



An Assessment Of The State Of Medical Facilities In Tertiary Institutions In Bayelsa State

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the state of medical facilities in tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State. Two research questions and one hypothesis was used in the study. The study used the survey research design. The population consists of two hundred and twenty three medical staff working in the school clinics in various tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State. In other to achieve greater response, the entire population was used as sample for the study. The study developed an instrument titled “Assessment of the State of Medical Facilities in Tertiary Institutions” (ASMFTI). The instrument was subjected to face and content validation by two experts in the medical unit of Niger Delta University. The instrument was analyzed using simple mean, standard deviation, pie charts and Z-test. Findings obtained from the study showed that medical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions are not building based on recommended standards, there are limited sick wards in the school medical facilities, medical facilities do not give provision to carry out major clinical activities and clinical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions barely carry out treatment on major health challenge. Also, further findings obtained from the study showed that institutional medical facility are not fully utilized. Based on the findings obtained from the study, it was recommended that educational management along with government should expand or build new medical facilities for tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State.

Keywords: Medical, Facilities, Tertiary and Institutions

INTRODUCTION

Health is an essential part of our daily lives. Without good health it is practically impossible for one to carry out any major activity. For society to reduce mortality rate it must be able to provide good health facility within its environment. The shortage or reduction in quality health facility may cause a lot of damage. Most institution in Nigeria lack basic health facilities to carry out clinical operations in their schools (Ehiamentor, 2001). These as constituted a major challenge in handling several patient that visit public health facilities.

Most tertiary institutions have health facilities that are designed to treat sick students and staff within the school premises. In most cases, these facilities are designed like mini hospital with the mind of carrying out service as first aid. Most of the clinics in tertiary institution in Nigeria lack basic facilities for its operation. In some cases the existing facilities are not been replaced or maintained. These has led to the poor development of the health care facilities in tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Shohet and Lavy, (2001) considered healthcare facility maintenance as one of the key elements for successful delivery of healthcare services. Hospitals and healthcare facilities are among the most complex, costly and challenging facilities to manage (Loosemore and Hsin, 2001). The goal of the facility maintenance organization in a hospital environment is to achieve zero defects in the hospitals physical

operation, especially in areas where small problems can have huge consequences and be a matter of life and death.

When facilities are upgraded and maintained it can serve its purpose on a long term. It can save cost for the hospital management. One of the main challenges of managing hospital facilities is the highly diverse network and range of functions which are needed to maintain operations as well as the complexity of services which are required to support them. Loosemore and Hsin (2001) enumerated competent areas of coverage of hospital facilities maintenance to include: maintenance of all plant, equipment, building, infrastructure and landscape through a comprehensive maintenance program.

Maintenance of all medical and laboratory equipment through a comprehensive maintenance programme and enhance its productivity and utilization. This will create opportunity for continuous patronage. Cleaning of general areas as well as specialized areas including supply of toiletries and consumables are essential for the hospitals in tertiary institutions. Also, there is the need for supply of clean new tailored linen, collection, transporting and laundering of soiled linen, repair of torn or damaged linen and provisions of curtains, cushion covers, and screens including consumables and facilities for bagging.

Supply of consumable items such as waste bins, sharp containers and coloured bags, collect and transport waste from the source of generation within the hospital to the incineration plant for disposal, In other hospital setting, the situation differ from what Loosemore and Hsin, (2001) presented. Oladejo (2014) in a study conducted on tertiary hospitals in Nigeria observed that healthcare facilities maintenance centered mainly on structure, equipment and machinery used by healthcare institutions while the cleaning of wards, offices and general areas as well as the supply of clean linen and disposal of waste bins were carried out by the facility management unit. The maintenance units of tertiary hospitals were responsible for maintaining the structural aspects of healthcare buildings, equipment and plants and machinery. This reduces the responsibility of the maintenance unit but by no means reduces the complexity of their duty.

Most institution suffers from decay of clinical facility mainly due to neglect by school management and government. There is the need for school management to take cognizance of this challenge and invest time and resources to advance the clinical facilities of tertiary institutions.

Purpose of the Study

The study considered the assessment of the state of medical facilities in tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State. Specifically, the study sought to:

1. Find out the condition of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State.
2. Find out the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State.

Research Questions

The following research questions were developed and used for the study:

1. What is the condition of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State?
2. What is the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State?

Hypothesis

The null hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

There is no significant difference between the conditions and the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State.

