

HEALTH INFORMATION SOURCES AND SATISFACTION IN PREVENTION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AMONG TRUCK DRIVERS IN MARABAR, JOS AND Tafa STATIONS, KADUNA STATE, NIGERIA

By

SIRAJO ABUBAKAR DANZANGI,
DR. HAKEEMATSALAHUDEEN BELLO, CLN
and
DR. KABIR IBRAHIM CLN

Abstract

The study examined the health information satisfaction for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among truck drivers in Marabar, Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria. Two (2) research questions were formulated on sources of health information the truck drivers use for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and level of satisfaction the truck drivers derive from using Health Information for prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. The research adopted quantitative research methodology using a survey research design for the study. The total population of the study comprised 75000 long-journey truck drivers plying Nigerian roads from which a sample of 382 truck drivers were drawn. Simple random sampling technique was used. The instrument used for data collection was questionnaire. The study found out that truck drivers use information sources such as radio, television, and friends frequently for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. It was also revealed that truck drivers are satisfied with only information on use of condom and abstinence. It was recommended that more health information sources should be made available for truck drivers to use. More health information sources on STDs should be provided and made accessible for truckers to use. Truckers should also be taught on how internet and handsets should be accessed effectively.

Keywords: Health, Health Information, Satisfaction, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Truck Drivers

Introduction

Health information is defined as data related to a person's medical history, including symptoms, diagnoses, procedures, and outcomes. Health information records include patient histories, lab results, x-rays, clinical information, and notes (American Health

Information Management Association, 2019). Health information plays an important role as it improves health care quality and patient outcomes by reducing medication and medical errors, reduces unnecessary tests and services and improve the efficiency of care by ensuring everyone involved in a patient's care has access to the same information, reduces administrative costs by making many administrative tasks simpler and more efficient, increases patient involvement in their own health care and reduce the amount of time patients spend filling out paperwork and briefing providers on their medical histories and finally coordinates with and support public health officials to improve the health of our communities (HealthIT, 2019).

Health information highlights the provision of information about health services and providers, thus making patients aware of the health services available. Health information is very important to our lives. People seek for information on their health status more than anything as people used to say "Health is wealth".

Health literacy is increasingly important in today's complex information ecosystem, both nationally and globally. Across the world, whether people live in "information rich" or "information poor" societies, the role of our profession is a vital one. In the developed world, the ubiquitous nature of health information creates a wealth of accessible content and simultaneously has created confusion as to what information is reliable, how health information can be utilized, and whether or not information is produced in a meaningful manner (Ottosen, Mani, and Fratta, 2019).

In the developing world, content may be non-existent, culturally inappropriate or inaccessible in terms of language and other barriers. In order to mitigate the health information crisis we are now facing, we need to collaborate and respond to the challenges raised by the complexity of health information. Librarians and other information professionals can and must play an important role in improving health literacy in their communities.

It has been established that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are hidden epidemics with severe health and financial ramifications. These diseases can cause severe organ damage, discomfort, infertility, blindness, deafness, paralysis, and even death. (Eng & Butler, 1997; Center for Disease Control (CDC), 2000). Truck drivers on the other hand, are considered as one of the major vectors of these diseases due to the nature of their occupation (Huda, Sikder, Rahman, and Mohiuddin, 2016) cited in (Morris, & Ferguson, 2007; McCree et al., 2010; Abbasi, Rafique, Aziz & Hussain, 2013; KMCC Uganda, 2014; Prajapati, & Sanjel, 2014). They transport goods from a far location to another. The nature of their occupation precludes them from staying with their families. Therefore, this gives them chance to mingle with Female Commercial Sex Workers (FCSWs) at different local rest areas along their major roads.

Knowledge of STDs was found very high among truck drivers plying Nigerian roads as a result of the myriad campaigns done by both governmental and nongovernmental organizations (Kende, 2015). Also a research conducted on access to health information by truck drivers in Nigeria revealed that truck drivers access health information mostly for prevention of STDs through: listening to

radio, watching Television, and talking to Friends; and moderately through browsing Internet, handsets, reading newspapers; reading billboard and attending mobilization campaigns and lastly reading books (Sirajo & Umar, 2023). It was on the bases of the above that This study became pertinent to examine health information sources and satisfaction in prevention of sexually transmitted diseases among truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations, Kaduna State, Nigeria

Statement of the Problem

Every community or society needs access and satisfaction to health information sources in order to survive and run efficiently. Health information or knowledge plays a critical role in Sexually Transmitted Diseases prevention.

Despite the high level of knowledge of these diseases and high level of access to myriad sources of health information among truck drivers plying Nigerian roads, it was found that the population of the truck drivers is a potential HIV high risk group in Nigeria as (2.4%) of their population were tested positive in some selected stations in South-west Nigeria (Glory, Onoja, and Komolape 2010). Also a preliminary survey was conducted at Dan Magaji and Dakatsalle casual truck drivers' rest areas in 2019 by the researcher, and it was found that truck drivers pack and rest in those areas for many days associating with Female Commercial Sex Workers (FCSWs). This association could be the sources of contacting and spreading STDs.

Therefore, this research is focused on assessing health information satisfaction for prevention of STDs among truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

This study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What sources of health information do truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria use to get information for prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases?
2. What level of satisfaction do the truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria derive from using health information for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases?

Literature Review

Health information highlights the provision of information about health services and providers, thus making patients aware of the health services available. Health information is very important to our lives. People seek for information on their health status more than anything. Health information is defined as the data related to a person's medical history, including symptoms, diagnoses, procedures, and outcomes. Health information records include patient histories, lab results, x-rays, clinical information, and notes (American Health Information Management Association, 2019). Health information plays an important role as it improves health care quality and patient outcomes by reducing medication and medical errors, reduces unnecessary tests, services and improve the efficiency of care by ensuring everyone involved in a patient's care has access to the same information, reduces administrative costs by making many administrative tasks simpler and more efficient, increases patient involvement in their own health care and reduce the

amount of time patients spend filling out paperwork and briefing providers on their medical histories and finally coordinates with and support public health officials to improve the health of our communities (Health Information Technology, 2019).

People who access current, accurate, reliable, and balanced health information for prevention of STDs are more likely to express healthier sexual attitudes and engage in healthier sexual behaviors than those receiving limited or no sexual-health information (Richey, 2012). This indicates that for truck drivers to be sexually healthier, they should have access to current, accurate, reliable and balanced health information. In a research conducted in Ghana to find out the knowledge and sources of accessing sexual and reproductive health information in Ghana, it was revealed that individuals access health information on sexual reproductive health (SRH) from both formal and informal sources. The formal sources are radio stations, hospitals, information centres, schools, NGOs, Mosques, churches and associations. Others received information on sexual reproductive health (SRH) services and care from informal sources, such as relatives and friends (Badu et al., 2019). This has indicated that truck drivers can access information on sexual issues formally or informally.

A similar research conducted on access to health information by truck drivers in Nigeria revealed that truck drivers access health information mostly for prevention of STDs through: listening to radio, watching Television, and talking to Friends. While truck drivers access Health Information moderately through browsing Internet, handsets, reading newspapers; reading billboard and attending mobilization campaigns and lastly reading books (Sirajo & Umar, 2023). To support this argument, a study was conducted

also in Dhaka City on access to mass media and awareness of STDs among the truck drivers and the results of the study demonstrated that a significant number of respondents had access to newspapers and magazines sometimes. Newspapers and magazines readership was sharply higher among the educated respondents. In terms of watching television, an overwhelming 89% percent of the respondent reported that they watched television at times.

