

Comparative Study of Learning Outcome in Maternal and Child Health Among Students of Public and Private Colleges of Health Sciences and Technology in Ekiti State

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doi: <https://doi.org/10.37745/ijphpp.15/vol8n13945>

Published May 13, 2023

Citation: Oluwayemi, M.A. and Ogunrinde, M.E. (2023) Comparative Study of Learning Outcome in Maternal and Child Health Among Students of Public and Private Colleges of Health Sciences and Technology in Ekiti State, International Journal of Public Health, Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Vol. 8, No.1, pp.39-45

ABSTRACT: *The study compared students' learning outcome in private and public Colleges of Health Sciences and Technology in Ekiti state, Nigeria. Descriptive research design of the survey type was used for the study. Two hundred students comprising 94 final year students CHEW from FABOTAS College of Health Sciences and Technology, Ado-Ekiti and 106 final year students CHEW from State Government College of Health Sciences and Technology, Ijero- Ekiti were purposively selected for the study sample. A 40 item Achievement test that covers the core areas in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) was given to the students in their different schools to determine their performances. The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages and inferential statistics of t-test. The results revealed that no significant differences in the performances of students from both schools in maternal Newborn and child health. The mean score for FABOTAS Private College was 24.36 (STD 4.276) and mean score for Government College was 25.05 (STD 3.963). This study concluded that private and public colleges of health Sciences and technology in Ekiti State are equal in their students' performances and that no one is better than the other.*

KEYWORDS: learning outcome, maternal and child health, students, public college, private college

INTRODUCTION

The Alma-Ata Declaration (1978) urged governments globally to protect and promote the health of all people around the globe. Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti who was then Minister of Health in Nigeria worked immensely to achieve the Alma Ata Declaration in Nigeria. (Aregbeshola & Khan, 2017) Shortage of healthcare professionals which has been identified as a major barrier to the achievement of many health-related development programs (Darzi & Evans, 2016), appeared to be a major barrier that would have hampered the achievement of Primary Health Care in Nigeria. In order to combat the problem of manpower, Professor Olikoye Ransome-Kuti established schools of Health Technology in Nigeria in 1978 to train a variety of health care workers such as Community Health Aide, Community Health Assistant Community Health Supervisor, and Community Health Officer to work in communities at grassroots level. The schools, now colleges of health sciences and technology are contributing significantly to the improvement of workforce of the health sector in Nigeria with increasing evidence that community health workers are contribute to improving health outcomes (Kok, et al., 2015).

Initially, the only approved colleges of health sciences and technology in Nigeria were strictly owned by either Federal or State governments and like all other higher institutions in Nigeria, colleges of health technology were not able to meet with the demand of prospective students for admission for many decades. In response to this problem and the global trend of privatization of higher institutions of learning, and increasing emergence of global competition in education and technology (Awan, 2014), the Nigerian government approved private colleges of health sciences and technology to increase the number of enrolment and to improve access to these colleges (Awan, 2014). In response to this development, there has been the upsurge of many private colleges of Health sciences and technology, and in Ekiti state alone there are four of these private colleges out of which FABOTAS College is the first to emerge. Since inception, these private colleges seem to be getting mass acceptance as a lot of parents and students are attracted to them just like Awan, (2015) observed that private schools are becoming more attractive to majority of the parents and students due to their better education systems, easy admission procedure, test criteria and knowledge creation when compare with public schools, which are cheaper in cost of school fees.

Nigeria is one of the countries with poorest maternal, newborn and child health indices in Africa (Kana, et al., 2015), especially among people living in rural community (Gulumbe, et al., 2018) Community Health Workers are trained to work directly within the community both in rural and urban settings and Maternal and child health is a major course for community health workers who are being trained to become skilled birth attendants who will be caring for women before, during antenatal care, labour and deliveries and also care for children during the most important formative first five years of life especially by participating in childhood immunization (Kok, et al., 2015). Therefore, the main objective of this paper is to analyze and to compare academic performances

in private and government colleges of health technology especially in Maternal and Child Health which is a core course in community health through the traditional method to assess learning outcome in education which is the given of achievement test to ascertain the level of knowledge acquisition by the learners. Also, to verify whether schooling in private or colleges of health justify the resources devoted to them or to predict which of them can be rely upon to train skilled birth attendance who are laden with the responsibility of reducing maternal and child mortality rates.

Colleges of health sciences and technology produce students whose major task are to assist health scientist in various fields of health, the training since inception has been fully done by state government owned schools but recently, the advent of private colleges of health technology came on board and has been gaining ground so that in the nearest future, they are likely to training more students than the public or government own institutions. In Ekiti state alone, we already have about four private colleges of health while government owned college of health technology remains one. If graduating students of colleges of health are to attend to the health of the masses, especially the community health extension workers who are to assist with maternal and child health at the grass root level, it is important to assess the training and the learning outcome of students in the community department both at the private and state colleges of health where they are trained. Presently in Ekiti state there is no existing data to ascertain and to compare the student learning outcome both in private and state colleges of health technology. Then this study becomes necessary to understanding students learning outcome in maternal and child health both in the private and state schools of health in Ekiti state and the correlation between the student's learning outcome of both institutions.