Scope of the Study

The study is limited to assessment of the state of medical facilities in tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Health Care Facilities in Nigeria Tertiary Institution

Health facilities are designed in tertiary institutions to manage students' emergency cases and sick patients. Tertiary healthcare facilities are referral centers receiving referrals from secondary and primary healthcare centers. In some severe cases where school hospital management cannot handle, it will be referred to bigger facility outside the school Alakija, (2000). They provide managed care, the most specialized healthcare administered to patients with complex ailments who may require high risk pharmacologic regimens, surgical procedures or high cost technological resources.

Tertiary care is provided in tertiary care centres, usually university teaching hospitals, as it requires sophisticated technology, multiple specialists and sub specialists, a diagnostic support group and intensive care facilities. Most tertiary institutions clinical units are yet to advance their infrastructure to meet up basic requirements for treatment of patients within the school campuses. Nigerian citizens are entitled to health care facilities as established by government (The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999). The facility may be situated in the general environment or in the campuses. Tertiary hospitals render specialized services with sophisticated healthcare equipment and machinery that can only be maintained by experts.

In other to maintain long time usage of facility in clinical units, the school authority needs to carry out routine checks for painting of buildings, creation of more bed spaces and replacement of damaged equipment. Unlike facility maintenance in the business or corporate world, facility maintenance in the tertiary hospitals calls for expertise from operators, an ability to maintain and manage sophisticated healthcare structures, equipment, plants and machinery to avoid costly failures during emergencies.

The services of medical unit in tertiary institutions are always needed by staff and students. There is no room for management in this case. Tertiary healthcare facilities function round the clock, seven days of the week, all year round. It requires effective support of critical infrastructure of healthcare, such as power supply for operating theatres and medical gas in intensive care units, sophisticated equipment and machinery for diagnosis and treatment etc.,. Poor recognition of this fact may lead to serious loss of staff and students during emergencies. With public enlightenment on the radio, television and newspapers on the activities of the National Health Scheme (NHS) more patients are visiting tertiary hospitals where they pay very little or nothing to receive healthcare. This has increased patient admissions and more pressure is exerted on the available facilities leaving them to yearn for urgent maintenance. Unlike maintenance in corporate organizations, tertiary healthcare maintenance involves sophisticated healthcare structures, equipment, plants and machinery that are in constant use all through the year.

Observation of Oladejo (2014) in a study of tertiary healthcare institutions in South East Nigeria takes a closer look at the maintenance units of University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu, Enugu State Ebonyi State University Hospital, Federal Medical Centre Owerri, Imo State and Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital Awka, Anambra State and observes that the maintenance units lack competent staff considering the nature of the facility they are to maintain. Similar observation in Bayelsa State reflects a poor state of health facilities in clinical units in most tertiary institutions. This is linked to failures and delays in rectifying breakdown of crucial medical equipment. With constant research on healthcare resulting in more sophisticated technologies and therapies, tertiary hospitals will continue to make use of more sophisticated facility.

Also, competency plays a key role in the management system of most tertiary institutions medical units. Qualified persons are always needed to manage and administer treatment to patients. The present calibre of staff in maintenance units of hospitals are obviously incompetent to carry out maintenance on these machinery. With their continued presence, maintenance in tertiary hospitals will continue to be a failure (Omoleke, 2005). Some tertiary hospitals outsource the maintenance of sophisticated healthcare equipment to service providers who specialize in them but this has also met with failure in the absence of close monitoring and supervision. Some other tertiary hospitals outsource their facilities maintenance to reduce cost or to cut down on the financial burden of employing qualified maintenance staff.

Effective maintenance preserves the lifespan of medical equipment and it is a means to the success of an organization. Constant equipment failure will prevent tertiary hospitals from achieving their aim. In the healthcare sector, constant equipment failure means putting the lives of patients at a very high risk. If a regular maintenance schedule is followed, unfortunate patients will not die in medical theatres due to sudden failure of medical equipment and supporting generations.

METHODS

The study used the survey research design. The population consists of two hundred and twenty three (223) medical staff working in the school clinics in various tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State. In order to achieve greater response, the entire population was used as sample for the study. The study developed an instrument titled “Assessment of the State of Medical Facilities in Tertiary Institutions” (ASMFTI). The instrument is a four point rating scale consisting of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD). The response options were weighed as 4, 3, 2 and 1. The instrument had a total of six items arranged accordingly. The instrument was subjected to face and content validation by two experts in the medical unit of Niger Delta University. The expert corrected the language content of the questionnaires. The instrument was analyzed using simple mean, standard deviation, pie charts and Z-test.

ANALYSIS

Research Question 1

What is the condition of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State?

