

**Abstract**

**Original Paper**

**Collaboration between Doctors and Nurses in a Tertiary Health Facility in South West Nigeria: Implication for Effective Healthcare Delivery**

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**Abstract**

**Background:** Collaboration between doctors and nurses has been linked with efficient healthcare delivery. Little is known about the attitude of nurses and doctors towards collaborative care.

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study was to compare the attitudes of doctors and nurses toward Collaborative care in Federal Medical Centre, Owo, Ondo State.

**Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional survey of 404 respondents; 256 nurses and 148 doctors in the employment of Federal Medical Centre, Owo was done. Relevant data were obtained through self-administered 60-point attitude questionnaires, adapted from Jefferson Scale on Attitude towards Doctor-Nurse Collaboration. Data collected were analyzed using SPSS (Version 17). Respondents who scored <50 were categorized as having poor attitude. Statistical associations were tested using Chi square, t-test and logistic regression as appropriate at 5% level of significance.

**Results:** The mean age of respondent was 35.2±7.5 years. Female respondents were 36.9%, 60% respondents had good attitudinal score. Among female respondents 78.0% had good attitude to collaboration compared to 30.2% male (p<0.001). In all, 84% nurses and 19.6% doctors have good attitude towards collaborative care. Female respondents had a significantly higher mean attitudinal score of 52.35±6.30 compared to male with a mean score of 45.60±7.18 (p<0.001). The odd of a nurse having a better attitude to doctor-nurse collaboration than doctors is 20.4 with a 95% confidence interval of 7.98-52.31 (p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** Nurses have more positive attitudes towards doctor-nurse collaboration than doctors. Inter-professional education that will increase the understanding of doctors and nurses and engender mutually respectful collaboration is advocated.

**Keywords:** Collaboration, Nurses, Doctors