy. They critique conventional or mainstream medicine. They believe anything that has to do with mainstream medicine is bad to the human race. They critique vaccination due to the fact that they have no practical idea that, public health and naturopathy are analogous [1].

They do not know that, modern naturopathy is based on biomedical subjects which are taught at the accredited Naturopathy medical schools. This has created so many enmities in the medical sector which shouldn't be so. Naturopathy and mainstream medicine are not at loggerhead; medicine is not about competition [2]. The interesting thing is that, radio naturopathy has dominated everywhere and is difficult changing the perception of the public on modern naturopathy. The radio naturopath in Ghana demean conventional medicine as well just to make money from the public. The truth is that, no single practice is superior and there has to be truthfulness in the practice of Naturopathy. Though, they have done some good by creating

awareness on naturopathy, promoting optimal health and preventive medicine. They do not issue disclaimers on the information they provide therefore creating many issues in the popular domain. Many who listen to them are their true Naturopaths. There is big difference between reading from the internet or partaking in some short course or workshop in naturopathy and start practicing as a Professional Naturopath and someone who has graduated from an accredited Naturopathic Medical School with standardized curriculum as well completed a mandatory clinical supervised training. Naturopathy is totally different from what people perceived it to be in Ghana. In fact, even, those who claimed to practice Naturopathy are not practicing true Naturopathy in Ghana. Modern Naturopathy, being practice in North and Latin America, Canada and India etc. are the home of true Naturopathy. Radio naturopaths also belong to the minimalist group; they do not want to explore or adopt to new things. They are conversant with the little information or what they hold on to for so long! They do not need any further training or additional knowledge! They are the threat to the practice of Naturopathy in Ghana! In the advent of COVID-19 crisis, it took one intervention to educate the public that, modern Naturopathy is not against vaccination[3].

In conclusion, there has to be legislation on the practice of Naturopathic medicine in Ghana to be in line with best International Practices [4]. We need to develop standards in the Naturopathic Profession in both education and practice. We further need to educate the public on who qualifies to be on radio to provide health education in standard development. We need a robust health policy in our healthcare industry to safeguard the ordinary Ghanaian in assessing Naturopathic care and

in addition to instill confidence in the Naturopathic profession in Ghana.

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