**ABSTRACT**

**Title:** The effect of professional dominance and interprofessional conflict on job satisfaction among different categories of health professionals in South-east Nigeria.

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**Background:** Relatively little is known about the effects of professional dominance and interprofessional conflict on job satisfaction among health workers in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Aims and objective:** The aim of this study was therefore to investigate the influence of professional dominance and interprofessional conflict on job satisfaction among different health professionals in publicly owned tertiary hospitals in South-east Nigeria.

**Methods**: We conducted a cross-sectional questionnaire survey involving 370 health professionals comprising 84 doctors, 186 nurses and 100 allied health professionals between January and April 2018. The respondents were selected from 5 public tertiary hospitals in South-east Nigeria using multi-stage sampling technique. We used chi-square to test association among study variables. Standard multiple regression was used to assess the ability of socio-demographic and workplace characteristics, professional dominance and interprofessional conflict to predict job satisfaction of health professionals.

**Results**: Professional dominance (PD) showed significant differences by age and gender in the overall sample but by age among nurses. Interprofessional conflict (IPC) showed significant differences by age, marital status and tenure in the overall sample. Among doctors, IPC significantly differed by age, education and tenure. Among nurses, IPC significantly differed by age, education and tenure. Job satisfaction (JS) significantly differed by age, marital status and tenure in the overall sample. However, among doctors, JS significantly differed by gender and tenure. Among nurses, JS significantly differed by age, marital status, education and tenure. No significant differences were seen in PD, IPC and JS among allied health professionals. Overall, only professional dominance predicted job satisfaction of health professionals (β =1.119, ρ = 0.000, R2 = 0.141). Nevertheless, gender (β =-0.913, ρ = 0.001), tenure (β =-0.462, ρ = 0.001) and interprofessional conflict (β =0.831, ρ = 0.000) were significantly related to job satisfaction among doctors (R2 = 0.328). Marital status (β =-3.399, ρ = 0.001) and education (β =-3.519, ρ = 0.001) predicted nurses’ job satisfaction (R2 = 0.163). Age (β =-0.428, ρ = 0.002), tenure (β =-0.463, ρ = 0.011) and interprofessional conflict (β =-1.060, ρ = 0.002) explained job satisfaction among allied health professionals (R2 = 0.216).

**Conclusions**: Work environment devoid of professional dominance and interprofessional conflict may enhance the job satisfaction of health professionals in public hospitals in developing countries like Nigeria. Human resource management practices to enhance job satisfaction of health professionals must pay attention to peculiar demographic and job-related characteristics of different categories of health professionals.