



Midwifery Education and Maternal-Child Mortality Rates: Challenges in Indonesia



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Background

Indonesia produces a large number of midwives and yet still has a persistent problem of high maternal and infant mortality rates. Despite scaling up the number of midwifery graduates, there has not been the expected decrease in maternal and child mortality rates. Midwives are the frontline of maternal and neonatal care and play a pivotal role in enhancing maternal, and infant health outcomes and midwifery education is one of the three principles to strengthen midwives globally.

HIGHEST NEWBORN DEATHS OCCUR IN SEVEN COUNTRIES



Figure 1 Current Statistic on Newborn Mortality Rates (Save the Children, 2013)

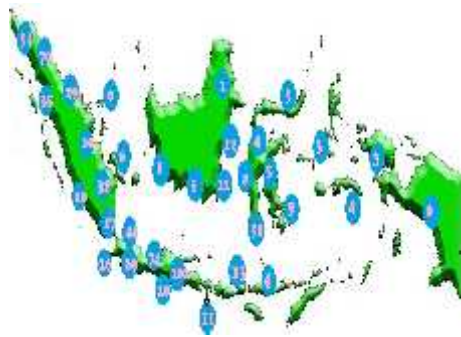
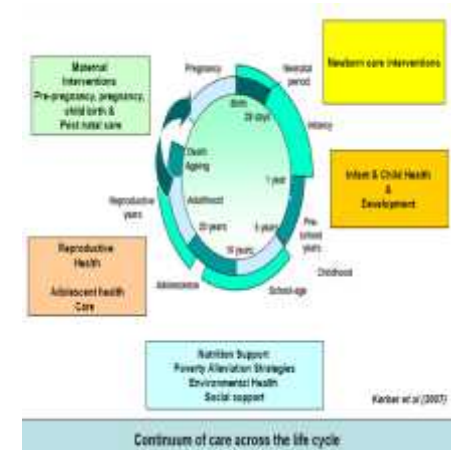


Figure 2 Current Statistic on Midwifery Schools (Asosiasi Pendidikan Kebidanan Indonesia, 2015)

The rationale behind the importance of midwives



Midwifery Schools and Maternal-Child Mortality Rates

Table 1 Number of Accredited Midwifery Schools (Badan Akreditasi Nasional Perguruan Tinggi, 2017)

| Category accreditation | Diploma of Midwifery | Advanced Diploma of Midwifery | Bachelor of Midwifery | Master of Midwifery |
|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| B | 46 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| C | 248 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Expired | 130 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 424 | 11 | 1 | 2 |

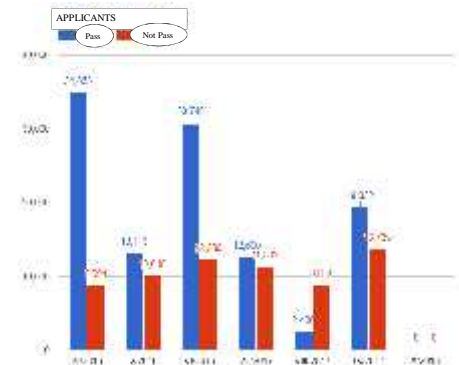


Figure 3 Statistic of the Competency test of new midwives (Registrasi Online Uji Kompetensi D3 Kebidanan, 2014)

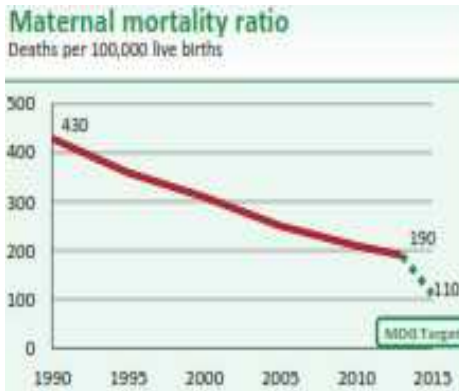


Figure 4 Maternal mortality rates (UNICEF & World Health Organization, 2015)

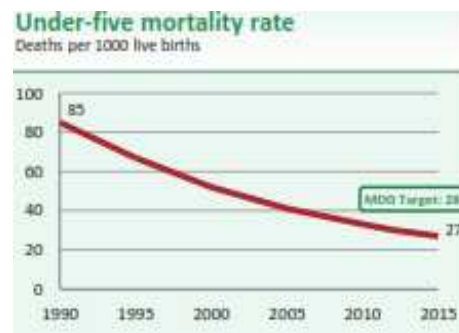


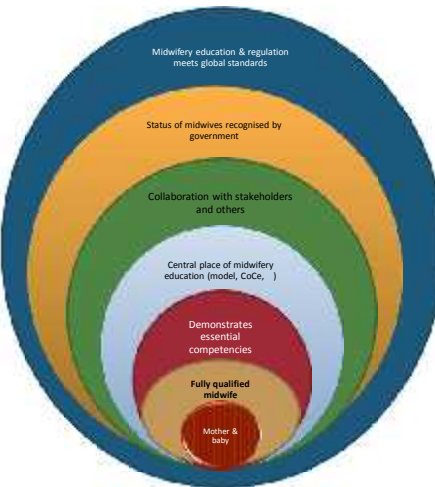
Figure 5 Under-five mortality rates (UNICEF & World Health Organization, 2015)

Methodology & Methods

This PhD study is framed by qualitative inquiry was conducted as approved by AUTEC New Zealand and HREC Indonesia to address the participant's (Indonesian midwives, obstetricians, midwifery lecturers, midwifery students, and newly graduated midwives) thoughts, concerns, and feelings regarding midwifery education in Indonesia.

The research conducted in twelve different midwifery schools in various cities (Jakarta, Bandung, Purwokerto, Yogyakarta, Surabaya, Malang, Mojokerto, Padang) which situated in six provinces (West Sumatera, Jakarta, West Java, Central Java, Yogyakarta, and East Java), includes central board of midwifery association.

Discussions



Implications and Conclusions

It is believed that there are significant challenges in strengthening midwifery education in the future in Indonesia. Collaboration and coalition between diverse stakeholders, national authorities, and professional association should be strengthened to help lift the standard, framework, system, and quality of midwifery education. It is essential to stress that maternal-neonatal health outcomes achievable by excellent midwifery care of competent and confident midwives who trained from adequate midwifery schools.

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(The picture utilized is from the internet)