

320: IMPROVING QUALITY OF VILLAGE BASED MATERNITY SERVICES BY MAINTAINING MIDWIVES PERFORMANCE IN CONDUCTING NORMAL DELIVERY CARE THROUGH PEER REVIEW

Authors:

Janne Annas, Soetimah Soedardjo, Kemal N. Siregar, Ali Zazri

Objective:

The high level of maternal mortality in Indonesia is being dealt with by placing midwives in almost every village in the country. Many of these midwives lack appropriate up to date skills in normal delivery care and need competency-based in-service training to improve their knowledge and skills. To meet this need, training capacity in East and Central Java Provinces has been strengthened and many midwives have started to receive competency-based training in Normal Delivery Care. However, it is well recognized that training on its own is not a guarantee for sustainable performance. Most of the midwives trained are sole community providers and have limited access to quality facilitative supervision. These midwives can benefit greatly from post training follow up to reinforce the clinical knowledge and skills acquired through training.

Method:

The Indonesian Midwives Association (IBI), supported by the MNH Program, has initiated a solution to this problem by creating a Peer Review program to follow up trained midwives. The Peer Review Program involves a series of visits by a trained reviewer to observe midwives who have received the Normal Delivery Care training, identify weaknesses and recommend areas for improvement.

This program is coordinated at the National level by IBI and is conducted in two districts in each province. In the initial phase of this program the first step was to train eight midwives in each district to conduct Peer Review visits. The midwives selected had already been standardized in Normal Delivery Care and were qualified in coaching. These midwives then conducted two cycles of Peer Review visits, the first cycle conducted six months after training and the second cycle six months after that. During the Peer Review visits the following methods were used to assess performance: Review of partographs completed for each birth, observation of two normal deliveries, case studies for the management of uterine atony, observation of infection prevention practices, inventory of equipment and medicines, and interviews with the client and their accompanying person. In total, the performance of 64 midwives was reviewed. After these two cycles an evaluation was conducted to determine the effects of the visits.

Results:

The results of the evaluation showed that midwives' performance can be maintained through Peer Review activities. On the first cycle, from 2% to 12% of midwives did not comply with the standard for Normal Delivery care and 4% to 7% did not comply with the standards for infection prevention. After the Peer Review cycles were carried out the results showed that all midwives provided services according the standards of the training they received.

Conclusion:

A unique feature of this Peer Review program is the nature of its funding. Initial seed capital of Rp. 10,000,000 (US\$1,000) was provided to the IBI provincial office to support Peer Review activities in the districts. Through fund raising this entire amount has been replenished so that Peer Review activities can now be expanded to other districts to follow up additional midwives who have received training. This fund raising aspect will allow the program to be sustained without outside financial assistance.

The success of this program, which ultimately gives IBI the power to maintain quality performance of their members, is attributed to the close cooperation of different stakeholders including IBI, the MNH program, the Ministry of Health and the National Clinical Training Network.