

Partnership between mothers and midwives in the quality of care model – a Success Story

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STUDY QUESTION AND AIM

“What are student midwives and women’s stories about the partnership in Midwifery Care Model practiced during their Midwifery Training at Solomon Islands National University (SINU)?”

AIM: To share stories of student midwives and their follow-through Case study about “Partnership in Midwifery Care,” that students give and women receive during pregnancy, labour and through six (6) weeks postpartum during the Course of their study.

Definition of terms used in this Story

Partnership

“Partnership is at the heart of midwifery curriculum which describes the relationship between the midwife and women”(ICM,2010)

This means:

- It is characterized by trust and shared responsibility.
- The woman is encouraged to actively participate in her care.
- The woman and her family's wishes are respected as are the knowledge, experience and skills of the Midwife

Definition of terms used in this Story

Partnership Midwifery Care

-Refers to the care that midwives offer to women and includes the continuity of care by the same midwife during pregnancy through to 6 weeks post partum.

Standard Midwifery/Maternity Care

- Refers to the Care that a team of Nurses (Nurse Aides, Registered Nurses & Midwives) offer. There is no continuity of care by the same Nurse or Midwife.

BACKGROUND

- Literatures supported Partnership in Midwifery care;
 - Results in less interventions
 - More home births
 - Results in early hospital discharges
 - Reveals women's perceptions & experience were predominantly influenced by relationships they had with their midwives they described as "friends"
 - More positive birth experiences
 - Women appreciate their midwives partnership and friendship involves the family
 - Is safe and Cost-effective for high risk women.

BACKGROUND – CURRENT SITUATION

- In Solomon Islands primary Midwifery Care was offered by Nurse Aides, Registered Nurses and Midwives respectively at all levels of health care service delivery points.
- High risk pregnancies are referred to hospitals for safe delivery.
- Only Standard Midwifery Care is practiced.
- This means, a pregnant woman will be cared for by streams of different nursing professionals throughout the course of her pregnancy through 6 weeks postpartum.
- There is no continuity of care by the same health care provider in most cases
- A pregnant woman may or may not be seen by a trained midwife during their pregnancy.

BACKGROUND

- Maternal and Neonatal mortalities still a major issue of concern in the country.
- The “Partnership in Midwifery Care” has not been fully practiced in Solomon Islands.
- There is still shortage of Midwives in the country to meet the required need to have one midwife per shift in hospitals and one midwife in each Area Health Clinic (AHC) and Rural Health Clinic (RHC).
- There is no literature available to explore this phenomena locally.

STUDY METHOD

The story was extracted from

- Review of case study assignments
- Student midwives reflective journals
- Classroom presentations and discussions
- Formal and informal consultations and discussions by student midwives with the midwifery lecturer regarding case study women.
- Clinical supervision during practicum sessions.

What Student Midwives say about Partnership in Midwifery Care

1. Improves communication, builds woman's trust and confidence on the midwife

"It helps me to listen more to women and understand their fears and problems better"

"Treating the woman as my best friend enables me to influence her to readily accept family planning."

"It helps women to trust me and have confidence in me"



What Student Midwives say about Partnership in Midwifery Care.

2. The woman and their families actively involve in the plan of care.

“When I share detailed information about the plan of care to the family, they actively involve in the care and take responsibility for the woman”

“Husbands & Partners actively participate more in women’s health”



What Student Midwives say about Partnership Midwifery Care.

3. Develop empathy and respect for women.

“This partnership helps me to be patient and show empathy to women who are distressed and uncooperative during labour and delivery”.

“Women cooperate better during complicated labour.”



What Student Midwives say about Partnership Midwifery Care

4. Positive outcomes in complicated labour and birth, with positive coping mechanisms

“My patient copes better during the puerperium”.

“My patient experiences less complications and positive birth outcomes from a high risk pregnancy.”



Other Responses from Student Midwives

“I have been working as a Nurse-Midwife for a long time now but I never knew what working in partnership with women is all about.”

“I just know how working in partnership can empower women to make informed choices”.

“It can be tiring at times but the satisfaction to see a live mother and baby outweighs it.



What Women say about Partnership in Midwifery Care.

- *“The support that was given to me by my mid-wife, was one that gave me the confidence in myself”.*
- *“My mid-wife comes highly recommended from me and my family as a professional mid-wife.”*



What Women say about Partnership in Midwifery Care.

- *My Midwife's confidence, gentleness and natural calm is an asset to the medical fraternity in the Solomon Islands – **and we need more midwives just like her!***
- *I've heard about things that could go wrong during labour that was quite terrifying for me. But my midwife is my counsellor.*



What Women say about Partnership in Midwifery Care

- *“Without her ability to remain calm and gentle with words of comfort, I wouldn’t have been able to go through with my natural birth”.*



CONCLUSION

- The follow-through case study has inspired student midwives to understand the meaning of the term MIDWIFE – which means “WITH WOMEN”.
- This experience has transpired an understanding of what Partnership with women is about.
- Student midwives are able to critically reflect and analyse their old practices and improve them through reflective thinking.
- Improved birth outcomes, less complications.
- Women also have their own stories, listen to them and assess our own practices from their stories (whether negative or positive).

CONCLUSION

- When you work in partnership with women, you gain her confidence.
- This confidence reaches her family, the Community and the Country.
- This; we believe is a catalyst for accelerating progress for sustainable development goals for reproductive health in the Pacific

WAY FORWARD

- Midwifery training to correlate with current practice. Include more partnerships in midwifery trainings.
- Midwifery registration to reflect Midwifery scope of practice.
 - How much autonomy should Midwives have in terms of providing midwifery care?.
- Development of clear midwifery policies & procedures to guide new midwife graduates in practice.
- Consider introducing Continuity of midwifery care Model to assess how well it can influence health for all.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE!

“Health Service **Providers** must work in
Partnership with Health Service **Consumers**
- AS A CATALYST FOR ACCELERATING
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING