

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

EFFECTIVENESS OF CONCISE MALARIA EDUCATIONAL TRAINING ON KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES AMONG PATENTED MEDICINE VENDORS IN YOBE, NIGERIA

YAHAYA MOHAMMED KATAGUM

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By

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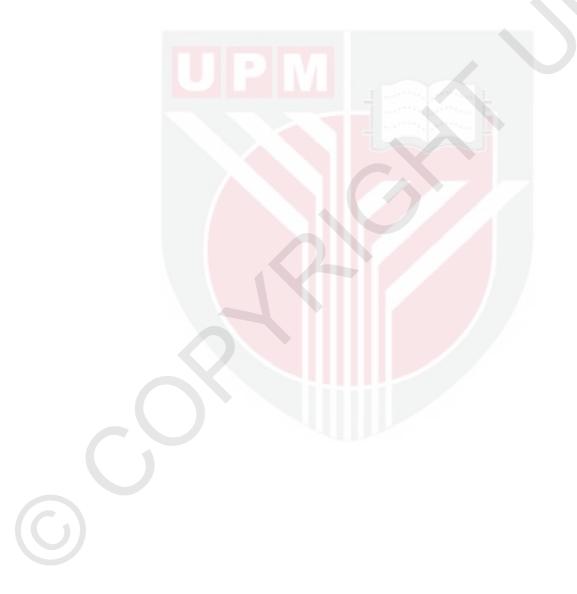
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March 2018

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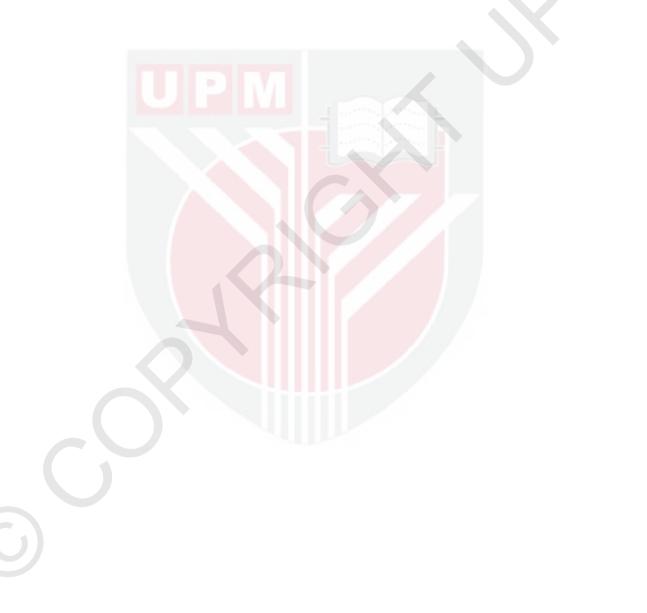
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DEDICATION

I dedicated this work to my deceased parents, my beloved wife and indeed my lovely children. Their collective support, prayers and understanding had kept me aiming higher and higher.



Abstract of this thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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March 2018

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Introduction: Over the years, malaria has been a major global public health and developmental challenge, with approximately 40% of the world's population, within the tropical and sub-tropical regions at risk. Worldwide, malaria accounts for an estimated 207 million cases leading to 627,000 deaths (0.03%) yearly. Furthermore, and paradoxically the disease is preventable, treatable and curable, thereby indicating the mortality figures being very alarming. There are no vaccines yet for malaria prevention, as such public health effort are still geared towards effective protection and drug treatment. In Nigeria, malaria is holo-endemic implying an all year round transmission and the Nigerian control strategies facing setbacks of trained manpower shortages. Thus, non-pharmacist drug retailers called Patent Medicine Vendors (PMVs) were incorporated by government to fill gaps based on WHO recommendations. But however, an assessments of PMVs performances consistently reveals lack of necessary knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) to effectively implement government strategies on malaria control. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of a developed Concise Malaria Educational Training (CONMET) on KAP among PMVs in Yobe-South district, Nigeria.

