

**Socioeconomic Characteristics and Health-Seeking Behaviour of Residents of
Slum Settlements in Lagos State Metropolis**

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Management & Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State,
Nigeria.**

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Certification

This is to certify that Michael Olusegun DEMEHIN with the matriculation number LCU/PG/002323 carried out this thesis titled “**Socioeconomic Characteristics and Health-Seeking Behaviour of Residents of Slum Settlements in Lagos State Metropolis**” in the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, for the award of Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in Sociology and that this has not been previously submitted.

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to the Almighty, who gave me the wisdom and strength to complete it.

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Michael Olusegun DEMEHIN

Abstract

This research investigates the socioeconomic factors affecting the health-seeking behaviour of slum dwellers in the Lagos State metropolis. Among many findings, the research filled the scientific lacuna alluded to in earlier research on the cause of the high informal healthcare patronage among urban slum dwellers despite the general view of low health-seeking behaviour among this population segment. Factors such as availability, accessibility, and affordability of healthcare services play a vital role in analysing high levels of patronage of informal healthcare services among urban slum dwellers, as revealed in this research. Theories such as functionalism, Karl Marx's Class Analysis, and Kroeger's Health-Seeking Behaviour Model were used as the analytical tools. The study methods were based on mixed methods, where both quantitative and qualitative data were collected. The qualitative data were collected through in-depth interviews, and the quantitative data were collected using a structured questionnaire. Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) was used to analyse quantitative and qualitative data through thematic and content analysis. From the results, educational attainment ($P=0.014$), employment status ($P=0.002$), and sickness experienced in the last 12 months ($P=0.000$) added significantly to the model of health-seeking behaviour. Therefore, education attainment, employment status and the possibility of experiencing sickness in the last 12 months are strong predictors for utilising healthcare services in the last 12 months among slum dwellers in the Lagos State metropolis. The qualitative results showed that accessibility, availability, and affordability are key factors affecting the health-seeking behaviour of the slum dwellers. Therefore, this research recommends that Nigeria's government create employment opportunities for Nigerians, and those intending to create businesses should be supported with loans. Education for all should be implemented in the national and state policies. Healthcare facilities in the slum settlements should be reviewed to benefit the health status of slum dwellers in Nigeria.

Keywords: Health-Seeking Behaviour of slum settlers, Socioeconomic Factors, Slum Settlements, Lagos State Metropolis.

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
WHO	World Health Organization
PHC	Primary Health Care
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
LGAs	Local Government Areas
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
UN	United Nations
USA	United States of America
UK	United Kingdom
NHS	National Health Service
GNP	Gross National Product
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
IVs	Independent Variables
DV	Dependent Variable