

**A MODEL TO ENHANCE TRAINING FOR MALE STUDENT NURSES IN  
MIDWIFERY NURSING SCIENCE IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

by

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to develop a model that will enhance training for male student nurses doing midwifery nursing science in the Limpopo province. The research study was done after the researcher interacted with the male student nurses during midwifery practice and observed that they experienced difficulties in meeting clinical objectives. This was attributed to the fact that male students are few in a setting dominated by females - both the nursing staff and patients. Gender stereotype, cultural factors, lack of support and supervision contributed to non-compliance with expected outcomes of midwifery skills.

A qualitative explorative, descriptive, contextual design including concept analysis and model development was used as a guiding approach to conduct the study. A non-probability, purposive convenience sampling method was used to select the participants and institutions. Two Focus group interviews were conducted with 54 male students from the selected nursing college campuses and one university respectively. In-depth semi-structured interviews using individual interviews were conducted from 42 postpartum mothers and 50 midwives from five district hospitals. Data was analysed qualitatively using Tesch's open coding method. The results of the research revealed six themes, namely:

- Participants' different conceptualisation of practising midwifery as a male student nurse;
- Challenges experienced by male student nurses during midwifery practice;
- Views of midwives related to midwifery training for male student nurses;
- Views of pregnant women related to care provided by male student nurses during midwifery practice;
- Provision of support to male students during midwifery practice; and
- Suggestions by participants of specific interventions to optimise midwifery practice.

The literature supported the findings and discussions. The study findings indicated that male students lack clinical competence during midwifery clinical placement. This was exacerbated by lack of commitment and interest, lack of support from midwives and lecturers; cultural influence; and refusals from pregnant mothers. Enhancement



of Clinical Competence was selected as the core concept as it was found to be the central concern and all the other concepts were related to it. The concept analysis of the core category was conducted utilising the steps described by Walker & Avant.

It was evident that the experiences that promote non-compliance with the expected outcomes of midwifery skills during midwifery practice as identified in the fieldwork, should be replaced by factors that characterise clinical competence during midwifery training in hospitals, colleges, and universities of Limpopo Province. The findings provide the basis for developing and describing a model for enhancement of clinical competence and to formulate practical guidelines for operationalising the model. The model and guidelines developed; endeavour to achieve the enhancement of clinical competence of male students in midwifery nursing science.

Assumptions of the concepts were identified and conceptualised within the South African Nursing Council (SANC) legislations and the Roy Adaptation Model. The research study culminated with a validation of the formulated guidelines for the implementation of enhancement of clinical competence model by the subject experts for applicability. This means that the concept can be presented to the theory generation experts for further clarification and refinement. The study was conducted in the three districts of the Limpopo province where students are allocated for midwifery practice therefore the findings can be generalised to all training hospitals and institutions of higher learning in Limpopo province. The clinical competence model should be utilised in all designated settings to improve the integration of theory into practice for male student nurses during midwifery practice. The model and the guidelines were not implemented to ascertain its efficiency as it was not part of this study. Another study to should be conducted to implement the model and guidelines developed.

**Key words:** Clinical competence, enhance, male student nurses, midwifery practice, model, training.