

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH OUTCOME IN NIGERIA: EVIDENCE FROM WISCONSIN LOGIC MODEL

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ABSTRACT

This study empirically analyzed the impact of reproductive health policy on reproductive health outcome in Nigeria. The study used secondary data from the Nigeria Demographic Health Survey reports for 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. Cross-sectional primary data were also collected from two study locations, comprising one rural and one urban in order to validate the hypothesis raised in this study. A questionnaire design, focus group discussions and key-informants interview were used to elicit information from the respondents. A sample size of 118 reproductive healthcare service providers and 400 women of child-bearing age were considered for this study. A set of analytical tools such as chi-square, cross-tabulations, descriptive statistics which include trends and graphical analyses as well as binary logistic regression analysis were used to analyze the data collected from the field. The study found that government's reproductive health policy interventions programmes such as modern contraceptive, antenatal care, post-natal care as well as pregnant women delivery at health facility by skilled birth attendants targeted towards reducing maternal mortality rate in Nigeria have not achieved their desired result. Based on the cross sectional survey conducted in the two study locations, it was found that 7.18% and 4.22% of the respondents attended Antenatal Care and Post-Natal Care up to eight times before and after delivery which is far below the global benchmark of 75% by the World Health Organization. Also, 6.54% of the respondents practiced modern contraceptives which is below the global benchmark of 64.34%. Meanwhile, 92.92% of the respondents had birth interval of less than two years which is against the World Health Organization's recommendation of two years child spacing practice. In addition, 20.19% of the respondents used healthcare facilities during delivery while 79.81% of the respondents delivered their pregnancies at home. This study found that maternal mortality rate stood at 1,000 deaths per 100,000 live births which is against the targeted reduction of 76. Based on the result of the findings from the Nigeria Demographic Health Survey reports and the cross-sectional survey, this study concludes that reproductive health policy does not have significant impact on reproductive health outcome in Nigeria. Hence, this research did not only query the efficacy of government's reproductive health policy intervention programmes, but it also casts doubt on the strength of the policy in changing the landscape of maternal mortality rate in Nigeria. Therefore, this study recommends the need for government, key stakeholders in the private sector and non-governmental organizations to organize sensitization workshops for religion leaders and household heads on the health benefits of modern contraceptives, antenatal care, post-natal care for pregnant and nursing mothers, pregnant women delivery at health facilities by skilled birth attendants as well as child spacing practice in order to improve maternal health outcome in Nigeria.

Keywords: Reproductive Health Policy, Reproductive Health Outcome, Wisconsin Logic Model, Binary Logistic Regression Model.