

**Integration of midwifery theory with practice by student nurses when plotting a
partogram in labour units of the Limpopo Province, South Africa**

by

Mothapo Kobela Elizabeth

(Student number 11618168)

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Department of Advanced Nursing Science

Supervisor: Prof MS Maputle

Co-supervisor: Ms NH Shilubane

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ABSTRACT

Midwifery education and training prepare student midwives for managing a pregnant woman, labouring woman and her unborn baby. The partogram as a specialized tool to monitor women during labour and delivery is to be utilized by midwives and students. However, its utilization in the labour units needs to be explored.

The purpose of this study was to assess the extent to which midwifery theory is applied to practice by student nurses with regard to the plotting of the partogram during their education and training. The population in this study comprised of all the student nurses registered at the Limpopo College of Nursing and who are in their third and fourth level of training at the Giyani, Sovenga and Thohoyandou Campuses.

A qualitative research design, which was exploratory and descriptive in nature, was used. Focus group discussions (FGD) and unstructured interviews were used to collect data, a voice recorder was used to record conversations, and field notes were also written by the researcher. Data were analysed using Tesch's inductive, descriptive coding technique.

Findings indicate that the student nurses are taught different content by the college staff and the registered midwives in the labour wards as far as the partogram is concerned. The findings also indicate that registered midwives are reluctant to supervise student nurses. The researcher recommends that there should be more collaboration between the college and the labour wards staff members and that the number of clinical lecturers should be increased.

Ethical aspects were ensured by requesting permission from relevant structures and from participants.

Trustworthiness was ensured by ensuring credibility, confirmability, dependability and transferability

In conclusion, strategies to improve the plotting of the partogram by student nurses in labour units of the Limpopo Province, South Africa are described.