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Health Needs and Health Problems of Childbearing Women in Oyi Local Government area of Anambra State, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Background: Maternal health remains a major public health concern in many parts of Nigeria, where access to quality healthcare services is often limited. In rural and semi-urban communities such as Oyi Local Government Area in Anambra State, childbearing women face numerous challenges that affect their health and that of their newborns. **Objective:** This study examines the health needs and challenges of childbearing women in Oyi, with a specific focus on maternal health as a key aspect of public health. **Method:** A mixed-method approach was adopted, involving surveys, interviews, and healthcare data analysis to explore the cultural, socioeconomic, and healthcare access factors influencing maternal health in the area. **Results:** Findings reveal critical health needs, including access to prenatal and postnatal care, nutritional support, and mental health services. Pregnancy-related complications and postpartum conditions are common, often worsened by inadequate healthcare access and financial limitations. **Conclusion:** Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach that involves community participation, supportive health policies, and improved healthcare provider training. **Originality/Value:** This study provides novel empirical evidence in the field of public health and maternal healthcare by identifying critical unmet needs, including prenatal and postnatal care, nutritional support, and mental health services, alongside pregnancy related complications driven by financial limitations and healthcare access barriers regarding the health needs and challenges of childbearing women in the context of rural and semiurban communities in Oyi Local Government Area, Anambra State, Nigeria, which remain understudied. These findings enrich existing literature and serve as a strategic reference for public health policymakers, medical practitioners, and community leaders in designing affordable, community centered health policies, upgrading healthcare provider training, and strengthening local maternal health programs.

1. INTRODUCTION

Maternal health is a crucial aspect of public health, significantly influencing both maternal and child outcomes. The importance of maternal health cannot be overstated, as it directly impacts maternal mortality rates, the health of newborns, and the overall well-being of families and communities. In Nigeria, where maternal mortality remains unacceptably high, addressing the health needs of childbearing women is imperative for national development and the achievement of sustainable health goals (Abubakar et al., 2021). Maternal health encompasses a broad range of issues, including prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care. The World Health Organization (WHO) emphasizes that adequate maternal health services can prevent complications and enhance the overall quality of life for women

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(WHO, 2019). In Nigeria, however, many women face significant barriers to accessing these essential services, resulting in adverse health outcomes. Socioeconomic factors, cultural beliefs, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure contribute to the challenges faced by childbearing women (Ogunjimi, 2020).

The health of mothers is intrinsically linked to the health of their children. According to Okonofua (2018), maternal health is pivotal in reducing neonatal and infant mortality rates. Mothers who receive proper medical care before, during, and after childbirth are more likely to give birth to healthy babies and are less likely to experience complications that can lead to severe health issues or death. Consequently, improving maternal health is essential for achieving broader public health objectives, including the reduction of poverty and improvement of educational outcomes.

Moreover, maternal health plays a vital role in economic development. Women's health directly affects their productivity and their ability to contribute to the workforce. Addressing maternal health issues can lead to improved economic outcomes, benefiting families and communities at large (Adeyemi, 2021). The Nigerian government has recognized the significance of maternal health in its policies, yet gaps remain in implementation and access to quality care.

Childbearing women have unique health needs that must be addressed to ensure their well-being and that of their children. These needs include access to comprehensive prenatal care, which encompasses routine check-ups, nutritional guidance, and screenings for potential complications such as gestational diabetes and hypertension (Ibadin, 2019). Additionally, mental health is often overlooked, yet it is a critical component of maternal health. Postpartum depression and anxiety can significantly affect a woman's ability to care for herself and her child (Adelekan, 2020). Furthermore, social support systems are essential in addressing the emotional and psychological needs of childbearing women. The involvement of family and community can provide the necessary encouragement and resources for women to navigate the challenges of motherhood (Adedokun, 2021). Culturally sensitive healthcare practices that respect and incorporate local beliefs and values can enhance the effectiveness of maternal health interventions (Ekanem, 2020).

