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CLINICAL ARTICLE

Knowledge, attitudes, and practices in safe motherhood care among obstetric providers in Bugesera, Rwanda

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To determine the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of obstetric care providers (OCPs) in Bugesera District, Rwanda, crucial to the delivery of safe motherhood services. **Methods:** A quantitative descriptive survey in Kinyarwanda targeting all OCPs in the district was implemented in November 2010 to determine demographic characteristics, safe motherhood knowledge, obstetric practices, and attitudes toward additional training. **Results:** The study captured 87% of OCPs, of whom 137 of 168 (82%) were A2 level nurses. Most expressed a need to improve their knowledge (60.6%) and skills confidence (72.2%) in safe motherhood. The mean percentage of correct answers of 50 questions assessing overall knowledge was 46.4%; sections on normal labor (39.3% correct) and obstetric complications (37.1% correct) were the weakest. Fundal pressure during vaginal delivery was practiced by 60.8%, and only 15.9% of providers practiced active management of the third stage of labor for all deliveries. Providers supported additional training, and 89.3% expressed willingness to participate in a 2-day workshop even if it were their day off. **Conclusion:** The study has identified a need to improve safe motherhood knowledge and practices of OCPs in the Bugesera District of Rwanda. OCPs support additional training as an intervention to reduce maternal mortality.

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