**Chapter One – Introduction**

This chapter introduces the proposed project in terms of its background, problem statement, aims, objectives, scope as well as its limitations.

**Background**

Diabetes is one of the most common diseases that claims many lives worldwide every day. According to the World Health organization (WHO), between 1980 and 2014, the number of individuals with diabetes had risen from 108 million to 422 million with its prevalence rising more rapidly in middle- and low-income countries. In 2016 alone, an estimated 1.6 million deaths were directly caused by diabetes, making it the seventh leading cause of death in 2016.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs as a result of the inability of the human body to produce enough insulin, a hormone that regulates blood sugar level or the insulin produced is more than what can be fully exhausted by the body. Since it is directly linked to the sugar content of our meals, it is very easy to acquire diabetes and unlikely to be noticed in its early stages through its symptoms. According to the American Diabetes Association, 7.2 million individuals in the US out of the 30.3 million individuals with diabetes were undiagnosed. Diabetes mellitus can be treated or its outcome delayed if found earlier. It can also be very devastating because it can affect vital organs like the kidney, heart, etc.

**Type 1**

This is when the body’s pancreas that is responsible for producing insulin is not able to do so. Also known as childhood-onset, juvenile and insulin-dependent, it is mostly diagnosed in young people. However, Adults are not exempted from its reach. Continuous yearn to urinate, excessive thirst, hunger, unexpected weight loss, blurred vision, etc. are some common symptoms characterizing type 1 diabetes. People having type 1 diabetes are mostly required to take insulin every day to stay alive.

**Type 2**

Normally referred to as non-insulin dependent or adult onset diabetes, type 2 diabetes is the commonest and usually occurs in adults. With type 2, the insulin produced by the body’s pancreas cannot be fully exhausted by the body due to aged cells, physical inactivity and excess weight. It has similar symptoms as type 1, but it takes time for them to show making it difficult to be easily diagnosed in the early stages.

**Gestational**

Gestational diabetes occur in some women during their pregnancy. This occurrence does not mean that they had the disease earlier on or they will have it after delivery. Nontheless, it is advisable to be constanly checked by a practioner because both the child and mother can acquire type 2 diabtes after gestatational diabetes. It is directly linked to high levels of sugar above the normal sugar level of the body.

Other forms of diabetes include monogenic and pre-diabetes which occurs as a result of inheritance and conditions in which an individual moves between normality and diabetes.

**Aftermath of Diabetes**

Diabetes can affect almost all the vital organs of the body and extend to other parts when its diagnoses and treatment is prolonged. Amputation of the limb is mostly associated with diabetic patients due to nerve damage in the foot. Gradual blurring of vision leading to blindness, stroke, heart problems and making the body susceptible to other forms of diseases.

**Treatment and Diagnosis**

Early diagnosis can help treat or prolong the negative aftermath of diabetes. Inexpensive methods of treatment such as blood lipid control, foot care, diabetes-related kidney disease screening, blood glucose control, regular exercises and healthy diets.

Diabetes Mellitus is a deadly disease. However, early diagnosis, intake of healthy diets, regular exercises and checkup can help reduce its prevalence.

**Problem Statement**

**References**

WHO : <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/diabetes>