



# NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SPECIAL COLLECTION  
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DISSERTATION TOPIC:

AN ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT MIDWIVES' AND FACULTY STAFF'S PERCEPTIONS ON EFFECTIVENESS OF CLINICAL TEACHING BY CLINICAL INSTRUCTORS IN MIDWIFERY EDUCATION.

COMPILED BY:

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A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN MIDWIFERY EDUCATION.

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## ABSTRACT

The study is a qualitative enquiry, which used a phenomenological approach to analyse the perceptions of student midwives and faculty staff perceptions on effectiveness of clinical teaching by clinical instructors in midwifery education at a midwifery training school in Matabeleland South Province in Zimbabwe. The focus of the problem statement is that clinical instructors are engaged into the midwifery-training programme without basic teacher preparation. The objectives of the study were to assess the effectiveness of clinical teaching by clinical instructors in midwifery education, to establish whether the clinical instructors are ready for their role when they start working as clinical instructors and to evaluate the effectiveness of the current system in the orientation of clinical instructors. The population under study included student midwives, tutors and clinical instructors. Sampling was done through non-probability convenience sampling and the sample consisted of 30 student midwives, 3 tutors and 3 clinical instructors. Data was collected through focus group interviews for student midwives and semi-structured interviews for tutors and clinical instructors after they had voluntarily consented. The interviews were conducted in private settings and confidentiality was maintained through use of numerically corded audio recordings. Data analysis was done using a method by Giorgi (1985) cited in Polit and Beck (2014). The emergent themes were identified through a decision trail, which involved listening to the audio recordings, verbatim transcripts and a vertical summary of the individual transcripts and then identifying themes that ran across all conversations. The themes that emerged from the student midwives were overcrowding during clinical sessions, limited time on clinical sessions, need for one-on-one clinical sessions, unanswered questions and negative attitudes. The need for training for clinical instructors and negative attitudes were themes that emerged from the data collected from the tutors. The themes for the clinical instructors were unpreparedness, inadequate mentorship, need for a training course, lack of knowledge on how to prepare lesson plans and need continued professional development. The recommendations made were that clinical teaching needs to be included in the midwifery-training curriculum, there should be a formal preparation for clinical instructors, which is standardized, and clinical instructors need regular in-service training and an increase in the number of clinical instructors.