

Predictor of Nursing Mothers' Accessibility to Child Welfare Services: A Case of Palm Avenue Primary Health Care Centre, Mushin, Lagos State, Nigeria

Adeosun O. O.¹, Umar N. J.², Anyebe E. E.³, Olubiyi S. K.⁴, Afolabi W. A.⁵, Ibraheem M. A.⁶, and Yalwa, T.⁷

¹Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital Yaba, Nigeria

^{2,3,4,6}Department of Nursing Sciences, University of Ilorin, Nigeria

⁵School of Post Basic Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital Yaba, Nigeria

⁷Department of Nursing Sciences, Federal University Birnin Kebbi, Nigeria

²umaribna@gmail.com

Abstract

Child welfare is an integral part of maternal and child health care that constitutes a major component of primary health care services designed to promote health and prevent diseases among children. This study main objective is to investigate the predictors of nursing mothers' Knowledge, accessibility to and willingness to use child welfare services in Palm Avenue Primary Health Care Centre, Mushin, Lagos, Nigeria. A descriptive cross-sectional survey is used in this study. The study population for this study were all nursing mothers attending clinic at Palm Avenue Mushin Local Government Area, Lagos, Nigeria from which 134 respondents were selected by convenient sample method for this study. A 38 question-items questionnaire was used to obtain data from nursing mothers and analysis of the data was done using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software Version 20.0. Findings revealed that, attitude of health workers (56.3%), lack of money (49.2%), and support received from the families, (46.9%) influenced mothers' health seeking behaviour visit child welfare centers. A significant association also existed between the attitude, the age, marital status of nursing mothers ($X^2=7.317$, P -value= 0.026) and nature of their occupation ($X^2 =15.423$, P -value=0.001) respectively with the attendance of the child welfare health facilities in study area. This study concluded that attitudinal issues of workers, economic factors, marital status and occupational affiliations of mothers are predictors of nursing mothers' accessibility to and utilization of child welfare services. It is therefore recommended that healthcare professionals and managers should intensify effort on ameliorating these factors to encourage access to and utilization of child health welfare services.

Keywords: Accessibility; nursing mothers; child welfare care; Palm Avenue Mushin Local Government Area, Lagos State.

Introduction

Children's welfare as a crucial index of social and economic development of any society and they require a special and extra attention (Bronson & Ashley (2010). Obayendo (2014) observed that the child welfare services are essential for both mother and child but the main purpose is to promote health and prevent diseases among children after the birth of the baby. Bronson and Ashley (2010) further opined that in recent times, vast majority of children under the age of three with working parents now spend substantial time under non-parental child care. This fact of contemporary life represents a dramatic re-apportioning of the care of young children from parents to others, starting in the first few months of life. As a result, child care environments now constitute a central context for early development (Patrinos & Psacharopoulos; 2014).

Sani 2011 identified that the main aim of child welfare services is to prevent illnesses through immunization against communicable diseases, health education on various aspect of life, assessment of growth and development of the child, encouraging exclusive breastfeeding and treatment of minor ailments. The World Health Organization and UNICEF had launched several programmes like the baby friendly hospital initiative and the International Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes (ICMBMS) in order to protect, promote and support breastfeeding in response to persistent decline in the rate of breast feeding globally (UNICEF; 2014). Appropriate health care seeking is of significant particularly in the areas with limited access to health services (Sani, 2011).

The healthcare seeking interventions among nursing mothers have the potential to substantially reduce child mortality, large numbers of children in developing countries die without ever reaching a health facility due to delays in seeking care (Ogunjuyigbe, 2014). In recent years, studies have focused attention on the relationship between illness and health-seeking behavior. Ray, (2013) reported evidences on health seeking-behavior has documented in few studies by Sasaki, Masaru and Tilahun

Temesgen (2015) as includes consulting professional healthcare provider during the prenatal (for mother's immunization against tetanus), natal (place of delivery and help at delivery) and postnatal (immunization of the child) period, prompt seeking of health care services especially when disease symptoms are apparent are highly crucial for the survival of children. Oloko, in 2015, observed that education of some nursing mothers and their work status has strong effect on child survival in Nigeria. Delay in health seeking by nursing mothers can also be associated with home/self-treatment, use of traditional treatment, accessibility to health care services and money especially for children with acute fever and diarrhea (Ajibade, Okunlade, Makinde, Amoo, Adeyemo, 2013). Other factors which determine the child's access to health care by nursing mothers in Nigeria include Cultural practices, economic insecurity, and political factors impede on equitable distribution of health care leading to health insecurity in Nigeria (Adelekan, 2013).

Problem Situation in Mushin, Local Government of Lagos

Despite the health education given in Mushin health clinics concerning the importance of child welfare services, it was discovered by researchers that after delivery of children in health centers, next appointment is given for revisit to infant welfare clinic; the nursing mothers are usually not seen coming up for visits to complete the treatment process. The attitudes of mothers have hindered children from having optimum benefit of the healthcare services and made children more susceptible to various diseases that claimed so many lives in Mushin Local Government of Lagos State.

During the researchers six weeks community-based visit and careful study of past attendance register of nursing mothers at Palm Avenue Infant Welfare Clinic Mushin, an irregular attendance of mothers for child care was observed. This indicated a form of underutilization of the child welfare clinic by nursing mothers. This prompted the researchers to undertake a study on the willingness of nursing mothers to attend child welfare clinics and examine factors that influence the attendance of child welfare clinics by nursing mothers in Mushin area of Lagos, Nigeria. The study was guided by the following research questions:

Research Questions

- I. What is the knowledge level of nursing mothers about child welfare services?
- II. What is the willingness of nursing mothers to attend child welfare services in Mushin Local Government Area of Lagos State?
- III. What are the factors that influence the nursing mothers towards attending child welfare services?

Material and Methods

Design: A cross-sectional research design was adopted to assess predictors of nursing mothers' accessibility to and factors that influence their utilization of child welfare services in Mushin Local Government Area of Lagos State.

Study Population and sampling Procedure: Nursing mothers residing in Mushin LGA of Lagos State, Nigeria constituted the target population; accessible population was the mothers attending Infant Welfare Clinic in Mushin LGA. A convenient sample of 134 mothers was obtained for this study.

Instrument for Data Collection: A researcher-designed questionnaire was used for data collection and it consisted 30 questions items made up of three sections: Section A obtained information on knowledge of nursing mothers about child welfare services; Section B obtained information on willingness of nursing mothers towards child welfare services visit, while Section C was on factors influencing the attendants of child welfare services by nursing mothers. The validity of instrument was ensured based on the variables contained in objectives of this study and the reliability of instrument was determined by test retest reliability of the instrument with value of 0.76 obtained using 20 nursing mothers in Agege a similar health care center as pilot study.

Data Collection: A thirty question items (10 questions in each three sections) was administered on 134 mothers from whom 128 were retrieved for analyses. Questionnaires were distributed personally by the principal researchers by face to face interaction with the respondents.

Ethical Clearance: Ethical approval for the study was obtained from Research and Ethical Committee of Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, Yaba. The permission for the study was also given by the Lagos State Government Primary Health Care Board, Yaba. Informed consent was also given by the nursing mothers before the conduct of the study. Data Analysis was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 20 and descriptive statistics was used to calculate variables on knowledge and presented on frequency and percentages tables. While, Inferential Statistics of Chi-Square was used to analyze association of demographic variables scores on child welfare services among nursing mothers in Mushin, Lagos, Nigeria.

