

## **Problem of Poor Water Supply and Prevalence of Enteric Fever in Wukari Area of Taraba State in Nigeria**

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**Background:** Clean, potable water is a major deficiency of Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba state, Nigeria. Located 7.88° N, 9.78E°, the arid nature of the area makes access to potable water difficult.

**Methods:** This study examined the state of enteric fever cases in four major hospitals over a period of January to August of 2016 in the area. Only patients reporting with symptoms suggestive of enteric fevers after clinical examination were subjected to laboratory diagnosis using Widal test technique. A total of 1340 male and 1523 female patients were examined over the study period. Survey of the study area was also carried out to assess the acute shortage of water in the area.

**Results:** Results of the study revealed a total of 825 (61.6%) and 915 (60.1%) positive cases for typhoid fever in males and females respectively with all the study hospitals showing 60% or more cases from the study population over the period. The acute situation of water shortage and poor environmental hygiene in the study area forces the populace to resort to unsafe and untreated water sources for domestic uses as reflected in the pictures from the area.

**Conclusions:** The results of the study clearly highlight the problem that due to poor water availability and quality enteric fever is endemic in the study area. There is therefore the need for urgent intervention in terms of provision of safe drinking water, proper environmental sanitation and protection as well as provision of standard laboratories for adequate diagnostic procedures to monitor the prevalence and provide proper data about the state of enteric fever in the study area for remedial measures.