

Book review

Health care education in Nigeria: Evolutions and emerging paradigms

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Books on healthcare education in Nigeria are not readily available. A book on this important topic has been reviewed to promote the book among Nigerian Physiotherapists who are the primary readers of the Journal of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy. The book was found to be readable, complete, accurate and suitable for the intended audience.

Keywords: Healthcare education, Nigeria, academic administration.

INTRODUCTION

The author, Professor Joseph A. Balogun is a Distinguished University Professor in the College of Health Sciences at Chicago State University, USA and Emeritus Professor of Physiotherapy and Associate Director of Research Development and Innovation at the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Ondo State, Nigeria. He has held full-time and administrative positions as Physiotherapy academic in many parts of the world including Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria. He has to his credit two books, 17 book chapters and 150 full articles among others. He is hence eminently qualified to write on the content of this book.

The impetus for writing this book was the author's surprise discovery that most of the lecturers who attended a workshop given by him at the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City, Nigeria had no formal training in andragogy and that there was no readily available textbook or training institute on teaching and academic administration in Nigeria. In this book, the author advocates an interdisciplinary education policy in place of the current insular training along professional lines which underbellies the unnecessary inter-professional rivalry among health care professionals and consequent frequent industrial strikes in Nigeria's health sector. The author's primary aim for writing the book was to provide a book on teaching and academic administration for the use of academicians in Nigeria and other African countries.

The author, in the book with 10 chapters advocated an inter-professional education philosophy hence his deliberate use of the term 'health care education' rather than discipline-specific names. The health disciplines presented are those being offered in universities in Nigeria. The book, which has 253 pages, is available either as e-book or hard copy with an attractive hard cover. The book starts with fundamentals of health care education so as to contextualize the issues discussed in the book. The basic principles of andragogy and heutagogy, teaching and modeling professionalism and administration of academic departments are presented in the next three chapters. The origin and developmental milestones of the major health care education programmes in Nigeria which are presented in chapter 5 are based on the information acquired by the author as 'a participant-observer in Nigeria at different time frames and the author's several visits to Nigeria between 2015 and 2019'. Chapter 6 is devoted to the contributions of pioneer health care academicians in Nigeria; the information presented being gleaned from PubMed and Google search engines thus making it factual and

accurate. In the next two chapters, the author discussed the emerging paradigms in health care education in Nigeria in the last 10 years and analyzed the contemporary challenges in the Nigeria's health care education system. In Chapter 9, the author proffers solution to the problems highlighted in Chapter 8 while Chapter 10 is devoted to acknowledging the contributions of elite health care academics in the Diaspora.

Appraisal of the book

The book has a comprehensive table of contents related to the title of the book as well as a detailed index to guide the reader. It is presented in a thematic, stand-alone format such that readers do not need to read the chapters in the order of their presentation in the book. The information presented in the book are largely factual and up-to-date given that some aspects of the book such as Chapter 5, 6 and 10 are actually based on findings from studies conducted by the author. Further, each chapter has introduction and conclusion sections designed to help focus the attention of readers to the main theme of each chapter. The book is generally easy to follow because it is written in simple English and the issues being presented are well illustrated in tables and figures/diagrammatic sketches. It is no doubt suitable for the intended audience. However, the discussion on salaries of lecturers in selected countries does not include lecturers in Nigeria or any African country for that matter while there is no section on challenges in the administration of health care education programmes in Nigeria as advertised in the introduction to Chapter 4. These are minor minuses to the book. However, notwithstanding the book's content and the prevailing cost of books generally, most lecturers in Africa would find it difficult to afford the £120 standard going price of the book as this is their approximate monthly salary. It will also be beyond the reach of students. I will rather plead with the publishers to maintain the discounted price of £24 which is more affordable for lecturers and students.. This book is the first of its kind on health care education (HCE) in Nigeria hence it is very unique and informative. The book will be of interest to students, scholars and others working on HCE generally in Africa and specifically those occupying administrative positions. I have found the book to be very complete, accurate and current. It is really repository of HCE in Nigeria and will certainly set it as a reference textbook for students in the Introduction to Physiotherapy course and recommend it to colleagues.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors have not declared any conflict of interests.

A Book Review

Author: Joseph Abiodun Balogun

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African audience will be able to buy the book for £24, including shipping, by entering the discount code AFAU230 at the website's checkout: <https://www.routledge.com/Health-care-Education-in-Nigeria-Evolutions-and-Emerg-in-g-Paradigms/Balogun/p/book/9780367482091>

Reviewer:

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