

The role of the Muslimah healthcare professionals

¹Umar-Sulayman H.

¹Deputy Editor in Chief, IMAN Medical Journal and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika-Zaria.

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

The number of healthcare professionals, who are Muslimah have been gradually increasing in the recent past despite the negative societal perception about their roles. This is coming in the background of the pivotal role played by Muslim scientists throughout history of modern medicine. Of note are Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd and Rufaida Al-Aslamia (the first Nurse, Social Worker, Nurse Specialist Surgeon, etc.).

The importance of the role of the Muslimah healthcare professionals cannot be emphasized enough. She is a Doctor, Pharmacist, Nurse, Laboratory scientist, Dentist, Health Information Management Professional, Medical Accountant, Health

Support Staff etc. She plays a vital role in medical care, nursing/midwifery services, counselling, general patient management and public health provision, alongside her male counterparts, while retaining her Islamic identity, family commitments and decorum.

The theme of this year's conference seeks to address the role of the Muslimah healthcare professional in achieving the universal healthcare coverage. The sub themes try to address issues around the poor participation of women in healthcare delivery and strategies to change the narratives, the contribution of women to Islam and human development and the challenges that the Muslimah healthcare professional faces in the home front.

In this edition, a lone author, Sadiq discussed the rights of healthcare workers within the context of Nigerian law. This is apt as it is coming in the wake of health workers, especially females being abused by patients or their relatives in various hospitals across Nigeria, in recent times.

There are several articles on the prospects of marriage among health care workers, addressing the barriers and changing the current narrative in the context of the Shari'ah for the benefit of the society at large. For instance, Muhammad & Abiola x-rayed the trending barriers to marital union among Muslim health workers, Luqman *et al.* guides on ways to tackle repugnant factors to a successful marriage, Dalhat *et al.* allays unnecessary fears among the populace regarding marriage to female Muslim healthcare professionals and

Yakubu & Abiola challenge Muslim healthcare professionals on their responsibilities to tackle asphyxiated marriage. In addition, Maikano *et al.*, examined documentation quality of laboratory requests in a specialist care setting; Oseni *et al.*, investigated contraceptive use of female undergraduates in a South-south Nigeria state; Salisu *et al.* shows concerns over apathy to unhindered observance of ritual prayers among inpatients in Nigeria hospitals and finally, Ibrahim *et al.* present a case report of a mental stress reaction of a COVID-19 patient.

I wish us all Allah's guidance as we go through this latest volume of our IMAN Medical Journal (IMJ VOL8 NO1).

Wa billahi taufeeq.