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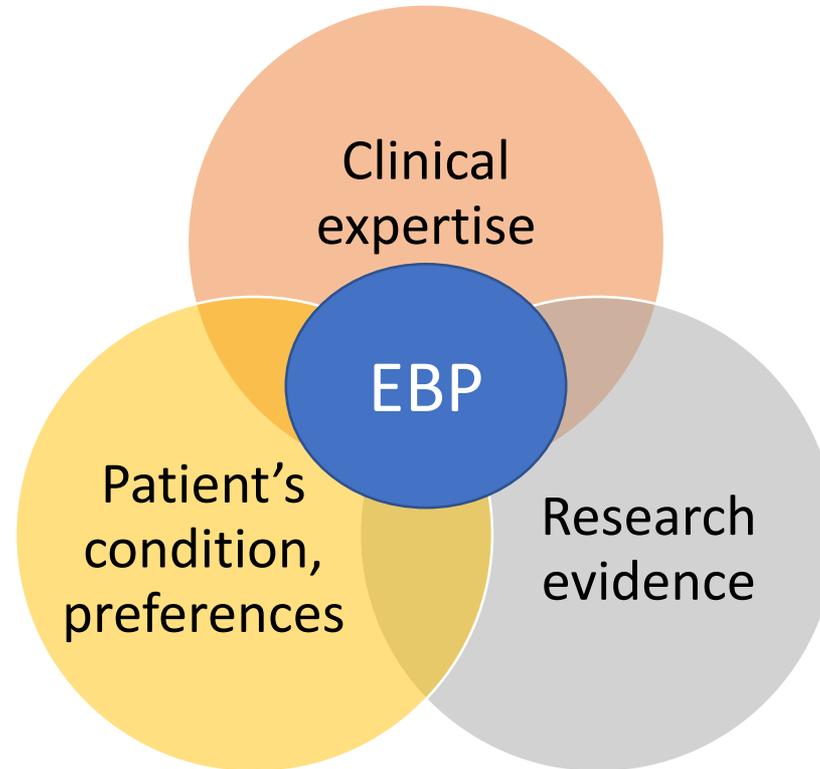
Research to promote Quality  
in Nursing and Midwifery

# **BARRIERS TO RESEARCH UTILIZATION AS PERCEIVED BY MIDWIVES IN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES IN GAUTENG**

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# Evidence-based practice



# INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- Patient care should be based on evidence (EBP) to yield positive outcomes
- The use of research findings in clinical practice is at the center of the improvement any clinical practice
- Barriers to research utilization have been identified and documented in different countries
- Evidence illustrate that nurses have a general positive attitude toward research, but also indicates that lack of implementation remain a major challenge in clinical settings

- Nurses and Midwives are expected to provide care that is informed by evidence, yet little is known about the barriers midwives perceive to hinder utilization of research.
- The ability to make evidence-based decisions is a required core skill for professional nurses and midwives.
- When the best available evidence is considered critically and implemented, chances are higher that the nurse/ midwife will do the right thing at the right time for the right patient.

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

- South Africa is struggling to improve maternal and perinatal outcomes.
- An unacceptable number of maternal deaths in the South Africa (83.23/100 000 births) are considered to be potentially avoidable and due to sub-standard care and missed opportunities
- Utilizing of the best research evidence available in practice could help to reduce avoidable maternal deaths
- Research utilization by Midwives working at Community Health Centres(CHC's) have not yet been assessed.
- These centres continue to experience high maternity mortality rates which could potentially be reduced if more midwives used research findings in their practice.
- It is therefore important to understand research utilization by midwives and the thereby improve the quality of midwifery care.

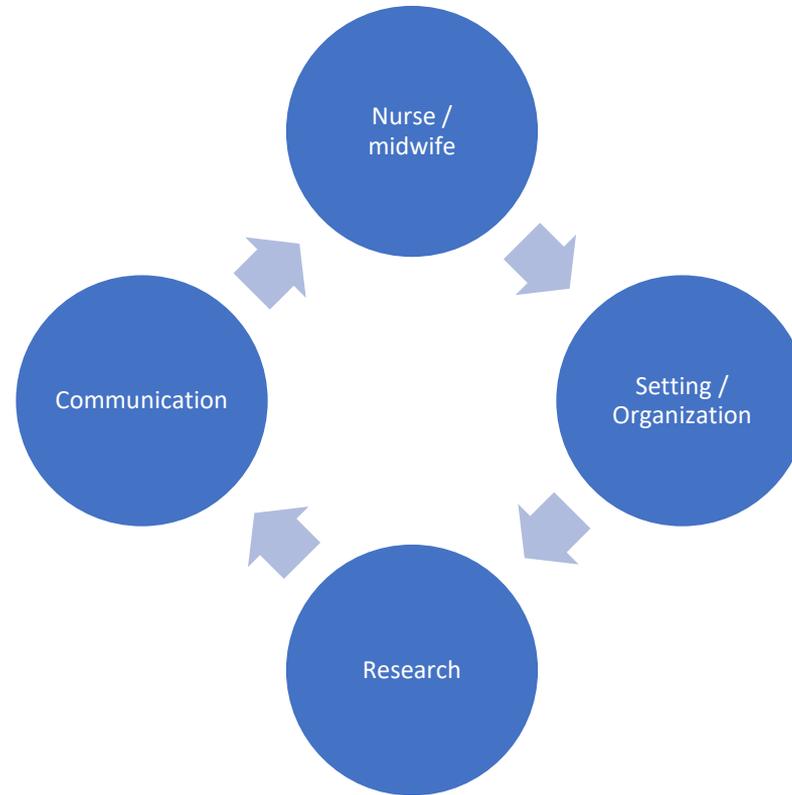
# Research Question, Aim and Objective of the study

- The background set the tone for the study and gave rise to the research question.
- **The research question:**  
What are the perceived barriers to research utilization by registered midwives in CHC in Gauteng?
- **The Aim of the study** was to contribute to the improvement of the quality of midwifery care by identifying and describing barriers perceived to be hindering research utilization.
- **The objective of the study** was to identify and describe the barriers to research utilization as perceived by midwives working in CHC's in Gauteng

# Theoretical Framework

- The study was underpinned by Rogers Diffusion of Innovation Theory.
- Funk and colleagues developed a research measurement tool to assess perceptions regarding barriers to research utilization which was based on Diffusion of Innovation Model of Rogers.
- The items in the instrument cover four domains of barriers: the nurse, the setting, the research, and the communication

# Four dimensions of BARRIERS scale



# Literature study

Most studies that used BARRIERS scale – ORGANIZATIONAL BARRIERS most important

3 types:

- **Time Constrains** - do not have time to read research and implement new ideas on the job.
- **Authority to change protocols** - perceive do not have power to change patients protocols.
- **Administration and staff support** - do not have support from colleagues, managers, physicians and administration

# Lit review (cont.)

- Communication factors:

- **Availability of research reports** - inaccessibility and availability of research reports in clinical practice impeded research.
- **Inability to understand statistical analysis** - difficulty in understanding research reports
- **Relevant literature not compiled in one place**- Scattered location of relevant literature
- **Language barrier**

# Lit review cont.

- FACTORS RELATED TO QUALITY OF RESEARCH
- **Methodological inadequacies** – poor justified conclusion, findings could not be used in other settings because they cannot be generalized.
- **Belief of research results and replication of studies** - research results could not be believed and lack of replication of research in other .

