

**Quality midwifery education leads to
competent midwives**

By

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Outline of the presentation

- Introduction
- Foundations of midwifery education
- Midwifery concepts
- A competent midwife
- Competency
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality remains high in Africa
- A woman in Africa has a one in 16 risk of dying due to complications of pregnancy, child birth or post partum (WHO, 2008)
- Globally it is estimated that 34 out of every 1,000 newborns will die before reaching 1 month of age

Cont;

- High quality maternal and newborn care requires that each woman receives quality care during:
 - Pregnancy
 - Labour and Birth
 - Post partum period

Foundations of a successful midwifery education program

- Before implementing an educational program considerations must be given to:
 - the learning process
 - Learning environment
 - Preparation of clinical sites
 - Available learning resources
 - and preparation of simulated practice environment

Cont;

The learning process must facilitate the development of:

- Problem solving, critical thinking, and decision-making skills
- Appropriate interpersonal communication skills
- Competency in a range of essential clinical skills for maternal and newborn care and complications in pregnancy and childbirth

Midwifery concepts that need to be integrated into midwifery education

Key midwifery concepts that need to be integrated into midwifery education include:

- Partnership with women to promote self-care and the health of mothers, infants, and families
- Advocacy for women so that their voices are heard
- Respect for human dignity and for women as persons with full human rights

Cont;

- Cultural sensitivity including working with women and health care providers to overcome those cultural practices that harm women and babies
- a focus on health promotion and disease prevention that views pregnancy as a normal life event

Areas to be addressed in midwifery education

The midwifery curriculum should address the following:

- Social and cultural context of maternal and newborn care
- Pre pregnancy care
- Pregnancy care
- Care during labour and birth (intra partum care)
- Post partum care

Cont

- Post natal care of the newborn
- Abortion related care
- The learning process must focus on knowledge, attitudes and most important skills.
- It should be learning by doing

A competent Midwife

- Competence is a complex combination of knowledge, performance, skills, values and attitudes
- Competence involves the possession of sufficient knowledge and skills to perform job-related tasks
- But also incorporates ethics, values, and the capacity for reflective practice

Competency

- There are several personal characteristics that are generally accepted as the individual components of competence.
- These are:
 - Critical thinking skills: This includes the cognitive processes that constitute professional thinking

Cont

- Diagnostic reasoning, clinical judgment and problem solving
- The application of critical thinking in midwifery practice is associated with clinical decision-making,
- It is a process of reflective and reasonable thinking.

Cont

- Cognitive knowledge :
 - Is the understanding of the theoretical principles of safe practice (the understanding of facts and procedures).
 - Knowledge is acquired through individual learning (e.g. reading, discussion, deliberation, debate) and
 - Through mentoring (observation of others, receiving feedback)

- Clinical skills:

- This is scientific knowledge which is translated into practical application
- This is reflected in the performance
- Midwifery skills are acquired through guided clinical practice (also known as clinical mentorship or preceptorship)

Cont

- **Personal abilities:**

- This includes a set of personal attributes
- They are, however, perceptible, and are reflected in the manner in which any individual applies the knowledge and skills in the context of rendering clinical care.
- They include such things as communication skills (speaking and listening),

Cont

- The ability to foster supportive interpersonal relationships,
- The ability to respect diverse cultures and traditions, and a willingness to communicate sensitively with communities, families and individuals.

Cont

- **Professional behaviours**
- These are attitudes and values that are reflected in the ethical context within which professional practice is enacted (Vanaki & Memarian, 2009).
- Certain attributes may be considered to be characteristic of professional practice such as caring, empathy, or compassion

Conclusion

- In conclusion the midwifery education should ensure that a midwife's decision-making process is organised using a variety of sources of knowledge, intuitive precepts, and the ability to think critically and make sound clinical judgements.
- With quality midwifery education , midwives will be competent and improve maternal and neonatal outcomes

Cont

- ❖ *“When pregnancy occurs, women , their partners and families most often experience joy, concern and hope that the outcome will be the best of all: A healthy mother and a healthy baby” (WHO, 2005)*
- ❖ *“The right to health is a human right and the health of a nation is determined by the health of its women, newborns and children” MDR report 2011 to 2013, South Africa.*

References

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Thank you for listening
Kea leboha.