

The Role of Peer Mentoring in improving Family Planning (FP) service delivery and Data Reporting among Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors in Kaduna State.

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Abstract Category: Impactful strategies to strengthen the FP agenda to post 2020

Background/Objectives: Peer mentorship has the potential of improving the quality of Family Planning (FP) services to clients and data reporting among Patent and Proprietary Medicine Vendors (PPMVs). It serves as a platform for increasing and expanding specialized knowledge, skills and self-confidence among people working towards similar goals. With the increase in the number of trained PPMVs in Kaduna state, providing adequate oversight to the trained provider on the quality of FP services became increasingly challenging. Thus, the IntegratE project selected and trained some PPMVs as mentors to closely supervise others.

Materials and Methods: Qualitative research methods (using 3 Focus Group Discussions) were used to gain insight from mentors and mentees, into the impact of peer mentoring among PPMVs in the state. The FGDs explored the perceptions about peer mentoring and its influence on FP service delivery, documentation, and reporting. FGDs were transcribed and analyzed thematically.

Results: On access to commodities, mentees opined that peer mentors salvaged impending stock out by providing timely and valuable information on where to get FP commodities. This made a range of methods available to clients. The knowledge on the use of DHIS tool also witnessed an improvement as peer mentors were available to support other PPMVs to ensure proper use of the tools; thus, resulting in reduction in common errors in documentation and reporting.

Conclusions: Overall, peer mentoring benefited both mentees and mentors as all groups attested to its positive impacts on quality FP service provision and reporting.