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2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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RT: Development of a Guideline for Infection Prevention in Childcare Centers Using Intervention Mapping Protocol in Ogun State, Nigeria

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AB: The establishment of Childcare Centers (CCs) has increased as several parents are leaving their homes to work, and they need a place to keep their children. CCs are expected to have infection prevention guidelines. Evidence shows existence of guideline for infection prevention in developed countries. However, such guideline is not known to be existing in Ogun State and other States within the Federation. Furthermore, high rate of infections among children cared for at CCs as documented in literatures showed the need for the development of a guideline to improve the knowledge and practice of infection prevention measures among caregivers in CCs. Hence, this study developed a guideline on infection prevention in Childcare Centers in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Mixed-method research approach was used. The total population was 614 CCs from which 267 CCs were selected using Slovin's formular and multi-stage sampling technique was utilized in the needs assessment. Data saturation guided the sample size of 14 participants in the qualitative phase. ADAPTE Collaboration was used in the development of the guideline which was validated using Appraisal of Guideline Research and Evaluation II (AGREE II). The sample size of 38 CCs for the quasi-experimental design was determined using the G* power formular. The qualitative data were obtained from the participants using semi-structured interview while the quantitative data were obtained using observation checklist and validated questionnaire with

Cronbach's alpha coefficients ranging from 0.83 to 0.93 with 98% response rate. Qualitative data were analysed using thematic analysis while the quantitative data were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics (paired t-test) at 5% level of significance.

Findings revealed that none of the CCs had a guideline for infection prevention. Four themes were generated: my child's experience of infection, resumption to center and the start of infection, applaudable actions of caregivers, and ugly friend of infection. The developed guideline entailed four sections namely introduction, minimal requirement for CCs, concept of infection transmission and the infection preventive measures. The developed guideline had validation scores from AGREE II that ranged from 85% to 95%. The results of the implementation of the guideline showed a significant difference in the mean of pre- and post-intervention of knowledge ($t(36) = 16.58, p = 0.00$); occurrence of infection ($t(36) = 24.80, p = 0.00$); and practice of infection prevention measures ($t(36) = -9.33, p = 0.00$).

In conclusion, the developed guideline proved to be a solution to the reduction of infection in CCs. It is recommended that the developed guideline be adopted and used as a training manual for caregivers in CCs in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Childcare centers, Guideline for infection prevention, Hand hygiene, Infection control, Infection prevention practices

Word Count: 424

Abbreviations: *RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

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