



THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING STERILIZATION IN MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

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Abstract: *Sterilization is a fundamental concept in midwifery and nursing practice. It ensures the prevention of infections, safeguards maternal and neonatal health, and maintains the integrity of healthcare procedures. This article discusses the significance of sterilization in midwifery education, teaching methods, and its integration into nursing curricula.*

Introduction

Sterilization plays a critical role in maintaining aseptic conditions during medical procedures, particularly in obstetrics. Proper sterilization techniques reduce the risk of infections such as puerperal sepsis, a leading cause of maternal morbidity and mortality. Midwifery students must master sterilization protocols to ensure patient safety and adherence to global health standards.

Teaching Sterilization in Midwifery

1. Theoretical Foundations

- Midwifery education begins with theoretical knowledge, including:
- Types of sterilization (e.g., autoclaving, chemical sterilization).
- Pathophysiology of infections and microorganisms.

International guidelines on infection control (e.g., WHO, CDC).

2. Practical Training Practical sessions focus on:

- Sterilizing surgical instruments.
- Preparing delivery rooms and sterile fields.



- Monitoring and maintaining sterilization equipment.
- 3. **Simulation-Based Learning** Simulation labs allow students to practice sterilization techniques in a controlled environment, building confidence before clinical exposure.

Challenges and Solutions

Some challenges in teaching sterilization include:

- **Resource Constraints:** Limited access to modern sterilization equipment.
- **Knowledge Gaps:** Variations in students' prior knowledge.
- **Solutions:** Collaboration with healthcare institutions for hands-on training and standardized assessment protocols.

Conclusion

Incorporating sterilization into midwifery curricula is essential for producing competent healthcare professionals. Effective teaching methods, combining theory and practice, can enhance students' skills and ultimately improve patient outcomes.

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