Explore the knowledge on midwifery care among nurses in order to develop a teaching module

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ABSTRACT

India has 27 Million births per year, which is the largest in the world. With its high maternal mortality of about 300-500 per 100,000 births, about 75000-50,000 maternal deaths occur every year in India. This is about 20% of the global burden. Hence India's need to reduce maternal mortality is crucial. It is also a need for achieving the Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG 5). One way to tackle this problem is to have Skilled Birth Attendant at the time of delivery by training a cadre of people. This was an effort of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The Primary Health centers are the peripheral health unit where rural women have their health care. The health unit district of Tamil Nadu cater to the health care needs through the primary health centers. The staff nurses, Village Health Nurses (VHN) and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives are the health personnel who take care of pregnant women from the time of conception to delivery including newborn and postnatal period. They not only need to conduct normal delivery but also handle Emergency Obstetric care. The knowledge on maternity care is essential for nurses to practice safe maternal and newborn care.

The investigator designed this study in order to assess the knowledge on maternity care to develop a teaching module for Skilled Birth Attendants who are working at Primary Health centers of selected health unit districts in Tamil Nadu.

Objectives

1. To identify the knowledge level on maternity care among nurses working at Primary Health Centers of Thoothukudi Health Unit District.
2. To compare the level of knowledge on maternity care with regard to demographic Variables of nurses.
3. To associate the knowledge level with demographic variables of nurses.
4. To develop teaching module for Skilled Birth attendant.

The conceptual framework used in this study was a Benner’s domain of novice to expert with the Nursing Process Model.
The participants of the study were 300 nurses working in 28 Primary health centers of Thoothukudi Health Unit district selected by convenient sampling. The nurses included were staff nurses, VHN and ANMs. The knowledge of nurses was assessed using a self-administered questionnaire with 50 multiple-choice questions.

The findings of the study being, the highest percentage of nurses was between the age group less than 30 years (142 / 47.4%). Majority of nurses were of higher secondary qualification (163 / 54.3%) and were married (211 / 70.3%). Nurses with more than 10 years of experience were 150 (50%), 4-10 years were 16 (5.3%) and 1-3 years were 134 (44.4 %). Nurses with highest years of experience in maternity were 1-3 years (139 /46.4%). Maximum number of nurses had not attended SBA training (161 / 53.7%). The majority of nurses have inadequate knowledge 296 (98.7%) and 4 (1.3%) nurses had moderately adequate knowledge in maternity care. 22 (7.3%) nurses have adequate domain wise knowledge in general maternity care. 13(4.3%) nurses have adequate knowledge and 110 (36.7%) nurses had moderately adequate knowledge in Domain obstructed labor. The knowledge level on obstetric complication was adequate, Moderately adequate and inadequate among 7(2.3%), 30(10%) and 263(82.2%) nurses respectively. The knowledge level in post-partum complication was adequate in 5 (1.7 %), moderately adequate in 47(15.7%) and inadequate in 248(82.2%) nurses. Regard to care during normal labor all 300 (100%) nurses have inadequate knowledge. 16(5.3%) nurses have moderate knowledge and 284(94.7%) nurses have inadequate knowledge in domain care during complications of pregnancy.

The domain general maternity care and complication during pregnancy had statistically significant association with age, marital status, basic qualification, working as staff nurse, VHN, ANM and years of experience at p<0.05 level. With regard to comparison of the level of knowledge, there was significant difference in the level of knowledge among age group, marital status, having children, basic qualification and working as ANM, staff nurse and VHN. The investigator had developed a teaching module as an outcome of the study on management of general obstetrics and newborn care including lifesaving obstetric care. This was validated by experts and will be utilized by both resource persons as well as the nurses.