

The Midwifery Nursing Course

A Study of Problems Faced by Students

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THIS Study aimed at evaluating the class instructions and clinical experience of the Midwifery Nursing Course and to identify the problems faced by the students and teachers during the Midwifery Nursing course. Hence, the research approach selected was an Evaluative Survey.

The objectives of the study were:

1. To identify and analyse the problems of G.N.M. students in the Midwifery Nursing Course as expressed by the students in terms of: (i) Classroom instruction. (ii) Clinical experience.

2. To analyse the problems of the Midwifery Nursing teachers in the implementation of the Midwifery Nursing Course in terms of: (i) Classroom instruction. (ii) Clinical experience.

The justification of doing this study was that the information and the problems analysed will help the institutions to improve the problem areas. The study also intended to provide systematic data to the Indian Nursing Council on the Midwifery Nursing Course before further revision of the G.N.M. programme.

For collecting the data from the students and teachers separate structured opinionnaires and record analysis proforma were selected. The reliability and feasibility was tested by using the test retest method (for opinionnaires)

and by inter-rator reliability (for record analysis proformas).

The study was conducted in three private Schools of Nursing in Delhi. Keeping in mind the availability of the sample, a purposive sampling technique was used with regard to sections of the hospitals and total enumerative technique was used while selecting G.N.M. students and teachers for the study. The sample consisted of 63 G.N.M. students who had completed their G.N.M. course in September 1993 and were working in these three institutions on a contract basis, three teachers who teach Midwifery Nursing in these three Schools of Nursing and selected records in the area of Midwifery Nursing.

The investigators personally administered the tools, observed the physical facilities, collected data from records and interviewed the teachers on certain selected aspects. The data were summarised in frequencies percentages and mean percentages.

Major Findings

The major findings of the study are as follows:

The majority of the students were in the age group of 18-21 years with general education as pre-degree with science subjects.

Regarding Midwifery Nursing teachers two out of three teachers

were in the age group of 36-46 years with general education as S.S.L.C. and professional education D.N.E.A. with less than 5 years of experience in teaching Midwifery Nursing Course.

Students expressed the problems of not using the variety of teaching aids, teachers also reported that projected aids are either inadequate or not available for teaching.

Students do not have adequate numbers of Midwifery textbooks and periodicals for reference study.

Students feel that there is an inadequate participation of Obstetricians and Paediatricians in the Midwifery Nursing team teaching.

Students expressed the problems of not being evaluated by a variety of tools.

Meeting the minimum requirement for Midwifery Nursing was inadequate in the area of 'Conduct of home deliveries' as expressed by students and teachers of Midwifery Nursing.

Findings indicate that the students are not much exposed to PHC/Sub-Centre and Community maternity field. Therefore, they lack confidence to work in these areas as per INC requirements.

The teacher-students ratio of Midwifery Course was 1:30 in School "A", 1:20 in School "B" and 1:10 in School "C". Although the teacher-student ratio of the Schools were adequate as per the INC cri-

Table: 1
Percentage and mean percentage of agreement among students regarding the minimum requirement met by each G.N.M. student during Midwifery Nursing Course.

N=63

	Percentage of Agreement				Mean % of Agreement
	As required by INC	School A N=30	School B N=21	School C N=12	
* Examination of Antenatal Mother	30	100	81	100	94
* Witness of Deliveries Before Conducting the First delivery	10	100	62	100	87.33
* Conduct of Deliveries (including)	15	100	62	100	87.33
* Conduct of Home Deliveries	3	0	24	0	8
* Performance of Vaginal Examination	5	97	90.5	100	96
* Performance of Episiotomy(5)	-	90	100	100	97
* Witness of(5) Forceps Deliveries	-	100	100	100	100
* Witness of(5) Caesarean Section	-	100	100	100	100
* Nursing of Lying in Mothers	15	100	100	100	100
* Caring of New Borns	15	100	100	100	100
* Attending Antenatal Clinic	5	100	100	100	100
* Attending Post-natal clinic	5	100	100	100	100
* Giving(5) Planned Health Teaching	-	100	100	100	100

teria, that is 1:10, subject-wise it was not adequate for a proper supervision of the students. Teachers who teach Midwifery were also responsible to teach other subjects and to perform administrative responsibilities.

