

## RECEPTIVITY OF RURAL DWELLERS IN ABEOKUTA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA TO INNOVATION IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE THROUGH ONLINE CLINICS

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**Background:** Extending the reach and coverage of primary healthcare by leveraging on technology is imperative in light of the high population of rural dwellers and the shortage of healthcare workers (Doctors and nurses). The study explores the willingness of rural dwellers in Abeokuta North Local Government Area of Ogun state to access healthcare through online clinics.

**Method:** A cross sectional descriptive study carried out in selected rural settlements in Abeokuta North Local Government Area of Ogun State. 1163 respondents from 16 rural settlements participated in the survey. Clusters were selected by purposive sampling, Areas (settlements) were chosen by simple random sampling and Households were selected by convenience sampling. Household head or any individual greater than 18 years within the household was selected as respondent. Data was collected by pre-tested, semi-structured questionnaire. Data collected was analysed with frequency distribution, t-test and logistic regression. Data was analysed with SPSS 23 software.

**Result:** Majority of the respondents (71.2%) were male. Majority of the respondents (82.7%) were willing to utilise online clinics. Respondents with at least one child were significantly more willing to use online clinics than those without children. Respondents with tertiary education or its equivalent were 1.8 times more willing to use online clinics than those with lower educational attainment. Male respondents were 1.5 times more willing to access health care services through online clinics than female. Majority of the respondents (63.5%) were willing to access general healthcare, 52.3% would like to access gynecology services, 67.3% would be willing to access mental healthcare services, 12.4% would be willing to access dental services. 83.4% would like to access online clinics through mobile phones.

### **Conclusion:**

The result of this study suggests that people living in rural areas within Abeokuta North Local Government Area of Ogun state are open to utilizing virtual healthcare services.

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