

KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF HERBAL ANTIMALARIALS AMONG PREGNANT WOMEN

BY

[STUDENT'S FULL NAME]

[MATRIC NUMBER]

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DEGREE IN PHARMACY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Knowledge and Use of Herbal Antimalarials Among Pregnant Women" 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 knowledge and use of herbal antimalarials among pregnant women, 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 knowledge; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with knowledge and use. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 409 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 381 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 = 3.04). 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 = 8.04, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.14$, $p > 0.05$). 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 knowledge.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of knowledge and use of herbal antimalarials among pregnant women 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 salience of knowledge in national discourse has grown steadily, driven by changing social conditions and technological penetration. Within Lagos State, the country's most populous commercial hub, the dynamics of knowledge are observed in their starkest form. Field evidence gathered by Bakare and Adigun (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of knowledge. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Empirical evidence from Eze and Adeniyi (2021) suggests that positive developments in use are associated with improvements in knowledge. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Over the past two decades, knowledge has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of knowledge varies considerably from one region to another. An examination by Eze and Musa (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding use. Evidence assembled by Umeh and Adigun (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to knowledge. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Scholars have long recognised knowledge as a critical determinant of outcomes in pharmacy. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of knowledge in everyday life. Comparative work by Umeh and Adigun (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking knowledge with use. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in pharmacy. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Salami and Alade (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Over the past two decades, knowledge has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with knowledge. Findings reported by Adekunle and Salami (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to knowledge recorded markedly different results. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. Longitudinal research by Nwosu and Ogunlana (2016) revealed that