

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-50458

Date: 01-03-2025

Title: Awareness, Patterns of Primary Health Care Preference, and Influencing Factors Among Residents in a Sub-Urban Region, Southern Nigeria

Recommendation:

Accept as it is.....**YES**.....
 Accept after minor revision.....
 Accept after major revision
 Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	√			
Techn. Quality		√		
Clarity		√		
Significance			√	

Reviewer's Name: Dr Aamina

Reviewer's Decision about Paper: **Recommended for Publication.**

Comments (*Use additional pages, if required*)

Reviewer's Comment / Report

General Overview: The study provides an insightful examination of the awareness and utilization of Primary Health Care (PHC) services among residents of Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria. The research is well-structured and effectively presents the problem, methodology, findings, and implications in a clear and logical manner. The relevance of the study is significant, given the global push for Universal Health Coverage and the role of PHC in achieving equitable healthcare access.

Abstract Review: The abstract succinctly presents the study's background, objectives, methods, results, and conclusions. The inclusion of key statistics enhances the comprehensibility of the findings. The abstract provides a clear summary of the study and aligns well with the main text, ensuring coherence.

Background Section: The background effectively contextualizes PHC as a fundamental component of healthcare delivery and its importance in reducing healthcare disparities. The historical reference to the Alma-Ata Declaration and WHO's initiatives strengthens the rationale for the study. The international comparisons, particularly with the UK and South Africa, provide useful perspectives on PHC utilization

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and demonstrate the potential for improvement in Nigeria. The discussion of Nigeria's PHC challenges, supported by relevant statistics, offers a strong foundation for the study's objectives.

Methodology: The cross-sectional study design is appropriate for assessing awareness and patterns of PHC preference. The use of multistage sampling ensures a representative sample, enhancing the generalizability of findings. The application of structured, interviewer-administered questionnaires ensures consistency in data collection, and the use of IBM SPSS Statistics for analysis demonstrates methodological rigor. The inclusion of chi-square and Fisher's exact tests to assess associations strengthens the statistical credibility of the study.

Results Section: The results are well-presented, with key findings effectively highlighted. The high level of awareness (95.3%) contrasts with the low preference for PHC centres (24.5%), underscoring a critical gap in service utilization. The identification of affordability as a major influencing factor is a notable contribution to understanding healthcare-seeking behaviors. The inclusion of demographic variables such as age, gender, education, and employment status adds depth to the analysis.

Discussion and Conclusion: The discussion provides a balanced interpretation of findings, linking them to existing literature. The identification of service quality and affordability as key barriers aligns with previous research on PHC utilization in Nigeria. The conclusion appropriately summarizes the study's main findings and implications, emphasizing the need for infrastructure improvements, community education, and enhanced service quality.

Overall Assessment: The study is a well-executed investigation into PHC awareness and preference, contributing valuable insights into healthcare access in Nigeria. The research design, statistical analysis, and discussion align well with the study objectives. The findings are relevant for policymakers and healthcare practitioners seeking to improve PHC utilization and achieve better health outcomes.