

UTILIZATION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN TOFA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KANO STATE, NIGERIA

Faiza Isa Sheshe and Yusuf M. Adamu

Department of Geography, Bayero University, Kano

Corresponding Author's email: faizasheshe@yahoo.com



Abstract

This paper examined the utilization of health care services in Tofa Local Government Area Kano State. Attendance records of health care facilities for a period of 4 years from 2008-2011 was used for the research. Percentage and GIS analysis was used in analyzing the data. The result of the analyses showed that utilization is higher among neighbouring wards than those far away; therefore distance influences utilization of health care facility not only in the study area but even among neighbouring local governments. Children between the ages of 0-4 have higher utilization than those in other age groups. This is due to the collective efforts of government and non-governmental organizations in reducing infant and maternal mortality through free routine immunization and free antenatal care services. Utilization is higher among females than males. This could be attributed to availability of services that are exclusively for female utilization such as family planning and antenatal care services. The research recommends that Government should locate health care services close to the people as possible and far from one another such that people can have easy access as distance was found to influence utilization and also subsidize health care fees as free routine immunization and free family planning and free antenatal care services are responsible for higher utilization among children aged 0-4 and female utilization respectively.

Keywords: GIS, Health Care Services, Health Care Facilities, Utilization, Tofa