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1: Written Report

1.1 Introduction

The present report is a study of the health and social care contribution of the midwife, a registered profession charged with the responsibility of delivering safe, evidence-based care to women and newborns throughout pregnancy, labour, birth and postnatal period. The role is significant, as midwives directly affect the safety of mothers and neonates, continuity of care, and maternity experience of women (Bardford et al., 2022). The Nursing and Midwifery Council (2024) state that accountability, communication, and clinical competence are professional standards that should be exhibited by midwives in every aspect of care. In this report, the major duties and responsibilities of the midwifery practise are summarised, and three core skills needed to be a good practitioner are critically assessed.

1.2 Description of, and background to, Midwife in Healthcare

Midwifery is a primary aspect of maternity healthcare since it supports women and babies throughout the maternity journey and organises the care provided by multidisciplinary teams (Batinelli et al., 2022). Tasks involve checking the maternal and foetal wellbeing, identifying the abnormality of the normal progress, offering emotional support, carrying out clinical evaluations, and raising concerns when there is risk escalation. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2023) emphasises the necessity of constant monitoring and prompt reaction to complications to limit the harm that can be avoided and enhance birth outcomes.

One of the most important tasks is the timely detection of a worsening of the situation during labour and immediately after birth (Yulghunlu, 2025). Lack of timely identification or inadequate escalation may greatly contribute to the possibility of unnecessary complications. Midwives should consequently merge the technical abilities with non-technical functions like communication and collaboration, particularly in an emergency. The World Health Organisation (2022) stresses that respectful maternal care, patient education, and postnatal guidance are equally crucial to physical safety since they affect the long-term maternal and infant health.

1.3 Evaluation of the skills needed for a midwife in Healthcare

Clinical evaluation and decision-making are necessary since the midwives constantly interpret maternal and foetal observations and decide on intervention or referral. The presence of evidence-based practises and guidelines by the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (2023) proves that proper evaluations lower the number of unnecessary interventions and prompt management of complications. In the absence of this ability, some

warning signs can be missed, which threatens the early intervention and has negative consequences.

It is also important that communication and respectful partnership are maintained since midwives have to clarify the procedures, take informed consent, and adjust communication to various levels of literacy. Poor communication may cause misunderstanding, anxiety and disjointed care. According to a study by Martínez-Fernández et al. (2022), the use of structured tools of communication like SBAR can enhance the clarity of information during handovers and minimise information loss that leads to patient safety and teamwork strengthening.

In addition to interpersonal interaction, midwifery communication is also a clinical safety process since it has direct effects on informed consent, awareness of risks, and participation of patients in the decision-making process. By presenting information in a way that is not filled with medical terminology, women can better comprehend the procedures, know warning signs and seek help in time, which in turn helps to prevent care instead of responding. Rickard et al. (2022) on maternity safety reviews have revealed that the breakdowns in communication are often associated with the delays in the escalation of events and the discontinuity of care, especially when it comes to handovers or shift changes. This skill enhancement, thus, will not only enhance patient satisfaction but also quantifiable safety outcomes like fewer clinical errors and enhanced multidisciplinary coordination. Culturally competent care is also facilitated by effective communication, so that midwives can change language and behaviour in response to the diverse social and linguistic backgrounds, which is becoming a crucial factor in healthcare systems.

Teamwork and coordination can also be considered essential since the midwives operate in multidisciplinary teams, particularly in cases of emergency. According to simulation-based training studies, van Tetering et al. (2023) have shown that leadership, role clarity, and situational awareness are teamwork skills that may have a crucial effect on clinical performance and coordination during high-pressure situations.

1.4 Strategies to improve the skills for Midwifery

Skill 1: Clinical Assessment and Decision-Making

Strategy 1 – Simulation-Based Emergency Training

The simulated training exposes midwives to real-life emergencies like post-partum bleed or infant resuscitation. As an example, simulation training on shoulder dystocia management is useful in empowering midwives to react to emergencies during labour. This approach was selected as the labour complications are not predictable and demand prompt and correct actions (Wu et al., 2024).

Strategy 2 – Supervised Clinical Mentorship

The practise on the same under the guidance of experienced midwives offers prompt feedback and correction. As an example, a senior midwife can mentor a junior midwife on

the interpretation of foetal heart rate patterns. The choice of this strategy was based on the fact that real-time professional feedback enhances practical competence.

Strategy 3 – Evidence-Based Guideline Review

Periodic revising of NICE or hospital clinical guidelines would make sure that decisions are in accordance with the current standards. The reason behind its selection was the fact that evidence-based practise minimises unnecessary errors (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2023).

Skill 2: Communication and Respectful Partnership

Strategy 1 – SBAR Communication Framework

SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) offers a systematic way of handovers. It operates by decreasing information gaps and enhancing clarity. The reason why this strategy was selected is due to the high number of handovers related to maternity care (Martínez-Fernández et al., 2022).

Strategy 2 – Role-Play and Peer Feedback

Role-play activities enable midwives to rehearse the procedure explanation and consent. Peer-reviews indicate ambiguity in words or tone. The reason this strategy has been selected is that communication is enhanced when one rehearses and reflects.

Strategy 3 – Cultural-Competence Training

Cultural awareness workshops assist midwives in changing their communication styles with various patients. This is done by enhancing knowledge of the language barriers and beliefs. It was chosen as maternity services are offered to a multicultural population.

Skill 3: Teamwork and Coordination

Strategy 1 – Interprofessional Simulation Training

The experience of training with doctors and nurses enhances leadership and role definitions and coordination during emergencies. This was selected on the basis of the fact that childbirth can be a multidisciplinary situation that needs a multidisciplinary response (van Tetering et al., 2023).

Strategy 2 – Multidisciplinary Case Reviews

The teams examine the past clinical situations and determine the strengths and areas of improvement. This is effective in facilitating group learning. It has been chosen due to the fact that reflection reinforces coordination.

Strategy 3 – Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The competence and accountability are upheld by ongoing workshops and oversight of collaborative practise. The reason behind selecting this strategy is that healthcare standards are constantly changing (Nursing and Midwifery Council, 2024).

1.4 Conclusion

Midwifery is an important aspect of the provision of safe, respectful, and evidence-based maternity care that safeguards maternal and neonatal health. Proper practise is based on the ability to make decisions in the clinic, good communication, and effective teamwork, especially in situations when circumstances are complicated or urgent. It has been proven that these competencies can be considerably enhanced with the help of simulation training, structured communication tools, and interprofessional development strategies that would minimise the number of risks that can be avoided. Further development of these skills will not only increase professional performance but also increase patient trust, continuity of care, and the overall quality of services offered in the healthcare system in the modern world.

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