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IMPACT OF SOCIAL FACTORS ON THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM AMONG NURSING MOTHERS IN ABEOKUTA SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF OGUN STATE

[1]Bello, M. O., Ogundele, B. O., Faleke, M. A. and Adewunmi, O. M.

[1]Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education,Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijebu-Ode.
Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education,University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

Corresponded Authour: bellomo@tasued.edu.n, gfaleke085@gmail.com,

Abstract

It has been observed that a lot of nursing mothers self-medicate with Alternative medicines and supplements, most commonly on recommendation by friends and families which increase maternal mortality rate globally as against the Modern Healthcare Delivery System with modern facilities, equipment and qualify personnel which could have prevented and reduces maternal mortality rate in our society. Therefore, this study investigates the impact of Social factors (family background, cultural background and Education) on the use of alternative healthcare delivery systems in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. The study adopted a survey research design and proportionate sampling technique to select Five hundred (500) Nursing mothers from the available Eight (8) hospitals/Health centres in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. The use of an alternative healthcare delivery system social factor questionnaire yielded (r=8.48). The social factors have a significant impact on the Alternative Healthcare delivery system ($F_{(3, 496,)} = 9.356$) and accounted for .202 to the variance of the Alternative Healthcare Delivery System and accounted for 0.783 to the variance of Alternative healthcare Delivery System. The results revealed with β=.349 that family background has the highest impact on the use of alternative healthcare delivery system among nursing mothers followed by Education (β=.044) and cultural background (β= -.369) which are all significant ($p < 0.05$). Based on the findings of this study, it was recommended among other things that nursing mothers should constantly be provided with relevant information on advantages and disadvantages related to any of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems selected which could provide education on the risks taken irrespective of the determinant factors

Keywords: Alternative Health Care, Family background, Cultural Background, Nursing Mothers

Introduction

Alternative healthcare delivery system is a term that describes medical treatments that are used instead of mainstream therapies. It is also referred to as complementary medicine where people from different cultural backgrounds have used different forms of the alternative healthcare system as a means of managing their health problems. Alternative Medicine use in Nigeria is becoming more popular, (Onyiapat Okoronkwo & Ogbonnaya, 2011; Ezeome & Anarado, 2012; Amira, & Okubadejo, 2009), like in many other countries of the world. Globally, the prevalence of the use of alternative medicine ranges from 30% to 75% (World Health Organization [WHO], 2010).

When unconventional approaches or products are used together with conventional medicine, it is said to be complementary; but when it is used in place of conventional medicine, it becomes an alternative medicine. Therefore, complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) is an umbrella term used for

both complementary and alternative health care practices. The trend is increasing globally and the lack of robust evidence of safety, particularly when used in a vulnerable population such as nursing mothers is not a deterrent to alternative healthcare delivery system use (Fraser & Cooper, 2009). The most popular herbal remedies used by nursing mothers in the world include ginger (Zingiber officinale), garlic (Allium sativum), green tea (Camellia sinensis), and peppermint (Mentha piperita) (LowDog, 2012). LowDog (2012) reported that factors associated with increased use of herbal medicines among nursing mothers include, low economic status, being less educated and severity of nausea and vomiting.

Alternative medical therapy has been growing in popularity and getting increasing attention and interest. The use of herbal remedies as a form of alternate medical care among nursing mothers has become a major concern in Nigerian communities due to its perceived safety among users and controversial assumption of toxicity, teratogenic potentials and associated feto-maternal complications among healthcare practitioners (Tabatabaee, 2011).

The use of herbal remedies has not been abandoned entirely across the globe. The use of herbal remedies persists in local communities, most especially in developing countries where access to orthodox medicine may be unavailable or unaffordable. The use of herbal remedies may differ from woman to woman depending on their perception of their efficacy and supremacy above the conventional drugs which side effects may aggravate existing symptomatic manifestations during childbearing age/Alternative medicine which has a long history has been relegated to the background by the evolution of modern medicine.

Moreover, the need for nurses to have reliable empirical data on the perception and utilization of herbal remedies by mothers is becoming extremely important for effective educational interventions. Even though studies conducted across the six geo-political zones revealed a strong perception of herbal remedies and a high consumption rate among the Nigerian populace (Banda, Chapman, Goldenberg, Stringer, Cultiane, Sinkala, Vermund and Chi, 2012). This study will provide the knowledge base for intervention programs to address issues relating to the use of herbal remedies among women during childbearing age and investigate the impact of social factors on the use of alternative medicine among nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. Many women self-medicate with alternative medicines and supplements, most commonly on recommendation by friends or families. It was anticipated that the use of some herbal medicines was likely to occur during breastfeeding.

The use of alternative medicine among nursing mothers is for different purposes including breast enlargement, after pain and infection in mothers, babies also can have infected cord, malnutrition, abdominal cramps, respiratory and skin problem.

