

The following is an editorial uploaded by a contributor to The Ghanaian Journal in response to the article, "Wli Todzi Denied Clinic." The original editorial can be found at: <http://www.theghanaianjournal.com/2010/11/03/help-this-community/>

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There is no dispute about the fact that a healthy population brings about increased productivity. And it is not for nothing that governments all over the world tend to invest heavily in the area of health.

The fact of the matter is that clinics, hospitals and health centres play key role in the development of a nation. The health sector is one area in this country which continues to suffer as a result of the craze by Ghanaian doctors and nurses to work abroad. There is also the lack of medical facilities that has contributed to the under-performance of the health sector.

Indeed, in Ghana today it is quite regrettable that there are many communities which have not even a clinic or health facility of a sort. And this situation has often resulted in deaths that could have been prevented had such communities had in place clinics.

The story on the front page of our paper today with the headline: 'Wli Todzi Denied Clinic' is indeed very sad. It is a precarious situation for Wli Todzi in the Volta Region to indeed function without a clinic. The question we are forced to ask is: How would they take care of their sick patients?

The only thing that the community can boast of as of now is three health personnel: one attendant and two individuals, versed only in curative and preventative care. According to the news item, these health officials have been working in the area for the past two years.

Strangely a UN sponsored clinic has been halted following complaints that building materials for project were allegedly being stolen by the inhabitants. On the contrary, the inhabitants have also blamed the Municipal Chief Executive for stealing the materials in the village's schoolhouse.

Whatever the issue, we think government should step in and have the problem addressed. We must understand that the Wli Todzi case is only a tip of the iceberg and that there are many communities in the country which have no health facilities.

It is our hope that government will respond to this clarion call to provide Wli Todzi a clinic, taking into consideration the tourism potential of the area. Wli Todzi, which is a farming community, is located on the summit of Wli falls.

Thus, how can we attract more tourists into the area when in actual fact there is no clinic in the community? It is against this backdrop that we at Today are

calling on government to, as a matter of urgency, provide a clinic for Wli Todzi and other communities in the country which do not have clinics.

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