Internet as a tool for access to information is transforming the way in which consumers approach their health care needs. Sex and age are influential aspects of one's health as well as disease risk and are thus integral components of the emerging picture of health information seekers (source). Unfortunately, the use of internet to access health information on STDs among truck drivers was recorded very low or high? This was revealed in a research conducted to find out truck drivers' use of the Internet where 106 truckers were sampled from the trucking industry to assess their ability to internet access and use. The findings of this research proved that truckers' use of internet was very limited. Those that used internet to source for information used it to seek for information on directions and maps, fueling area (filling stations), pricing communication with their employers and other official tasks like transferring of documents electronically. It was also proved that those truckers that usually use the internet were younger ones. Use of internet among the old-aged truckers was very low (Heaton et al., 2017). This research finding doubtlessly goes in line with Huda and Amanullah (2016) which said only 3% of truck drivers used the internet to access health information in Dhaka city. This has shown that most of these truckers used internet to access information not only on health matters, but in almost all their job-related issues. It also clearly indicated that among the truckers, those with young ages used internet than those with old ages.

Methodology

The research methodology adopted was quantitative research. Also Survey research design was adopted for this study. The population of this study comprised both tanker and trailer truck drivers plying Nigerian roads from North to South. The population comprised Seventy-Five Thousand (75,000) registered truck drivers in the North-western States of Nigeria. The sample size of this study was 382 truck drivers and the sampling technique employed for this study was simple random sampling. An adapted questionnaire with a combination of both open and close-ended questions was used; and it was divided into six (6) sections (A – D). Both face and content validity were conducted to determine the validity of the instrument. The researcher developed the instrument based on the research questions raised and distributed copies of the questionnaires to colleagues, members of staff, and researchers in and outside the Department of Library and Information Science for their observations and comments. To ensure the reliability of the instrument, a pilot study was conducted at Tegna (Rafi Local Government, Niger State) casual local rest area where truck drivers pack their vehicles casually for either to repair their vehicles or eat; and sometimes sleep. This casual local rest area was chosen because of its similarities with the study area and it was not part of the study areas. Fourteen (14) copies of the questionnaires were distributed to the truck drivers by the researcher; the copies of the questionnaires were completely returned because the researcher personally administered the instrument and supervise it. The retrieved and completed copies of the questionnaires were subjected to Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) for analysis, and Cronbach Alpha Coefficient was used in order to obtain the reliability index. 0.884 coefficient value was obtained. This denotes that the instrument is reliable and can be used for the research work.

Results and Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1: What sources of Health Information do truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria use to get information for prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases?

Table 1: Sources of Health Information Truck Drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria Use for Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

S/No	Sources of Sexual Health Information	Frequency	Percentage
1	Radio	304	100.0
2	Book	0	0.0
3	Television	304	100.0
4	Newspapers	80	26.3
5	Magazines	0	0.0
6	Friends	304	100.0
7	Internet	138	45.4
8	Leaflets	0	0.0
9	Billboards	80	26.3
10	Mobilizations	80	26.3
11	Journals	0	0.0
12	Health pamphlets	0	0.0
13	Handsets	138	45.4

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Table 1 shows the health information sources used by truck drivers for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. The Sexual Health Information sources used by truck drivers are: radio, television and friends with 304 (100%) respectively, Internet and handsets 138 (45.4%) each, while newspapers, billboards, and mobilizations have the least 80 (26.3%). The finding of this study revealed that

the Sources of Health Information truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria mostly use for prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases are: Radio, Television, Friends. Internet and Handsets are used moderately. Newspapers, Billboards, and Mobilizations were found to be underutilized. While books, magazines, leaflets, journals and health pamphlets were totally out of use by truck drivers

The finding of this study is in line with Huda et al., (2016) in a study conducted in Dhaka City on the use of mass media by truck drivers who revealed that truck drivers use television (89%) overwhelmingly and also (54%) of the respondents use radio daily as source of sexual health information while only few use internets as source of Sexual Health Information.

