

**Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ): 32-item checklist:**

**“We have either obsolete knowledge, obsolete equipment or obsolete skills”: Policymakers and clinical managers’ views on maternal health delivery in rural Nigeria.**

No. Item	Guide questions/description	Reported on Page #
<b>Domain 1: Research team and reflexivity</b>		
<i>Personal Characteristics</i>		
1. Interviewer/facilitator	Which author/s conducted the interview or focus group?  Friday E Okonofua, Lorretta FC Ntoimo coordinated and directed interviews	Methods, page 4
2. Credentials	What were the researcher’s credentials? E.g. PhD, MD  The authors’ credentials are as follows: - Ogochukwu Udenigwe, MSc -Friday E Okonofua, MD, PhD -Lorretta FC Ntoimo, PhD -Wilson Imongan, MBBS -Brian Igboin, MSc -Sanni Yaya, PhD	N/A
3. Occupation	What was their occupation at the time of the study?  OU: Doctoral student FO: Professor LN: Lecturer WI: Medical practitioner BI: Program officer SY: Professor	N/A
4. Gender	Was the researcher male or female?  The authors’ identified genders are as follows:  OU: Female FO: Male	N/A

	LN: Female WI: Male BI: Male SY: Male	
5. Experience and training	<p>What experience or training did the researcher have?</p> <p>- OU: quantitative and qualitative research training and experience in qualitative research.</p> <p>FO: quantitative and qualitative training and extensive experience in maternal and child health, including sexual and reproductive health care.</p> <p>LN: qualitative and quantitative data analyst, and project coordinator in maternal, child, adolescent health, and family research projects.</p> <p>WI: extensive experience in reproductive health and primary health care.</p> <p>BI: skilled in strategic planning, work plan development, budgeting, proposal writing, data management, quantitative and qualitative research data analysis using statistical softwares.</p> <p>- SY: quantitative and qualitative training and extensive experience in global maternal and child health, including sexual and reproductive health care.</p>	N/A
<i>Relationship with participants</i>		
6. Relationship established	<p>Was a relationship established prior to study commencement?</p> <p>Lead investigators had established rapport with the community through scoping studies prior to the study commencement.</p>	N/A
7. Participant knowledge of the interviewer	<p>What did the participants know about the researcher? e.g. personal goals, reasons for doing the research.</p> <p>The study objectives were disclosed to participants as part of the informed consent</p>	Methods, page 3-4

	procedure.	
8. Interviewer characteristics	<p>What characteristics were reported about the interviewer/facilitator? e.g. Bias, assumptions, reasons and interests in the research topic</p> <p>Trained research assistants informed participants of their affiliation with the Women's Health and Action Research Centre (WHARC). Research assistants were conversant in other languages spoken by participants such as Pidgin English.</p>	
<b>Domain 2: study design</b>		
<i>Theoretical framework</i>		
9. Methodological orientation and Theory	<p>What methodological orientation was stated to underpin the study? e.g. grounded theory, discourse analysis, ethnography, phenomenology, content analysis</p> <p>This study uses a qualitative research design within which thematic analysis was applied.</p>	Methods, page 3
<i>Participant selection</i>		
10. Sampling	<p>How were participants selected? e.g. purposive, convenience, consecutive, snowball</p> <p>The lead investigators (FO, WI, LN) purposefully recruited participants from different backgrounds and professions. The criteria for selection was that participants were in a key leadership position within the PHC sector.</p>	Methods, page 4
11. Method of approach	<p>How were participants approached? e.g. face-to-face, telephone, mail, email</p> <p>Study participant were recruited by email (or phone) with information about the study, voluntary participation, and informed consent.</p>	Methods, page 4
12. Sample size	<p>How many participants were in the study?</p> <p>A total of thirteen participants participated</p>	Methods, page 4

	in key informant interviews.	
13. Non-participation	How many people refused to participate or dropped out? Reasons?  None	N/A
<i>Setting</i>		
14. Setting of data collection	Where was the data collected? e.g. home, clinic, workplace  Data collection took place at different locations depending on participants. For instance, interviews with clinical managers took place at PHC centres. Interviews with policy makers took place in convenient locations for participants such as their offices.	N/A
15. Presence of non-participants	Was anyone else present besides the participants and researchers?  No non-participants were present during the focus group discussions.	N/A
16. Description of sample	What are the important characteristics of the sample? e.g. demographic data, date  Participants were either clinical managers (healthcare providers) or policy makers at the State or local government level.	N/A
<i>Data collection</i>		
17. Interview guide	Were questions, prompts, guides provided by the authors? Was it pilot tested?  The lead investigators developed an interview guide and on the last day of training, research assistants moderated the pilot of the guide in a community with similar characteristics to the study site.	Methods, page 4
18. Repeat interviews	Were repeat inter views carried out? If yes, how many?  Repeat interviews were not carried out.	N/A
19. Audio/visual recording	Did the research use audio or visual recording to collect the data?  Interviews were audio-recorded after obtaining participants' permission to	Methods, page 4

	record.	
20. Field notes	<p>Were field notes made during and/or after the interview or focus group?</p> <p>Yes, research assistants took reflective notes during interviews.</p>	Methods, page 4
21. Duration	<p>What was the duration of the inter views or focus group?</p> <p>Each interview lasted approximately 45 minutes in length.</p>	Methods, page 4
22. Data saturation	<p>Was data saturation discussed?</p> <p>Data saturation was discussed in relation to sample size which was determined with a focus on attaining thick and rich data. Following recommendation from studies and observing that in-depth interviews generally adopt a sample size of multiples of 10, this study purposefully recruited participants from different backgrounds and professions with the goal of obtaining detailed, nuanced and intricate data.</p>	Methods, page 4
23. Transcripts returned	<p>Were transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?</p> <p>Transcripts were not returned to participants for comment or correction.</p>	N/A
<b>Domain 3: analysis and findings</b>		
<i>Data analysis</i>		
24. Number of data coders	<p>How many data coders coded the data?</p> <p>There were two data coders</p>	Methods, page 5
25. Description of the coding tree	<p>Did authors provide a description of the coding tree?</p> <p>The transcript was read and coded based on identified similarities and patterns in the data.</p>	Methods, page 5
26. Derivation of themes	<p>Were themes identified in advance or derived from the data?</p>	Methods, page 5

	In analyzing the data, the authors applied an iterative process of inductive and deductive approaches to thematic coding. Following the recommendation of data analysis from Braun and Clark (2006), the authors became familiar with the data, then proceeded to generate codes, then searched for themes, reviewed and defined themes. This was in line with an inductive approach to coding where themes emerged from the data not from any preconceived categories. The data was further analyzed with a deductive approach whereby themes were organized based on existing literature and theories on service delivery.	
27. Software	What software, if applicable, was used to manage the data?  No software was used	N/A
28. Participant checking	Did participants provide feedback on the findings?  No, the participants did not provide feedback on the findings	N/A
<i>Reporting</i>		
29. Quotations presented	Were participant quotations presented to illustrate the themes/findings? Was each quotation identified? e.g. participant number  Participants' quotations were presented, their job descriptions and location were identified.	Results, pages 6-12
30. Data and findings consistent	Was there consistency between the data presented and the findings?  Yes.	Results, pages 6-12
31. Clarity of major themes	Were major themes clearly presented in the findings?  Yes, we organized the findings by major themes.	Results, pages 6-12
32. Clarity of minor themes	Is there a description of diverse cases or discussion of minor themes?	Discussion, pages 12-14

	Yes, we discussed minor themes in the manuscript where applicable.	
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