

# Factors Influencing Procurement And Utilization Of Essential Drugs At Primary Health Care Centres In Shira Local Government Area Of Bauchi State

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**Abstract-** Access to essential drugs is very vital to the good performance of the health care delivery system all over the world. The procurement of safe, effective and affordable essential drugs of good quality in the right quantity to the whole population in particular the poor is a priority in health as drug policy. The study was aimed at investigating the factors influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs at primary health care centres in Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The survey approach was used for this study; via random sampling technique. The researcher collected all the relevant data from primary source. The use of percentages, table and chi-square are employed to organize data collected via SPSS version 23. The factors influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs at primary health care Centres are, good or large turn up of patients and good account system, seeking of approval, and the cost of getting approval.

The study revealed that 64% believed that, the management has problems procurement and utilization of essential drugs at rural health centre. It also revealed that, there was problem with procurement which affected the operation in primary health care centre. The study further revealed that 72% believed that there was no proper funding to the health care from the govern. The study revealed that there was no enough qualified staff at the various health centre. It also revealed that 72% believe that there was no manpower at primary health care centres which then hinder the effective service delivery to the community. The availability of essential drugs at the health centres was rather low, showing that the system has failed in achieving its main goal to manage availability also in remote area. The drug procurement and management system from the state, local government to district did not function well. There were no regular meeting with Primary Health Care Management Committee and there was no regular monitoring, auditing or supervision of primary health care centre.

**Index Terms-** health centres, essential drugs, factors, procurement, utilization

## I. INTRODUCTION

Access to essential drugs is very vital to the good performance of the health care delivery system all over the world. The procurement of safe, effective and affordable essential drugs of good quality in the right quantity to the whole population in

particular the poor is a priority in health as drug policy (Umeni and Narula, 1999). Providing the necessary finances of primary health care system is one of the major management supports which could make or mar primary health care services (Ola-Kunda, 2012). Over the years, this health sector has witnessed increase budgetary allocation. However funds released are not commensurate with the amount allocated. Given the limited resources, the state government for some years have been implementing free ante- natal care (ANC) programmed for pregnant women and under 5 children as well as providing nutritional supplements for malnourished kids (Bauchi State Strategic Health Development, 2015).

The list of essential drugs includes, acetylsalicylic acid tablet, adrenaline injection, ascorbic acid tablet, benzathine penicillin injection, benzoic acid/salicylic acid ointment, benxyl benzoate emulsion, calamine lotion, chloroquine syrup, chloroquine tablet, chlopheniramine tablet, chlorpromazine hydrochloride injection, co-trimazole syrup, co-trimazole tablet, ergometrine/methlagometine, ferrous sulphate tablets, folic acid tablet, Iodine solution, paracetamol tablet, etc.

The procurement of drugs involves the process of acquiring the needed drugs and medical supplies after due process of selection and quantification. It is a critical stage in the essential drug system. The following are the components of the procurement of a properly selected, and quantified essential drugs: training of personnel, well-designed procurement, functional information system, suitable organizational structure, adequate funds, facilities and equipments (World Bank, 2010). The sources of procurement/ supply of essential drugs can be grouped into three; primary, secondary and tertiary suppliers. Primary suppliers are the manufacturer themselves. **Secondary suppliers** are groups that procure directly from the manufacturer s and supply to others. **Tertiary Suppliers** are procurement agencies commissioned by essential drugs programme to procure drugs and medical suppliers on their behalf.

The world health organization (WHO) in 1997 defined drugs utilization as the distribution prescription and use of drugs in a society with special emphases on the medical ,social and economic consequences (Sachdeva et al., 2010) . The procurement and utilization of essential drugs is of paramount importance to Nigeria as a country, and to the whole world at large. This is true with respect to the requirement on the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and currently on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). Failure to meet with the goals as it

affects the health sector, spells doom for the whole world, in particular with the present pandemic, Covid 19. Due to upsurge in the level of financial corruption in Nigeria, it is disheartening to observe that, most money allocated to procure essential drugs in health care centres, are diverted for personal use, or simply siphoned into private account. Consequently, the lack of essential drugs in primary health centres has led to increase in maternal mortality in particular. This is the bases upon which the present study on “factors influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs at primary health care centres in Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State’ was conducted.

