

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF
MIDWIVES ON MANAGEMENT OF PHYSICALLY
CHALLENGED WOMEN DURING LABOUR AT
KWEKWE GENERAL HOSPITAL MATERNITY
WARD IN ZIMBABWE

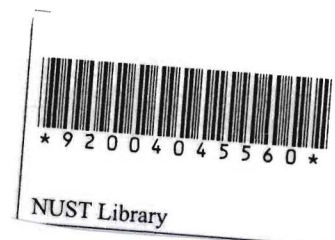
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NYARADZO NONDO PABWAUNGANA

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FULFILMENT OF THE MASTERS OF SCIENCE
DEGREE IN MIWIFERY EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Every woman has the right to receive maternity care that identifies and addresses social and behavioral factors that affect her health and of her body. Physical challenged woman fall under a minority population which can be easily forgotten (WHO 2010). Most of their needs remain unmet yet giving birth is every woman's right regardless of their social, economic, physical and mental state.

This study used a triangulation approach of quantitative and qualitative research designs. Triangulation was used because of its suitability to the study. Qualitative research was used in the study since perceptions cannot be measured and are unquantifiable. A qualitative phenomenological research design was utilised for this study to capture life experience as they are lived by the participants. The populations under study were 37 midwives working in maternity labour ward and 4 physically challenged women within the community. Structured interview was used for the midwives who participated in the study while unstructured interviews was used for the physically challenged women. The midwives were interviewed during working hours Monday to Friday whilst the physically challenged women were interviewed in the comfort of their homes. The study revealed that the midwives have some knowledge gaps about how to care for the physically challenged woman in labour despite being well experienced in midwifery practice. The study also revealed that the hospital is not user friendly and there is lack of privacy in labour ward. Midwives attitude contributed to, poor service utilisation by physical challenged woman.

The Ministry of Health and Child Welfare may make adjustments on the infrastructures already available in order to accommodate the unaccompanied physically challenged women who visit the hospital for reproductive health services. This would make the hospital user friendly for all consumers. Seminars/workshops should be held more annually for all trained midwives so as to share experiences and areas which need clarification to be identified. Exit interview to be conducted on all physically challenged women post-delivery in maternity labour ward before discharge. The Ministry of Health and Child Care to incorporate care of the physically challenged woman in labour in the midwifery curriculum.