



BABCOCK
UNIVERSITY

ILISHAN-REMO, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA

COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

Department of Nursing Science

RFN: Margaret Olutosin OJEWALE

RD: Nursing Science

RS: Nursing Sciences

RE: peggy01us@gmail.com

RAE: Nil

RP: 08038048643

RT: Stories of Women who are Long-Term Breast Cancer Survivors in Lagos State Nigeria Using a Phenomenological Approach

MS: Dr. Chinomzo NWOZICHI

ME: nwozichic@babcock.edu.ng

SP: +15129279521

CS: Nil

CE: Nil

CP: Nil

AB: Breast cancer (BrCa) is the most prevalent cancer among women globally and constitutes the most common cancer among women in Nigeria. The number of BrCa survivors have increased globally with early diagnosis and continued improvement in cancer management measures. However, these women usually encounter untold difficulty and are faced with various challenges either due to the disease or the treatment process. All these accrued to experiences and invariably their stories. All these experiences can be fully described by persons who have reached the survivorship stage. Additionally, the existing studies on experiences and needs among breast cancer survivors in Nigeria are limited, therefore, this study explored the stories of women who are long-term survivors of BrCa in Lagos State, Nigeria.

This study adopted a hermeneutic phenomenological approach to elicit the survivorship stories of survivors of BrCa who have been in remission for five years or more. The total of 22 participants were selected purposively in Lagos State using a snowball sampling technique. Data was collected with an unstructured one-on-one interview using open-ended questions lasting for about 60 minutes. Structural analysis and in-depth interpretation of meaning to understand the lived experiences of the Participant 4as done to generate themes and sub-themes adopting Riceour's philosophy of interpretation.

The 22 participants were ages ranged from 27 to 61 years as at the time of confirmation of their diagnosis with BrCa. Each Participant 20 had been in remission for five to seven years

after the BrCa treatment. Majority were married, had bachelor's degree and were at stage II at diagnosis. From the interview, five themes and 20 sub-themes emerged that reflected the BrCa survivorship trajectory. The themes were: In the beginning, going through difficult times, becoming a survivor, living as a survivor, and reaching out to others. The findings from this study indicated that the participants' route to survival was challenging. It also identified early diagnosis, building inner strength, family, and spiritual support, joining BrCa support group as integral components of BrCa survivorship pathway. In addition, faith, and quality medical treatment also enabled them reach survivorship. These were reflected in how the participants of this study conceived their identities as survivors.

Overall, this study explored the stories of women who are long-term survivors of BrCa in Lagos State, Nigeria and provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by BrCa survivors in defining themselves as survivors. It is therefore recommended that nurses and healthcare workers recognize and understand the experiences and needs of BrCa survivors to facilitate optimal health care delivery to improve the quality of life of BrCa survivors.

Keywords: Breast cancer, Breast cancer stories, Breast cancer survivor, Breast cancer support, Lived experiences

Word Count: 424

Abbreviations: *RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract*

Suggested Citation: Ojewale, M.O., and Nwozichi, C., 2023. Stories of Women who are Long-Term Breast Cancer Survivors in Lagos State Nigeria Using a Phenomenological Approach. PhD Thesis Abstract, College of Postgraduate Studies, Babcock University. [https://doi.org/10.61867/pcub.1\(5\).184](https://doi.org/10.61867/pcub.1(5).184)