

The Factor Contributing Most to Midwife's Professional Character

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Abstract

Professional is a character value that must be possessed by every profession included midwife. It is important to know what factors contribute to build the character of professional midwife, and what the most factor contribute to character professional midwife. The objective of this study was to analyze the factors contributing to professional midwife character of students in midwifery department. The subject of study were all students in midwifery department health polytechnic between August, 2018 and November, 2019, were included in this study a total of 353 students. Data was collected by filling out questionnaires, and data analysis used the Pearson Correlation test and multiple regression. The results showed that some of respondent characteristics (Program, Class Level, Ideals, Parents condition) have correlation with professional midwife character. Likewise the values of motivation, caring, professional wisdom, self-development, interpersonal competence and professional competence have a correlation with professional midwife character. Other factors, professional character building in learning process, institutional culture, extracurricular activities and student organizations have correlation with professional midwife character. And of all these factors, professional competence is the most contributing factor to professional midwife character. The conclusion from this study that the factor that most contributes to the character of professional midwives is professional competence.

Keywords: professional, midwife, character

1. INTRODUCTION

There are many problems that still occur in midwifery services involving midwives. cases of abortion, malpractice and the still high number of maternal and infant mortality rates that demand professional midwife services.

Professional is a very important character value. Every profession is required to have professional character. Professional means experts in optimizing knowledge, skills, time, energy, resources, and an achievement that is able to satisfy all elements. Professional also means that every job must be done by a professional person. Professional people are people who have a profession, with the following criteria: having special expertise, chosen as a vocation of life, working based on universally standardized theories, profession as a means to devote themselves to society, having diagnostic skills and applicative competencies, having autonomy, a code of ethics, professional organizations, and having professional service users, and recognizing relationships with other fields. From the above criteria there are two criteria for the main profession: self-encouragement and skill (Tafsir, 2008: 107-112; Epstein & Hundert, 2002)

Midwife as profession is also required to have professionalism. According to an evolving theory of professionalism in midwifery, midwife's professionalism is built from 5 (five) main aspects: 1) the professional Midwife cares for the childbearing woman and her families. Caring in the professional domain is seen as the core of midwifery; 2) the professional midwife is professionally competent. Professional competence is the main thing for the safety of women and children; 3) the professional midwife has professional wisdom, which is a new concept to show the relationship between knowledge and experience; 4) the professional midwife has interpersonal competence, to empower women and establish positive partnerships with women and their families; 5) the professional midwife develop herself personally and professionally for becoming true professionalism. The conclusion of this theory is that midwife professionalism is a key factor in empowering women during the childbearing process. The fundamental aspect of this theory is caring as the core of midwifery professionalism, along with professional wisdom and competence, interpersonal competence, and personal and professional development of midwives. This aspect forms the whole and is the basic premise of professional midwife

professionalism and good midwifery services. (Halldorsdottir & Karlsdottir, 2011: 25; 806-817).

Other studies about important aspects of providing services to women during the childbearing process: Butler et al. (2008), carried out a qualitative research that discussed the most important aspects of midwifery professionalism with midwifery students, midwives and midwife teachers. There are three themes that emerged, that midwives should being a safe practitioner, having the right attitude and being an effective communicator. In another qualitative research by Lundgren and Dahlberg (2002), there are five constituents can being describe the essential structure: listening to the woman; giving the woman an opportunity to participate and to be responsible; a trusting relationship; the body expresses the woman's situation; and to follow the woman through the process of childbirth (Halldorsdottir & Karlsdottir, 2011; Chokwe & Wright, 2012).

From these opinions can be classified aspects that built midwifery professionalism, namely self-encouragement in carrying out professional duties, as a dedication to the profession. The profession is chosen not because of money, position, or because it is carried away by others. The sincerity of choosing a profession in the long term, even for life, is classified as a professional motivation. The midwife cares for woman and families, warm, sensitive, understanding, respect, sympathy, empathy, listening and responding attentively, present in event physically and emotionally, sets herself a high standard to provide a good service, classified as professional caring. The midwife knows how to integrate knowledge with procedure, maintains confidentiality, create a comfort and peaceful environment for women, take responsibility for her own clinical decisions, critical and creative in her thinking, carry out scientific evidence-based practices, are classified as professional wisdom. The midwife applies evidence-based knowledge and competence systematically, correctly assesses the condition, needs and responses of the woman, makes accurate clinical decisions, competence to provide appropriate care, performs tasks correctly, classified as professional competence. The midwife is capable of empowering communication, take the initiative in communication and provide appropriate information, establish partnership relation, maintain harmonious relationships with women and collaborative relationships with other professionals, classified as interpersonal competence. The Midwife develop herself personally and professionally. Evaluate and develops her knowledge, skills and attitudes continuously. Knows her own strengths and limits, her weaknesses and learning needs, is classified as self-development both personal and professional (Halldorsdottir and Karlsdottir, 2011; Borrelli, 2014; Fullerton et al, 2011; 2013).

Other aspects that might influence the character of the professionalism of midwife students are the characteristics of the respondents (program, class level, regional origin, history of early childhood education, ideals, family work in midwifery, father's occupation, mother's occupation, parent condition, number of siblings, pin money, family vehicles). In addition to the characteristics of respondents, the process of character building in learning process, institutions culture,

student activities and professional organizations, might influence midwifery professionalism.

From the opinions above, the main aspects might contribute to midwifery professionalism, namely professional motivation, professional caring, professional wisdom, professional competence, interpersonal competence and self-development, characteristics, and professionalism midwifery character building. Based on this, researchers are interested in conducting research on what aspects most contribute to the character of midwifery professionalism.