Results

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Variables of Respondents

Variable	Respondent	Frequency (n=128)	Percentage (%)
Age	12-19 years	8	6.3
	20-29 years	43	33.6
	30-39 years	69	53.9
	40-50 years	8	6.3
Marital status	Single	10	7.8
	Married	114	89.1
	Separated	4	3.1
Religion	Christianity	73	57.0
	Islam	55	43.0
Educational qualification	No formal education	1	0.8
	Primary education	13	10.2
	Secondary education	66	51.6
	Tertiary education	48	37.5
Nature of occupation	Trading/artisan	74	57.8
	Civil servant/government	20	15.6
	Corporate organization	21	16.4
	Full house wife	13	10.2

Results in Table 1 show nursing mothers who were predominantly middle age with mean age of 35 years old, and majority (89.1%) are married. Most of them had their secondary and tertiary education (51.6% and 37.5% respectively), while their main occupation was trading/artisans (57.8%) compared with 10.2% who were full housewives.

H₀₁: There will be no relationship between utilization of child welfare centers and demographic characteristics of nursing mothers in Mushin LGA, Lagos.

Table 2. Association between level of utilization and demographic variables of nursing mothers in Mushin LGA, Lagos

	X ²	Df	P-Value
Age	3.777	3	0.287
Marital Status	7.317	2	0.026*
Religion	0.344	1	0.595
Type of family	1.269	1	0.332
Educational status	3.419	3	0.331
Occupation	15.423	3	0.001*

Results in Table 2 reveal association of demographic variables with utilization of CWC among nursing mothers, with calculated chi-square values showed a statistically significant association between the

attitude of nursing mothers and their marital status ($X^2=7.317$, P-value= 0.026) and nature of their occupation ($X^2 =15.423$, P-value=0.001), but showed no significant relationship between attitude score when compare with age, religion, type of family and educational qualification respectively.

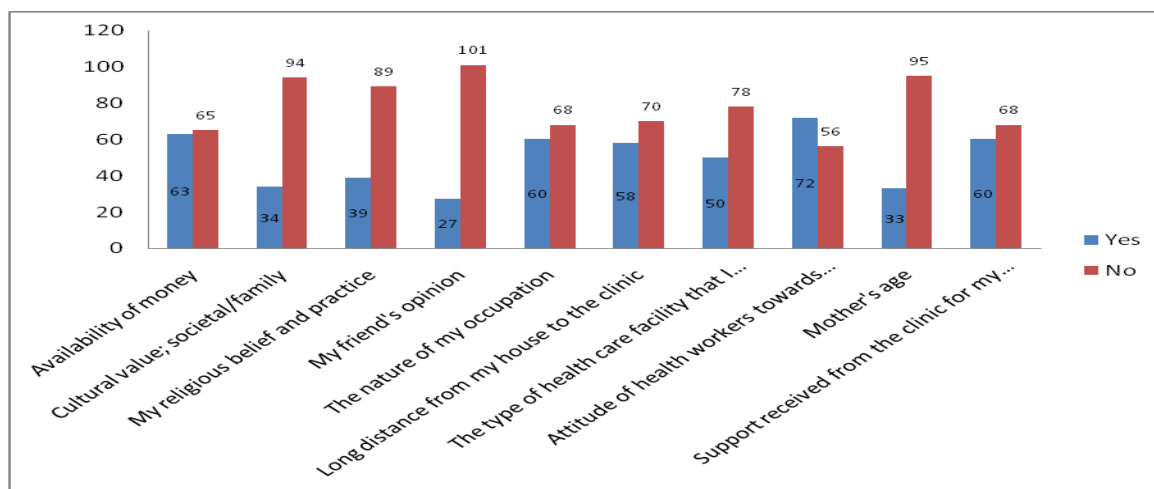


Figure 1: Factors Influencing the Attitude of Nursing Mothers towards Child Welfare Services

On various factors that militate against accessibility of child welfare services by nursing mothers, Figure 1 above revealed attitude of health workers towards clients at clinic sessions constituted the major (56.3%) challenge to nursing mothers towards accessibility of child welfare service in Mushin Areas of Lagos. This was followed by lack of money (49.2%) to visit the clinics and poor support received from the family (46.9%). There was no association between mean score of attitudes, age, religion, type of family and the educational qualification of nursing mothers that attended child welfare care center in Mushin Area (Table 2). However, significant association exists between attitude of nursing mothers and their marital status as well as nature of occupation toward utilization of child welfare care services in Mushin LGA, Lagos, Nigeria.

