

Review of: "How Competent are Health Professionals in Delivering Nutrition Education? A Cross-Sectional Study in Ebonyi State, Nigeria"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper is well-written, as well as interesting and important to the field. However, there are some issues with definitions, as well as how the data are presented. In addition, the conclusions are a bit misleading. The paper states that, "Less than one-tenth of respondents, 7.4%, had **good knowledge** of nutrition. A higher proportion of respondents, 85.9% (360), had **good practice** of nutrition education, while less than half, 42.5% (178), had **agood perception** of nutrition education. A minor proportion of respondents, 43.0% (180), had **adequate competency** in nutrition education." The authors need to more clearly define good practice, good perception, and adequate competency, not just by percentages but by what that means in words. Generally, things are defined in a Likert scale format as excellent, very good, good, adequate, not adequate/poor. So, does *adequate* mean just barely competent? All the terms must be very clearly defined. In addition, a reference that highlights what the expected level of competency should be would help reinforce the point.

There were also some issues with the list of clinicians included. Dietitians, by training, should have excellent knowledge. It would make more sense if this were with providers not specifically trained in nutrition. However, if they are included, separating them out in the analysis is imperative.

The study recruited doctors, dentists, nurses, physiotherapists, and dietitians due to their frequent contact with patients with different ailments requiring nutrition education. **The ailments should be listed.**

In addition, distinguishing results by specific medical professional would be more elucidating. It is a bit misleading because we do not know the specialty of the physicians. If there are primary care providers, endocrinologists, and perhaps cardiologists, then a solid knowledge of nutrition is warranted. However, other specialties don't really need a strong background. They just need to know when to refer to dietitians.