

INCLUSIVITY AND VULNERABLE POPULATION:

INCLUSION OF VULNERABLE POPULATION IN HEALTHCARE POLICIES IN NIGERIA

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Background

This study is designed to update readers on discussions and research regarding inclusivity and vulnerable populations in Healthcare Policy in Nigeria. The most vulnerable populations in Nigeria include children 5 years and below, pregnant women, people living with disabilities, elderly, displaced, unemployed, retirees and the sick. Although some of these vulnerable groups sometime benefit from free health care services and exemption mechanisms like the Elderly, the Policy in place has not recognized other vulnerable groups in Nigeria as vulnerable groups.

Method

The Study access the "Nigerian National Health Policy 2016".The document was evaluated in terms of Healthcare Services, how many times core concept like Inclusion, equity, access to healthcare for all was mentioned and the extent of information on how the core concept should be addressed at the implementation level not leaving one behind. Each core concept mention was further analyzed in relation to the vulnerable group referred.

Results

The analysis of Nigeria National Health Policy highlighted the broad nature of the reference made to vulnerable groups, with a lack of detailed specifications of different needs of diverse groups. The documents suggests that vulnerable groups are homogeneous in their needs, which most time is not the case. There is a lack of recognition of different needs of different vulnerable groups in accessing healthcare, and though the Nigerian National Health Policy recognizes access to gender-sensitive health services irrespective of sexual orientation according to figure 4.1.6.6, the case is totally different in both practice and reality.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The need for more information, orientation and knowledge on all vulnerable groups is evident. There is need for inclusion of vulnerable groups in the Nigeria National Healthcare decision making body and implementation, as that will go a long way for a rich decision making that will be beneficial to all thus resulting to a favourable outcome.

Keywords

Vulnerable Populations: Those groups with increased risk for developing adverse health issues and outcomes.

Policy: A course or principle of action adopted or proposed by an organization or individual

Healthcare: The organized provision of medical care to individuals or a community.