

The journey from infertility to conception: The challenges and prospects of assisted reproductive techniques in Nigeria

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Conception is seen as a major determinant of the success of a marital union in Nigerian society. Hence, couples with infertility often attempt to resolve the challenge through multiple means; spiritual methods, traditional medicine and orthodox medicine. Assisted Reproductive techniques have gained increasing acceptance over time in Nigeria. However, there are multifaceted challenges that the procedure still faces. They include patient related, socio-cultural beliefs related and practice related challenges. These challenges cast a limitation on the quantity and quality of the assisted reproductive techniques that are available to the population in need of it. Quality control is especially a worrisome challenge because there is no central regulatory body for fertility clinics in Nigeria. The working together of various stakeholders including the Government, specialists and relevant cultural institutions can help resolve these challenges by enabling a holistic approach to tackle them. This paper explores the challenges, provides recommendations on how these challenges can be solved in a holistic manner and makes a case for the opportunities that lie in solving them. These opportunities and benefits include a reduction in the economic cost of infertility to the individual as well as the country, a turnaround of the negative psychosocial consequences of infertility for individuals and couples affected, promotion of the right to reproduce and a developmental push for reproductive healthcare in Nigeria.

Key words: Assisted reproduction, infertility, conception, challenges, quality control, holistic recommendations, opportunities, economic cost, reproductive healthcare

Images:



Figure 1: Image showing distribution of specialised fertility clinics registered with the ARFH



Figure 2: Image showing geographical distribution of all fertility clinics in Nigeria

Speaker Biography

Michael Adeoluwa Bashorun is a Medical Doctor with specialist qualification in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He has subspecialty training and fellowships in Reproductive medicine and assisted reproductive techniques. He is the founder and Chief Medical Director of Likeminds fetal hospital, Ibadan where he and his team offer Assisted Reproductive techniques and other medical services to couples with infertility. He has published more than 25 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an editorial board member of reputed journals. Research Interest: Bioinformatics, Drug Designing and clinical embryology.

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