In the same vein,Huda & Amanullah, (2013) found out that about (75.78%) of truck drivers watched television and listen to radio to get informed about HIV/AIDs in Bangladesh.

It is therefore implied from the finding that, if more Sexual Health Information sources are made available and accessible to truck drivers by information professionals, the menace of sexually transmitted diseases can be drastically reduced among truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Research Question 2: What level of satisfaction do the truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria derive from using Health Information for prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases?

Table 1.2 Level of Satisfaction Derived by Truck Drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria from Access to Health Information for Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases

S/No	Sexual Health Information	HS		S		RS		NS		U		Total	Mean	SD
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%			
1	Information on effective condom use	100	32.9	95	31.3	43	14.1	66	21.7	0	0	304	3.8	0.0
2	Information on the dangers of STDs	0	0	95	31.3		0.0	209	68.8	0	0	304	2.6	0.0
3	Information on mode of transmission	0	0	15	4.9	43	14.1	246	80.9	0	0	304	2.2	0.1
4	Information on causes of STDs	0	0	15	4.9	166	54.6	123	40.5	0	0	304	2.6	0.1
5	Information on abstinence	100	32.9	15	4.9	66	21.7	123	40.5	0	0	304	3.3	0.1
6	Information on counselling services	0	0	0	0.0	56	18.4	166	54.6	0	0	222	1.6	0.0
7	Information on using one sex partner	0	0	15	4.9	0	0.0	289	95.1	0	0	304	2.1	0.2
8	Information on different types of STDs	0	0	15	4.9	43	14.1		0.0	0	0	58	0.6	0.1
9	Information on drug use	10	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	246	80.9	0	0	256	1.8	0.1
10	Information on prevention of STDs	0	0	15	4.9	43	14.1	246	80.9	0	0	304	2.2	0.1

Source: Researcher's Field Survey, 2023

Key: HS---Highly Satisfied, S---Satisfied, RS---Rarely Satisfied, NS---Not Satisfied, U---Undecided

Table 1.2 showed the level of satisfaction truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigerian plying Nigerian roads derive from using health information for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. The results revealed that the respondents are satisfied with information on effective condom use ($M=3.8$, $SD=0.0$), and information on abstinence ($M=3.3$, $SD=0.1$) with a mean that is above 3.0 respectively. While the result shows that the respondents are not satisfied with: information on the dangers of STDs ($M=2.6$, $SD=0.0$), information on mode of transmission ($M=2.2$, $SD=0.1$), information on causes of STDs ($M=2.6$, $SD=0.1$), information on prevention of STDs ($M=2.2$, $SD=0.1$), information on different types of STDs ($M=0.6$, $SD=0.1$), information on counseling services ($M=1.6$, $SD=0.0$), information on drug use ($M=1.8$, $SD=0.1$), information on using one sex partner ($M=2.1$, $SD=0.2$) with a mean that is below 3.0 respectively. Information on the dangers of STDs, information on mode of transmission.

The findings of this study revealed that the respondents are mostly satisfied with only information on effective condom use and information on abstinence. While the respondents were moderately satisfied with information on the dangers of STDs and information on mode of transmission. The respondents also were not satisfied with information on different types of STDs, information on counseling services, information on drug use and information on using one sex partner.

This finding contradicts Id, Li, Id, Yu & Luo (2018) who stated that respondents are highly satisfied with information sources available and accessible to them and within their reach.

This implies that as individuals differ, satisfactions differ and the need to satisfy their information needs in terms of sources is expedient and necessary to all health and information professionals, Governmental and non-governmental agencies among others.

Conclusion

Satisfaction to Health Information sources on STDs is very vital. The Health Information about STDs if disseminated and satisfied through various information sources and made accessible by the beneficiaries, will go a long way in ensuring access to good health. As seen from the findings of the study, there were multiple Health Information sources on STDs available of which the respondents are not satisfied with. It is concluded that truck drivers accessed Health Information for prevention of STDs in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria via traditional media. But with this access, still they are found victims of STDs. This may be that they do not believe or comply with the information they receive through these sources.