Some scientists have identified the main factors facing the procurement of drugs to include, inadequate funding resulting in delay in paying the suppliers and poor quantification (Muhia et al., 2017). Chandani et al. (2012) also identified the following as the factors that affect essential drug procurement; the product availability, supply chain knowledge and capacity, availability of appropriate transportation, product availability and capacity among health supervisors. Kanda and Iravo (2015) reported that Procurement process, level of technology and extent of technology affects efficiency of medical supply of drugs in their health facility in Kenya. Muiruri & Mugambi (2017) further reported that untrained staff, inadequate and untimely disbursements of budgets allocated to the health facilities, no of suppliers and supplier stock factors. In a related study, Kgaruki et al. (2013) reported that lack of strong IS at Medical Store Department and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to manage the organization, suppliers and clients needs; lack of compliance to the national ordering and deliveries guideline and procedures; inadequate funds; low capacity in implementing integrated logistic system; lack of national representative data during annual budgeting and forecasting of EMs requirements; and political interests in a study in Tanzania. Ahmad et al. (2019) reported the following factors influencing utilization of drugs in Kano state, availability of health care personnel, timely service delivery and accessibility of service with ease.

### **Aim/Objectives**

The aim of the study is to evaluate the factors influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs at primary health care centres in Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

### **Study Area**

The local government covers an area of 1202 square kilometers. It has six district namely, Shira, Disina, Tsafi, Beli, Andubun, Faggo, with 36 village heads. The local government has Yana as the administrative health – quarters. The geographical location of the area is quite interesting; it falls within the Sahel Savannah belt, and the climatic condition is typical of the harsh tropical desert climate. The local government shares the boundaries with Giade local government at the east, Darazo local government to the south, Gwaram local government in Jigawa State to the west, Jamaare and Katagum Local Government to the north and northwest respectively.

### **Study Population**

According to the 2006 census, the local government has a projected population of 400,470. The people are dominantly farmers. There are to major rivers that pass through Shira local government. The rivers include river Dilimi in Jos Plateau State and Kari in Darazo local government area. In terms and social amenities, the local government headquarters and 20 other villages are connected with national grid.

### **Research Design**

The survey approach was used for this study; via random sampling technique.

### **Sources of Data/ Method of data**

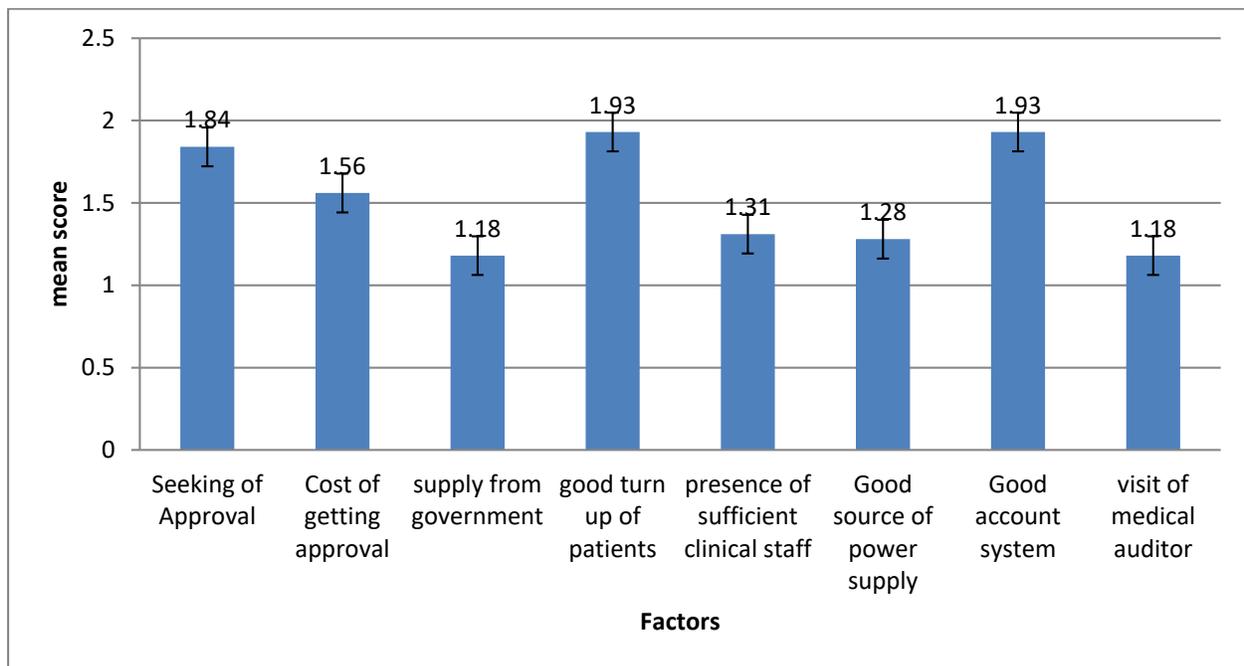
The researcher collected all the relevant data from primary source. The primary data consisted of data gathered by the researcher himself for the purpose of the study, through the use of questionnaire. The primary data was collected through the use of questionnaire administered to the primary health care centers staff (skilled).

