

**Title:** Development of Navigation Programme for Breast cancer care for the sociocultural Context of Ghana.

Merri Iddrisu, (**PhD Candidate, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Proposal development phase**) Department of Adult Health, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Ghana, [middrisu@ug.edu.gh](mailto:middrisu@ug.edu.gh).

## **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Several factors hinder the fight against breast cancer including late-stage diagnosis and poor access to quality healthcare which are facilitated by geographical barriers, financial barriers, and sociocultural barriers. Within the health sector, fragmented healthcare delivery, non-availability of logistics, and inadequate effective medications exist to influence breast cancer care negatively. In Ghana, more than half of women diagnosed with cancers die due to deleterious believes, stigma, limited logistics and inadequate human resources. Additionally, breast cancers rank first among the five top cancers diagnosed in Ghana and the second cause of cancer deaths after liver cancer. To address these challenges and improve breast cancer care, require the implementation of an effective interventional programmes that will target the problems at all levels. **Research questions:** what factors influence breast cancer care in Ghana? What care disparities do patients, families, and breast cancer survivors experience? what challenges do Ghanaian healthcare professionals face during breast cancer care continuum? And what interventional programmes exist for breast cancer management? **Design:** Mini Ethnographic approach will be used. The study will be carried out in three stages. 1. Exploratory phase where an integrative literature review on navigation programmes will be done, 2. Contextual exploration of factors influencing breast cancer care and 3. Development phase. The study will be conducted in two regions within three health facilities in Ghana. **Sampling:** maximum variation purposive sampling technique. **Data collection and analysis:** face to face and telephone individual interviews, observations, and document reviews. Data will be analysed using Braun and Clarke's thematic analysis approach. Outcome of the study will provide a foundation for effective management of breast cancer cases, help in policy formulation, and improve the quality of life of people living with breast cancer in Ghana.

**Keywords:** Breast cancer, Ghana, Navigation Programme, Patients and Families