Recommendation

From the findings of this study, the following recommendations were formulated:

1, More information sources that can be accessed and utilized easily should be adequately provided by NURTW, NATO, NACA, NATD to truckers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria. When these information sources such as Books, Newspapers, Magazines, Leaflets, Billboards, Journals, Health pamphlets, Mobilizations among many are made available and accessible to truckers in these local rest areas, they drastically reduce the menace of sexually transmitted diseases among truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria

2. Information professionals such as health information providers and librarians together with healthcare workers should work hand in hand to ensure that Sexual Health Information resources provided to truck drivers meet their health information needs, hence increase their satisfaction. This will go a long way to enable access to the Sexual Health Information for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases among truck drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria.

References

- American Health Information Management Association. (2019). HIM Careers - Health Information 101. Retrieved October 25, 2019, from <https://www.ahima.org/careers/healthinfo>
- Center for Disease Control (CDC), (2000). Division of STD Prevention, Health and Human Service, Atlanta. 30(RR5-20): 112-134.
- Eng, T.R. & Butler, W.T. (1997). Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Institute of Medicine (IOM), National Academy Press, Washington, DC.
- Glory, O. et al (2010). HIV/AIDS and the long-distance truck drivers in South-west Nigeria: A cross-sectional survey on the knowledge, attitude, risk behaviour and beliefs of truckers. *Journal of Infection and Public Health* (2010) 3, 166—178. Retrieved from www.elsevier.com/locate/jiph on 18th October, 2018
- Health Information Technology. (2019). Why is health information exchange important? | HealthIT.gov. Retrieved October 25, 2019, from <https://www.healthit.gov/faq/why-health-information-exchange-important>
- Heaton, K., Combs, B., & Griffin, R. (2017). Truck Drivers' Use of the Internet: A Mobile Health Lifeline. *Workplace Health and Safety*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2165079916665401>
- Huda, N., & Amanullah, A. (2013). *HIV / AIDS-Related Knowledge among Secondary School Students in Bangladesh : A Cross-Sectional Study*. (January 2016). <https://doi.org/10.4236/aid.2013.34042>
- Huda, N., Sikder, A., Rahman, M., & Mohiuddin, M. (2016). *Access to Mass Media and Awareness of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Among the Truck Drivers in Dhaka City : Do Mass Media Make Them Aware ?* 1–15.

- Id, R. M., Li, J., Id, Y. Z., Yu, Y., & Luo, Y. (2018). Evaluation of Patient and Medical Staff Satisfaction Regarding Healthcare Services in Wuhan Public Hospitals. 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph15040769>
- Jeremiah, A. (2017). An Analysis of Knowledge and Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Kaduna Metropolis, Kaduna State, Nigeria. ABU, Zaria: Unpublished Thesis
- Kende, M. A. (2015). Knowledge, attitude and practice of truck drivers towards HIV/AIDS control in Nigeria. Unpublished Dissertation: Department of Physical and Health Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria: Unpublished Thesis
- Morris, C. N., & Ferguson, A. G. (2007). Sexual and treatment-seeking behaviour for Sexually Transmitted Infection in long-distance transport workers of East Africa. *Sexually transmitted infections*, 83(3), 242-245.
- Ottosen, T., Mani, N. S., & Fratta, M. N. (2019). Health information literacy awareness and capacity building: Present and future. *IFLA Journal*, 45(3), 207–215. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0340035219857441>
- Sirajo A. D & Umar B. D (2023). Health Information Access for Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases among Truck Drivers in Marabar Jos and Tafa Stations in Kaduna State, Nigeria. *Bayero Journal of Education in Africa, Faculty of Education Bayero University Kano- Nigeria*. 9 (4). 293 –303. ISSN: 2360-7637