**GST 122 – COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH II**

**ASSIGNMENT: You are to pick a topic based on a problem you perceive in your environment. Follow the steps for research writing and write not more than three pages on it to submit on the LMS.**

**TOPIC: INADEQUACY OF HEALTHCARE SERVICES**

**AKPOFURE TESE**

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**MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

**MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

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**INTRODUCTION**

A major problem we face in Nigeria today is the inadequacy of healthcare services. This could be attributed to several factors which include the following: insufficient doctors and healthcare personnel, little or no health facilities and equipment, the lack of correct information about good healthcare delivery and receipt in the society; amongst others.

The latest data from the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals that Nigeria’s physician-to-patient ratio is four doctors per 10,000 patients which makes patients wait hours before being seen; thereby delaying healthcare delivery, resulting to deaths in so many cases. WHO recommends one doctor per 600 patients. The disparity in these two values is striking but as bad as it may seem, this is the reality Nigerians face daily. The responsibility on doctors in the country is therefore onerous and the need for more doctors cannot be overemphasized.

**PROBLEMS**

The little or unavailability of adequate healthcare facilities and equipment have lead to the death of so many and the frequent medical tourism abroad experienced in the country. Where there are facilities, they may be dilapidated, expensive and inaccessible to the ordinary man. There is an instance of the above in my region, where after the renovation of a primary healthcare centre, the property has been under lock and key; supposedly by the government or the leadership of that area till date. The stress the people of that region go through in trying to access quality healthcare is immeasurable.

In Nigeria, like every other part of the globe, the usefulness of the healthcare sector cannot be overemphasized, as has been observed in this pandemic. We see that a rush was made to acquire materials for check up, management and treatment of patients affected by the virus in Nigeria. If the infection rate in Nigeria was like that of the United States of America, Italy or France from the onset, it would have been far more tragic than we have experienced, because of little or unavailability of adequate healthcare facilities and equipment. It is worthy to note here that despite the high number of infected patients; a lot of them have been treated and discharged because of the equipment and facilities they rushed to procure. The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control, NCDC, has been doing a great job thus far.

Despite the recent effort by the government to improve the healthcare system, so much still needs to be done because of the level of previous decay in the system. We see where citizens of the country have to travel across shores to attend to their healthcare needs. This is usually very expensive and not accessible to the generality of the public. In the process, many lose their lives while others struggle through the sickness or raise money from different sources, which in essence, is usually difficult. In recent times during this pandemic, so many emergency patients and other patients have lost their lives because healthcare workers did not pay good attention to them because they claim they lack personal protective equipment (PPE). Statistics have shown that Asians live the longest and most healthy lives. This is not only because of their lifestyle, but also as a result of the availability of modern technology and systems of healthcare. In 2015, adult mortality rate for Nigeria was 32.45 deaths per 100 population. Adult mortality rate of Nigeria increased from 26.22 deaths per 100 population in 1970 to 32.45 deaths per 100 population in 2015, growing at an average annual rate of 2.47%. Good healthcare services will definitely help to save lives and reduce the mortality rate. As a result of education and technology, the lifestyles of people have changed from what it used to be in the sixties and early seventies, so we need an evolving and better healthcare system that will match the health needs of individuals.

The past and present governments of the country have also contributed to the problems we face in the health sector. There is no adequate funding of the sector. The budget for the health sector is usually not adequate; there are so many brain drains of doctors abroad because of inadequate remunerations and incentives, along with poor medical facilities. It should also be noted here that there are very few healthcare research institutions. The nation can obviously not be able to give out what they do not have.

There are different categories of healthcare facilities provided by private individuals and non governmental institutions. Some of them are very standard, while others are barely manageable. They are all expensive to very expensive and not usually accessible to the ordinary man. Very few of these private health institutions have good healthcare facilities and equipment.

**SOLUTION**

There would be a massive improvement in the health of individuals and the healthcare delivery system of the country if the following can be done: Improved and proper management of budgets/funds for the healthcare sector by those in charge for the required and needed facilities and equipment; Enlightenment of the masses on personal healthcare administration and hygiene; Creation of more platforms for healthcare delivery; Improved remunerations and incentives for healthcare personnel; Sponsorships, donations and investments from individuals and private organizations; Proper check and monitoring of health educational bodies, private practice and hospitals in general by different relevant associations.

**CONCLUSION**

In essence, we must always bear at heart that health is wealth and health is the most important aspect of humanity. Without proper health in check, no other activities can be carried out. Therefore, we must put great interest and effort in the availability and adequacy of the health facilities and personnel in Nigeria.