

Assessment of midwifery performance on maternal and newborn health after Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) training

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In order to prevent maternal and newborn mortalities due to obstetric emergencies, nationwide "Basic Emergency Obstetrics and Newborn Care" trainings have been implementing to cover all the basic health staff who perform midwifery practices. Since after Nation-wide BEmONC training their performance has not assessed yet. With the aim of assessing their knowledge, attitude, practice and their performance after BEmONC training and identifying the strategies to improve the performance of MWs in BEmONC services, a mixed method study was conducted in seventeen townships; purposively selected from nine State/Regions. About ten participants per townships except Magwe; total (183) participants, were assessed by self administered structured questionnaires for their knowledge, attitudes, reported practices. Their performance were assessed with standard checklists by BEmONC trainers. Total seventeen Focus Group Discussions; one session in each township, were conducted to explore their experiences in managing of obstetric emergencies and challenges of routine practices.

All knowledge components except respectful maternity care were unsatisfactory. Only about half of them had correct knowledge for newborn care and resuscitation. There were also wide range of knowledge among the selected townships; while Hlaing Bwe was always at the top, some townships were repeatedly found as lowest in most of the knowledge like Amarapura, Patheingyi and Thaton. About half of them perceived that "it is difficult to practice of BEmONC guideline in real situations. Most of the participants practiced the normal delivery care as per the guideline, only half and one fourth of them did according to BEmONC guideline for the management of PPH and preeclampsia respectively among those had experiences. Majority of them (73.8%) could perform correctly in normal delivery care, however, they could not well in obstetric emergencies; Postpartum haemorrhage (68.3%) and newborn resuscitation (62.3%).

It was found that not all of the participants apply of gained knowledge and skill received during BEmONC training in real practice. Some of them faced the stockout of registers/ record and some life savings maternal medicines. Based on the findings, it is necessary to encourage to apply according to guideline, provide the refresher trainings for their weakest portion and regular schedules for practicing of BEmONC with simulation models. Effective supply system, strong leadership and supportive supervision by higher levels are essential.

Key words (knowledge, skill, midwifery performance, BEmONC)