

Knowledge and Practice of Malaria Preventive Measures among Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Clinics in Primary Health Care Centers in Ijebu Ode Ogun State

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**Being a MPH Thesis Presentation Submitted to the Department of Public Health,
Faculty of Basic Medical & Health Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo
State, Nigeria**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Master of Public
Health (MPH) Degree in Public Health**

2023

Certification

This is to certify that Olufunmilayo Sikirat LASISI with the matriculation number LCU/PG/002257 carried out this research work titled: Knowledge and Practice Of Malaria Preventive Measures among Pregnant Women Attending PHC Centers In Ijebu Ode Ogun State in the Department of Public Health Lead City University, Ibadan, Nigeria for the award of Master of Public Health Degree (MPH) in Public Health and this has not been previously submitted.

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Date

Dedication

This research work is dedicated to the glory of God, my lovely kids, and my parents

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Acknowledgment

I thank the Department of Public Health at Lead City University and the University Library where the research work was conducted, for providing relevant resources for the smooth execution of this research.

My sincere gratitude goes to Dr. T. A. Olowolafe for his academic and meticulous guidance, accessibility, and positive criticisms on this research work.

I am grateful to my parent Alhaji and Alhaja Idris, also Mrs Salaudeen Olusola, for the support and advice, I pray that you all live long to reap the fruit of your labour. I am also indebted to my lovely siblings and my co-researchers during the data collection process at the various primary health care centres in Ijebu Ode.

My sincerely appreciation goes to my colleagues at my place of work. My deep gratitude goes to Management, Ogun State College of Health Technology Ilese-ijebu and all other staff for their support. Most importantly, this acknowledgement will be incomplete without appreciating my lovely husband (MINE) Mr. K A Lasisi and amiable children; Hameedah, Azeemah and Habeeb. I love and care for them. May God keep us together in unity and strength. Amen!

“Even though the above mentioned institution and persons have assisted in the process of this research work, I alone stand responsible for the errors therein, if any found in the work”.

Abstract

Malaria remains a significant public health concern in Nigeria, contributing persistently to the national and regional disease burden in Africa. Despite substantial efforts to combat the scourge, the prevalence of malaria continues to pose a formidable challenge particularly among pregnant women. This study utilized a descriptive survey research design, employing a two-stage sampling procedure to select 400 pregnant women as study respondents. Four research questions were formulated and addressed, with the sample size determined using Fisher's formula. A two-stage cluster sampling technique was applied to select pregnant women attending primary health care centers in Ijebu Ode. The first stage involved a simple random sampling of 10 Primary Health Care Centers out of the 16 public facilities in Ijebu Ode LGA. In the second stage, 40 pregnant women were selected through cluster sampling in the chosen health facilities. The study addresses four research questions, focusing on demographic variables such as age, religion, and marital status among others. The Statistical analyses revealed non-significant associations between these demographic variables and the participants' knowledge, accessibility, and practice of malaria prevention measures (age: p -value=0.77, religion: p -value=0.68, marital status: p -value=0.17). The results indicate a high level of awareness among the respondents, with 89.72% acknowledging the efficacy of sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria prevention. Regarding access to insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), 71.43% reported having access to long-lasting ITNs, and 66.4% utilized ITNs among other available malaria prevention options. However, a notable portion of the study participants did not practice these recommended preventive measures. The study revealed that 89.72% of respondents recognized the efficacy of sleeping under an insecticide-treated bed net in preventing malaria. Concerning access to Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs), 71.43% reported having access to long-lasting ITNs, and 66.4% of mothers/caregivers utilized ITNs among various malaria prevention options. However, other preventive measures were not widely practiced among the study participants. In conclusion, the majority of pregnant women demonstrated good knowledge and accessibility to malaria preventive measures. The study underscores the need for targeted educational interventions during antenatal care, proposing compulsory evaluation classes to enhance pregnant women's knowledge and encourage self-driven adherence to malaria prevention methods. These findings contribute valuable insights for refining public health strategies aimed at mitigating the impact of malaria among pregnant women in Nigeria.

Keywords: Accessibility, Knowledge, Malaria Prevention, Practice
Word Count: 371

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviations	Meaning
LGA	local Government Areas
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
RDT	Rapid Diagnostic Test
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
LLINs	Long Lasting Insecticides Treated Nets
WHA	World Health Assembly

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