### **Method of Data Analysis**

e use of percentages, table and chi-square are used to organize data collected via SPSS version 23.

## **II. RESULT**

The results were based on sixty one (61) retrieved questionnaires from the respondents. Level of significant was generally taken at 0.005.



**Figure 1: Factors influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs at primary health care centres in Shira Local Government Area of Bauchi State**

The factors influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs at primary health care Centres are presented in Figure 1. The result shows the mean scores for each factor. The acceptable mean score is 1.5 (2+1= 3 divided by 2= 1.5). Hence, the factors that influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs are: good or large turn up of patients and good account system (1.93); seeking of approval (mean score= 1.84) and the cost of getting approval (1.56).

**Table 1: Is procurement a major problem to the effective operation in primary health care center?**

Option	Respondent frequency	% of Response
Yes	43	70
No	18	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>

Based on the data collection 70% representing forty three (43) respondents agreed that procurement a major problem to the effective operation in primary health care center, while 30% representing eighteen respondents said no .This probably suggest that there was problem in procurement.

**Table 2: The provision of enough funds to the health care department for drugs procurement by state / LG**

Option	Respondent frequency	% of Response
Strongly agreed	15	25
Agreed	2	3
Not agreed	44	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>

From the above data, 25% representing fifteen (15) respondents strongly agreed that the State/ L.G. provides enough funds for the procurement of essential drugs, 3% representing two respondents simply agreed, while 72% representing forty four (44) respondents were not in agreement to this claim.

**Table 3: The utilization of the funds provided by the government appropriately by the management of primary health care department**

Option	Respondent frequency	% of Response
Yes	28	46
No	33	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3 shows that 46%, representing twenty eight (28) respondents agreed that funds provided are appropriately utilized, while 54% representing thirty three respondents did not agree.

### III. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The study revealed that 64% believed that, the management has problems procurement and utilization of essential drugs at rural health centre. It also revealed that, there was problem with procurement which affected the operation in primary health care centre. The study further revealed that 72% believed that there was no proper funding to the health care from the govern. The study revealed that there was no enough qualified staff at the various health centre. It also revealed that 72% beleive that there was no manpower at primary health care centres which then hinder the effective service delivery to the community.

Financial regulation was revised in (1999) requires accounting officer of a ministry or extra ministerial; department to establish internal audit /medical audit to conduct a complete and

continue audit of the account and record of revenue and expenditure, and located store. The study revealed that medical auditors are not usually auditing the primary health care centre which also contributes for the in proper utilization of the drug and other health facilities. The study revealed the factors influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs at primary health care Centres. The result shows that the factors that influencing procurement and utilization of essential drugs are: good or large turn up of patients and good account system, seeking of approval and the cost of getting approval.

Chandani et al. (2012) identified the following as the factors that affect essential drug procurement; the product availability, supply chain knowledge and capacity, availability of appropriate transportation, product availability and capacity among health supervisors. Kanda and Iravo (2015) reported that Procurement process, level of technology and extent of technology affects efficiency of medical supply of drugs in their health facility in Kenya. Muiruri & Mugambi (2017) further reported that untrained staff, inadequate and untimely disbursements of budgets allocated to the health facilities, no of suppliers and supplier stock factors.

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#### IV. CONCLUSION

The availability of essential drugs at the health centres was rather low, showing that the system has failed in achieving its main goal to manage availability also in remote area. The drug procurement and management system from the state, local government to district did not function well. There were no regular meeting with Primary Health Care Management Committee and there was no regular monitoring, auditing or supervision of primary health care centre. There was also lack of necessary guideline for primary health care staff.

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