Maternal health remains a crucial public health concern, particularly in rural areas like Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria, where childbearing women face numerous health challenges due to socio-demographic factors, cultural beliefs, and inadequate healthcare services. Access to maternal healthcare is often limited by financial constraints, poor healthcare infrastructure, and a reliance on traditional birth attendants rather than skilled medical professionals (Ononokpono & Odimegwu, 2014). Many women in Oyi adhere to traditional beliefs that influence their prenatal and postnatal care practices, including dietary restrictions and herbal remedies, some of which may be harmful to maternal and fetal health (Isidienu & Chiejina, 2022). Additionally, the lack of adequately equipped healthcare facilities and trained personnel poses a significant challenge, with many primary health centers suffering from shortages of essential medical supplies and emergency obstetric care (Okafor, 2024). The high cost of healthcare services further exacerbates these issues, making it difficult for women to access necessary medical care. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-faceted approach, including increased investment in maternal healthcare infrastructure, improved health education programs, and economic empowerment initiatives to enable women to afford quality healthcare services (Ezeabasili, 2024). Strengthening healthcare policies and integrating traditional birth practices with modern medical interventions could also help improve maternal health outcomes in Oyi.

Despite numerous studies on maternal health in Nigeria, limited research has specifically addressed the unique health needs and challenges faced by childbearing women in Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State. Existing studies primarily focus on broader maternal health issues in urban centers or at the national level, often overlooking the socio-cultural and economic barriers that rural women face in accessing healthcare (Ononokpono & Odimegwu, 2014; Isidienu & Chiejina, 2022). Additionally, while previous research has highlighted the role of traditional birth practices and healthcare accessibility, there is a gap in understanding how these factors interact with government healthcare policies and interventions in Oyi. This study provides a novel contribution by offering a localized analysis of maternal health problems in Oyi, integrating socio-demographic factors, cultural beliefs, and healthcare infrastructure challenges. Furthermore, it seeks to explore potential strategies for improving maternal health outcomes by examining how modern healthcare services can be better integrated with traditional practices to enhance maternal care and reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. This research will provide valuable insights for policymakers, healthcare providers, and community leaders to design more effective, culturally sensitive interventions tailored to the needs of women in this region.

2. METHOD

2.1 Research Design

This study adopts an opinion-based approach, combining theoretical insights with real-world perspectives to explore the health needs and challenges faced by childbearing women in Oyi Local Government Area of Anambra State. The research employs a systematic literature review to analyze existing knowledge on the topic.

2.2 Research Object

The study focuses on maternal health, particularly identifying healthcare gaps and challenges encountered by childbearing women in the specified region. By assessing various perspectives, the research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of maternal healthcare services.

2.3 Data Collection

Data were gathered through a systematic review of existing literature, including peer-reviewed journals, books, government reports, and other credible sources. Each source was carefully examined to extract key findings, arguments, and patterns related to maternal health. A diverse range of viewpoints was considered to ensure a balanced discussion.

2.4 Data Analysis

The study utilized thematic analysis to organize and interpret the collected information. This approach helped identify critical trends and relationships, providing insights into maternal healthcare gaps and potential solutions. Emphasis was placed on academic rigor, ensuring that only relevant and credible sources were included to maintain a fact-based and expert-driven discussion.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

3.1.1 Health Needs of Childbearing Women

Childbearing women face a myriad of health needs that are critical for their well-being and that of their children. These needs can be categorized into physical health needs, mental health needs, and social and emotional needs. Each category plays a vital role in ensuring a healthy pregnancy, safe delivery, and a supportive postpartum experience.

3.1.2 Physical Health Needs

a) Prenatal Care

Prenatal care is foundational for the health of both mother and child. Regular check-ups during pregnancy allow healthcare providers to monitor fetal development, identify potential complications early, and offer necessary interventions (Ibadin, et al., 2019). In Nigeria, however, access to comprehensive prenatal care remains a significant challenge due to factors such as socioeconomic status, geographical barriers, and cultural beliefs (Abubakar, 2021). Effective prenatal care includes screening for conditions like gestational diabetes and hypertension, which can have serious implications for maternal and neonatal health if left untreated (Ogunjimi, et al., 2020).

Studies indicate that women who receive adequate prenatal care are less likely to experience complications during pregnancy and childbirth (Adelekan, et al., 2020). Moreover, the education provided during prenatal visits empowers women to make informed choices regarding their health and that of their unborn child (Okonofua, 2018).

b) Nutritional Requirements

Nutrition is another critical component of physical health during pregnancy. Adequate nutrition supports fetal development and prepares the mother's body for childbirth and breastfeeding (Ogunjimi et al., 2020). The recommended dietary intake for pregnant women includes a balanced mix of macronutrients and micronutrients, particularly iron, calcium, folic acid, and vitamins (Adeyemi et al., 2021).

