

Review of: "Corruption in the medical field: Facts from Nigeria"

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The study attempts to address one of the most important and significant challenges in the health care systems of countries. The review of the article tries to frame the problem of corruption as that of the 'medical profession,' but eventually moves beyond issues related to health policy, health system functioning, and finally, corruption within the medical profession per se is less addressed. The title has narrowed down the scope as the data is mostly about the challenges of health systems in Nigeria, and some of it has policy implications at large. The year 1960 is not justified in the methodology or in the data and hence is irrelevant. Whether one can reduce the failure to appoint qualified health professionals in the health system to corruption, or whether it is managing the system with what is available as propagated through 'task shifting,' is something to ponder upon.

The methodology is limited in its scope as it mostly relies on survey results, and that too as opinion without really supplementing the data with the background and context of the institutional mechanisms prevailing and the actual events. As the respondents were medical practitioners, students, and media personnel, whether a common understanding of 'corruption' and 'medical profession' is a prerequisite to interpret the responses correctly is unclear. It is not certain of the context of the respondents in terms of their affiliation and context.