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MIDWIVES' VIEWS ON THEIR COMPETENCIES IN CLINICAL TEACHING OF  
STUDENT MIDWIVES' PSYCHOMOTOR SKILLS IN A MATERNITY HOSPITAL, IN  
BULAWAYO; ZIMBABWE.

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND  
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MIDWIFERY AND MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

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## **Abstract**

Acquisition of psychomotor clinical skills has been shown to improve the quality of care provided to patients when care providers are competent. The aim of this study was to explore the midwives views on their competencies on psychomotor skills in a maternity hospital in Bulawayo Zimbabwe.

The study employed qualitative and descriptive approaches guided by the phenomenological design. The population was midwives' in the labour ward with two years or more working experience who teach supervise and coach students. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews which were audio-taped and transcribed verbatim. Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the collected data. The four key themes that emerged were mixed views about clinical teaching competencies, psychomotor skills increase competence, the clinical teaching and learning environment and clinical teacher motivation.

Permission to conduct the study was obtained from the Medical Research Council of Zimbabwe and the participating institution. The researcher used purposive and convenience sampling in this study and seven midwives were selected. Ethical principles of respect of human dignity, beneficence and justice were observed. Trustworthiness was ensured by means of the four constructs, confirmability, credibility, dependability and transferability throughout the study.

The major findings in the research were that the midwives had gained experience in midwifery practice over a period of time ranging from 2 to 22 years although they had diploma qualifications which might compromise the quality of teaching despite that some of them had attended in service workshop to upgrade their practice and clinical teaching skills. There was knowledge gap on teaching strategies by midwives who teach students in the labour ward. In addition to that there was shortage of midwives and basic resources in the clinical setting.

**Conclusion:** Basing on the findings of this study it is recommended that student midwives should be taught by qualified midwives who have a higher professional qualification and should also update their knowledge and clinical teaching skills for them to adequately guide students. The clinical arena should have adequate resources human and material resources.

**Keywords:** Midwife, Clinical teacher, preceptor, Competency –Based Education , Clinical skill, Clinical teaching, psychomotor skill acquisition in the clinical area, student midwife.