



**Multiple Sources of Healthcare and the formal recognized state
Healthcare: The bane of Nigeria Healthcare development.**

By

Raji Sakiru¹ Shittu Olusoga²

Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences

University of Ibadan, Nigeria

Background to the Study

- Being healthy is crucial and fundamental to human survival (One of the cardinal objectives of MDGs)
- Provision of good healthcare facility is entrenched in every nation's constitution – right & duty
- Explanation for health conditions differs (Owumi, Jegede),
- as a result, each culture evolve its own healthcare system suitable for its environment

. Concentration of western medicine in the cities

-but larger % live in rural areas (Ajala at al. 2005, Adisa, 2009)

. Availability and Accessibility define utilization of healthcare facility

Theoretical Orientation: Cultural Relativity

- In this paper, cultural relativity was used as the theoretical framework to explain how important it is to put into consideration the societal customs and values in determining their healthcare system.
- The anthropological attitude that a society's customs and ideas should be viewed in the context of that society's culture (Oke, 1984).

Sources of healthcare system in Nig.

1. Western healthcare system (General, Teaching, Specialist hospital, primary health centres etc.) 30% of the population use it
 2. Traditional healthcare system (different practitioners) 70% of the population use both the traditional medicine and faith healers
 3. Faith healers
- The people do combine different healthcare facility for use

Challenges of Traditional Healthcare system

1. Not supported by the Government (Nwokocha, Owumi)
 - *Financial support*
 - *Moral support*
2. *Negative Perception*
 - *Practice in an Unhygienic environment*
 - *Quack practitioners*

The strength of Traditional healthcare system

1. Efficacy (Odebiyi, Owumi, Sofowora)
2. Low cost
3. Easy access (Oyekanmi, 1997; Owumi, 1996, 2012)

4. No high level of Bureaucracy

CONCLUSION

All sources of healthcare systems should be given the same level playing ground

More attention should be given to traditional medicine since it is closer to more people compare to Western medicine

Western medicine should not be used as the yardstick for standard healthcare system