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PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS OF HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM IN NIGERIA

Healthcare simply put can be said to be the service of providing medical care. In truth, there is no perfect healthcare system on earth. Healthcare is influenced by social conditions, economic conditions and health policies in a nation. Some problems with healthcare in Nigeria include;

First, poor healthcare facilities in the country, especially the rural areas. How can this issue be remedied? By providing a well-functioning healthcare system which requires a robust financing mechanism: well-trained and adequately-paid workers; reliable information on which to base decisions and policies; well maintained decisions and policies; and well- equipped health facilities and logistics to deliver quality medicines and technologies.

Second, there is also no adequate medical surveillance of the healthcare system to check its effectiveness. This problem could be redressed by the presence of an MEDISYS (Medical Information System) which is a media monitoring system that provides event-based surveillance to rapidly identify potential public health threats using information from media reports. It is also used to combat and effectively monitor the outbreak of communicable diseases and bio attack. The presence of an MEDISYS will greatly improve the quality of healthcare delivery in Nigeria. It will give professionalized and deeper analysis of critical information regarding infectious disease outbreak already used in many developing countries and will be very beneficial if integrated into the Nigerian health sector.

Another problem that needs to be corrected is irregular health campaigns and lack of proper healthcare awareness. Another practical way to improve primary healthcare delivery in Nigeria is by disseminating vital information through health and awareness campaigns. When the public are

properly and regularly informed about diseases, preventive tips and healthcare information the nation benefits.

Fourth, one of the problems facing the health sector is lack of cohesion among health professionals. There is need for a symbiotic relationship among medical doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, radiographers, etc. This is feasible because such harmony is a requirement for effective healthcare delivery in Nigeria. No healthcare professional should feel superior to the other. The Nigerian health system should be based on teamwork. Regardless of their discipline, they should work together to provide the best possible healthcare services to every Nigerian.

Lastly, there is an issue that the population is not informed about the NHIS (National Health Insurance Scheme). In 2016, a report was published which stated that only four percent of Nigerians are covered by the NHIS. This is appalling, considering the fact that other developing countries like Ghana and Kenya already have fifty percent coverage of their own health insurance schemes. Efforts should be made to inform Nigerians about the national health insurance scheme, because of the rising cost of healthcare services in the country.

In conclusion, the Nigerian health care system is poorly developed. No adequate and functional surveillance systems are developed. To achieve success in health care in this modern era, a system well grounded in routine surveillance and medical intelligence as the backbone of the health sector is necessary, besides adequate management couple with strong leadership principles. In all honesty, it is easier said than done. To improve the quality of healthcare and healthcare delivery in a developing nation can be a real challenge, but with consistent effort, teamwork and support from the government, improvements can be made.