

## ACHIEVING BETTER EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN NIGERIA THROUGH THE SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAMME

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### ABSTRACT

It has been proven that implementing coordinated school health interventions in schools is an opportunity to improve both academic achievement and quality of life for students. Nigeria keyed into the WHO's Health Promoting Schools initiative with the development of the National School Health Policy (NSHP) and its Implementation Guidelines. This paper did a review of the NSHP especially the School Health Programme (SHP) which provided the baseline information and framework for the paper. The paper explored various ways the components of the SHP can contribute in enhancing educational outcomes. The authors observed gaps in the implementation of the SHP which was attributed to a number of factors including lack of commitment on the part of government. The authors suggested that the capacity of local schools should be built to enable them mobilize and apply local resources in running the school health programme rather than embark on endless wait for financial assistance from the government. Also suggested is the inclusion of Physical Education as a component of the SHP during the review of the NSHP, and that school health should be included in teacher development programs of higher institutions of learning in the country.

**Keywords:** School health programme, Educational outcomes, National School Health policy, Nigeria.