# NEEDLESTICK INJURIES AMONG NURSES AND REPORTING BEHAVIOUR

BY

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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 "Needlestick Injuries Among Nurses and Reporting Behaviour" 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.

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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 needlestick injuries among nurses and reporting behaviour, 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 needlestick; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with needlestick and injuries. 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 396 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 386 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 ($r = 0.474$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 5.28, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.03$, $p > 0.05$). 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 needlestick.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# LIST OF TABLES

# LIST OF FIGURES

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The study of needlestick injuries among nurses and reporting behaviour 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.

needlestick continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in nursing science. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of needlestick. Research by Bello and Ogunlana (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting needlestick and injuries. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in nursing science. The work of Kalu and Alade (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that injuries reinforces the effects of needlestick. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

The relationship between needlestick and injuries has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. The Nigerian context presents peculiar challenges, ranging from infrastructural deficits to institutional weaknesses, which shape the manner in which needlestick unfolds. Findings reported by Alade and Ogunlana (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to needlestick recorded markedly different results. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Evidence assembled by Nwosu and Umeh (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to needlestick. Such findings reinforce the argument that needlestick deserves a place of priority on the development agenda. A recurring weakness in the literature concerns the difficulty of isolating the precise influence of {k0} from confounding factors.

Scholars have long recognised needlestick as a critical determinant of outcomes in nursing science. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of needlestick. Comparative work by Nwosu and Umeh (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking needlestick with injuries. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Chukwu and Osinachi (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. For practitioners, the practical significance of needlestick cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with injuries. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames needlestick as inseparable from the broader question of injuries. Evidence from national agencies indicates that needlestick has grown considerably in recent times, underscoring the need for systematic inquiry. Findings reported by Olawale and Bakare (2018) observed that respondents with greater exposure to needlestick recorded markedly different results. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in nursing science. An examination by Nwosu and