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Factors that Contribute to Sub-Optimal Midwifery Practice Environment in Public Hospitals of Limpopo Province, South Africa

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The purpose of this study was to determine the factors that contribute to sub-optimal midwifery practice environment in maternity units of public hospitals of Limpopo province, South Africa. A quantitative cross-sectional descriptive design was adopted. Population was 350 midwifery practitioners employed in the maternity units of Public hospitals of Limpopo province. Simple random sampling was used to select the sample of 174 respondents. A self-developed questionnaire was utilized to collect numeric data from midwifery practitioners. The completion of questionnaires took approximately 45 to 60 minutes during lunch time in order not to disturb the smooth running of the unit. The researcher collected the completed questionnaires from all the respondents at the selected maternity units. The questionnaires were grouped according to maternity units where midwifery practitioners were employed. Descriptive statistics helped in making sense of a large volume of data whereas the inferential statistics helped to make inferences about a subset of the population from the study. The results were discussed according to the quantitative numeric information presented in graphs (pie, bar), tables, and figures respectively. The researcher organized the findings of midwifery practitioners in tables for comparison and analysis purposes. Results of the study yielded lack of equipment such as episiotomy scissors, blood pressure apparatus, inadequate supply of material resources and human resources. All these influenced the sub-optimal midwifery interventions proffered to pregnant women.

Biography:

Dr Magdeline Kefilwe Thopola, teaches midwifery, supervising research to undergraduates and Masters Dissertations. Qualifications: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Mcur, B Cur:Nursing Education, Community Nursing Science, Occupational Health Nursing, Nursing Administration, Registered Midwife and Registered Nurse.

Midwifery specialist, initiated advanced midwifery training in Ga-Rankuwa Nursing College. PhD Title "An evidence-based model for enhancing optimal midwifery practice environment in maternity units of public hospitals, Limpopo province.

Presented research papers nationally and internationally. Published 13 midwifery articles in accredited journals. Reviewer of articles for publications in accredited journals. Served as faculty advisor of First Africa Cohort of Maternal-Child-Health Care Leadership Academy, 2013-2015.