

Strengthening the Quality of Midwifery Education: Experience from Nepal

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Background

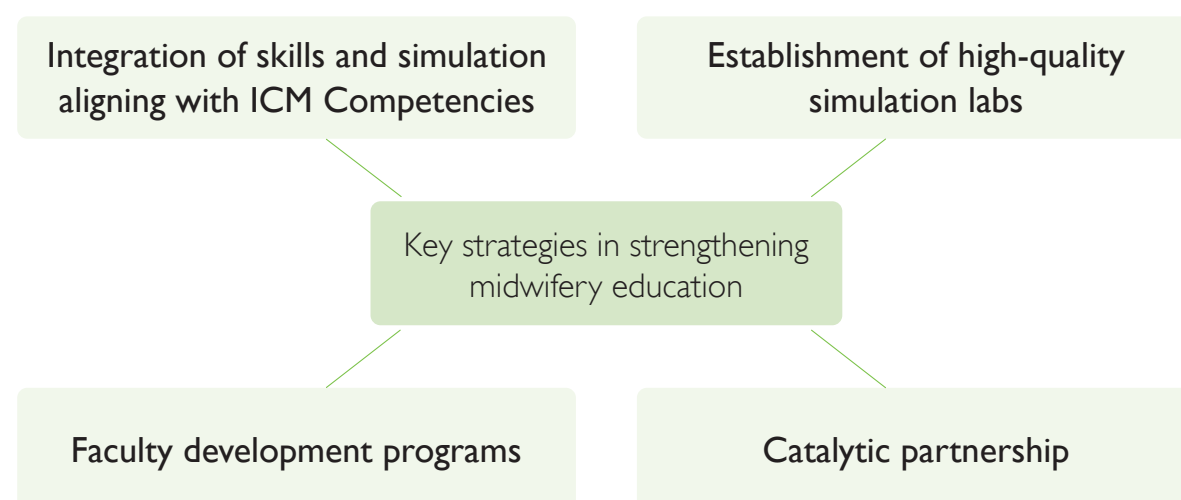
The world needs 900,000 more midwives. Midwives educated in a standard setting of high-quality education and regulation can prevent two-thirds of maternal and newborn mortality and still births, equating to 4.3 million lives per year by 2035. High-quality midwifery education programs are therefore vital for educating competent midwives who can provide a high standard of safe, evidence-based care for women and newborns.

The initiative in Nepal

In 2016, Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) started the midwifery education program in Nepal. Since there were no midwifery educators trained as professional midwives at that time, capacity building of the faculty was a priority. Recognizing the importance of strengthening evidence based midwifery education a collaborative initiative was started in 2018 spearheaded by MoHP and supported by Laerdal, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) at two midwifery institutions, Kathmandu University of School Sciences (KUSMS) and National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS).

Implementation

The four key strategies for implementation of the initiative included the following:



Results

- Simulation based education has been integrated into the Bachelors in Midwifery curriculum and has set standards for other nursing and medical academic programs
- High quality simulation labs have been established and the teaching learning strategies have been transformed from highly knowledge based to skills and simulation based
- Capacity building of faculty on simulation based education
- Increased confidence and competence among the students

The impact of the initiative is reflected on the graduate midwives who are work ready and saving lives of mothers and baby everyday.

Sustainability and scale-up

Under the leadership of Ministry of Health and Population and supported by partners, WHO and Laerdal the initiative has been expanded to all the six midwifery institutions. This has been a landmark initiative which has led to sustainable changes within the ecosystem of preservice education driving policy transformation in Nepal.



Midwife Bedika with baby Aresh and his mother

Story of midwife Bedika

"When baby Aresh was born, he did not breathe. The hospital was busy and short on staff. I took a deep breath and remembered what I had learned. We practice resuscitation regularly. So, I didn't give up and continued ventilation for 2 minutes and 30 seconds. I only stopped once I heard the sound I had been hoping for – the baby cried."

References

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 [2] West, F., Homer, C., & Dawson, A. (2016). Building midwifery educator capacity in teaching in low and lower-middle income countries. *A review of the literature. Midwifery*, 33, 12-23.