Material and Methods

The research design adopted in this research was survey research design because the design reported events and situations as it exists without allowing the researcher to manipulate it. The population for this study comprised 500 nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. The sample size for this study was five hundred (500) nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State, Nigeria. The Local Government consists of eight (8) health centres/Hospitals. The questionnaire was a modified Likert Scale four points rating of Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Disagreed and Strongly Disagreed. The instrument was validated by health education experts and found suitable for the study. Cronbach Alpha statistics was used to establish the internal consistency of the instrument which produced a reliability coefficient of 0.84.

The completed copies of the questionnaire were collected, coded and analyzed using the descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages for the demographic information and inferential statistics of multiple regression was used to analyze hypotheses 1 and t-test for hypothesis 2. All the hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 level of significance.

Results and Discussion

Ho_1: Family background, cultural background and education will not be social predictors of the use of alternative healthcare delivery system among nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

Table 1: Regression analysis showing the level of the social impact of Family background, Cultural background and Education on the use of alternative healthcare delivery system statistical influence

ANOVA[b]						
Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	35.787	3	11.929	9.356	.000[a]
	Residual	122.403	496	1.275		
	Total	158.190	499			
a. Predictors: (Constant), EDUCATION, CULTURALBACK, FAMILYBACK						
b. Dependent Variable: AHCDS						

R = .476

R^2= .226

Adj R^2 = .202

Std. Error = 1.12917

Significant = .000[a]

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.909	.899		2.122	.036
Family Background	.466	.121	.349	3.835	.000
Cultural Background	-.740	.185	-.369	-3.992	.000
Education	.104	.218	.044	.479	.003

Table 1 presents the level of the social impact of family background, cultural background and educational status of nursing mothers on the use of alternative healthcare delivery systems. The table shows with beta statistics that there is a relative impact of each of the social variables on the use of alternative healthcare delivery systems among nursing mothers. However, the table shows that family background has the highest prediction (β=.349) of the use of alternative healthcare delivery system among nursing mothers which is followed by educational status (β=.044). The cultural background of nursing mothers had the least prediction (β= -.369). The table revealed that each of the impacts is

significant ($p < 0.05$). Thus, hypothesis 1 was rejected. Hence, family background, education and cultural background have a significant social impact on the use of alternative healthcare delivery systems among nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State. The summary table revealed with $r = .476$ that there is a fairly strong positive relationship between all the variables. However, the adjusted $R^2 = .202$ indicates that the independent variables accounted for 20.2% of the total variance in the choice of nursing mothers use of alternative healthcare delivery systems. The joint effect is shown to be significant on nursing mothers use of alternative healthcare delivery systems ($F(1, 498) = 9.356$; $P<0.05$).

Ho2: There would be no difference in the use of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems among nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State

Table 2: t-test showing the difference in the mean responses of nursing mothers on use of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery system

Factors		N	Mean	Std. Dev.	Df	t	Sig.
Use of healthcare delivery system	Alternative	500	97.76	11.62	499	1.619	.001
	Conventional	500	92.17	11.72			

The table presents the mean differences in the responses of nursing mothers on the use of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems. The table revealed a significant difference on the use of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems among the nursing mothers ($df = 499$; $t = 1.619$; $p < 0.05$). Thus, hypothesis 2 was rejected. Hence, there is a significant difference in the use of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems among nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Area of Ogun State.

Discussion of Findings

This study investigates the impact of social factors on the use of alternative healthcare delivery systems among nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Ogun State. The study found based on hypotheses tested revealed with $\beta=.349$ that family background has the highest impact on the use of alternative healthcare delivery system among nursing mothers followed by education ($\beta=.044$) and cultural background ($\beta= -.369$) which are all significant ($p < 0.05$).

Based on findings on differences established on the use of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems was established among the nursing mothers, this agrees with Oyelakin (2009) that there are individuals choice of health care delivery system. The difference towards the choice of health care delivery system seems further established by Hill (2013) who noted that the secrecy surrounding traditional healthcare has contributed to modern health practitioners to be finding it difficult to accept traditional medicine due to religious, magical and cultural beliefs involved

Conclusion

Based on the findings, this study concludes that there are relative social factors that determine the use of alternative healthcare delivery systems among nursing mothers in Abeokuta South Local Government Ogun State. The social variables such as the family background, cultural background and education played respective roles in selecting any of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems with family background ranked the major predictor of the use of alternative healthcare delivery system among nursing mothers but with interference cultural background and educational background.

Based on these social factors, there is a preference among nursing mothers on the use of alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following are recommended:

1. Nursing mothers should constantly be provided with relevant information on advantages and disadvantages related to any of the alternative and conventional healthcare delivery systems selected which could provide education on the risks taken irrespective of the determinant factors.
2. Pregnant women should be carefully educated on best healthcare delivery practices with relation to a specific treatment to facilitate the right decision making.

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