Methodology: A single-blinded and placebo effected randomised controlled trial was conducted among PMVs in the study location. A process of simple randomization was used to select and assign 292 PMV respondents into the intervention and control arms of study respectively. The development of module was based on the Information-motivation-behavioural (IMB) skills model of health behaviours. Validated pretested questionnaires were used to measure knowledge, attitude and practice at baseline, at immediate, at three months and at six months post-intervention. Data were analysed

using IBM SPSS version 23. A One way ANOVA, mixed design ANOVA and Bonferroni tests were used to assess effectiveness of the intervention. P-value of less than 0.05 was considered the point of significance and partial eta square was measure of effect size.

Results: Results of the study shows a total response rate of 99.6%. Knowledge, attitudes and practices showed statistically significant relationships with educational levels of respondents (P<0.001), while only knowledge showed significant relationship with attendance of training by PMVs (P = 0.042). A statistically significant effect of intervention on knowledge was achieved in the intervention arm with a large effect size (partial eta $\dot{\eta}^2 = 0.562$, p <0.001). The intervention also had a significant effect on respondents attitudes with large effect size ($\dot{\eta}^2 = 0.297$, p <0.001) in the intervention group. Similarly, a statistically significant effect of intervention was achieved with respect to respondents malaria practices with a large effect size ($\dot{\eta}^2 = 0.529$, p <0.001) in the intervention group as compared to the control group.

Conclusion: The CONMET intervention was found to be effective in improving knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the selected respondents. The developed module and training approaches can be adopted by government, regulatory agencies and PMV associations to improve their malaria training curriculum.

Key words: patent medicine vendors, knowledge, attitude, practice, malaria training.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

KEBERKESANAN LATIHAN DAN PENDIDIKAN MALARIA TERHADAP PENGETAHUAN, SIKAP DAN AMALAN DI KALANGAN PEMBEKAL PATEN PERUBATAN DI YOBE, NIGERIA

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Pengenalan: Setiap tahun, malaria telah menjadi masalah utama untuk kesihatan umum dan pembangunan global, yang merangkumi lebih kurang 40% penduduk dunia, dalam kawasan tropika dan sub-tropika yang berisiko. Di seluruh dunia, malaria menjangkiti lebih kurang 207 juta kes yang meyebabkan 627,000 kematian (0.03%) setiap tahun. Tambahan pula, hakikatnya, penyakit ini boleh dicegah, dirawat dan disembuhkan, walaupun menunjukkan angka kematian yang sangat membimbangkan. Belum ada vaksin lagi bagi pencegahan malaria, kerana usaha kesihatan awam masih menuju kearah keberkesanan perlindungan dan ubatan untuk rawatan. Di Nigeria, malaria adalah satu holo-endemik yang merangkumi segala jenis jangkitan dan langkah-langkah kawalan untuk masyarakat Nigeria terbatas kerana menghadapi masalah kekurangan tenaga kerja yang terlatih. Oleh itu, pembekal ubatan yang bukannya ahli farmasi yang dikenali sebagai Pembekal Perubatan Paten (PMV) telah diperkenalkan oleh kerajaan untuk mengisi kekurangan seperti yang dicadangkan oleh WHO. Walaubagaimanapun penilaian prestasi PMV yang konsisten menunjukkan bahawa kurangnya pengetahuan, sikap dan amalan (KAP) yang diperlukan untuk melaksanakan strategi kerajaan untuk kawalan malaria secara berkesan. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk menilai keberkesanan Latihan dan Pendidikan Ringkas Malaria (CONMET) terhadap KAP dalam kalangan PMV di daerah Yobe-Selatan, Nigeria.

Metodologi: Kajian rawak terkawal rabun sebelah dan kesan placebo telah dijalankan dalam kalangan PMV di lokasi kajian. Seramai 292 PMV telah dipilih secara rawak dan diagihkan kepada kumpulan intervensi dan kawalan dengan menggunakan teknik persampelan rawak bersistematik. Pembentukan modul adalah berasaskan model skil kemahiran-motivasi-tingkah laku dari perilaku kesihatan. Borang soal selidik yang disahkan telah digunakan untuk menilai pengetahuan, sikap dan amalan pada peringkat awal, segera, dalam masa tiga bulan dan enam bulan selepas intervensi. Data

dianalisis dengan menggunakan SPSS versi 23. Ujian ANOVA sehala, ujian ANOVA gabungan dan Bonferroni telah digunakan untuk menilai keberkesanan intervensi. Nilai p kurang daripada 0.05 dianggap signifikan dan ujian eta persegi digunakan sebagai ukuran saiz keberkesanan.

Hasil Kajian: Hasil kajian ini menunjukkan kadar penyertaan sebanyak 99.6%. Pengetahuan, sikap dan amalan menunjukkan hubungan statistik yang signifikan dengan tahap pendidikan responden (P < 0.001), manakala hanya pengetahuan menunjukkan hubungan yang signifikan dengan kehadiran ke latihan oleh PMV (P = 0.042). Intervensi menunjukkan kesan yang signifikan dari segi statistik terhadap pengetahuan dengan saiz keberkesanan yang besar ($\dot{\eta}2$ separa = 0.562, p <0.001). Intervensi juga mempunyai kesan yang signifikan terhadap sikap responden dengan saiz keberkesanan yang besar ($\dot{\eta}2$ = 0.297, p <0.001). Begitu juga, intervensi terhadap amalan malaria responden menunjukkan kesan yang signifikan dengan saiz keberksanan yang besar ($\dot{\eta}2$ = 0.529, p <0.001) dalam kumpulan intervensi berbanding dengan kumpulan kawalan.

Kesimpulan: Intervensi CONMET ini didapati berkesan dalam meningkatkan pengetahuan, sikap, dan amalan responden yang dipilih. Pendekatan modul dan latihan yang dibentuk boleh digunakan oleh kerajaan, agensi kawal selia dan persatuan PMV untuk meningkatkan kurikulum latihan Malaria.

Kata kunci: pembekal ubat paten, pengetahuan, sikap, amalan, latihan malaria.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 9 March 2018 to conduct the final examination of Yahaya Mohammed Katagum on his thesis entitled "Effectiveness of Concise Malaria Educational Training on Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices among Patented Medicine Vendors in Yobe, Nigeria" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Δ	mean difference
ACT	Artemisinin Combination Therapy
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
AQ	Attitude questionnaire
CDC	Centre for Disease Control & Prevention
CI	Confidence Interval
CONMET	Concise Malaria Educational Training
CQ	Chloroquine
GDP	Good Dispensing Practices
НВМ	Health Belief Model
IMB	Information-Motivation- Behaviour Skills Model
ITN	Insecticide treated bed nets
КАР	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
KQ	Knowledge questionnaire
LG	Local Government Councils
LLINs	Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MIT	Motivational interviewing techniques
NATCP	National Antimalarial Treatment and Control Policy
NGO's	Non-Governmental Organizations
ОТС	Over the counter drugs
РНС	Primary healthcare
Ы	Post Intervention
PMV	Patent Medicine Vendor
РОМ	Prescriptions only medicines
PPMVL	Patent & Proprietary Medicine Vendor Licence

PQ	Practice questionnaire
RBC's	Red blood cells
RBM	Roll back malaria
RCT	Randomised controlled trial
RDTs	Rapid Diagnostic Tests
SD	Standard deviation
SPSS	Statistical package for social sciences
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UKAID	United Kingdom Agency for International Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organisation

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the study, it entails a study background, the problem statement, the significance of the study, the research questions, the objectives of study (general and specific), the research questions and the research hypothesis.

1.1 Background

Malaria remains a major global public health and development challenge over the years and in its World Malaria Report 2013, the World Health Organization (WHO) states that an estimated 3.4 billion people are at risk of malaria, and that an estimated 207 million cases had led to about 627,000 deaths in the year 2012 alone (World Health Organisation, 2013). Three years later in 2016, the WHO reported an increase in the number of cases to 212 million but with a corresponding decrease in the number of deaths to 429,000 deaths worldwide in 2015 (WHO, 2016). According to the report, reduction in mortality is attributed largely to effective containment efforts by some countries that are now no longer malaria endemic, these are countries located in South America, Europe, Asia and North Africa (WHO, 2016). Furthermore, the observed increase in number of malaria cases is found within the sub-Saharan African region where the most malaria endemic countries lie and these countries had accounted for 81% of all malaria cases and 91% of deaths (Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015, 2010; WHO, 2011).

Malaria, a parasitic protozoans from the genus Plasmodium is still the major public health issue in sub-Saharan African countries and many other parts of the developing countries (Gay-Andrieu, Adehossi, Lacroix, Gongara, Ibrahim, Kouma, et al., 2005; Barat, Palmer, Basu, Worrall, & Mills, 2004; Pluess, Levi, & Smith, 2009). But paradoxically, the disease is still preventable, treatable and curable (Nabarro & Mendis, 2000; Sachs & Malaney, 2002), thus making the figure of casualties very alarming despite the recent decline in mortalities. There are not yet any potent vaccines to prevent this leading cause of illness and death, as such public health effort are still geared towards effective protective measures and the drug treatment.

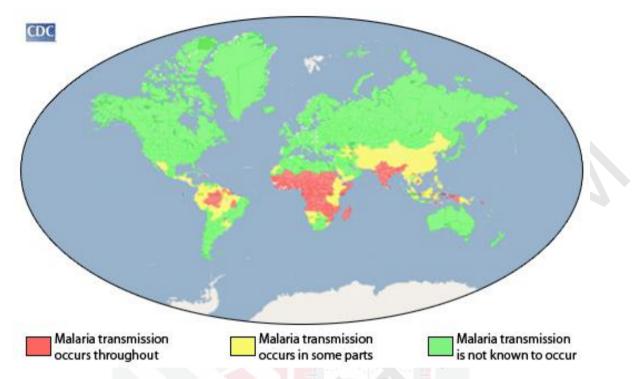


Figure 1.1 : A diagrammatic approximation of parts of the world where malaria transmission occurs. Adopted from the Centre for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), 2014

In Nigeria where malaria is holo-endemic there is greater intensity in the rainy than in the dry seasons (Idowu, Mafiana, Luwoye, & Adehanloye, 2008; Coker, Chukwuani, Ifudu, & Aina, 2001). According to the Nigeria Malaria Indicator Survey (NMIS, 2012), malaria was tagged a major public health issue because Nigeria alone bears up to 25 percent of the malarial disease burden in Africa, and the disease had already overburdened the already-weakened health system with nearly 110 million clinical cases diagnosed each year (NMIS,2012).

As a fallout of all these factors mentioned, the huge mortality and / or morbidity rates due to persistent infection and re-infection became difficult to handle in both the rural and urban areas and this is primarily due to the shortage of trained health professionals to cover the country's huge population growth (NMIS, 2012). Thus, retail Patent Medicine Vendor's (non-Pharmacist operated drug dealers) whom commonly serve as sources of Over-the-Counter (OTC) medicines and services were available to complement these services. Patent Medicine Vendors (PMVs) provide antimalarial treatment and other healthcare services throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, and they potentially play a very critical role in the fight against malaria (Berendes, Adeyem, Oladele, Oresanya, Okoh, & Valadez, 2012). However, it should also be noted that a systematic assessments of PMVs performance of quality are undoubtedly crucial if their role is to be managed within the healthcare system (Berendes et al., 2012) this is because PMVs do not have a formal pharmacy training but 'sell orthodox pharmaceutical products on a retail basis for profit' (Brieger et al., 2004). On the overall, PMVs have generally been considered to have a poor knowledge of the Nigerian national policies on malaria, because less than 20% have heard about the 2011 national policy on malaria as well as the recommended diagnosis and treatment patterns, and yet still less than 5% of PMVs have seen or read a copy of the document (Future Health Systems, 2014). Furthermore, given the lack of awareness of the PMVs, it is not surprising that the quality of their practices on the symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of malaria is consistently reported to be of poor standings (Okebe, Walther, Bojang, et al., 2010; FHS, 2014; Akuse, et al., 2010). These findings from documented studies of poor activities by the PMVs give justification to this study aimed at improving PMV knowledge, attitudes and practices.

The strategy of this study was to adopt a theory based approach in training PMVs on KAP so as to yield a more result oriented training. A similar strategy was employed in Ghana to train caregivers of children and Community Health Workers by Abbey, Bartholomew, Chinbuah, Gyapong, and van den Borne (2017). These researchers systematically developed a theory- and evidence-based health promotion program with regards to their intervention which led to achieving their primary program goals of reducing mortality up to 30% and 44% among children undergoing antimalarial treatments. Furthermore, the study by these researchers contributed meaningfully in responding to recent calls for a more detailed description of the development of interventions and trials with theoretical approaches (Abbey et al., 2017). Adopting the strategy had a positive effect on the present study considering the consistently poor KAP of most PMVs, even for those who claimed to have attended trainings. It is also worthy of note that all documented PMV interventions on malaria that were reviewed lacked theoretical backing in their designs. Introducing theoretical backing to an intervention study design is also a more scientifically acceptable way of conducting intervention studies in behaviour modification and as such results thereof will be easier to understand, explained and accepted.

1.2 Problem Statement / Justification of the study

Malaria still remains a leading cause of death and illnesses especially among tropical countries, with the African continent alone accounting for 91% of all malaria deaths (CDC, 2015). Particularly, malaria accounts for more cases and deaths in Nigeria than any other country in the world, with an estimated 100 million cases and 300, 000 deaths yearly (WHO, 2016). These statistic figures are way too alarming and hence unbearable for a preventable, treatable and fully curable disease.

Malaria which constitutes the major public health problem in Nigeria also exposes up to 97 percent of the country's more than 160 million people (with an estimated annual growth rate of about 2.6%) at risk of getting the disease (NMIS, 2012) and this

happens in a country lacking enough trained health manpower (WHO, 2011). The manpower deficiencies in healthcare providers gave justification for the inclusion of PMVs in the country's malaria containment efforts. But however, the strategy had not proved to be very effective because KAP among PMVs were still revealed by several studies to be generally poor and is considered a serious challenge to the identified potentials the PMVs possess in malaria containment (Oyeyemi, 2014; Akuse, 2010; Abuya, 2010; Buabeng, 2010, Livinus, 2009, Okeke & Uzorchukwu, 2009). The poor KAP of PMVs justifies the need for drastic improvement on the little training PMVs receive at inception which is an all-encompassing course, without special emphasis on malaria.

Furthermore, there is no structured training or health education intervention module on KAP directed and specific for PMVs regarding malaria in Nigeria (Berendes et al, 2012). There is also little or no provisions for re-training programs on malaria treatment and prevention except, in some instances where local and informal trainings are conducted and reported by some PMVs (Berendes, Adeyemi, Oladele, Oresanya, Okoh, & Valadez, 2012). There is also no existing policy on a periodic re-certification for the PMVs as is the case with Pharmacists that are also being regulated by the same regulatory agency, the Pharmacist Council of Nigeria. In addition, the majority of PMV Association executives and their members are unaware of the 2011 National Policy on malaria which categorically specifies recommended treatment guidelines for malaria (FHS, 2014), this is due to absence of training and re-training where only few PMVs are opportuned to attended workshops / trainings on malaria after commencing practice (FHS, 2014) which further adds to the poor KAP. Little emphasis is also given to signs, symptoms and diagnosis, referrals and prevention practices of malaria in the initial training of PMVs for those who undergo the training which is because the limited training they attend encompasses all aspects of PMV training including PMV laws and ethics, other diseases, dispensing practices and prescription interpretation, categorization of drugs and their uses amongst others and within a limited training period.

Furthermore, very few intervention studies on KAP regarding malaria among PMVs are available (FHS, 2014; FMH, 2009), which concurs with claims by various literature arguing that the activities of PMVs are neither well-studied nor well-documented (Akuse et al., 2010; FHS, 2008). Review of literature has also variously revealed only short term interventions on malaria treatment and prevention to PMVs, though in all cases had yielded a fairly significant results as in studies by Abuya et al., 2010 (OR; 9.4: 95% CI 1.1, 83.7); Nsimba, 2007 (p<0.01); Fatungase et al., 2012 (p<0.001), but these studies also show that KAP of the PMVs from most of the communities are still at a low level even after the significant effects of the short training. Furthermore, all reviewed intervention trainings on malaria lacked the advantages of a follow-up trainings to assess effect of multiple trainings or booster sessions on respondents KAP long after initial training, this additional training input will appreciably re-enforce initial training (Anka et al., 2016). So also, of all documented studies available on malaria interventions none had a theory based approach to its training, which would have presented a more formidable, scientifically

proven and result oriented study design. Theory based behavioural studies thus have acceptable explanations to observed changes and strength of study improves with the use of theoretical frameworks (Wilroy and Knowlden, 2015).

Little is also known about the malaria treatment and prevention activities of the PMVs and the poorly regulated market in which they operate (FHS, 2007; FHS, 2008). This also makes activities involving PMVs such as planning, evaluation and research very difficult if not impossible. Despite PMVs being recognised as major potentials in the fight against malaria by the WHO and the Nigerian government (FMH, 2005a), PMVs are yet to receive the needed attention from researchers, health institutions academic institutions and policy makers in this direction, considering the role they could play in a major public health issue like malaria. Goodman, et al., (2007) also observed that governments in most developing countries have only concentrated on training the health workers in the public sector of their healthcare. This leaves out the health providers in the private sectors, of which PMVs alone are mostly the first points of contact once there are signs or other symptoms of malaria or other diseases in over 57% of cases in Nigeria (FHS, 2014).

The inadequacy of knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) among PMVs and other structural or behavioural factors if unattended to, could further lead to additional complications such as misdiagnosis, delayed referrals, over- and under-treatment with drugs, and a resultant increased risk of the disease progression, toxicity and above all, the development of drug resistance to hitherto sensitive drugs and an increase in morbidity / mortality as grave consequences (Okeke, Uzochukwu, & Okafor, 2006; Goodman et al., 2007). This deficiency in proper KAP towards malaria treatment and its prevention has characterised the practice by PMVs and as a result, had led to the formal health establishments to often view PMV activities with great alarm and despair. But at the same time, the lack of adequately trained health manpower capacity limits the contributions of the formal health sector in malaria control (NMIS, 2012). For these reasons, many communities have no options than to continue relying on the poorly trained, or in some cases untrained PMVs for their malaria health needs, and knowingly or unknowingly bearing all the risks and consequences involved.

From the foregoing, all the factors discussed expose the PMVs to insufficient knowledge, attitudes and practices on malaria of which lack of training is identified as the main reason for the widely reported poor KAP on malaria practices (Oyeyemi et al., 2014; Oladepo, et al., 2011; Akuse et al., 2010; Buabeng et al., 2010; Abuya, et al., 2010; Okeke & Uzochukwu, 2009; Livinus et al. 2009). This had led to increasing calls for interventions to improve the treatment and prevention practices obtained from PMVs (Rusk et al., 2012; Berendes et al., 2012; Okeke et al., 2006). In addition, for the many Nigerians who patronise and depend on PMVs for their health issues, it is difficult for them to know if they have access to quality treatment and prevention program to explore the gaps in PMV KAP regarding malaria and to develop a theory based concise training module with a different approach to training and that will sustainably improve on the existing PMV KAP within the selected study location. The study will

then evaluate the long term effectiveness of the developed training module on knowledge, attitudes and practices of PMV who are a convenient and more accepted link to the majority of the community members on malaria issues. The efforts will therefore lead to an improvement in public health practices within communities of the study district by increasing KAP that is critical to exploiting PMV potentials.

1.3 Significance of the Study

This study provides a new structured multi-component educational intervention with evidence based health education modules for the training of PMVs. The new training module was specifically developed for the PMVs. Furthermore, since short term training on malaria either formal or informal, had yielded some meaningful results (Abate et al, 2013; Dike et al, 2006), a comprehensive yet concise training for the respondent PMVs (for periods of five days and an incorporated booster session three months after) with strong emphasis on malaria is presumed to be more effective in increasing PMVs KAP. This module can therefore be used as a model to train other PMVs and can serve as a reference to the PMV associations to be used when training and re-trainings are conducted.

This study will demonstrate the effectiveness of the Information Motivation Behavioural skills model (Fisher & Fisher, 2009) as a useful instrument in explaining the stages of this theoretically based health education intervention program in malaria. This study will be the first documented study that employs this theory to studies involving the training of PMVs in a malaria intervention set up. By so doing, this study will have opened up the use of this robust theory in other aspects of malaria interventions such as studies targeted at changing approaches and behaviours patterns to preventive strategies, which is till now, the mainstay in malaria containment efforts.

The study will also improve malaria control activities within the study communities and by so doing contributed to stepping-up the general malaria control activities of the study communities where it is carried out, particularly to the clients that patronise these PMVs because the clients of PMVs are the ones at the receiving end of any consequence of inadequate KAP by the PMVs such as administration of in-effective and obsolete anti-malarials, wrong instructions on dosage regimens, poor advice on prevention, and others alike, so study communities are the recipients of the poor services by untrained PMV on malaria. For this reason, the communities are the major indirect beneficiaries of any improvement due to this intervention on the PMV activities relating to malaria. Again, since the findings of this study changed the knowledge, attitudes and practices of PMVs on malaria by the improvement in recognition of signs, symptoms and diagnosis, treatment, referrals and prevention practices that clients receive from the ill-informed PMVs, this improvement is expected to inhibit malaria progression within the communities and thereby cause a reduction in morbidity and mortality rates due to malaria from these study communities.

Furthermore, to the health planners, regulatory government agencies and their policy formulation activities with regards to malaria, the study provides baseline information on the level of malaria awareness, diagnosis, prevention methods and treatment types among the PMVs, thereby indicating baseline levels to which standard practices are employed by PMVs. With these information the study is available to help health planners, policy formulators and other health providers to understand the actual practices of PMVs and their perceived problems with a view to planning ahead, this is because, so far the activities of PMVs are neither well studied nor well documented (Akuse et al., 2010). It then implies that the baseline data of PMV activities and their levels of improvement from this intervention can be cited from this study as little is actually known for now about the PMVs themselves and the poorly regulated market in which they operate (FHS, 2008).

The study also contributes to the economy of individuals, communities and the nation at large by minimizing the treatment duration and costs, and / or even hospitalization cost for malaria patients which subsequently would ease out the financial burden on relations of patients, the communities an government as a whole. The cost implications of hitherto re-treatments, failed treatments and unnecessary hospitalisation within the community is thereby saved. This fact that averting the many complications as a result of malaria is important as it is a main aim and objective of malaria management, pending the development of a safe and effective prophylactic vaccine.

This study also encouraged a more pragmatic involvement of PMVs in the management of malaria by effectively utilising their majorly untapped potentials in the right and most effective manner. Since PMVs have been found to be the most patronised and easily reached group of healthcare providers on malaria issues (Akuse et al., 2010; Uzochukwu et al., 2014), this training program serves to incorporate them more into malaria control activities by empowering them. The respondent PMVs are therefore more equipped at the end of this study because they are encouraged to take more informed decisions on malaria treatment and prevention.

Furthermore, the study has a significance to the scientific community by increasing research activities on malaria through having the findings of the study being published in academic journals to be cited with other research studies in relevant fields, thus adding to the body of knowledge on malaria research. Moreover, the study leaves clues on other research areas which have not been studied yet in order to explore those areas by subsequent studies. So also, the study and the developed modules serves as tool to assist in improving other health educator's work by enriching their treatment and preventive programs to target other health workers or communities within Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the world ravaged by malaria.

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1.4 Research Questions

- 1. What are the socio-demographic characteristics, working experiences and previous training experiences of PMVs?
- 1. What are the current knowledge, attitudes and practices of PMVs on malaria?
- 2. Does the CONMET training program improve PMV's KAP with regards to malaria?

1.5 Research Objectives

1.5.1 General Objectives

The general objective of this study is to develop, implement and determine the effectiveness of a concise malaria educational training (CONMET) program on knowledge, attitudes and practices among Patent Medicine Vendors in Yobe-south district, Nigeria.

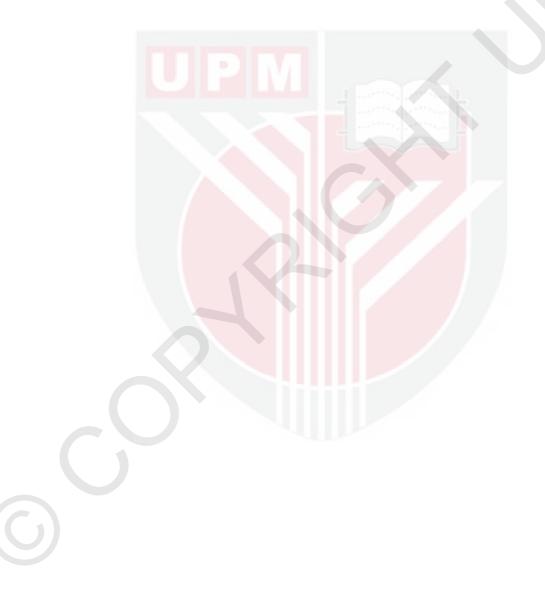
1.5.2 Specific Objectives

- 1. To assess the socio-demographic characteristics, the working experience and the previous training experience of PMVs.
- 2. To assess and to compare the knowledge, attitudes and practices of PMVs related to malaria at baseline between the intervention and control group.
- 3. To determine the association between knowledge, attitudes and practices of PMVs and their socio-demographic characteristics, working experiences and previous training experiences.
- 4. To develop a concise malaria educational training (CONMET) module based on the IMB skills model.
- 5. To implement the concise malaria training module.
- 6. To evaluate the effectiveness of the CONMET intervention program in improving KAP among PMV respondents within and between the intervention and the wait-list (control) groups at immediately after the intervention, at three months and at six months post intervention, after adjustments for other covariates.

1.6 Research Hypothesis

H1. There is a significant relationship between the knowledge, attitudes and practices and the personal factors (socio-demographic factors, working experiences and previous training experiences) of PMV respondents between the intervention and control groups at baseline.

- H2. There is a significant association between the knowledge, attitudes and practices of PMVs and their socio-demographic factors, working experiences and previous training experiences.
- H3. There is a significant difference in knowledge, attitude and practice levels within group of PMVs at baseline, at immediately post intervention, at three months and at six month post training.
- H4. There is significant difference in knowledge, attitude and practice levels between the intervention and wait-list groups of PMVs at immediately, at three months and at six month post training.



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