

## Awareness of Midwifery students of Qom University of Medical Sciences on pregnant women's Rights Charter

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**Abstract:** Midwifery care is based on a respect for pregnancy as a state of health and childbirth as a normal physiologic process and a profound event in a woman's life. A student of midwifery must follow the College's philosophy of midwifery care, as well as a comprehensive set of guidelines, known as standards. For example, there are standards for equipment and medication, and medical ethics. More specifically, the aim of this study is Examining Awareness of Midwifery students of Qom University of Medical Sciences in 2010 on pregnant women's rights Charter. **Methodology:** The sample of this study was chosen from undergraduate midwifery students. Having collected the data, the following data analyses were performed. A descriptive analytical way was conducted using the scores of participants. Non-parametric statistics was used for examining the performances of participants on a questionnaire. Questionnaire consisted of two parts. **Results:** The results showed that the percentage of the knowledge about the rights of pregnant mothers was graded as good 37.9%, average 44.9%. Based on findings there was no significant relationship between knowledge and work experience ( $p>0.05$ ). **Conclusions:** As the results revealed, level of students' awareness towards pregnant women's rights charter was moderate, and also none of them were familiar with this special statement. It is suggested that planners, educators, and instructors at the midwives college notify students of midwifery with the rights of pregnant women from the beginning of study.

[Hoda Ahmari Tehran, Helaleh Oveisi, Ashraf Khoramirad, Roya Baghani, Yaser Tabaraei. **Awareness of Midwifery students of Qom University of Medical Sciences on pregnant women's Rights Charter.** *Life Sci J* 2013;10(5s):47-50] (ISSN:1097-8135). <http://www.lifesciencesite.com>. 8

**Keywords:** Awareness, students of midwifery, rights of pregnant women.

### Introduction:

All rights may exist as natural rights or as legal rights, in both national and international law. The doctrine of human rights in international practice, within international law, global and regional institutions, in the policies of states and in the activities of non-governmental organizations, has been a cornerstone of public policy around the world. One of the most important aspects of the human rights issue is the respect and tolerance which society must show towards the religions of other people. Every one of us has rights, and even our own bodily parts have rights of their own, which we ought to observe. If we can move, talk, see, hear or associate with others, these are all divine favors and for each of these blessings we have a right that should be observed. Each right, however, insignificant in the eyes of the individual, has its own important status. In this field, patients' rights are the basis for a global standard that people should apply to the conduct of clinical trials worldwide. Patients' rights encompass legal and ethical issues in the provider-

patient relationship, including a person's right to privacy, the right to quality medical care without prejudice, the right to make informed decisions about care and treatment options, and the right to refuse treatment. The purpose of delineating patient rights is to ensure the ethical treatment of persons receiving medical or other professional health care services. Without exception, all persons in all settings are entitled to receive ethical treatment. The international human rights regime has made several welcome advances, including increased responsiveness in the special groups such as pregnant women. Science assemblies identify pregnant women as one of the most vulnerable groups. Women are also especially susceptible to physical or emotional injury and many environmental hazards when pregnant. In fact these are pregnant women's rights. Department of health services is responsible to support pregnant women physically, emotionally and socially. Islam protects the rights of the pregnant woman with regards to her health, which should be created by maternal health

services especially midwives who provide comprehensive maternity care from the first visit through labor and delivery and after the birth of child. Health committee of International Confederation of Midwives stated that pregnant women should be acquainted with their rights. Becoming familiar with benefits and drawbacks of medical methods help pregnant women to make informed decisions. Pregnant women should be treated courteously with dignity and respect. Before consenting to specific care choices, they should receive complete and easily understood information about their condition and treatment options. All pregnant women have the right to concise and easily understood information about their coverage. This information should include the range of covered benefits, required authorizations, and service restrictions or limitations (such as on the use of certain health care providers, prescription drugs, and "experimental" treatments). Plans should also be encouraged to provide information assistance about coverage provisions and processes. Based on research studies midwives' services can not satisfy all of maternal needs. According to Khodakarami and Jannesari (1997), examining awareness of mothers on pregnant women's rights charter showed that, 87% of mothers didn't have any knowledge about the right type of childbirth class, 73% of mothers used ultrasound 10 times or more during pregnancy, and 93% of mothers were hospitalized without any pregnancy aches and pains. According to studies it is recognized that Iranian pregnant women may suffer lack of knowledge which may limit their ability to fulfill these responsibilities. (p.56). According to Milliez J (2009), The mother and the midwife get to know each other well over the whole maternity experience, building a relationship of trust with each other, sharing information and decision-making and recognizing the active role that both play in the woman's maternity care. The building of relationships between midwives and women during pregnancy contributes to many women's sense of security in labor. Studies showed that, midwives in Iran are not aware of charter rights of pregnant women. More specifically, in regard to the saliency of this topic, the aim of this study is to examine the awareness of midwifery students of Qom University of medical sciences on charter rights of pregnant women. Therefore, this study recommend planners and educators to make midwifery students familiar with the rights of pregnant women along with their attempts to improve medical ability of midwifery students.