Clinical teaching was not regular, students expressed maximum problems in episiotomy and perineal tears.

Table 1 shows that there was 100 per cent agreement among students in seven areas out of 13 given in the Table that they fulfil the clinical requirement as per I.N.C.

criteria. There is a lowest mean percentage of agreement among the students in the area of 'Conduct of home deliveries', that is 8 per cent.

However, there is above 87.33 per cent of agreement among the students of schools "A", "B" and "C" that the clinical requirements are being met as per I.N.C. requirement.

The findings indicate that meeting the minimum requirement for Midwifery Nursing Course was inadequate in the area of 'conduct of home deliveries' only as expressed by the students.

Table 2 shows that students from all the three Schools are almost hundred per cent agreed that they had the demonstration on all the abovementioned procedures. Only the students of School 'A' expressed that they had the demonstration on 'Performance of Episiotomy' but not on the 'suturing of Episiotomy and Perineal tear'.

The findings indicate that 'Suturing of Episiotomy' and 'Perineal tear' was not demonstrated in School 'A' which posed a problem for students for practising Midwifery Nursing.

Data presented in Table 3 show that the areas 1,2,3, and 9, that is, 'Objectives of the Course', 'Hours of Class', 'Content of the Course', 'Clinical Supervision' had the hundred per cent of agreement that they did not face any problem in these areas and area 5, that is 'Teaching Facilities' had the lowest percentage of agreement among the students that means the students faced maximum problem in teaching facilities. In other areas it is above 71.44 per cent of agreement among the students that is 'Method and Media' (71.44%), 'Evaluation of Theory and Practice' (90.74%), 'Minimum Requirement' (87.89%), 'Clinical Teaching' (91.66%), and 'Clinical Facilities' (97.07%).

The findings indicate that students faced maximum problem in 'Teaching Facilities' and next in 'Method and Media' during their Midwifery Nursing Course.

On the basis of the findings recommendations for further study

Table 2
Percentage of Agreement among the students and mean percentage regarding the demonstration of procedures in the Clinical field.

N = 16

Procedure Demonstration	Percentage of Agreement			Mean % of Agreement
	School-A N=30	School-B N=21	School-C N=12	
* Antenatal Examination of Mothers	100	100	100	100
* Conduct of Normal Labour	100	100	100	100
* Performance of Episiotomy	100	100	100	100
* Suturing of Episiotomy	3	100	92	63
* Suturing of Perineal Tear	3	100	100	68
* Resuscitation of New Born	100	100	100	100
* Care of New Born	100	100	100	100
* Care of Post-Natal Mothers	100	100	100	100

were made such as to replicate similar studies on large samples, Government Schools of Nursing, etc.

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Table: 3

Mean Percentage Agreement among students of three selected Schools regarding classroom instruction and the clinical experience of the Midwifery Nursing Course of the G.N.M. Programme (1986)

N = 63

Sub-areas of Classroom Inst. and Clinical exp.	School-A N=30	School-B N=21	School-C N=12	Mean %
1. Objectives of the course	100	100	100	100
2. Hours of Class	100	100	100	100
3. Content of the course	100	100	100	100
4. Methods and media	70	62.33	82	71.44
5. Teaching facilities	46	53.43	67	55.47
6. Evaluation of theory and practice	72.22	100	100	90.74
7. Minimum Requirements	91.28	86.09	92.30	89.89
8. Clinical Experience	76	100	99	91.66
9. Clinical Supervision	100	100	100	100
10. Clinical Facilities	96	95.23	100	97.07