

Improving the knowledge of midwives at Aisyiyah Muntilan General Hospital on midwifery update: intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience

Nuli Nuryanti Zulala*, Siti Istiyati

Study Program of Midwifery, Faculty of Health Science, Aisyiyah University of Yogyakarta, Indonesia
*Email: nuli.zulala@unisayogya.ac.id

Abstract

The intrapartum period is a crucial time in the sequence of pregnancy and child care. The WHO has issued recommendations for care during childbirth to provide a positive experience for mothers since 2018, but many midwives and health services have not yet implemented these recommendations. These recommendations aim to improve the well-being of mothers and babies, reduce the risk of mortality, and increase the satisfaction of mothers and families with the care provided by health service providers. This study is a One-Group Pretest-Posttest quasi-experimental study that aims to determine the increase in midwives' knowledge at Aisyiyah Muntilan General Hospital regarding WHO recommendations on positive experiences during childbirth. The level of knowledge was measured using a questionnaire, and the intervention provided was a refresher course on the material and practice. The research sample consisted of a total sampling of 22 midwives. The results showed an increase in post-test scores after the refresher training and practice, with a Delta mean of 27.7. The improvement in midwives' knowledge and practice will enhance the quality of midwifery care, thereby reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity while increasing patient and family satisfaction with midwifery care.

Keywords: intrapartum care; knowledge; midwife; midwifery update; positive childbirth experience

1. Introduction

The intrapartum period is a crucial time in the sequence of pregnancy and child care. Events during this period are shaped by the unique socio-cultural and health characteristics of the individual, as well as by health care providers, practice protocols, and the physical environment where care is provided (Combellick et al., 2023). Currently, more and more women are giving birth in healthcare facilities, but suboptimal quality of care continues to hinder the achievement of desired health outcomes. In some places, interventions provided to women are too few and too late, while in others, women receive too many interventions that are not needed as quickly. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued several recommendations to address specific aspects of workforce management and the main causes of maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity in response to countries' needs for the survival of women and babies and to ensure that they grow and reach their full potential for health and well-being (World Health Organization (WHO), 2018). Research in China indicates that women are generally satisfied with midwife-led childbirth care. Midwife-led teams utilise prenatal counselling, the presence of doulas and family members, Lamaze breathing techniques, warm perineal compresses, epidural anaesthesia, free positioning during the first stage of labour, procedures to reduce pain, and more comfort and postnatal guidance, leading to high levels of satisfaction with midwife-led care (Liu et al., 2021). During childbirth, women are vulnerable to disrespectful and abusive behaviour from maternity care providers treating them in health facilities. Therefore, it is important to assess women's satisfaction with the maternity services they receive in health facilities during this period. Satisfaction with services during maternity is an important determinant of continued use of maternity services and positive birth outcomes (Mukerenge et al., 2025).

The WHO has issued recommendations for childbirth care to provide a positive experience for mothers since 2018, but many midwives and health services have yet to implement these recommendations. The recommendations aim to improve the well-being of mothers and babies, reduce the risk of mortality, and increase the satisfaction of mothers and families with the care provided by health service providers (World Health Organization (WHO), 2018).

The delivery period itself is a very important period for mothers and families. It is a period of transition, a period of role change, and can also be a traumatic period for mothers and families. Therefore, the role of midwives as companions and helpers for mothers during this phase is very

important. Competent midwives with good knowledge and skills will always prioritise the safety, comfort and satisfaction of mothers and families. Patient satisfaction is paramount in healthcare services. Patient satisfaction not only reflects the quality of service but also influences the success of treatment, patient loyalty, operational efficiency, and the reputation of healthcare facilities. Therefore, it is an important focus in healthcare service quality management (Murray-Davis et al., 2024).

The application of evidence-based practice (EBP) in midwifery services greatly affects the satisfaction of mothers and families during the delivery process. EBP ensures that interventions carried out by midwives and health workers are based on the latest scientific evidence, not just old habits or traditions. This is very important for the safety, comfort, and positive experience of mothers and their babies (Côrtes et al., 2018).

2. Methods

This study is a One-Group Pretest-Posttest quasi-experimental study that aims to determine the increase in knowledge of midwives at Aisyiyah Muntilan General Hospital regarding WHO recommendations on positive experiences during childbirth. The level of knowledge was measured using a questionnaire, and the intervention provided was in the form of refresher materials and practice. The research sample consisted of a total sampling of 22 midwives.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Results

Demographic characteristics of respondents

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of respondents

Characteristic	f	%
Education Level		
Diploma III Midwifery	5	22,7
Diploma IV Midwifery	7	31,8
Bachelor's Degree Midwifery	6	27,3
Midwife Profession	4	18,2
Length of Work		
< 3 years	2	9,1
3 – 5 years	3	13,6
5 – 10 years	4	18,2
>10 years	13	59,1
Total	22	100

Table 1 shows that the educational level of midwives at Aisyiyah Muntilan General Hospital tends to be evenly distributed, with the smallest number being midwives (18.2%) and most having worked for more than 10 years (59.1%).

