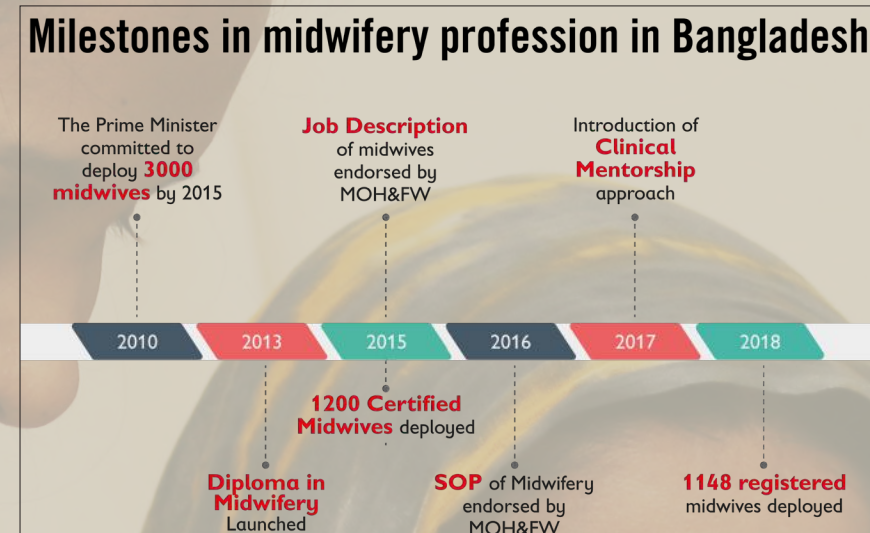


Mentorship to meet the Respectful Maternity Care by Midwives: experiences from sub district hospitals in Bangladesh

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Introduction

Disrespect and abuse during childbirth is a violation of women's human rights has become a growing concern to ensure quality maternity care in health facilities. Bangladesh has introduced professional midwives into its health system envisaging to achieve highest attainable standard of sexual and reproductive health and rights in accordance with WHO QoC framework. As a new professional, getting enabling environment and confidence required to provide evidence-based, respectful maternity care by midwives is a key concern. Mentorship has been taken as an innovative approach to support these midwives in addressing their barriers. This analysis aimed to assess the impact of mentorship on improving Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) by Midwives.



Mentorship approach:

Clinical Mentors are medical graduates formally trained by National Trainers to standardize their technical and mentorship skills.

Expected roles:

Facility mentoring to create enabling environment

- Advocacy with managers, clinicians and nursing staff towards establishing Midwife-led care (MLC)
- Facility preparedness
- Functionalizing local monitoring, supervision and accountability mechanism
- Local level review and planning

Clinical Mentoring to enhance capacity

Capacity building of Midwives to provide evidence based midwifery care



Clinical Mentors: The Changing Agent

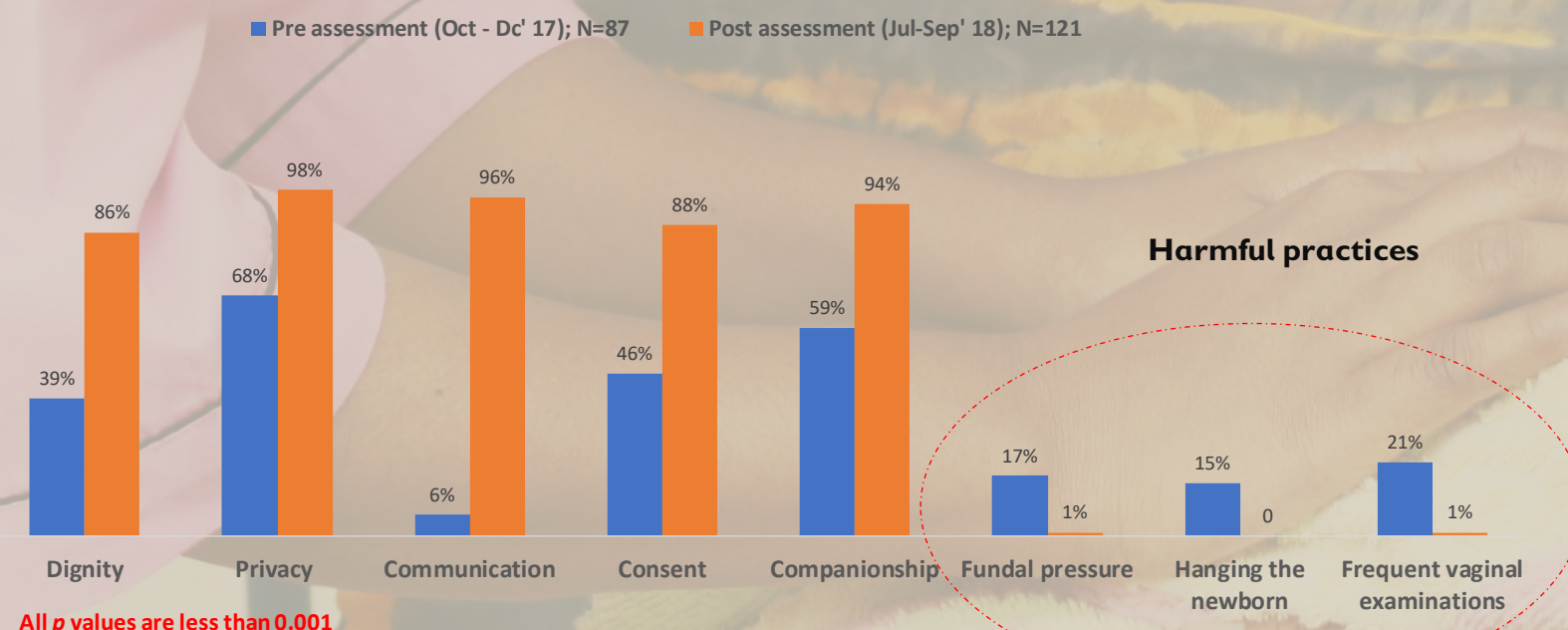
Method

This was a pre and post-observational assessment conducted at 27 sub district hospitals. Initial assessment was conducted during October-November 2017. Total 87 Normal Vaginal Deliveries (NVDs) conducted by Midwives were directly observed by trained clinical mentors using standardized checklist to assess the gaps in RMC practices. Intensive and structured mentorship was undertaken to address the identified gaps. A second assessment by the same set of mentors was done on 121 NVDs conducted by the same set of midwives during July to September 2018. The data was analyzed to assess the adherence of midwives in promoting RMC.

Results

Compliance with major RMC practices during childbirth improved significantly after intensive mentoring.

Results



Lessons learned

- Midwives as change agents can play a significant role in reducing inequalities faced by child bearing women through evidence-based, respectful maternity care.
- Well-structured mentorship can rapidly improve Respectful Maternity Care and evidence based practices by midwives
- Strong advocacy from all professional bodies is critical for promotion of midwifery as a new profession

Advocacy impact

- Improved leadership and governance towards establishing Midwife-led care
- Utilization of existing resources for continued capacity development of midwives
- Strengthened Quality Improvement initiative
- Utilization of 27 Sub district hospitals as clinical education sites for student midwives
- In 2018, the Government observed National Safe Motherhood Day prioritizing on midwifery services
- Other partners have started to replicate the MLC model. Replication across the country is possible through effective partnership and leadership of Government.

References

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