Table 1: The condition of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State

S/N	ITEMS	Mean	SD	Remark
1	Medical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions are not building based on recommended standards.	3.54	0.62	Accept
2	There are limited sick wards in the school medical facilities	3.55	0.62	Accept
3	Medical facilities do not give provision to carry out major clinical activities.	3.59	0.64	Accept
4	Clinical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions barely carry out treatment on major health challenge.	3.55	0.62	Accept
	Grand Mean	3.56	0.63	

Findings obtained from research question 1, table 1, revealed that items 1, 2, 3 and 4 were all accepted to the various questions. This implies that medical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions are not building based on recommended standards, there are limited sick wards in the school medical facilities, medical facilities do not give provision to carry out major clinical activities and clinical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions barely carry out treatment on major health challenge.

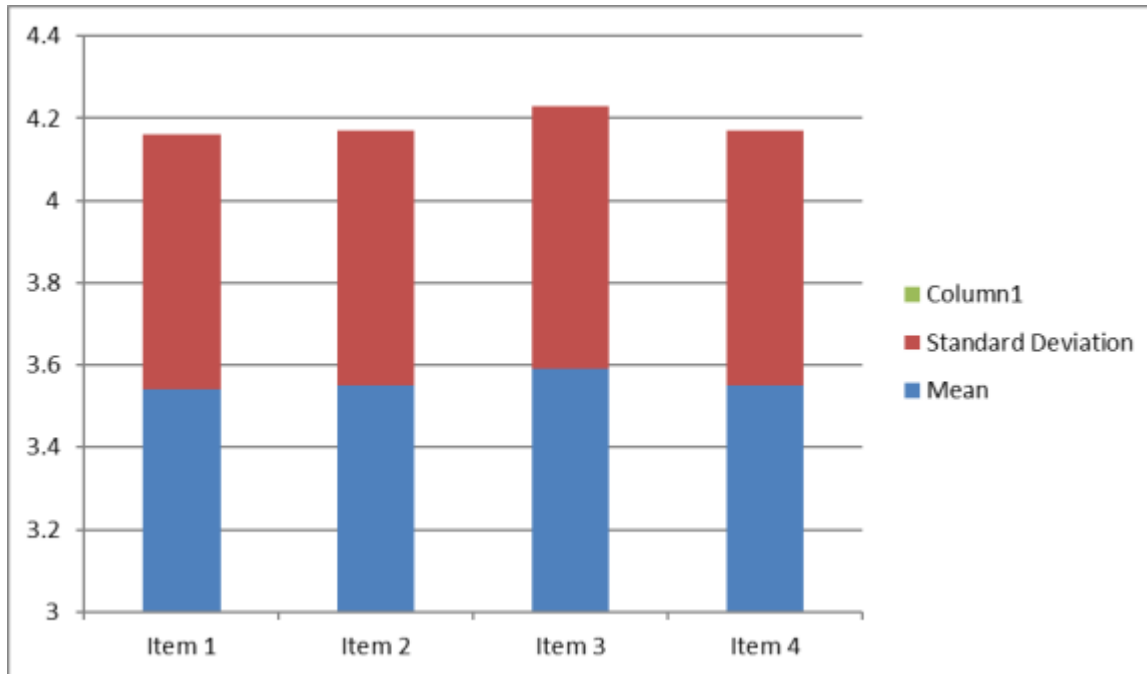


Figure 1: The condition of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State

Findings obtained from figure 1 showed that response items 1, 2, 3 and 4 had a mean and standard deviation scores of 3.54;0.62, 3.55;0.62, 3.59;0.64 and 3.55;0.62 respectively. This shows that the medical facilities in most tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State are in a bad shape.

Research Question 2: *What is the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State?*

Table 2: Level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institutions

S/N	ITEM	Mean	SD	Remark
5	Institutional medical facility are not fully utilized.	3.56	0.63	Accept
6	Institutional medical facilities are mainly used for first aid treatments.	3.51	0.60	Accept
	Grand Mean	3.54	0.62	

Findings obtained from research question 2, table 2, showed that items 5 and 6 were all accepted to the various questions. This implies that institutional medical facilities are not fully utilized and medical facilities are mainly used for first aid treatments.

