

Report of 3rd Annual GFMER Scientific Session, Kaduna, Nigeria

Saturday 19th May 2018

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***Organized by: Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) in Partnership with
Graduates of GFMER- SRHR Graduates in Nigeria***

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Acknowledgements

This report has been prepared by Dr. Aisha Abubakar Sadiq Nigeria's Country coordinator for Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER) and Graduate of the online course on sexual and reproductive health research (SRHR 2014). The session was facilitated by Dr Aisha Abubakar Sadiq and Field Epidemiology Residents; Dr Samson Salau (NFELTP) and Dr Yahaya Aperki.

The organizers appreciate the support of GFMER, Switzerland and the entire faculty and staff of its online sexual and reproductive health research course.

The organizers are also grateful to GFMER-SRHR In country Graduates, Post graduate MPH students of ABU Zaria, Staff of Legacy School-Kaduna State and Miss Laurah Hafiz for assisting with planning and technical support for the event.

I express my profound gratitude and regards to the following persons, who consistently contributed their time in secretarial and technical support at the session: Associate Prof Abdullahi Jibrin Randawa, Dr Stephen Bature, Dr Waziri Garba Dahiru, Dr Abdul-Rahman Shehu, Dr Amina Mohammed- Baloni, Late. Professor Andrew Nok (Former Commissioner Ministry of health/human services). I acknowledge Mr. Qasim (School Administrator Legacy School), Miss Iyati and Mr. Haruna (Planning Unit-SMoH & HS) for ensuring a well-organized/ catered session.

We acknowledge the continued support and commitment of GFMER / partners in providing training to healthcare workers especially in sub-Saharan Africa with existing barriers in access to qualitative post-graduate education in sexual and reproductive health.

Dr Aishatu Abubakar Sadiq

Country Coordinator GFMER, Switzerland

State Epidemiologist- Kaduna State

June 2018

Background

Since 2003 the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER), in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partner institutions, has organized a training course on sexual and reproductive health research. The course focuses on research methodology and attracts participation of health professionals from different countries and particularly from developing countries. In order to reach more health professionals, in 2010 GFMER in collaboration with world health organization (WHO) and other partners launched the online course on sexual and reproductive health research. "From Research to Practice: Training Course in Sexual and Reproductive Health Research" that offers a training package specially developed for those health professionals involved in research, whose access to learning is limited by time, financial resources or other constraints and for whom access to quality education and learning is limited. The program is designed to meet a wide range of contemporary issues in sexual and reproductive health, especially in developing countries. It helps students to better identify the problems related to reproductive and sexual health, it helps to improve the skills of caregivers, and it promotes good practices.

Selected Participants from the GFMER online course in sexual and reproductive health research (SRHR) spend one week in Geneva at an intensive research workshop. Some graduates continue with the foundation as country advisors and co-coordinators responsible for supporting training and dissemination of information on the foundation and its training programmes. The foundation in 2011 in partnership with the MacArthur foundation organized a training session for healthcare workers in Sokoto state, Nigeria. Other Country Level events held include; Annual Scientific sessions in 2016 & 2017 and an Advocacy Visit and signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for CME certification with Nigeria Medical Association (NMA). These activities have been well received and commended by stakeholders within the health sector.

This one day scientific and information session served to updated information on new certificate courses available with GFMER, Switzerland, provide further training and research opportunities for health care workers in the field of human reproduction through provision of a forum to discuss relevant scientific developments/research in the field and create support from Partner NGOs In country in financial support for Reproductive health officers to study the online course. The session was organized around the themes; Family Planning, Leadership & Management for health research and Child Health. **(See Table 1 for workshop agenda).**

The main objectives of the one-day session were to; introduce stakeholders to new certificate courses with GFMER, provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss projects on relevant key areas, to establish and strengthen linkages between Reproductive and child health officers in Government and partner NGOs and to encourage open and interactive discussions on existing challenges to in country research in sexual and reproductive health.

Keynote address:

1. *Topic: " Changing Population Dynamics and Utilization of Family Planning Options in Nigeria"*

Dr Stephen Bature

Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

HOD Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Barau Dikko Teaching Hospital, Kaduna State

Subthemes:

1. *" Introduction to GFMER, Switzerland and Restructuring Online courses for sexual and reproductive health research Training"*

Dr Aishatu Abubakar-Sadiq

Country coordinator GFMER, Switzerland

2. *"Leadership & Management for Health Related Research in Nigeria"*

Dr Waziri Garba Dahiru

Site Coordinator University of Washington Training course in Leadership/management for health/

Consultant Pathologist ABUTH, Zaria

3. *" Review of Early Child Development (ECD) in Nigeria: Any Progress made?"*

Dr Aishatu Abubakar-Sadiq

Country coordinator GFMER, Switzerland

Profile of the Participants

40 participants who attended the workshop were selected from departments of obstetrics & gynecology in tertiary health facilities, WHO, MNCH2, CHAI, UNICEF, NURHI, UNFPA, State Ministry of health, media, Nursing/midwifery council, Nigeria Medical association (NMA), Kaduna State University (KASU), Federation of Muslim women's association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), Midwives service scheme (MSS), National Primary healthcare development Agency (NPHCDA), State Primary healthcare development Agency (KSPHCDA) and Christian Health. Participants comprised of Medical Doctors, Nurses, Child Health and reproductive health officers from Key organizations. There were 28 women and 12 men in attendance for the session.

Performance and end of session feedback

The session lasted from 9:30am-2:30pm with presentations along thematic areas; Child health, Family planning and Leadership & Management for health related research. The main points raised in discussions following the Keynote address included:

- Female Partner refusing Male partner sterilization as a means of permanent contraception in Nigeria
- The existence of differences in fertility rates among the country's 6 geopolitical zones and the need for zone specific interventions to address the high fertility rates.
- The relationship between family planning, poverty and HIV/AIDS
- Family planning is a developmental and Not a social issue.
- The role of Family Planning in PMTCT, its being one of the 4 elements
- The need to increase utilization of post-partum contraception, use of IUCDs especially among multiparous women with a history of short inter-pregnancy intervals.
- The role of Husband's consent and male partner involvement in Family Planning Choices
- The role of religion and perception of right to fertility choices for women in Sub- Saharan Africa.

On conclusion of the Review of early child development, the following were raised by participants:

- The need to ensure the lectures were presented to educationists and Parents of Young Children in order to draw attention to entry points during child development critical to molding adult behaviour and productivity in country.
- The relevance of early child development in utero and role of disadvantages inherent in the mother e.g. nutrition in subsequent child health and development was highlighted.

Participants commended GFMER's commitment to improving sexual and reproductive health training and providing annual opportunities to discuss relevant/emerging topics in a scientific session. The well-organized Nature of the event and quality of facilitation were also commended. Five (5) CME credits were awarded to participants at the end of the session by Nigeria Medical Association (NMA).

Each facilitator received a recycled brown paper bag with monogrammed Leather diaries, Iced Tea carrier and a face towel. All participants received Monogrammed Leather notebooks, Pens and hard copies of the SRHR course brochure/SRHR Course guide in reusable Bags. E-copies of all presentations and SRHR materials were sent to participants on conclusion of the workshop.

Agenda

3rd GFMER SCIENTIFIC AND INFORMATION SESSION-NIGERIA, 19th MAY 2018

S/N	TOPIC	TIME	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1	Opening Prayers	9:45am	All
2	Introduction	9:50am	Dr Lami Samaila WHO
3	Opening Remarks	10:00am	Dr Aisha Abubakar-S CC GFMER
4	Keynote Lecture: “ Changing Population dynamics and utilization of family Planning Options in Nigeria” Q & A	10:30am- 11:30am	Dr Stephen Bature- BDTH /Prof. Abdullahi Randawa- ABUTH
5	Group Picture	11:30 am - 11:45am	All
6	Lecture: -GFMER Certificate courses 2018: A modified approach to Sexual and Reproductive Health Research Training” -Early Child Development (ECD) Q & A	11:45am- 12:30pm 12: 30pm- 1:00pm	Dr Aisha Abubakar-S
7	Lecture: Leadership and Management for health related research: Mentoring SRHR researchers Q & A	1:00pm – 2: 00pm	Dr Waziri Garba Dahiru- UW Leadership/ Management/ ABUTH
9	Lunch/Prayers	2:00pm – 2:25pm	All
10	Discussions & Closing	2:25pm – 2:45pm	Dr Aisha AS

Pictures



