

Review of: "Medical Profession in Nigeria Since 1960"

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The manuscript reports on a nationwide qualitative-quantitative study about the characteristics of medical corruption in Nigeria. The topic is very relevant, not only for the country at stake but for many other countries experiencing a similar problem. The text is clear and well-written, but there are limitations that need to be addressed to increase the value of the study, especially in terms of its replicability.

1. Goal of the study: the authors wrote, "The general objective of this study is to determine the characterisation of corruption in the medical profession in Nigeria since 1960 and the role of the media in curbing it. Specifically, the study sought to establish the extent of corruption in the medical profession since Nigeria's independence in 1960; the nature of these corrupt practices and the perpetrators. The study also investigates how corruption in the medical profession affects national development."

The sentence contains at least three different objectives:

- a. characterisation of corruption in the medical profession in Nigeria since 1960 (extent and nature)
- b. the role of the media in curbing it (corruption)
- c. how corruption in the medical profession affects national development.

The study is based on a survey and interviews, and since neither the questionnaire nor the questions of the interview are available, I can guess their content only from the answers, and it seems that the study does not investigate the three topics, but rather the PERCEPTION that the interviewees had of the topics. Actually, the tables are about "[**Observed? Suspected?**] Corrupt Practices in the Medical Profession", "**Perceived** perpetrators of corruption in Nigeria's medical profession since 1960", "**Perceived** effects of corruption in the medical profession on national development". The last table is about what I believe was the goal of the study "Ways in which corruption in the medical profession can be curbed."

I suggest rephrasing the sentence, distinguishing the objectives (what you measure and assess: perception of ...) and the goal (suggesting the ways in which corruption in the medical profession can be curbed). To rephrase the title, making it clear that you assessed the perception of ..., and stating that the article is about a mixed-method study.

2. Methods: The methods of the study are not explained in detail, hampering the replicability of the study. I suggest that you should provide a copy of the questionnaire and the questions of the interview. Were they structured or semi-structured?

How did you analyse the transcript of the interviews? Simple thematic analysis, realist analysis, or another theoretically

based method? Which method did you use to enforce trustworthiness? Who did the analysis? I suggest that you should have a look at the SRQR reporting guidelines (<https://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/srqr/>)
How did you integrate qualitative and quantitative data?

3. The references are listed at the end of the text as if they are footnotes. Then a further section titled “References” follows, I suppose repeating the same bibliographic references. I suggest using footnotes only for real notes and adopting one of the standard styles for bibliographic references in the text (progressive numbers or first author name+year). Some of the footnotes report the identity of the interviewee, and this could raise an ethical concern. If the identity is fictitious, this must be declared.

4. Discussion: I was surprised that the topic of education for medical and nursing students was not raised by anyone. Do Nigerian medical schools offer teaching and learning about medical professionalism? Is it a curricular, mandatory topic? Is it assessed? Could it be one of the levers to curb corruption?