

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF MALARIA DISEASE IN NIGERIA: A MIX MODE RESEARCH IN GUSAU METROPOLIS, ZAMFARA STATE NIGERIA

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DOI:

ABSTRACT

Malaria is a major public health problem in Nigeria. Malaria is highly endemic in Nigeria and poses a major challenge impeding human development. It further creates severe social and economic burden in communities round the country. The problem has affected the socio-economic condition of the society involved. This paper examines the socio-economic implications of malaria disease in Nigeria with particular reference to Gusau metropolis in Zamfara state North West Nigeria. The study was structured within political economy of health as theoretical underpinning. The research utilized a triangulation of qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. Four hundred questionnaires were distributed to household heads out of which 391 were returned and four people were engaged in In-depth Interview. The quantitative Data were analyzed with the use of frequencies and percentage. The qualitative data were transcribed, reported and incorporated to the quantitative findings. The study found that one of the socio-economic implications of malaria is that, household heads spent a lot to treat malaria with their little income. Furthermore, finding from this study reveals that malaria cases cause individual households to spend days off work due to malaria. Based on the findings of the study, the paper recommends among other things that the economic policies of the Nigerian government should be tailored towards equitable distribution of the nation's resources among the citizens. Government needs to give more attention to the economic plights of the masses, especially by guaranteeing them sustainable living income.

Keywords: Malaria disease, Socio-economic implication, Gusau metropolis, Nigeria.