

## DR. ASANA TUNGTEEYA ALHASSAN



Asana Tungteeya Alhassan is my name, I recently completed my tertiary education, having earned the Doctor of Medical Laboratory Science from the University for Development Studies (UDS), Ghana. My academic journey was made possible through the generous support of the Educational Pathways International (EPI).

Throughout my academic journey, there were a lot of circumstances that could have prevented me from pursuing higher education and making it this far. I am the first born of a family of 8 including my mother and father. My father being a peasant farmer and my mother

a petty trader, we could only make enough income for our basic needs but not able to afford higher education. And so growing up, higher education has always been a luxury I could only dream of since payment of school fees and other educational expenses at the basic educational level had always been tough on my parents. Well, to some extent, I realized it was not bad at all to dream, in fact it was a good thing to dream and dream big. And so when I thought about what I wanted to become in future, the fact that I wanted to give back to society pushed me to choose my career path which was to become a health care professional.

All this while, I knew I wanted to become a health care professional but as to which specialty, I couldn't yet decide. However, during my secondary school days, I got to know the various units under the health sector and finally decided on to offer Doctor of Medical Laboratory Science at the University. I chose this course because of my deep interest in health and medical research right from an early age.

I was able to gain admission into the University for Development Studies after being successful in the West African Students Certificate Examination (WASSCE) at the senior high school level. This was great news to me but I was sad at this moment as well when the thought of my educational expenses came into mind. My parents were able to gather my school fees money through family and friends and some good samaritans in our community helped as well. And so when I reported on campus, I started searching for opportunities that could help me complete my tertiary education since that wasn't possible at home.

It wasn't long before I heard of a scholarship which was meant for brilliant but needy students and that scholarship happened to be the Educational Pathways International (EPI). I took it upon myself to apply for this educational support and after several stages of

interviews, I was selected as a beneficiary for this scholarship. That was the happiest day of my life because I knew things were finally going to turn around.

The scholarship from EPI has had a profound impact on my life. It lifted the financial burden off my shoulders allowing me to focus entirely on my studies. Without this support, I might not have been able to pursue my dreams. The scholarship also motivated me to work harder, knowing that I had the responsibility to make the most of the opportunity I was given.

As I step into my career, my immediate goal is to contribute to health care improvement in underserved communities. I plan to work in collaboration with other health care professionals to organize free health screening programs and create awareness about preventable diseases particularly in rural areas. By offering diagnostic services and educating people, I hope to improve the overall health and well-being of my community and Ghana as well.

Today, I stand prepared to use my education and skills to make a difference, thanks to the generosity of EPI. I want to say a very big thank you to EPI for making me whom I am today.