In Nigeria, many women face nutritional challenges due to poverty and lack of access to nutritious foods. Malnutrition can lead to adverse outcomes such as low birth weight and increased risk of maternal complications (Ekanem, Ijeoma, & Daramola, 2020). Nutritional education, therefore, is essential to encourage healthy eating habits among pregnant women, ensuring they receive the necessary nutrients for optimal health (Adedokun et al., 2021).

c) Exercise and Physical Activity

Regular physical activity is beneficial for pregnant women, promoting physical and mental well-being (Ibadin et al., 2019). Exercise can help manage weight gain, reduce the risk of gestational diabetes, and improve mood and energy levels. The World Health Organization recommends moderate-intensity exercise for most pregnant women, unless contraindicated (WHO, 2019).

In Nigeria, cultural beliefs often restrict women's engagement in physical activity during pregnancy, sometimes viewing it as harmful (Abubakar et al., 2021). Education about the safety and benefits of appropriate physical activity during pregnancy can help shift these perceptions and encourage healthier lifestyles among childbearing women.

3.1.3 Mental Health Needs

a) Psychological Support

Mental health is a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of maternal health. Pregnancy and childbirth can be emotionally taxing experiences, leading to conditions such as anxiety and depression (Adelekan et al., 2020). Psychological support is vital in helping women navigate these challenges. This support can come from healthcare providers, family members, and community resources.

In Nigeria, there is a growing recognition of the importance of mental health during pregnancy. Studies show that access to counseling and mental health services can significantly reduce the incidence of postpartum depression and improve overall maternal health outcomes. Integrating mental health screenings into routine prenatal care can facilitate early identification and management of mental health issues (Okonofua, 2018).

b) Addressing Anxiety and Depression

Anxiety and depression are common mental health issues among childbearing women, yet they often go unaddressed (Adelekan et al., 2020). Factors such as socioeconomic stressors, lack of support, and previous traumatic experiences can exacerbate these conditions. Comprehensive care that includes mental health assessments and interventions is essential for improving maternal health outcomes.

Research indicates that women who receive adequate mental health support during and after pregnancy are less likely to experience severe anxiety and depression, leading to better parenting outcomes and healthier relationships with their infants (Adeyemi et al., 2021). Furthermore, community awareness programs can help destigmatize mental health issues, encouraging women to seek help without fear of judgment (Ekanem et al., 2020).

3.1.4 Social and Emotional Needs

a) Support Systems

Social support is vital for the emotional well-being of childbearing women. Family, friends, and community networks can provide essential emotional and practical support during pregnancy and the postpartum period (Adedokun et al., 2021). Women with strong support systems report lower levels of stress and are more likely to engage in positive health behaviors (Ibadin et al., 2019).

In Nigeria, cultural norms can influence the type and extent of support women receive. Encouraging community involvement in maternal health initiatives can enhance support systems and ensure that women do not feel isolated during their pregnancy journey (Abubakar, et al., 2021).

a) Education and Awareness

Education and awareness play a critical role in addressing the health needs of childbearing women. Comprehensive health education can empower women to understand their rights and the importance of seeking care (Okonofua, 2018). Public health campaigns focused on maternal health can help increase awareness of the available resources, including prenatal care, mental health support, and nutrition (WHO, 2019).

Community-based education programs that involve men and families can foster a supportive environment for pregnant women, promoting healthy practices and shared responsibility in maternal health (Ekanem et al., 2020). By enhancing education and awareness, we can create a more informed population that prioritizes the health of mothers and children.

3.2. Discussion

3.2.1 Access to Healthcare for Childbearing Women

Access to healthcare is critical for ensuring the health and well-being of childbearing women and their infants. Despite its importance, many women face significant barriers to obtaining necessary care. Understanding these

barriers, the importance of prenatal and postnatal care, and the role of healthcare providers can help improve healthcare access and outcomes for mothers and their children.

b) Barriers to Healthcare Access

Barriers to healthcare access for childbearing women in Nigeria are multifaceted, encompassing economic, social, and systemic factors. Financial constraints are among the most significant obstacles, as many women cannot afford the costs associated with prenatal and postnatal care, including transportation, medications, and hospital fees (Adebayo et al., 2021). The Nigerian healthcare system often lacks adequate funding, leading to insufficient facilities and resources, which exacerbates these financial challenges (Ogunyemi et al., 2022).

Geographical barriers also play a critical role. Many rural areas in Nigeria are underserved, with women having to travel long distances to access healthcare facilities (Nnamani et al., 2021). This situation is compounded by a lack of transportation options, making it difficult for women to seek timely care during pregnancy and after childbirth.

