

Traditional Education of Indigenous Midwives in Yoruba-land: A Case Study in Oyo town.

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Abstract:

This study was designed to investigate the training curriculum of indigenous midwives in Yorubaland. Data were collected through the use of a semi-structured interview schedule or the pre-requisites for training, duration of training, course content examination and graduation in traditional midwifery from practicing indigenous midwives in Oyo town.

Analyses of data revealed that factors such as ethnicity, age and maturation are determinants for eligibility for indigenous midwifery training. The course content used by trainers consists of a body of knowledge with related skills. The training period ends with a graduation ceremony which precedes the assumption of independent practice. There is post-graduation continuing education in form of interactions between the erstwhile trainee and his trainer. eased or the findings, it appears justified to conclude that the training of indigenous midwives is a well-established, semi-formal system of education The majority of skills and knowledge that are taught appear to be identical with those of western midwifery practices.

In the light of the findings and conclusions, it is recommended that there is a need for Government to maintain a register of indigenous midwives. Government should employ indigenous midwives. For primary maternal health work after appropriate re-training, The Government should encourage University departments of Continuing Education in collaboration with departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology to prepare literacy education for indigenous midwives.

Keywords: Ethnicity/ Midwifery/ maternal health work/ Semi-formal/ yorubaland

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