#### **Methodology:**

The sample chosen for the study consisted of 58 undergraduate midwifery students in 2010. Also, a questionnaire was used in a wide range of settings to

gather information about the opinions and behavior of individuals. Questionnaire was divided in to two parts, which consisted of open ended questions of demographic information, and 25 close ended questions about right of awareness, right of selection, right of confidence level, right of respect, and comprehensive medical services. The analysis of the questionnaire was conducted descriptively and by doing a content analysis of the open ended and close ended questions. Questionnaire was developed based on the World Health Organization (WHO) of pregnant women in collaboration with countries from around the world. The current version of questionnaire was modified alongside questions that examine broader health by some faculty members of university. To assess the reliability or consistency of this instrument these two types of reliability: internal consistency (e.g., Cronbach's Alpha) 96% and stability (test-retest)  $r=0/87$  were concluded. In order to determine the participants' level of awareness each item on the test was assigned a score of 1 if the answer had been correct, and 0 if it was wrong, or if it had been omitted. These adjusted scores for each item were then summed to obtain the formula score for the entire test. So, the maximum score was determined as 25, and minimum one as 0. In regard to mean score, and standard deviation about  $14/21 \pm 1/01$  levels of awareness categorized in to different groups as: weak awareness was between 0 to13, average awareness was between 14 to16, and high awareness was between 17 to25. Educational mean was classified as good (17 and more than 17), average (17-15), weak (14 and less than 14). The participants were asked to answer the questionnaire; the answers to the questionnaire were also entered into SPSS software for statistical analyses. So, the data was analyzed by the use of spss, chi square statistics, Pearson formula, and with significant statistics  $p<0.05$ .

#### **Results:**

Samples of this study ranging in age from 22 to 40 with mean score and standard deviation of  $27/51 \pm 3/65$  and also, the mean score of this sample was between  $18/93-14/47$ , with standard deviation of  $16/46 \pm 2/2$ . Research showed that 21 number of chosen students were married, and 37 were single. Based on results, about 48/1% of students introduced their instructors and 22/2% of students introduced books as a source of information about the rights of pregnant women.

Results showed that 100% of students didn't hear anything about pregnant women's rights charter. However, it was concluded that 37/9% had good awareness about the principles of this special term, and about 44/9% had average awareness. (table.1)

The results based on examining awareness of

students were classified as follow: highest percentages referred to, respect for personal morals and values %99/7, respect for patient's privacy %98/6, laid-back and friendly environment %97/6, right to informed consent in treatment decisions by pregnant women %85/8, obtaining informed consent %80/5. Lowest percentages referred to these factors as: giving pregnant women easy access to her medical records %47/6, medical consensus of pregnant woman and her family %34/5, informed pregnant women of benefits, required authorizations, and service restrictions or limitations (such as on the use of certain health care providers, prescription drugs, and "experimental" treatments) %20/4, right to make complaints against healthcare providers during unpredictable performances %10/4. Results showed that there was no significant relationship between knowledge and experience of students, and also it was found that there was no significant relationship between student's average and their knowledge.

#### Discussion:

Recognizing specific knowledge is required by midwifery students as future medical staffs. %100 of midwifery students didn't hear anything about pregnant women's rights charter, due to lack of educational courses by instructors at universities. Based on findings, there is not any field of research about examining awareness of midwifery students on pregnant women's rights charter in Iran, but there are many studies about examining national patients' rights charter. According to Ranjbar (1998), examining awareness of students of Yazd University of medical sciences showed that 35/6 of students had low awareness, 27/7 of students had average awareness, and 36/7 of students had high awareness of patients' rights. The highest level of awareness occurs about "rights of personal freedom", and lowest level of awareness occurs about "health services accessibility". The research found that, more than %63 of students had low level of awareness of patients' rights. So, staffs must emphasize on educational system more seriously than ever before. According to Basiri moghadam (2001), level of awareness of Gonabad staffs and patients on patients' rights charter was %69/1, and also there was a significant relationship between knowledge of patients and dignity to the patients' rights charter ( $p=0/007$ ). Whereas in the present study, there was no significant relationship between average, experience, and source of student's knowledge, according to Ranjbar (1998), there was significant relationship between knowledge of students and gender ( $p=0/042$ ), level of study ( $p=0/008$ ), and field of study ( $p=0/003$ ). Highest level of awareness was found in the groups of medical students, midwifery students, and PhD students up to 25 years old ( $p.54$ ).

Similar studies showed that there was a negative relationship between experience and knowledge of medical staffs. According to Khodakarami and Jannesari (1997), examining awareness of 60 mothers between 19-35 years old on pregnant women's rights charter showed that, mothers didn't have good enough information about their own medical care services at the end of their pregnancy. 43/2 of mothers didn't have any problem during and after pregnancy. Also, 87% of mothers didn't have any knowledge about the right type of childbirth class, 73% of mothers used ultrasound 10 times or more during pregnancy, and 93% of mothers were hospitalized without any pregnancy aches and pains. According to studies it is recognized that Iranian pregnant women may suffer lack of knowledge which may limit their ability to fulfill these responsibilities. Researchers suggest more studies in this field.

#### Conclusion:

This study found that, %100 of students didn't know pregnant women's rights as a national pregnant women's rights charter. In regards to lack of awareness of students about pregnant women's rights, and importance of this issue, present study emphasized on instructors and books as major sources of information. So, it is suggested that planners, educators, and instructors at the midwives college notify students of midwifery with the rights of pregnant women from the beginning of study.

#### Acknowledgments:

The author appreciates all the participants who kindly accepted to participate in this study and also those who spent time filling out the questionnaires, especially midwifery students of Qom University of medical sciences.

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1/26/2013