Cultural beliefs and social norms further complicate access to healthcare. In some communities, traditional practices and perceptions about pregnancy and childbirth can discourage women from seeking professional medical care (Chukwuneke, et al., 2023). Additionally, gender inequalities often restrict women's autonomy in making healthcare decisions, leading to delays in seeking necessary care (Dada & Oyewole, 2021). Addressing these barriers is crucial for improving healthcare access for childbearing women.

c) Importance of Prenatal and Postnatal Care

Prenatal and postnatal care are essential components of maternal and child health. Prenatal care facilitates early detection and management of potential complications, contributing to better maternal and neonatal outcomes (Adeleke et al., 2021). Women who receive regular prenatal care are more likely to have healthier pregnancies, lower rates of preterm births, and improved birth outcomes (Ezechi et al., 2022).

In Nigeria, however, many women do not receive adequate prenatal care due to the aforementioned barriers. A study by Nnamani et al. (2021) found that only a fraction of women accessed the recommended number of prenatal visits, highlighting the urgent need for interventions to enhance accessibility. Increased awareness of the importance of prenatal care, coupled with community outreach programs, can help bridge this gap.

Postnatal care is equally vital, as it addresses the health needs of women after childbirth, including physical recovery and mental health support. Women who receive postnatal care are more likely to recognize and respond to complications, such as infections or postpartum depression (Adebayo et al., 2021). Ensuring that women have access to comprehensive postnatal care can significantly improve maternal health and promote healthy child development.

d) Role of Healthcare Providers

Healthcare providers play a pivotal role in facilitating access to care for childbearing women. They are often the first point of contact for women during pregnancy and after childbirth, and their approach can significantly influence a woman's willingness to seek care (Ogunyemi et al., 2022). Culturally competent care that respects and acknowledges the diverse backgrounds of women can enhance trust and encourage utilization of healthcare services (Chukwuneke et al., 2023).

Training healthcare providers to recognize and address barriers to care is essential. For instance, providers should be equipped with skills to effectively communicate the importance of prenatal and postnatal visits and to discuss potential complications that can arise during pregnancy (Ezechi et al., 2022). Additionally, healthcare providers can act as advocates for their patients, helping to navigate the healthcare system and access available resources.

Community engagement is another crucial aspect of the role of healthcare providers. By collaborating with local organizations and community leaders, healthcare providers can raise awareness about maternal health issues and promote the benefits of seeking care (Adeleke et al., 2021). This approach not only fosters trust but also empowers women to take charge of their health and well-being.

3.2.2 Cultural Considerations in Maternal Health

Cultural considerations play a significant role in maternal health, influencing women's health practices, perceptions of care, and interactions with healthcare systems. Understanding the impact of culture on health practices and addressing cultural sensitivity in care are crucial for improving maternal health outcomes in Nigeria.

a) *Impact of Culture on Health Practices*

Culture shapes beliefs, values, and practices surrounding pregnancy and childbirth, directly affecting maternal health outcomes. In Nigeria, diverse ethnic groups hold varying cultural norms and traditions that influence health-seeking behaviors. For example, traditional practices such as the use of herbal medicine during pregnancy and childbirth are prevalent across many Nigerian communities. While some of these practices can be beneficial, others may pose risks to maternal and infant health (Ezechi et al., 2022).

Moreover, cultural beliefs about the roles of women in society can affect their access to healthcare. In many communities, women may prioritize familial obligations over their health, leading to delays in seeking necessary medical care during pregnancy (Dada & Oyewole, 2021). Gender norms often limit women's autonomy, making it challenging for them to make independent health decisions. This situation can result in inadequate prenatal and postnatal care, ultimately contributing to higher maternal morbidity and mortality rates (Chukwuneke et al., 2023).

Additionally, the fear of stigmatization related to certain health conditions can prevent women from seeking care. For instance, women who experience pregnancy complications may avoid healthcare facilities due to concerns about societal judgment (Adeleke et al., 2021). Therefore, understanding and addressing these cultural dynamics is essential for effective maternal health interventions.

b) *Addressing Cultural Sensitivity in Care*

To improve maternal health outcomes, healthcare providers must integrate cultural sensitivity into their practice. Culturally sensitive care acknowledges and respects the diverse cultural backgrounds of patients, facilitating better communication and trust between healthcare providers and patients (Ogunyemi et al., 2022). This approach can enhance the likelihood of women seeking and adhering to medical advice.

