

# Review of: "Medical Profession in Nigeria Since 1960"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

## **Review Comments: "Medical Profession in Nigeria Since 1960"**

### **General Comments**

The authors have attempted to highlight the problem of corruption as it pertains to medical practice in Nigeria. However, I am of the opinion that the writing style, approach, choice of study participants in the methodology, etc., hardly pass across as scientific writing. I do not think the work is suitable for publication and recommend rejection.

### **Comments**

1. The title does NOT convey the content of the manuscript at all.
2. *"While the level of corruption is minimal in some countries, it is overt in several countries of the world."*

The sentence above was referenced, but what is the index used in determining the minimal or overt level of corruption?

1. *"Since Nigeria's independence in 1960, different administrations have shown interest in fighting corruption."*

This is a rather unscientific statement. What exact measures did the different administrations put in place that can be construed as showing interest in fighting corruption?

1. Who is Abdullahi Mohammed, and why should we place any premium on his word?
2. *As the issues keep occurring and recurring, the press carries out surveillance in the environment and informs society of the situation. Corruption in the medical profession involves various individuals. These include senior and junior administrative officers in health ministries and agencies, health officials and professionals like doctors, nurses, laboratory attendants, and pharmacists, among others. Even the political office holders, charged with the responsibility of overseeing the health sector, namely health ministers, commissioners, and chairpersons of health-related boards and agencies.*

You state all the above without any attempt to show evidence. This is very far from scientific writing, I must say.

1. *"With the use of the online calculator, the researchers arrived at a sample of 185."*

From a scientific writing point of view, I am afraid this is unacceptable. What sample size formula is the online calculator based on? What parameters/assumptions were considered in arriving at the given sample size?

1. *"The medical and media professionals were the categories especially relevant to this study."*

I disagree with this statement. What about the victims of the so-called corrupt practices? If the practice is as prevalent as the authors put across, then a good number of Nigerians would have a lot to say about corruption in the medical profession.

1. It is not clear which group of people answered the questionnaires and which group was interviewed. As a result, the table of sociodemographic characteristics is difficult to grasp.
2. I am struggling to understand how the carelessness or laziness of health workers, illegal abortions, and lack of confidentiality amount to corruption. I would think the issue of illegal abortions comes about because there is restrictive access to abortion services. This particular issue needs attention as it underscores maternal mortality.
3. Are there no regulatory bodies to regulate medical practice in Nigeria?... bodies to which citizens can report perpetrators of these corrupt practices.