A survey of occupational health plan by companies and organisations in Nigeria

Dr Ikechukwu Amadi, 2013

ABSTRACT

This report presents findings from a survey of the Occupational Health (OH) plan by companies and organisations doing business in Nigeria. The purpose is to create awareness and to know the current status of OH services accessible to workers that promotes and protects their safety and health at the workplace, using the World Health Organisation Global Plan for Action on Workers' Health 2008-2017 (WHO GPAWH) as a benchmark. This information is required by OH providers, Employers, Health Policy makers, Workers Representatives, World Health Organisation (WHO), International Labour Organisation (ILO), Local and Foreign businesses, and Enforcement agencies when addressing gaps in OH services. A field survey was conducted with a sample of twenty three (23) organisations selected through purposive sampling and data was gathered via a semi-structured interview in the form of questionnaires, analysed using frequency. The results reveal that 55% of the companies and organisations surveyed were not aware of the WHO GPAWH 2008-2017 objectives and 61% were not aware of any government policy mandates on provision of OH services for workers. However, they cared for their workers in other ways; 52% demonstrated some policy instruments on health; 56% had OH plans that promote and protect health; 63% provided their workers access to some OH services and 58% had means of health surveillance such as accident reporting system for their workers. The findings indicate the need for a standardised approach in surveying accessible OH services and a need for a definitive National Policy to be made known across the industries using systems that will establish, maintain, monitor and periodically review workplace health and safety instruments. Collaboration is therefore required amongst the International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and the National Health Policy makers in building, strengthening capacity and creating the necessary framework for action.