

RETHINKING PANDEMICS

DISCOVERING THE INDIVIDUAL HEALTH-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR OF RECOVERED COVID-19 INFECTED PATIENTS WITHIN THE SEKONDI-TAKORADI COMMUNITY, GHANA.

Mobility Semester 2021/22

INTRODUCTION

The pandemic brutally had an impact on the people of Sekondi-Takoradi. It is the western region's largest city and industrial and commercial center. Stories from the past are always told by the old people and even in the information Centres of the forts and castles, the impact of history is depicted in the perception and values of the people living in the town which sometimes affect their decision making towards anything that has a source from the western world. In the maiden times of the Corona pandemic; the misconceptions, beliefs and values that binded the people together made it a bit of a challenge to control the infection rate within the town. The study was able to explore and find out the possible factors with regards to individual perceptions, experiences, healthcare choices and it's efficacy.

FINDINGS

- The most preferred treatment was Herbal / Plant medicine and Faith-Based Healing.
- Making a choice in a preferred healthcare was influenced by;
 - The shared values and beliefs of the people.
 - The significant other(s) in their life (or power relations – who has a say?)
 - The kind of healthcare information available to the individual.
 - Individual previous experience on accessing a particular healthcare or known experience of a close relative.
 - The Economic and Religious status of the individual.

REFLECTIONS

The Health-Seeking Behaviour of people with regards to COVID-19 was easily and voluntarily talked about as compared to other health challenges such as HIV/AIDS. This made it flexible for the researcher to probe further into statements made by respondents. Data was collected over a period of 5 months on the research site.

METHODOLOGY

- Participant Observation, Case Studies and by conducting Semi-Structured field interviews
- Daily reflections on data collected
- Transcription of recordings from Fante or Twi to English
- Means of Accessing the Informants ;



Reconnecting past community network; i.e Friends, Family etc



Reaching out to suitable informants through the community leaders, friends and family.



Listening more to informants and writing keynote words about what they say.



Joined volunteers to create awareness about COVID-19 and to give back to community by donating sanitizers and face masks.

SOME PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Major monuments in the town



Some of the local herbs and plants used by some respondents in making their personal herbal concoctions for COVID-19. This was a popular concoction within the community.



Myself and a group of other volunteers donating toiletries and other protective items such as nose mask to some community members.



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