

**KNOWLEDGE AND RISK PERCEPTIONS ABOUT MALARIA AND USE OF  
BEDNETS AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN NIGERIA**

**BY**

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**FEBRUARY, 2021**

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**BEING A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.Sc.) DEGREE  
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AND SOCIAL SCIENCES COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE,  
NIGERIA**

**FEBRUARY, 2021**

### **ACCEPTANCE**

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Sciences in Demography and Social Statistics in the Department of Economics and Development Studies, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria

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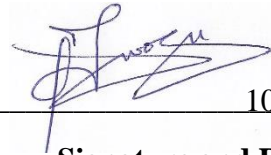
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## **DECLARATION**

I, **NWOGU, FRED (18PAE01768)** declares that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr Muiyiwa Oladosun of the Department of Economic and Development Studies, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria. I attest that the dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data and scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

**NWOGU, FRED**



10/3/2021

**Signature and Date**

## CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled **“KNOWLEDGE AND RISK PERCEPTIONS ABOUT MALARIA AND USE OF BEDNETS AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN NIGERIA”** is an original research work carried out by NWOGU, FRED (18PAE01768) in the Department of Economics and Development Studies, College of Management and Social Sciences, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr Muyiwa Oladosun. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science in Demography and Social Statistics.

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## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to my younger children, Shalom and Zoe for their sacrifices during the period of this programme.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

ARFH	Association for Reproductive and Family Health
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
GRA	Government Reservation Areas
IHME	Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation
IPTp	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria in pregnancy
IRS	Indoor Residual Spraying
ITN	Insecticide Treated Net
LLINs	Long-Lasting Insecticide-treated nets
LSM	Larval Source Management
MIS	Malaria Indicator Survey
NCDC	Nigeria Centre for Disease Control
NDHS	Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey
NMSP	National Malaria Strategic Plans
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NPC	National Population Commission
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation

## ABSTRACT

Malaria is a major public health problem in Nigeria. This study was carried out to assess knowledge and risk perception about malaria and bednets use among married women and children under-5 in Nigeria. Knowledge has been studied extensively in the literature, but risk perception about malaria has not been studied in details. The study categorised knowledge into three: (1) malaria can be cured by medicine, (2) malaria can lead to death, (3) only children can die from malaria. Risk perception was categorised into two: (1) no worry about malaria due to easy treatment, (2) know people sick with malaria. Also, bednets utilisation was categorised into two (1) type of mosquito bed nets slept under last night (2) children under five slept under a mosquito bed net. The study used data from 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS). Bivariate and multivariate analyses were used to determine the relationships among, and effects on the variables at  $p\text{-value} < 0.05$  level of significance. Out of a total of 28,888 women surveyed, the result shows that 58 per cent were aged 30 years and above. Findings from the study show that there was a significant bivariate relationship between socio-demographic factors and married women's knowledge and risk perception about malaria. The knowledge that malaria can be cured by medicine was highest (94.3 per cent) among women in the North-West ( $p\text{-value} = 0.000$ ). About 56.3 per cent of women with the educational attainment of secondary/higher level reported that they have no worries about malaria due to easy treatment ( $p\text{-value} = 0.000$ ). Younger women slept more under bednet compared to older women. Hence, there is a significant association between the age of women and the use of bednet ( $p\text{-value} < 0.01$ ). Use of bednets was found to be prominent among mothers residing in rural areas (60.3 per cent) for their under-five children when compared with their counterpart in the urban centres (49.7 per cent). The odds ratio for risk perception about malaria depicts that older mothers that know people who are sick with malaria ( $OR = 1.11$  [ $C.I. = 1.03, 1.20$ ]) were more likely to put their children in mosquito treated bednets compared to women who don't know,  $p\text{-value} = 0.007$ . Some of the socio-demographic factors identified in the study influenced knowledge and risk perception about malaria by mothers and children under-5. In this study, risk perception about malaria influenced behaviours about bednet use among the sampled population studied. Risk perception is a crucial factor that should be factored into programme intervention to reduce malaria infection in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** malaria, use of bednets, knowledge, risk perception, children aged under-five and married women.