► INDIVIDUAL PRACTITIONER FACTORS

- **Isolation from knowledgeable colleagues** - practitioners will continue to base their interventions on tradition, customs and unit culture rather than on sound evidence.
- **Practitioner is unwilling to change/try new idea** – lack of confidence and not see the value of research
- **Practitioner does not feel capable to evaluate the quality of the research no** - no acknowledge to critically appraise research and reluctant to search for research on their own.
- **Do not see value of research in practice** do not see relevance to day to day work and also believed research is not applicable to nursing practice.
- **Practitioners are unaware of research-** being unaware of research.
- **There is no documented need to change practice** – no emphasis to change practice

# Research methodology

## ➤ RESEARCH DESIGN

A quantitative, descriptive, cross sectional design

## ➤ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted amongst midwives working directly with patients in antenatal, intrapartum, postpartum areas in 18 CHC's in Gauteng Province.

## ➤ SELECTION CRITERIA

1. The midwife should be registered with SANC
2. Permanently employed by the Gauteng Department of Health
3. Working as a midwife in a CHC in antenatal, intrapartum, post natal areas.
4. Two or more years of experience as a midwife.

## Data-collection

- A self administered questionnaire (BARRIER Scale) that asked participants to rate the extent to which they perceive each item to hinder them from utilizing research in practice was used.
- 30 different items of 4 types of barriers (factors)
- Statistical techniques (Goodness fit) indicated a good fit
- Reliability – Cronbach's Alpha coefficients 0.06-0.8

# Example

## Barriers and Facilitators to Using Research in Practice

Articles in nursing journals indicate that nurses in practice do not use the results of research to help guide their practice. There are a number of reasons why this might be. We would like to know the extent to which *you* think each of the following situations is a barrier to nurses' use of research to alter/enhance their practice. For each item, circle the number of the response that best represents your view. Thank you for sharing your views with us.

- 1. Research reports/articles are not readily available
- 2. Implications for practice are not made clear
- 3. Statistical analyses are not understandable

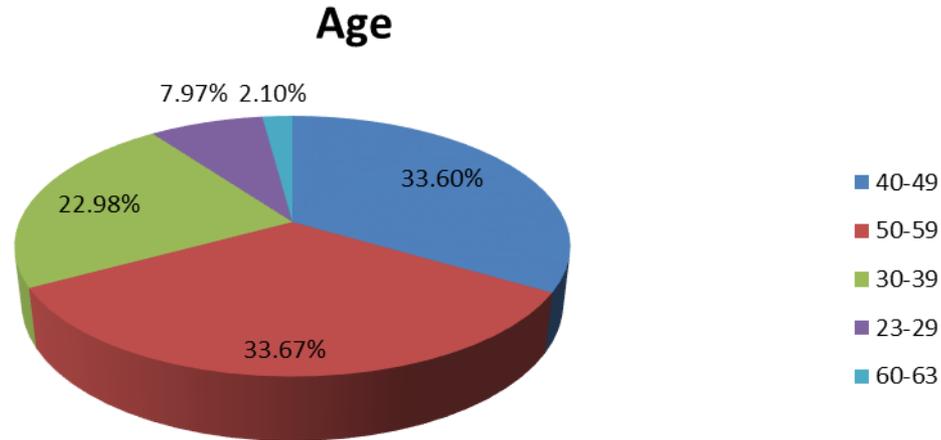
### THIS IS A BARRIER

<i>To no extent</i>	<i>To a little extent</i>	<i>To a moderate extent</i>	<i>To a great extent</i>	<i>No opinion</i>
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5

# Findings

- 140 respondents – response rate of 62,5%

Demographic profile:



## Demographic profile cont.

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Diploma in General Nursing	1	0.72%
Separate diplomas in General Nursing and Midwifery	34	24.46%
Four year integrated diploma (including midwifery)	48	34.53%
Four year integrated Bachelor's degree (including midwifery)	12	8.63%
3 year Post Basic Degree in Administration and Education	25	17.98%
Post basic Diploma in Advanced Midwifery	17	12.23%
Post Basic Diploma in Administration and Education	2	1.43%

## Demographic profile cont.

Work experience	Frequency (f)	%
<b>Experience in midwifery practice</b>		
0-4 years	30	21.74%
5-9 years	37	26.81%
10 years and more	70	50.72%
<b>Experience in Management</b>		
0-4 years	15	10.86%
5-9 years	4	2.89%
10 years and more	5	3.62%
<b>Experience in Education</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>%</b>
0-4 years	6	4.35%
5-9 years	0	0
<b>Workplace</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>%</b>
Clinical	137	99.27%
Administration	1	0.73%

# Major findings

- The highest ranked greatest barrier was there is insufficient time on the job to implement new ideas.
- The finding fits with the anecdotal reports that nurses are short staffed, overworked and thus lack time for activities which are not directed to direct patient care.
- Therefore allocation of time provides an opportunity to learn about research utilization and be willing to implement new ideas.

## Second greatest barrier

- Other staff members are not supportive of the implementation.
- Midwives are required to work as a team and have good relations for positive patient outcome. In the absence of good relationships, miscommunication and lack of consultation, working in silos could lead to detrimental outcomes
- Change agents have a significant role to play in ensuring that an innovation is adopted.
- Participants suggested that support from unit managers would enhance research utilization.

## Third Greatest barrier

- The study revealed lack of resources as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest.
- Lack of resources could be multifaceted, it might relate to lack of equipment, inadequate supplies & medication or equipment.
- It could also refer to lack of protocols and procedures that should be updated regularly based on evidence.
- Thus it is important for the management of facilities to ensure the availability of adequate resources for midwives to perform their duties effectively and safely

## 4<sup>th</sup> greatest barrier

- Midwives indicated that they did not have authority to change patient care protocols as the 4<sup>th</sup> greatest barrier.
- Individual midwives might lack confidence to initiate measures that are scientifically and clinically proven to improve patient care.
- Participants suggested training on research utilization as well as involving midwives in the research activities could facilitate research utilization.
- The implication is that as more midwives are involved in research, they will be more confident to assess and propose changes to patient protocols.

## Other barriers

### Open ended question – Shortage of staff

- Shortage of staff could attribute to many factors, such as poor working conditions, broader professional issues, remuneration, and burden of diseases especially HIV and AIDS (
- Shortage of staff could adversely affect patient outcomes, it could be a factor influencing non- utilization of research because with fewer staff members, the overall workload remains the same, implying a heavier workload for each individual midwife
- Adequate staffing to ease work load was recommended as by participants in the study to promote utilization of research.
- Management needs to improve working conditions of midwives by providing a conducive and safer environment with resources and time to use research in their practice

## Other barriers

- The study revealed research results are not published fast enough as a major barrier
- It is important for researchers to publish the results of their studies as soon as possible as delay could have a negative effect on research utilization.
- The results should be made available in practice settings for midwives to interrogate for utilization.
- Participants suggested that availability and accessibility of research reports including feedback on research studies in the practice could enhance research utilization

# Unique finding in this study

- Participant indicated that they feel research are not applicable to their setting
- In contrast the participants in studies conducted with nurses, did not perceive generalization of results as a barrier.
- It could mean that midwives perceived this barrier as a unique applicable to midwifery context.
- Hence researchers should present and discuss results of their studies and indicate how it applies to the midwifery context and setting.

# Conclusions

- Recommendations for education
  - EBP vs research methodology modules
  - Workshops for lecturers
- Recommendations for practice
  - Managerial support
  - Champions
  - Journal clubs
  - CPD

# Further recommendations

- Recommendation for management
  - Allocation of resources
  - Staff, research reports, protocols
  - Working conditions
  - Link key performance of managers & practitioners to research utilization
- Recommendations for research
  - Identification of perceptions of barriers to research utilization in other contexts
  - Intervention study to address specific barriers
  - Comparison with other tools regarding EBP

For questions or references:  
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