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Evaluating an internal quality assurance process in midwifery education

Submission date
20/08/2024

Recruitment status
Recruiting

Registration date
26/08/2024

Overall study status
Ongoing

Last Edited
12/09/2025

Condition category
Pregnancy and Childbirth

[ ] Prospectively registered
[ ] Protocol
[ ] Statistical analysis plan
[ ] Results
[ ] Individual participant data
[ ] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol
Background and study aims
The World Health Organization and the International Confederation of Midwives stress the critical role of accreditation in improving the quality of midwifery education. In many high-income countries, midwifery education programmes regularly perform self-assessments to maintain a learning environment where the programme content, learning opportunities, and facilities effectively align with educational goals. These self-assessments provide valuable insights and recommendations for enhancing educational quality in anticipation of formal accreditation.
However, less than half of the world's countries have established accreditation systems for midwifery education. In many low-income countries, midwifery education programs fall short of meeting accreditation standards. Accreditation serves to formally recognize the processes that ensure education programmes comply with nationally established standards, thereby ensuring that graduates achieve the required minimum level of competence. Despite its importance, research in this area remains limited. To strengthen midwifery education in Bangladesh, the government has initiated measures for an internal quality assurance self-assessment process for midwifery education programmes, in addition to the national accreditation system. The overall aim of this study is to evaluate the internal quality assurance process in midwifery education aimed at achieving national accreditation standards in Bangladesh. The specific aims are to evaluate to what extent education standards are met in the internal quality assurance process at midwifery education institutions. The study aims to determine the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance process in producing competent and confident educators and midwives and identify contextual factors influencing the internal quality assurance process to reach national accreditation standards for midwifery education.

Who can participate?
Midwifery faculty members, such as clinical supervisors, librarians, computer lab and clinical simulation managers, all midwifery educators, and all final-semester students at 31 public and private midwifery education institutions.

What does the study involve?
This study will be directed by the principles of process evaluation for complex interventions. An internal quality assurance self-assessment intervention, and to ensure sustainable

implementation the Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle, will be introduced across 31 private and public midwifery education institutions. Data collection will involve self-assessment questionnaires and focus group discussions, with participants comprising midwifery faculty and final-semester students.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The benefits of participating are to contribute to generating new evidence which in turn can lead to strengthening internal quality assurance of midwifery education in Bangladesh. There are no evident risks for the participants

Where is the study run from?
University of Gothenburg (Sweden)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
August 2023 to December 2028

Who is funding the study?
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Who is the main contact?
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Scientific, Principal investigator

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Study information

Scientific Title
Evaluating an internal quality assurance process for achieving national accreditation standards in midwifery education

Study objectives
It is hypothesized that implementing an internal quality assurance process will improve the quality of midwifery education programmes, producing competent and confident educators and midwives and thereby meeting national accreditation standards.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

Approved 30/05/2024, National Ethical Committee in Sweden (Etikprövningsmyndigheten) (Box 2110, Uppsala, 75002, Sweden; +46 (0)10-4750800; registrator@etikprovning.se), ref: D-no: 2024-02510-01-583296

Primary study design
Observational

Study design
Longitudinal exploratory design using a process evaluation framework

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Evaluating internal quality assurance processes in midwifery education

Interventions
The intervention consists of an internal quality assurance process to be integrated into education institutions to enhance the quality of midwifery education. Through a recurrent self-assessment, the faculty assess their respective education programmes against national and international standards. The faculty within the midwifery education programmes internally analyse the achievements of the self-assessment, indicating which standards are met, partially met, and unmet and what changes need to be prioritized in the next cycle. Based on the yearly self-assessment findings, the faculty makes a recurrent activity plan. The learning from one assessment guides the plan that follows.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
1. The internal quality assurance process at the selected educational institutions will be measured using six categories: i) Program management; ii) Faculty; iii) Students; iv) Midwifery program and curriculum; v) Resources; and vi) Quality improvements, at baseline (2024) and endline (2027).
2. Effectiveness in producing midwifery educators who are competent and confident in delivering the World Health Organization’s educator competencies, as well as competent and confident final-semester students at selected institutions, will be measured through self-assessment at baseline (1st year 2024) and endline (3rd year 2027).

Key secondary outcome(s)
Contextual factors influencing the internal quality assurance process to reach national accreditation standards for midwifery education will be measured at baseline (1st year 2024)

Completion date
31/12/2028

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Employed or student at one of the selected higher education institutions in Bangladesh
1. Management
2. Midwifery educator
3. Clinical mentor
4. Librarians
5. Responsible for the computer lab
6. Head of the skills lab
7. Final year midwifery students

Participant type(s)
Employee, Learner/student

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 Years

Upper age limit
64 Years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. Not employed or a student at one of the selected institutions
2. Participants who do not want to participate

Date of first enrolment
01/05/2024

Date of final enrolment
31/12/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Bangladesh

Study participating centre
Government of the People´s Reprublic of Bangladesh, Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery
IPH School Road Mohakhali
Dhaka
Bangladesh
1212

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Gothenburg

ROR
https://ror.org/01tm6cn81

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
United Nations Population Fund

Alternative Name(s)
Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas, Fonds des Nations Unies pour la population, , United Nations Fund for Population Activities, UNFPA

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Local government

Location
United States of America

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are not expected to be made available due to the need to protect the faculty and individuals participating in the study. All results will be presented at the group level and will be anonymized.

IPD sharing plan summary
Stored in non-publicly available repository, Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?

Other files	Interim results	12/09/2025	12/09/2025	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes