

ANALYSIS OF CONSULTS RECEIVED BY THE MEDICAL SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL (UDUTH) SOKOTO: IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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Abstract

The study was set to analyze the public health and implications of the consults received by the Medical Social Services Department (MSSD), Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH) Sokoto, Nigeria. The data used was secondary data extracted from the consults received by the MSSD, UDUTH, during a 3-month period (from July 22, 2019 to October 21, 2019). The study shows that children, females, illiterates, married and the unemployed patients constituted significant proportion of consults received by MSSD. With regards to associated morbidities, roughly one fifth of the consults were cancer patients from pediatric medical ward. The commonest reason for the consultation of MSSD was financial constraints. The findings showed that virtually the consults sent to the MSSD were patients with cancer on account of financial constraints and from pediatric medical ward. There is a need to prioritize on all patient-focused service areas offered by the MSSD, provision for subsidized cancer drugs for children. The study suggested sensitization for philanthropist, government and non-governmental agencies on supporting children with cancer.

Keywords: Consult, Healthcare, Patients, Pediatrics, and Social Services.