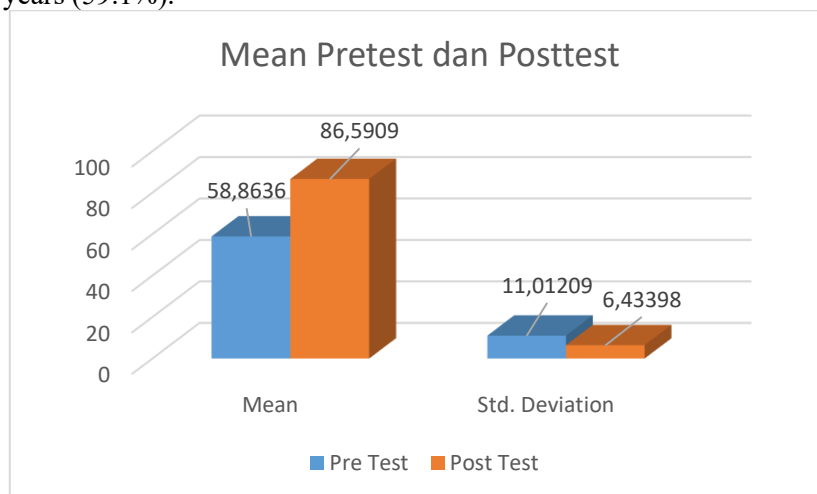


Diagram 1. Pre-test and Post-test Means

Diagram 1 showed a change in pre-test and post-test scores after refresher training and practice, with a Delta mean of 27.7.

Table 2. Wilcoxon test results
Test Statistics^a

	Post Test - Pre Test
Z	-4.124 ^b
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.000

Table 2 shows that refreshing and practice have a significant influence on the knowledge of midwives at Aisyiyah Muntilan Hospital

3.2. Discussion

Midwives, as a continuously evolving profession, consistently maintain their professionalism by keeping abreast of developments in science and technology. Professionalism is closely linked to the competencies a professional must possess (professional competence). Professional midwives must possess clinical competence (midwifery skills), socio-cultural competence to analyze, advocate, and empower women in seeking solutions and innovations to improve the well-being of women, families, and the community (Permenkes Nomor 320 Tentang Standar Profesi Bidan, 2020). In Indonesia, based on the Decree of the Minister of Health 320 of 2020 concerning the professional standards of midwives, the classification of midwives consists of graduates of professional education for midwives with the title Midwives and graduates of Diploma III (three) Midwifery education with the title Midwifery Associate Experts. The profile of graduates of midwifery education based on the 2024 AIPKIND (Indonesian Midwifery Education Association) curriculum, for Midwifery Associate Experts as practicing midwives, while the profession of midwives as practicing midwives, educators and counselors, community mobilizers and service managers. Among professional health workers, midwives have a strategic role in caring for mothers and children, and contributing to their survival, health and well-being. Maintaining the knowledge and quality of midwifery care through special skills training is very necessary (Bardosono et al., 2018).

Knowledge, critical thinking skills, and communication skills influence midwives' clinical decision-making. Midwives acquire their knowledge through formal education programs and expand their knowledge by reflecting on experiences and applying evidence to the care they provide (Zondag et al., 2022). Research by Badroso et al (2018) stated that knowledge retention after continuous training among midwives in Indonesia decreased after 3 months (Bardosono et al., 2018). Upaya peningkatan kemampuan bidan dalam pengetahuan dan ketrampilan terhadap kebaruan keilmuan sangat di perlukan untuk meningkatkan kompetensi bidan, hal ini dapat dilakukan melalui pelatihan berkala (Khosravi et al., 2022). Research in Kenya states that midwives in hospitals have high confidence in their knowledge and skills compared to midwives in basic service facilities, therefore it is necessary to provide opportunities for capacity development for all midwives in improving their knowledge and skills in order to increase midwives' confidence and self-confidence in providing services (Tallam et al., 2022).

The results of this study are in line with the research of Risnah, et al (2021) and Laksana et al (2021) that improving midwifery service capabilities includes knowledge, motivation and midwifery skills after being given health education in the form of modules and training, for this reason cross-sectoral support, comprehensive efforts and supporting regulations are needed to improve the quality of midwives in providing services (Risnah et al., 2021)(Laksana et al., 2021).

A warm, supportive, and safe work environment that provides midwives with opportunities to continuously learn and upgrade their knowledge and skills is a strong contributor to increasing competence and confidence. Midwives' personal qualities, such as self-efficacy, confidence, and curiosity to learn, are important factors in developing knowledge and competence. Midwives working in health facilities should be supported to develop their professional roles, ensuring they are knowledgeable, competent, and confident (Bäck et al., 2017). Research by Lou et al. (2024) indicates that training and length of service can improve midwives' core competencies. Length of service

enhances midwives' professional expertise, and advancements in midwifery education also influence the competencies required for midwives to master (Luo et al., 2024). The emphasis on improving midwifery competency must begin during education and continue throughout midwifery practice. For the midwifery profession to grow and fulfill its mandate to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity, midwives are needed who understand the profession's vision and are committed to changing their behavior and skills in accordance with it (Goshomi et al., 2022). Improving midwives' abilities in knowledge and practice will improve the quality of good midwifery services, which will reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rates, while increasing patient and family satisfaction with midwife care (Khakbazan et al., 2023).

4. Conclusion

The improvement in midwives' knowledge and practice will enhance the quality of midwifery care, thereby reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity while increasing patient and family satisfaction with midwifery care.

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