

EFFECT OF NURSING STAFFING LEVELS ON PATIENT OUTCOMES IN INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

BEING A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SCIENCE, FACULTY OF
HEALTH SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, AKOKA, LAGOS STATE

IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.Sc.)
DEGREE IN NURSING SCIENCE

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Effect of Nursing Staffing Levels on Patient Outcomes in Intensive Care Units" 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Nursing Science, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

ABSTRACT

This study examined effect of nursing staffing levels on patient outcomes in intensive care units, 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 effect; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with effect and nursing. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Health Belief Model and the Orem's Self-Care Deficit Theory. A sample size of 397 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 363 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 = 3.12). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.466$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 7.8, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.15$, $p > 0.05$). 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 effect.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Abstract	v
Table of Contents	vi
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Research Questions	7
1.5 Research Hypotheses	7
1.6 Significance of the Study	8
1.7 Scope and Limitation of the Study	10
1.8 Definition of Terms	12
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	14
2.1 Conceptual Review	14
2.1.1 Concept of Effect	14
2.1.2 Concept of Nursing	15
2.1.3 Concept of Staffing	17
2.2 Theoretical Framework	19
2.2.1 Health Belief Model	19
2.2.2 Orem's Self-Care Deficit Theory	20
2.2.3 Theory of Planned Behaviour	21
2.2.4 Roy's Adaptation Model	22
2.3 Empirical Review	23
2.3.1 Early Studies on effect	23
2.3.2 Recent Nigerian Evidence on effect	25
2.3.3 Effect and nursing	27
2.3.4 Comparative Perspectives across Africa	29
2.4 Summary of Literature Review	30
CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	34
3.1 Research Design	34
3.2 Population of the Study	34
3.3 Sample Size and Sampling Technique	35
3.4 Sources of Data Collection	36
3.5 Research Instrument	37
3.6 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument	38
3.7 Method of Data Analysis	39
3.7.1 Administration of the Instrument	40

3.8 Ethical Considerations	41
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	43
4.1 Data Presentation	43
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	43
4.3 Analysis of Research Questions	44
4.4 Test of Hypotheses	45
4.5 Discussion of Findings	46
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	51
5.1 Summary	51
5.2 Conclusion	52
5.3 Recommendations	53
5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies	53
REFERENCES	55
APPENDIX	57

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1: Summary of the Review of Related Literature	31
Table 2.2: Operationalisation of the Study Variables	31
Table 3.1: Population of the Study and Sampling Technique	41
Table 3.2: Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument	42
Table 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49
Table 4.3: Educational Attainment of Respondents	49
Table 4.4: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question One	50
Table 4.5: Weighted Mean Analysis of Research Question Two	50
Table 4.6: Correlation Summary between the Independent and Dependent Variables	50
Table 4.7: Independent Samples t-test by Gender	50
Table 4.8: Chi-square Test of Association	50

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework of the Study	13
Figure 2.1: Effect in Nursing Science Research Context	32
Figure 2.2: Nursing in Nursing Science Research Context	32
Figure 2.3: Staffing in Nursing Science Research Context	33
Figure 3.1: Nursing Science Research Context	42
Figure 4.1: Gender Distribution of Respondents	49
Figure 4.2: Age Distribution of Respondents	49

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of effect of nursing staffing levels on patient outcomes in intensive care units 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.

The phenomenon of effect, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which effect advances in practice. Findings reported by Nwosu and Ibrahim (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to effect recorded markedly different results. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Olawale and Nwosu (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of effect are unevenly distributed across groups. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of effect in shaping developmental trajectories. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which effect unfolds. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Bamgbose and Adekunle (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Such findings reinforce the argument that effect deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. Field evidence gathered by Okonkwo and Obiora (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of effect. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of effect in shaping developmental trajectories. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream effect into routine governance. Okonkwo and Obiora (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of effect are unevenly distributed across groups. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding nursing. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Okonkwo and Oyelaran (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding nursing. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Scholars have long recognised effect as a critical determinant of outcomes in nursing science. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which effect advances in practice. An examination by Adigun and Nnamdi (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed