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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

School Health Instructions in Primary Schools - A Study of Gwagwalada Area Council, Federal Capital Territory Nigeria

Enseignement De La Santé Scolaire Dans Les Écoles Primaires - Une Étude Du Conseil Régional De Gwagwalada, Territoire De La Capitale Fédérale Du Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Background: School Health Instructions (SHI) entail the instructional aspect of school health programme, which provides a classroom opportunity for inculcating healthy habits into the school-age child.

Objective: To assess the status of implementation of school health instruction in primary schools in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study of 146 primary schools in the Gwagwalada Area Council of the Nigerian Federal capital was carried out to assess the implementation of SHI with respect to the contents, methods of delivery and teachers preparation for health teaching using an evaluation checklist for SHI.

Results: Of 146 schools, 115(78.8%) schools attained the minimum acceptable score of 27. Of the 40 public and 106 private schools, 27(67.5%) public and 88(83.0%) private schools attained the acceptable minimum score of 27. There was a statistically significant difference between the mean scores attained cumulatively in the various components of the school health instruction by the public and private schools ($t=2.721$, $p= 0.008$). Public schools had significantly more teachers with education-related qualifications than private schools ($p<0.001$). Teachings on HIV/ AIDS, safety education and community health were undertaken by 95.9%, 93.2% and 95.2% schools respectively. Only 5(3.4%) schools followed the recommendation of giving health instruction at least thrice a week.

Conclusion: Implementation of SHI was adequate in the study area, with a better performance among the private schools.

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Keywords: School Health Instruction, primary school, private, public, Gwagwalada Area Council, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria

ABSTRAIT

Contexte: L'enseignement de la santé à l'école (SHI) comprend l'aspect pédagogique du programme de santé scolaire, qui offre en classe la possibilité d'inculquer des habitudes saines à l'enfant d'âge scolaire.

Objectif: Évaluer l'état de la mise en œuvre de l'enseignement de la santé scolaire dans les écoles primaires du Conseil régional de Gwagwalada du territoire de la capitale fédérale, Nigéria

Méthodes: Une étude descriptive transversale de 146 écoles primaires du Conseil régional de Gwagwalada de la capitale fédérale nigériane a été menée pour évaluer la mise en œuvre de l'AMS en ce qui concerne le contenu, les méthodes de prestation et la préparation des enseignants à l'enseignement de la santé en utilisant une liste de contrôle SHI.

Résultats: Cent quinze (78,8%) écoles composées de 27 (67,5%) écoles publiques et 88 (83,0%) écoles privées ont atteint le score minimum acceptable de 27, avec une différence statistiquement significative entre les scores moyens des deux catégories d'écoles ($t=2,721$, $p= 0,008$). Les écoles publiques avaient beaucoup plus d'enseignants avec des qualifications liées à l'éducation que les écoles privées ($p < 0,001$). Des enseignements sur le VIH / SIDA, l'éducation à la sécurité et la santé communautaire ont été dispensés respectivement par 95,9%, 93,2% et 95,2% des écoles. Seulement 5 écoles (3,4%) ont suivi la recommandation de donner des cours de santé au moins trois fois par semaine.

Conclusion: La mise en œuvre de SHI a été adéquate dans la zone d'étude, avec une meilleure performance parmi les écoles privées.

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Mots clés: Enseignement de la santé à l'école, école primaire, privé, public, Conseil régional de Gwagwalada, Territoire fédéral de Capital, Nigéria

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Abbreviations: AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome; FCT: Federal Capital Territory; GAC: Gwagwalada Area Council; HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus LGA: Local Government Area; NERDC: Nigerian Education Research and Development Council; SHI: School Health Instruction; SPSS: Statistical Programme for Social Science UBE: Universal Basic Education; ZEO: Zonal Education Office