



GLOBAL SKIN HEALTH

## PERSPECTIVES IN SKIN HEALTH IN THE THIRD WORLD

*M Miyanji De Souza<sup>(1)</sup>*

*The Aga Khan University Hospital, Medicine, Nairobi, Kenya<sup>(1)</sup>*

**INTRODUCTION:** Skin health has varied connotations across the globe commonly based on geographic, cultural, traditional and socio economic factors.

Differing attitudes and beliefs in the third world account for diversity in Skin care methods, medical and non-conventional management of skin conditions.

These reveal a unique spectra of healthy and diseased skin.

Affluence versus the underprivileged, informed versus the misinformed play a major role in the clinical diversity within the same country zones.

**OBJECTIVES:** Observing, understanding and appreciating the entities influencing the clinical picture helps the dermatologist direct his approach, guidance and treatment to various sectors of the community.

**MATERIALS and METHODS:** Clinical assessment. Interviews with different groups, thereby, learning their attitudes, beliefs and traditions. Survey of the infrastructure and accessible facilities in remote areas.

Assessing budgetary constraints, and availability of information and guidance.

**RESULTS:** A clear distinction noted in skin appearance in better informed affluent population compared with those with less exposure to proper guidance and accessible facilities.

**CONCLUSION:** Our goal to achieve a healthy skin for all can be achieved by providing facilities at the grass roots. Education, information and guidance is paramount in this endeavour.

A collective responsibility will render the desired goal of a healthy skin across all boundaries