Discussion

Demographic Characteristics of Nursing Mothers

This study on the assessment of predictors of nursing mothers' accessibility to child welfare services in Mushin Local Government Area of Lagos State revealed that majority of mothers in this study were married with mean age of 35 years old. This implied that nursing mothers who attended Mushin child welfare clinic are in their prime reproductive age and equal percent of them were educated. The mothers' knowledge about child welfare services was quite impressive as they claimed to have understood and are aware of various child welfare care services rendered at the health centers of Mushin Area of Lagos State. The high level of knowledge among nursing mothers was not surprising as almost 60% of them were educated. The results agreed with Omer, Al-lela, Moh' d, Harith Al-Qazaz, Muhannad, and Salih., Shazia (2014), opinion that mothers with adequate knowledge will influence positively the health seeking behaviour to regularly access health care services for themselves and their children. This finding show that the nursing mothers minimum educational qualifications afford them the needed level of knowledge to appreciate the importance of child welfare services the community. This study also revealed that even though the cost of transportation and medical treatment was reasonably high, mothers' various sources of income were used to augment their financial strength to access child welfare services provided in the health centers in Mushin, Lagos.

On the nursing mothers' attitude regarding attendance to child welfare services, this study posited that an average number of nursing mothers declared their willingness to attend child welfare clinics for services regularly. This study corroborates study conducted by Femke, John and Wimvan (2013), which showed positive attitude of childbearing women towards attendance of child welfare clinics for services. This study also supported the report that positive parental attitudes towards child welfare services are an

important component in child developmental milestone and prevention of child abuse (Manpreet, Baba & Shyam, 2017)

There are several factors identified as predictors of nursing mothers' attendant to child welfare services in this study, principal among them was poor attitude of health workers towards the mothers during clinic visits significantly influenced their plan for next visit to child welfare clinics. This finding corroborates studies by Esi Faith, Albert and Timothy, (2018) study in Ghana, posited that inflexible schedule visit, public scolding, impatient listening and lack of rapport by health workers hindered mothers from attending child welfare clinics in Ghana. Closely related to health workers attitude was non-availability of money for mothers to access child welfare care services available at the center this has kept mothers away from buying basic requirement for child care in both health centers and at home. This finding was supported by Esi *et al.*, (2018), who claimed mother poor economic status and constant persuasion of mothers by health workers to purchase stuffs sold at the clinic such as weighing pant, wean mix, cosmetic and diapers prevented mothers from attending CWC.

On the association of demographic variables with attitudes of nursing mothers toward accessing child welfare care clinics, the calculated chi-square values showed a statistically significant association between the attitude of nursing mothers and their marital status ($X^2=7.317$, P-value= 0.026) and nature of their occupation ($X^2 =15.423$, P-value=0.001), but showed no significant relationship between attitude score when compare with age, religion, type of family and educational qualification respectively.

Conclusions

Despite the nursing mothers' demonstration of good knowledge and positive attitude towards attendants of child welfare services, this study concluded that there was a significant association between the attitude of nursing mothers and their marital status and nature of their occupation. The study also concluded the health workers poor attitudes to nursing mothers determined the mothers' next visits to CWC. Hence, effort is needed by the governments at all levels to empower women economically so as to enable them to receive needed child care services to their children in Mushin Area of Lagos State, Nigeria.

Implication for Nursing Practice

- I. The findings of this study provide opportunity to nursing personnel and other health care givers who are in the best position to provide child welfare service to both the child and the nursing mothers to know more of factors militating against nursing mothers from accessing child welfare services in the health centers.
- II. The findings of this study have enlightened both the nurses and other health care providers that adequate knowledge influenced nursing mothers' willingness to seek child welfare services.
- III. The findings of this study have also brought to knowledge of nurse managers and policy makers that health workers attitudes including nurses played a greater role toward preventing mothers from effectively utilizes child welfare services coupled with non-availability of fund for mothers to access child welfare services in Mushin Areas of Lagos State, Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusion of this study, we recommended that health workers particularly nurse must have a positive attitudinal change towards rendering health care services to nursing mothers in the health centers.

- i. The husbands must as a matter of matrimonial responsibility provide the needed financial supports to the nursing mothers to be able to access child welfares services without financial hindrance.
- ii. The local Government, the State and the Federal Ministry of Health should intensify effort on creating more awareness on the importance of child welfare services through the media, newsprints and outreaches.
- iii. Government should intensify efforts on the employment more workforce, especially nurses, to commensurate the workload as shortage of staff (nurses) at the child welfare centers

- iv. Efforts should be intensified by the government at all levels to employ women and empowering them to improve their economic status in the communities.
- v. Workers attitudes to client especially nursing mother need to be improved to encourage mothers to comply with scheduled revisit to CWC for services.

References

- Ajibade B.I., Okunlade J.O., makinde O.Y., Amoo P.O., Adeyemo. (2013). Factors influencing the practice of exclusive breastfeeding in rural communities of Osun state, Nigeria. *European Journal of Business and Management*. 5(15): 49-53.
- Adelekan, D.A. 2013. Childhood nutrition and malnutrition in Nigeria. *Nutrition*. 19(2): 179- 181.
- Bronson, P.O. and Ashley, M. 2010. " *Nurture Shock: New Thinking about Children*" . Pp. 19, 38.
- Esi Faith, Albert and Timothy, G. (2018). Understanding why child welfare clinic attendance and growth of children in nutrition surveillance programme is below target: lessons learnt from a mix methods study in Ghana. *Pub.BMC. Nursing published online*. Dol.10.1186/s12912-018-0294-y. Accessed on the 22nd March, 2019 from [www.google.com].
- Femke,R., John, G and Wimvan, O. 2013. "The multidimensionality of Welfare State attitude: A South European Cross-National study" *springer link*.
- Manpreet, K., Baba, F & Shyam. (2017). A Descriptive Study on Knowledge and Attitude Regarding Prevention of Child Abuse Among Mothers of Fewer Than Five Children in Selected Village of Maga, India" . DOI 10.4172/2573-0347-CI-014.
- Neeta, J. and Vrushali, K. 2016. " *Primary Health Care and Primary Health Centre*" . Pp.18, 26.
- Obayendo, T. (2014). *Improving maternal and infant care in Nigeria*; Pharmanews Health Cast, Nigeria.
- Ogunjuyigbe, O.P. (2014). Under-Five Mortality in Nigeria: Perception and Attitudes of the Yoruba towards the Existence of " Abiku" . Available on www.demographic-research.org/Volumes/Vol11/2/DOI: 0.4054/DemRes. 11.2
- Oloko. S.B.A. (2015). National Study on Child Labour in Nigeria, *Report for International Labour Organization, Lagos*.
- Omer Q. B Al-Iela, Mohd B. B., Harith K. Al-Qazaz, Muhannad R.M., Salih., Shazia. (2014). " A Mixed Method Study on Knowledge and Practice Regarding Immunization Related to Paediatrics Immunization Compliance in India" . PMC. 3904208.
- Patrinos, H. and G. Psacharopoulos. (2014). " Family size, schooling and child labour in Peru: An Empirical Analysis." *Journal of Population Economics*. Retrieved from [www.google.com], on 3rd March, 2019.
- Sani, G.M., (2011). " Environmental and Public Health Watch: Management of Primary Health Centres in Nigeria. Pp 31-33, 40
- Sasaki, Masaru and Tilahun Temesgen. (2015). " Children in different activities: Child labour and Schooling in Peru" Draft. *World Bank, Washington, D C*.
- UNICEF. (2014). Hidden in plain sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children. New-York.
- Ray, R. (2013). " Child labor, child schooling and their interaction with adult labor: empirical evidence from Peru and Pakistan" . *The World Bank Economic Review*. 14, n.2pp.347-367