

# **An Assessment of the Challenges Faced by Bingham University Students Living with Sickle Cell Disease**

Francisca O. Oghiadomhe\*, Christopher O. Eze, Sharon P. Bodam, Mary E. Abu, Chiamaka C. Okafor, Okafor Kingsley Chinedu

Department of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care

\*Corresponding Author

## **ABSTRACT**

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a genetic blood disorder that significantly affects the academic, emotional, and social well-being of students in Nigerian universities. This study investigates the specific challenges faced by students living with SCD at Bingham University, Nigeria. Methodology: using a descriptive cross-sectional design, data were collected from 100 diagnosed undergraduate students through a structured, self-administered questionnaire. Results: Findings revealed that a majority of students experienced emotional distress (85%), frequent health crises (82%), academic difficulties (79%), and social stigma (72%). Additionally, 80% of respondents reported experiencing at least one crisis in the past six months, with pain, fatigue, and shortness of breath being the most common symptoms. Although many students relied on regular medication (93%), hydration (91%), and medical care (89%) to manage their condition, awareness of support systems remained low. SCD had a clear impact on academic performance through absenteeism and reduced classroom participation. Conclusion: The study concludes that students with SCD require greater institutional support, including flexible academic policies, enhanced health services, anti-stigma campaigns, and formal support groups to improve their academic and personal outcomes.

