

Assessing the Impact of Malaria on School Attendance and Health Outcomes in Kaduna State, Nigeria: Perspectives from Teachers, Parents, and Medical Professionals

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Abstract:

This study examines the impact of malaria on school attendance and health outcomes in Kaduna State, Nigeria, from the perspectives of teachers, parents, and medical professionals. The survey data highlights the significant toll malaria takes on students' education, particularly through absenteeism, and underscores the multifaceted challenges faced by stakeholders in addressing the disease. Teachers noted educational disruptions and the burden of managing affected students, while parents emphasized the economic strain of treatment and the need for better prevention measures (UNICEF, 2020). Medical professionals reported malaria as one of the most frequent illnesses among school-aged children, with inadequate healthcare access exacerbating the issue. Key findings reveal the need for targeted interventions, such as widespread distribution of insecticide-treated mosquito nets, enhanced health education campaigns, and improved access to affordable healthcare services. Data-driven recommendations include integrating malaria prevention into school curriculums, bolstering healthcare infrastructure, and addressing the socioeconomic factors that limit effective disease management (WHO, 2021). By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, this research aims to inform policies and practices to reduce the burden of malaria and improve health and educational outcomes for children in Kaduna State (Nigeria Malaria Control Programme, 2019).

Keywords:

Malaria, school absenteeism, health outcomes, Kaduna State, Nigeria, insecticide treated mosquito nets, health education, socioeconomic barriers, healthcare access.