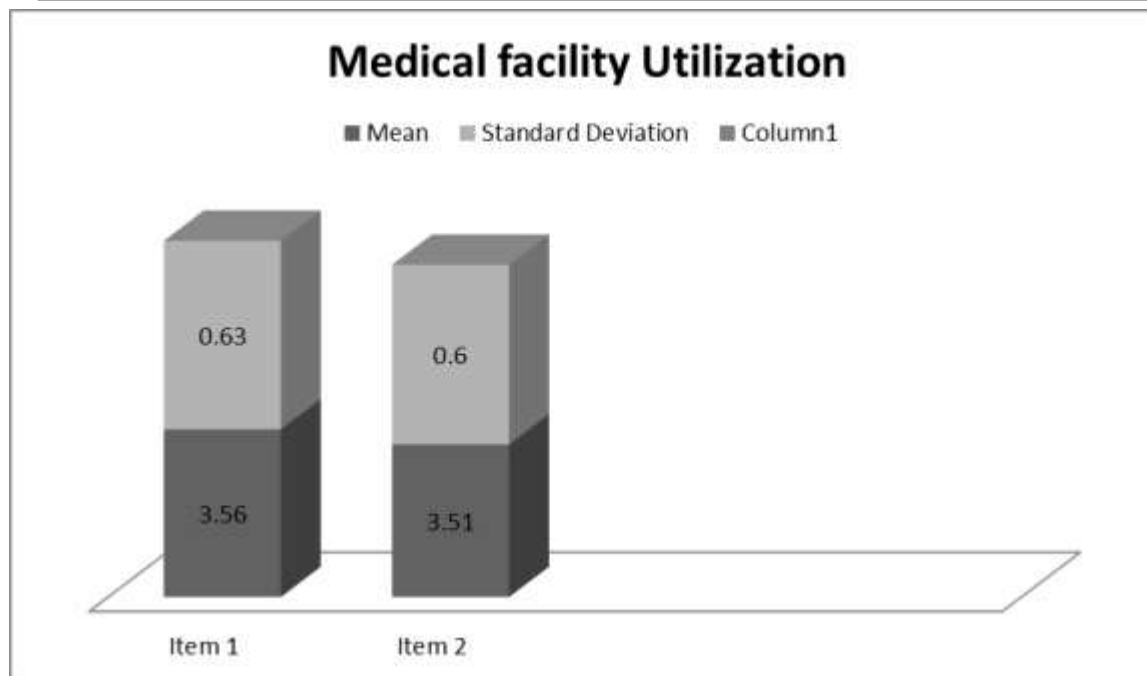


Figure 2: Level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institutions

Findings obtained from figure 1 showed that response items 5 and 6 had a mean and standard deviation scores of 3.56;0.63 and 3.51;0.60 respectively. This shows that the medical facilities in most tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State are not properly utilized.

Hypothesis

There is no significant difference between the conditions and the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State.

Table 3: Z-test analysis of difference between the conditions and the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institution

S/N	Items	N	Mean	SD	Df	Z-cal	Z-tab	Decision
1	Conditions of Medical Facilities	223	3.56	0.63	444	0.33	1.653	Not Significant
2	Level of utilization of medical facilities	223	3.54	0.62				

Findings obtained from table 3, revealed that Z-calculated value of 0.33 is less than Z-tabulated value of 1.653 at 0.05 level of significance with 444 degree of freedom. This implies that the null hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, it would be stated that there is no significant difference between the conditions and the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institution in Bayelsa State.

Summary of Findings

The following are the summary of the findings:

1. Findings obtained from research question 1, table 1, revealed that items 1, 2, 3 and 4 were all accepted to the various questions. This implies that medical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions are not building based on recommended standards, there are limited sick wards in the school medical facilities, medical facilities do not give provision to carry out major clinical activities and clinical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions barely carry out treatment on major health challenge.

2. Findings obtained from research question 2, table 2, showed that items 5 and 6 were all accepted to the various questions. This implies that institutional medical facilities are not fully utilized and medical facilities are mainly used for first aid treatments.
3. Findings obtained from table 3, revealed that Z-calculated value of 0.33 is less than Z-tabulated value of 1.653 at 0.05 level of significance with 444 degree of freedom. This implies that the null hypothesis was accepted. Therefore, it would be stated that there is no significant difference between the conditions and the level of utilization of medical facilities in tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Findings revealed that medical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions are not building based on recommended standards, there are limited sick wards in the school medical facilities, medical facilities do not give provision to carry out major clinical activities and clinical facilities in Bayelsa State tertiary institutions barely carry out treatment on major health challenge. Another findings show that institutional medical facilities are not fully utilized for is recommended services and medical facilities are mainly used for first aid treatments.

CONCLUSION

In all, the study showed that most tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State do not have clinical facilities. Also, the medical facilities are not properly utilized for the treatment of major medical challenges.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings obtained from the study, it was recommended that educational management along with government should expand or build new medical facilities for tertiary institutions in Bayelsa State.

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