

BOOK REVIEW

Healthcare Education in Nigeria: Evolutions and Emerging Paradigms.

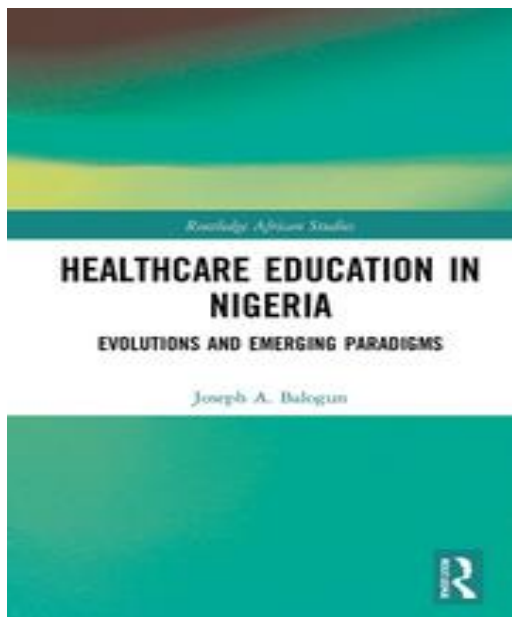
Published by Routledge, 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, NY 10017, USA. pp. 270.

ISBN: 978-0-367-98209-1 (hbk); 978-1-003-12752-9 (ebk).

Adetoyeje Y. Oyeyemi

Professor of Physiotherapy, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Nigeria

Address for Correspondence: adeoyeyemi@aol.com



The above book published by Professor Joseph Balogun, an accomplished clinician, researcher, educator, and administrator, who doubled as a participant-observer while working on this book, is a compelling masterpiece. As a former Senior Lecturer and Vice-Dean at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife three decades ago, a retired Distinguished Professor at Chicago State University, faculty, and administrator at several universities around the world, made Professor Balogun uniquely qualified to author this book. He is familiar with the global education and healthcare systems. As a patriotic Nigerian who has devoted his life to giving back to his homeland, Professor Balogun authored this book to address the curriculum deficits he observed during one of his many visits to Nigeria. At a national workshop he gave at the University of Medical Sciences, Ondo City in 2018 to faculty, heads of academic departments, and university administrators, he observed that most of his audience had no formal training on their roles and responsibilities.

The ten-chapter publication is a fulfilled dream of concerned healthcare educators and policymakers who for long have yearned for a textbook of this nature that suits this contemporary times. From the onset and throughout the publication, the author promotes the interprofessional education philosophy by using the term “healthcare education” instead of a discipline-specific genre. Chapters 2 through 4 addressed the core objectives of writing the book, while the other chapters addressed the emerging trends and challenges within the Nigerian academy.

The first chapter examines the evolution of the major health disciplines and provides insights into the global trends on instructional methods, quality, and efficiency in the education accreditation process and the unequal global distribution of the healthcare workforce, including the "brain drain" phenomenon. Professor Balogun offered a panacea for addressing many of the problems in the Nigerian healthcare and education systems by recommending international accreditation. He argued that this engagement would strengthen clinical practice and attract top clinicians and educators into the country while simultaneously keeping the Nigerian elites at home to meet their healthcare needs.

Chapter 2 focuses on the art of teaching by examining the differences between pedagogy, andragogy, and heutagogy. It provides a template for developing a course syllabus, including program assessment, curriculum mapping, evidence-based teaching and practice in healthcare education, and online instructions in contemporary times. The core characteristics and attributes of professionalism and relevance in healthcare education and the behavioral expectations of healthcare professionals were presented in Chapter 3. It also discusses how to teach professionalism and strategies for managing "hidden curriculum" behaviors, the methods and psychometric inventories used to assess it, and the core components of the ethical code of conduct within the health professions.

Chapter 4 delved into university governance and organizational structure, including the roles and responsibilities of major university personnel. It also examines effective leadership traits and managerial skills, program assessment, including students and teacher evaluations. The evolution of healthcare professions in the country and how they progressed at varying paces in establishing educational programs and in their quest for true professional identity and prestige were explored in Chapter 5. The following chapter identifies the pioneer Nigerian healthcare academics in the various health fields and discusses their service and scholarship contributions.

Chapter 7 examines the significant developments in Nigeria's healthcare education in the last decade, but the author expressed disappointment that the growth and transformation did not come with high-quality programming. Chapter 8 discusses the contemporary challenges in healthcare education, highlighting faculty shortages, faculty limited grant writing skills, antiquated resources, high faculty-student ratio, unethical academic conduct, incessant university closures, and poor academic policies and corruption, underfunding, and the conflict between Faculty of Health Sciences/College of Medicine and their sister University Teaching Hospitals.

Professor Balogun discusses in Chapter 9 the previous attempts in Nigeria to revise the medical and dental curricula at the national level and presents the findings of the formative and summative evaluations he conducted between 2015 and 2019. He used the results as the basis for his recommendations for reforming the Nigerian healthcare education system. His proposal includes adopting an interprofessional education model, integrating entrepreneurship education in the curriculum, and building workforce capacity. He also underscores the need for the National Universities Commission and the professional regulatory boards to upgrade the accreditation process to include a self-study report on specific standards and criteria such as mission, integrity, instruction and learning, and institutional effectiveness, resources, planning. The last chapter identifies and celebrates the Nigerian academics in Diaspora who are making waves in their respective healthcare disciplines worldwide.

As an educator who has often expressed frustrations on the country's healthcare education and health systems, I sometimes find myself close to giving up but see the contents of this book as thought-provoking and a fresh start. While the book's focus is on Nigeria, it also presents transnational perspectives, making it appealing to audiences in West Africa and beyond,

particularly to officials and expatriates desirous of first-hand information about Nigeria's education and healthcare systems.

This book fills the void created by the lack of published materials on healthcare education in Nigeria. The evidence-based format adopted by the author and the solid empirical data provided in several of the chapters is an innovation that makes the book a must-read publication. It is well structured and can be read from chapter to chapter as presented. Alternatively, each chapter stands alone, and readers who desire it can go directly to any section. I personally find the book a delight to read.

Recently the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the central accrediting agency for academic programs in the Nigerian universities engaged experts in a curriculum reviewing process that is still ongoing. As a reviewer, I found the book a valuable resource for the content enrichment and assessment of the doctor of physiotherapy curriculum approved for implementation by the NUC. It specifically provided the focus on competencies, ability-based and learning outcomes, and professional training behavior expectations.

As a faculty, my initial concern was affordability. The cost of the book will no doubt be a primary factor for other faculty members, students, and lay readers in deciding to purchase the book. I would encourage every stakeholder in healthcare education to take advantage of the heavily discounted price offer while it lasts. The book is currently sold for \$160, but African scholars, professionals, and students can purchase the book for £24, including shipping, by entering the discount code AFAU230 at the website checkout: <https://www.routledge.com/Health-care-Education-in-Nigeria-Evolutions-and-Emerg-in-g-Paradigms/Balogun/p/book/9780367482091>

This seminal publication, written in clear prose, will appeal to a seasoned educator and broad audience. I, therefore, recommend the book to all stakeholders in healthcare education, including students and practitioners, university administrators, and heads of departments in the Colleges of Health Sciences and Teaching Hospitals in Nigeria. Policymakers, senior civil servants in the Federal Ministry of Health, and politicians serving on education and healthcare oversight committees will find the book engaging to read.