AN ANALYSIS OF DETERMINANTS OF CHILD MORTALITY IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF KANO AND GOMBE AREAS OF NORTHERN NIGERIA

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i

ABSTRACT

Child mortality is a death of child before reaching fifth birthday. An inequality exists in the prevalence of this phenomenon between high-income and low-income countries and also between wealthiest and poorest population quintiles. This inequality took more social features than biological. The World Health Statistics series of 2014 perceives savings the lives of more children by ending preventable child deaths through reducing these inequalities across nations and individuals. A multi-stage cluster sample of 469 household members with status of father/mother was selected and quantitative data were collected from them through a combination of self administered and interviewer administered methods. The tested variables were categorised as micro- related to individuals' socioeconomic status, education and awareness, and cultural belief and practices- and macro- policy determinant factors. The unrotated matrix of factor analysis shows 4 issues- drainage system, living environment, access to sources of clean water, sewage and waste disposal system- as outstanding issues that together determine incidence of child mortality and also issue of preference of private clinics for child's medical attention and that of parents contributions for child's medical expenses each standing independently. The finding disconfirms assumptions on single social, economic or cultural factor to be considered as determinant of high prevalence of child mortality. Rotation of the factor matrix, further, reduced the factors into three distinct clusters of variables which are defined as poor public health Policy, absence of child health care acts, and income insecurity which are all policy related factors with one variable- corrupt administrations and mismanagement- which relates somewhat equally to all the three factors, while another variable- individual's ability- stands largely alone. Cramer's V statistics was used to measure associations and it confirms relationships between the independent variables (socioeconomic status, education and awareness, cultural practices, support from private sources, and health policies) with the dependent variable (child mortality). It was concluded that, high rates of child mortality signifies administrative failures than individual failures, and this assertion was supported with views from health care professionals and administrative workers.

Key Words: Child Mortality, Micro Determinants, Macro Determinants, Socioeconomic Factors, Policy Related Factors