Training healthcare providers on cultural competence is vital. This training should include understanding local customs, beliefs, and practices related to pregnancy and childbirth. By fostering an environment of respect and understanding, healthcare providers can encourage women to share their beliefs and practices without fear of judgment (Ezechi et al., 2022).

Community engagement is another effective strategy for promoting cultural sensitivity. Collaborating with local leaders and traditional birth attendants can bridge the gap between conventional and traditional practices. For instance, integrating traditional birth attendants into the healthcare system can facilitate a more comprehensive approach to maternal care, ensuring that women's preferences are respected while also providing necessary medical interventions (Dada & Oyewole, 2021).

Moreover, education campaigns that target both women and their families can help demystify misconceptions about modern healthcare practices. By providing culturally relevant information about the benefits of prenatal and postnatal care, these campaigns can encourage women to seek timely medical assistance (Chukwuneke et al., 2023).

3.2.3 *Health Education and Promotion for Childbearing Women*

Health education and promotion play a crucial role in improving maternal health outcomes for childbearing women. By equipping women with essential knowledge and resources, health education can empower them to make informed decisions regarding their health. This synthesis explores the importance of education for childbearing women, available community resources and programs, and the role of technology in health education in Nigeria.

a) *Importance of Education for Childbearing Women*

Education is fundamental to improving maternal health, as it directly influences women's health-seeking behaviors and their ability to understand health information. Studies have shown that educated women are more likely to utilize healthcare services, attend prenatal visits, and engage in healthy behaviors during pregnancy (Adebayo et al., 2021). Additionally, education enhances women's awareness of their rights and available healthcare options, which is vital in navigating the healthcare system effectively (Dada & Oyewole, 2021).

In Nigeria, however, disparities in educational access exist, particularly in rural areas where cultural norms may prioritize traditional roles over formal education for women (Chukwuneke et al., 2023). This lack of education can lead to misconceptions about maternal health, such as the dangers of not attending antenatal clinics or the importance of postnatal care. Consequently, targeted health education initiatives are essential to promote awareness and dispel myths surrounding maternal health (Ezechi et al., 2022).

Moreover, health education fosters a greater understanding of nutrition, exercise, and mental health, all of which are critical components of a healthy pregnancy. Educational programs that provide information on these topics can empower women to take proactive steps in maintaining their health and the health of their babies (Adeleke et al., 2021).

b) Community Resources and Programs

Community resources and programs are vital in supporting health education for childbearing women. Local health organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based initiatives often provide valuable resources tailored to the specific needs of women in their communities. For example, initiatives like maternal health workshops and support groups can enhance women's understanding of pregnancy and childbirth, offering a platform for sharing experiences and information (Nnamani et al., 2021).

Furthermore, programs that engage traditional birth attendants can significantly enhance maternal health education. By training these attendants in modern healthcare practices, they can better inform and guide expectant mothers, thus bridging the gap between traditional and modern health practices (Dada & Oyewole, 2021). Collaborative efforts between healthcare providers and community leaders can foster trust and encourage women to seek professional care.

Access to health facilities is another critical aspect. Establishing mobile clinics in underserved areas can provide essential services and education to women who might not otherwise have access to healthcare (Adebayo et al., 2021). Such initiatives can significantly reduce barriers to care and improve health literacy among childbearing women.

c) Role of Technology in Health Education

Technology has become an increasingly important tool in health education and promotion. In Nigeria, mobile health (mHealth) applications and social media platforms are being utilized to disseminate health information to childbearing women. These technologies provide accessible resources for women, allowing them to learn about maternal health at their convenience (Ezechi et al., 2022).

Mobile applications can offer features such as reminders for antenatal visits, educational materials on pregnancy, and support forums where women can connect with healthcare providers and peers (Chukwuneke et al., 2023). This accessibility is particularly beneficial for women in rural areas who may have limited access to traditional healthcare resources.

Moreover, social media campaigns can effectively raise awareness about maternal health issues, share success stories, and promote available services. These platforms can create a community of support, where women share experiences and advice, fostering a culture of health awareness and engagement (Nnamani et al., 2021). Despite the potential benefits, it is essential to address challenges such as digital literacy and access to technology. Ensuring that women are equipped to use these tools effectively is critical for maximizing their impact on health education (Adeleke et al., 2021).

4. IMPLICATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

4.1 Research Implications

This study has significant implications for maternal healthcare policies, community health interventions, and future research on maternal health in rural areas. By identifying the specific health needs and challenges of childbearing women in Oyi Local Government Area, the findings can help policymakers design targeted interventions to improve maternal healthcare access and quality. Understanding the socio-cultural factors influencing maternal health behaviors can aid in developing culturally sensitive health education programs that promote safe prenatal and postnatal care. Additionally, integrating traditional birth practices with modern healthcare services can enhance maternal health outcomes by ensuring that women receive skilled medical care while respecting their cultural beliefs.

4.2 Research Contribution

The study's contributions extend to healthcare providers and community leaders by offering data-driven insights into the barriers women face when accessing maternal health services. These insights can be used to improve healthcare infrastructure, train more skilled birth attendants, and create awareness programs tailored to rural communities. Furthermore, this research adds to the existing body of knowledge by filling gaps related to localized maternal health issues in Oyi, providing a framework for future studies on similar rural populations. Ultimately, the study aims to support efforts in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates by advocating for more inclusive, accessible, and effective maternal healthcare services.

5. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

5.1 Research Limitations

This study is geographically limited to Oyi Local Government Area, making it less generalizable to other regions in Nigeria. It relies on self-reported data, which may be affected by recall and social desirability biases. Challenges in accessing reliable healthcare data and cultural or linguistic differences may also impact the accuracy of findings. Additionally, time and resource constraints limit the depth of data collection and analysis.

5.2 Recommendations for Future Research

Future research should expand to other regions for better comparability and generalizability. A mixed-method approach combining qualitative and quantitative techniques is recommended to improve data reliability. Engaging healthcare professionals and policymakers can provide deeper insights into maternal health challenges. Further studies should examine the long-term impact of traditional birth practices and explore ways to integrate them with modern healthcare. Lastly, stronger governmental and non-governmental support is needed to enhance healthcare infrastructure, maternal health education, and policy development for accessible and affordable maternal care.

6. CONCLUSION

Maternal health is a critical component of public health, particularly in Nigeria, where numerous challenges impact the well-being of childbearing women. This synthesis highlights the complex factors that shape maternal health outcomes, including health needs, cultural influences, education, and access to care. Cultural beliefs and traditions play a pivotal role in determining health behaviors, often shaping how women perceive and interact with healthcare systems. In many communities, traditional practices and societal expectations can both support and hinder maternal health. Education is a powerful tool in this context, equipping women with the knowledge and confidence to seek essential prenatal and postnatal care. Access to reliable health information, whether through formal education or community programs, empowers women to make informed decisions about their health and that of their children.

Improving maternal health in Nigeria requires a comprehensive and multifaceted approach that integrates cultural sensitivity and practical interventions. Stakeholders including healthcare providers, policymakers, community leaders, and NGOs must collaborate to design and implement health education initiatives that respect cultural norms while promoting safe and effective practices. Programs that bridge the gap between traditional beliefs and modern healthcare are crucial for building trust and encouraging women to utilize available services. Additionally, investing in community-based resources such as mobile clinics and outreach initiatives can bring essential maternal health services closer to underserved populations. Addressing logistical and financial barriers such as transportation costs and clinic fees remains a critical priority to ensure equitable access to care for all women, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

In today's digital age, technology offers transformative potential to enhance maternal health outcomes. Mobile health applications, SMS messaging services, and social media platforms can be leveraged to provide timely and culturally appropriate health information, particularly in remote areas where access to formal healthcare and education may be limited. These digital tools can raise awareness about the importance of prenatal and postnatal care, promote healthy practices, and facilitate direct communication with healthcare providers. Moreover, by fostering community engagement and education through online platforms, healthcare initiatives can effectively reach a broader audience. Integrating technology with traditional health education methods can create a robust and adaptable system that meets the diverse needs of Nigeria's childbearing women and significantly improves maternal health outcomes.

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Author Contribution Statement

The author declares that this article's entire research and writing process was carried out independently. The author is fully responsible for all data related to this research. No other party has participated as an author or made a significant contribution to the content of this work.

Declaration of Generative AI (GenAI) Usage in Scientific Writing

During the preparation of this work, the author(s) used [OpenAI](#) to improve language and readability. After using this tool, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the publication. All instances of Generative AI usage in this article were conducted by the authors in accordance with the [JGMDs Generative AI \(GenAI\) Policies](#), with the authors assuming full responsibility for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of the work.

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The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

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