Assessment of the attitude towards Occupational Health services among private hospital administrators in Nigeria

Dr Augustine Aregbeye Okogun, 2012

ABSTRACT

Background: Occupational Health (OH) as a service is not common in Nigerian hospitals, despite its relevance and potential advantage in enhancing their workplace safety. However, there has recently been an increased interest in issues of health, safety and quality among doctors in Nigeria, with possible spill over effect to OH. This study was performed to ascertain what factors might have accounted for the observed poor level of OH implementation by administrators of various private hospitals and clinics in Nigeria.

Aim: This research work is aimed at determining those factors influencing the implementation of OH by administrators of private hospitals or clinics in Warri, Nigeria.

Methods: A descriptive study was performed using questionnaires delivered to 37 administrators on a list of private hospitals and clinics in Warri, Nigeria. This list excluded facilities with less than 10 staff, and was to include only those with over 30. All 27 respondents were however included in the study when only 13 of them were observed to have met the initial criterion of having over 30 clinical staff. Questions were designed to assess the level of awareness and implementation of Occupational Health services by the participating administrators in Warri, Nigeria.

Results: The analysis of the data obtained from the questionnaire was done without the use of any statistical testing methods because of the small sample size. The outcome showed obvious trends.

The results were indicative of a positive correlation between level of awareness and implementation of OH. Some aspects of OH were implemented to a good degree but knowledge of OH was low. The locally high level of implementation may be due to the influence of the local oil industry that outsources some OH services to the local hospitals and clinics.

MSc Abstract: Augustine Aregbeye Okogun
**Conclusion:** If there is to be an increase in the implementation of OH services among hospitals and clinics in Nigeria, administrators need to be trained by way of workshops or formal postgraduate courses in administration and public health. This follows the observed relationship between knowledge of OH and its implementation by administrators.

It is however suggested that a study with larger sample size involving the private and public sector health facilities be done in order to ascertain the wider validity of the findings in this study when applied to Nigeria, as there has been no prior work of this nature reported in any literature.

**Keywords:** Occupational health; administrators; knowledge; implementation