Many researchers in the past have studied school system to identify various factors associating with different learning outcomes in our schools; both at the primary, secondary school and university level (Olasehinde & Olatoye, 2014; Awan, 2015; Naidu & Derani, 2016). Other researchers have compared the educational performances of private and public secondary schools but the studies that have compared the outcome of education in public and private colleges of health technology is not known. Against this background, this study was set out to examine comparative analysis of factors affecting students' learning outcome in state and private colleges of health technology in Ekiti state of Nigeria. FABOTAS College being the first private college of technology in Ekiti state has student population close to one thousand and every semester, the college is still taking in more candidates both at part-term and full term level. It seems as if getting admission into this institution is very easy comparing to the government owned public institution in Ekiti state. It is therefore important to compare the academic performances of students in this institution with public college of health technology in order to detect any disparity in study of both institutions

The purpose of this study is to compare students' learning outcome in maternal, newborn and child health in private and public colleges of health sciences and technology in Ekiti state. This is with a view to ascertaining the differences in student academic performances. The study should provide

some insight to the effectiveness of various private and public colleges of health technology and to make relevant recommendations.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study adopted descriptive design to assess the performances of students from the two selected colleges of health technologies in Ekiti State. Respondents were selected using purposive sampling technique. The population for this study comprises of all final year student (CHEW) of FABOTAS private college of health sciences and technology and Ekiti state Government colleges of health technology in Ekiti State of Nigeria

The sample consisted of 200 students selected via convenient sampling technique from one private and one state colleges of health Technology in Ekiti State. College of Health Technology, Ijero-Ekiti was purposively selected being the only state government college of health Technology in Ekiti State and FABOTAS College of Health Sciences and Technology being the first and the biggest private health technology in the state. Respondents were selected using intact class. The respondent was visited in their school's permission obtained from the school authority and community health department of the school an achievement test in maternal and child health was administered to the students in their classes to collect data for the study. The data were analysed using t-test statistics. The data collected was sorted, coded and analyzed using statistical package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used, the descriptive statistics of frequency counts and percentages were used to answer the research questions raised and the inferential statistics of t-test was used to analyze the hypotheses generate

RESULTS

Table 1: Socio-demographic data of the respondents (N=170)

Description	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
15- 20	38	19
21-25	70	35
26-30	40	20
31-35	52	26
Sex		
Male	35	17.5
Female	165	82.5
Institution of learning		
Public health technology	106	53
Private health technology	94	47
Total	200	100
Marital Status		
Single	116	58
Married	84	42

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents 165 (82.5 %) were females while the remaining 35 (17.5%) were male students and were in the age range of 15-35, but the modal age range is 21-25 with 70 (35%). Furthermore, 116(58 %) were single, 84 (42%) were married.

Research Objective: Will there be any difference in learning outcome from private and government colleges of health technology?

Table 2: Cross tabulation of test scores

Name of colleges of health technology	Test Score				Total	%
	Low score	%	High score	%	N	%
Private	17	18	77	82	94	47
Government	13	12.3	93	87.7	106	53
Total	30	15	170	85	200	100

Table 2 reveals that out of 94 students from private institution, 17 (18%) had low score and the remaining 77 (82%) had high score. Also, out of 106 students from government own college of health Technology, 13 (12.3%) had low score while 93 (87.7%) had high score. The general performance is good, altogether, 30 (15%) had low scores and 170 (85%) had high score

Hypothesis Testing

This hypothesis states that there is no significant difference in student's learning outcome among students of private and state colleges of health technology in maternal and child health in Ekiti state. In testing this hypothesis t-test was used to compared mean value for test score mean of 94 students from FABOTAS College was compared with the test score mean of 106 students from Ekiti state College at the 0.05 level of significance.

Table 3: Comparison between test scores

Types of College of Health Technology		N	Mean	SD	Df	t-cal	P. value
1.	Private College	94	24.36	4.278	198	.389	.698
2.	Government College	106	25.05	3.963			

p < 0.05

Table 3 shows t-test analysis of test scores: $t = .389$; p value = .698 which is greater than level of significance (0.05). The results revealed no significant difference between the test score of private and public colleges of health technology

DISCUSSION

This study assessed learning outcome of final year students in Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) among student CHEW) in public and private colleges of health sciences and technology in Ekiti State. The study also sought to identify differences in the students' learning outcome. FABOTAS private college of health sciences, Ado-Ekiti and Ekiti State Government College of Health Sciences and Technology, Ijero-Ekiti were used as the study centers. This study is important to assess to knowledge of the students in care for women during pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum periods. The findings revealed that generally, the students scored fairly high in MNCH. This implies that the students are well prepared to serve and contribute to community health outcome (Kok, et al., 2015).

Furthermore, the study did not found significant difference between public and private college of health technology students CHEW performances in Maternal and Child Health. The mean score for FABOTAS Private College was 24.36 (STD 4.276) and mean score for Government College was 25.05 (STD 3.963). Looking at the mean, public college of health technology performance in MCH was slightly higher than that of private College even though this is not statistically significant but it connote a better performance on the part of government college Technology of health. This finding contradict most of the findings from studies that compared private and public school which found better performances in private schools than in public schools, (Naidu & Derani, 2016; Olasehinde & Olatoye, 2014; Awan, 2015), although almost all studies focused on secondary schools but in this case the focus of the study is higher institution where students are more mature which could be the reason for the differences. Though studies have identified some advantages of schooling in private school but it is still necessary that private colleges of health sciences should still be supervised to ensure standard teaching and comprehensive practical sessions

CONCLUSION

This study has been able to establish the fact that private and public colleges of health Sciences and technology in Ekiti State are equal in their students' performances and that no one is better than the other. These findings tend to indicate that students who could not found admission to government owned college of health can proceed to private colleges if they can afford the fee.

Recommendations

It is therefore recommended that private and public colleges of Health Sciences and Technology should equally be allowed to train skilled health personnel in the country. Also, government at all levels should support the running of both institutions and ensure adequate supervision to prevent

deviation from the normal standard. Furthermore, owners of private colleges of health Sciences and technology should continue to improve on the existing teaching techniques. Finally, remuneration of teachers both in private and public colleges of health technology should be encouraging so that they can put more efforts to the teaching

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