2. METHOD

This is a descriptive research with quantitative approach. Research has been conducted on 353 midwife students. Collecting data used questionnaire. The research questionnaire was constructed by 6 types of questionnaires, namely: 1) Professional Motivation Questionnaire to express student motivation and seriousness in choosing the midwife profession; 2) Professional Caring Questionnaire to express how they give attention to women and their families; 3) Professional Wisdom Questionnaire to know how midwife student integrating knowledge with procedures, responsible for her own clinical decisions; 4) Questionnaire on Personal and Professional Development to knows how midwife student evaluate and develop her knowledge and practical skills, know her attitudes and feelings, know her strengths and limitations, abilities, weaknesses and learning needs; 5) Questionnaire about Interpersonal Competence to express communication skills in developing partnerships with women and families; 6) Questionnaire about Professional Competence to measure student competency achievement. The questionnaire was tested for validity with Pearson correlation test and obtained from 230 items of questionnaire, 80 items were invalid and 150 valid items were used for data collection. Then reliability test used Spearman Brown split-half method.

Data analysis has used Pearson correlation test for measure of the strength of the association between the two variables and then multiple regression test to predict the value of a variable based on the value of two or more other variables

2.1 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study are as follows:

Table 1. Correlation between Characteristics of Students, Professional Values, Professional Character Building with Professional Midwife Character

Variable	Midwife Professional
Program	.200**
Class Level	.337**
History of early childhood education	.089
Ideals	.145**
Parents condition	.126*

Region	0.011
Family work in midwifery field	-0.061
Father's occupation	0.034
Mother's occupation	0.023
Number of Siblings	0.053
Pin money	0.078
Family vehicle	0.036
Motivation	.515**
Caring	.603**
Professional Wisdom	.580**
Self-Development	.596**
Interpersonal Competence	.567**
Professional Competence	.622**
Professional Character Building in Learning Process	.446**
Professional Character Building in Institutional Culture	.306**
Professional Character Building in Activities and Organization Student	.217**

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

From the table above can be seen, there are correlation between Program, Class level, Ideal, Parent condition, motivation, caring, professional wisdom, self-development, interpersonal competence, professional competence with the Professional midwife character. From the variables that correlate with the professional midwife character, then multiple regression tests are conducted to determine the variables that contribute to the professional midwife.

The overall R^2 of the model is 0.610, that means this causal model contributes a variance of 61.0%. This shows that the variance of professional midwife character is explained by the three variables at 61.0%, and the rest (39.0%) are unknown or residual variables. From the three variables in the model it turns out that professional competence contributes to the professional midwife character variance of 38.5% ($\beta = 0.385$, $p = 0,000$). This proves that professional competence is the most contributes factor to professional midwife character.

Professional competence is the appearance of work which is a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes according to the required standards (Eraut, 1998). And according International Confederation of Midwife, that midwife professional competence as a combination of knowledge professional behavior and special skills that are demonstrated at a defined level of proficiency in the context of midwifery education and practice. Midwives have the requisite knowledge and skills from obstetrics, neonatology, social cultural science, women's health, public health, parent education, family planning, antenatal care, labor management, post-natal care, breastfeeding, ethics, epidemiology and infection prevention, human rights, communication, and others (WHO, 2011; Licqurish & Seibold, 2008). Knowledge and skills are needed to provide good service. In addition to knowledge and skills, competent midwives must have a good attitude. As stated by Byrom and Downe (2010) about the qualities of a good midwife, their conclusions had two aspects: factors relating to knowledge, skill and competence, which the researchers termed skilled competence and on the

other hand, personality factors, which they termed emotional intelligence. Epstein and Hundert (2002) pose the following definition of professional competence: "*the habitual and judicious use of communication, knowledge, technical skills, clinical reasoning, emotions, value and reflection in daily practice for the benefit of the individual and community being served*". Competence is the ability to perform tasks and roles to the expected standard.

This research proves that professional competence is the most contributing factor to professional midwife. Epstein and Hundert (2002) speak to competence as a form of professionalism. Nicholls and Webb (2006) analysed 33 studies and they are found, in the cognitive domain the midwife must have the necessary knowledge, in the psychomotor domain the midwife must have the necessary skills, in the affective domain the midwife should be caring, warm and supportive. And they concluded that communication skills are the most important factor. So, when discussing about good midwives, professional midwives, what emerges is the domain of competence; knowledge, skills and attitude

Halldorsdottir (2011) in an evolving theory of professionalism in midwifery found that one of the aspects of the professionalism of midwives is caring and caring within professionalism is seen as the core of midwifery. While in this study the most contributing factor to midwifery professionalism is professional competence. Besides knowledge and skill, one other important domain is the attitude. Midwives are required to have a good attitude, such as caring, warm, friendly, empathetic, sympathetic, caring, respectful, responsible, ethical, understanding, listening attentively, not judgmental, etc. A professional midwife provides midwifery services with evidence-based knowledge and skills, and a good attitude. And the author agrees with Epstein and Hundert that competence as a form of professionalism. And the three domains of competency must form a unified whole as a professional midwife, without one of the three domains, the midwife cannot be called a professional (Deist & Winterton, 2005).

3. CONCLUSION

The most factor contributing to professional midwife character is professional competence. An umbrella concept that covered 3 domains: knowledge, skills and attitudes. Each midwife student must maintain and improve professional competence, both aspects of knowledge, skills and attitudes to maintain midwifery professionalism.

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