

COUNSELLING PRACTICES OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS ON MALARIA TREATMENT

BY

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DEGREE IN PHARMACY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Counselling Practices of Community Pharmacists on Malaria Treatment" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined counselling practices of community pharmacists on malaria treatment, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of counselling; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with counselling and practices. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 410 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 383 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.1). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.557$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.36, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.13$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on counselling.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of counselling practices of community pharmacists on malaria treatment is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

Scholars have long recognised counselling as a critical determinant of outcomes in pharmacy. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which counselling unfolds. The work of Dauda and Ekwueme (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that practices reinforces the effects of counselling. Such findings reinforce the argument that counselling deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Dauda and Ogunlana (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of counselling are unevenly distributed across groups. Such findings reinforce the argument that counselling deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

In both global and African literatures, counselling is now regarded as a key index of institutional performance. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with counselling. Evidence assembled by Nwosu and Ekwueme (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to counselling. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Research by Eze and Bello (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting counselling and practices. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Few subjects attract as much policy interest in contemporary Nigeria as the question of counselling. Evidence from national agencies indicates that counselling has grown considerably in recent times, underscoring the need for systematic inquiry. Research by Eze and Bello (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting counselling and practices. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding practices. Kalu and Bamgbose (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of counselling are unevenly distributed across groups. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

counselling occupies a prominent position in contemporary debates about practices and national development. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of counselling and practices. Comparative work by Kalu and Aderemi (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking counselling with practices. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching,