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Women's knowledge and attitudes on vaginal examinations during Labourite Tertiary hospital in Zimbabwe**Moreblessing Mapfumo***National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe*

Statement of the problem: From the researcher point of view, as a midwife with Experience, women at UBH and Zimbabwe as a whole seem to have no adequate Information about the significance of vaginal examination and the actual knowledge on the process itself. This has triggered different attitudes of women toward which need to be exploited. The purpose of the study was to determine women's knowledge and attitudes on vaginal examinations during Labourite tertiary hospital in Zimbabwe.

Study design: A quantitative cross-sectional study was done where by interview based question nares having both closed and open ended questions, were used. A total of 226 women were sampled. Data was Analyse during SPSS version21. Chi-squared test was used to access association between variables. The results showed that 73.6% (n=166) of the sampled women had correct understanding on vaginal examination. There was a significant statistical association between parity and knowledge on vaginal examination ($p < 0.05$). Findings: The majority of the respondents 63.7% showed positive attitude towards vaginal examination. 75% (n=170) of the women preferred to be examined by female midwives or female doctors. Some Women preferred to be examined by doctors instead of midwives, 47.3% of the participant's preferred aged midwives. There was no statistically association between attitude and level of knowledge on vaginal examination ($p = 0.612$).

Conclusion and Significance: In general women at UBH had knowledge on vaginal examination. The attitude towards vaginal examination was good. The study will help identity teaching gaps, where midwives will need to enforce education for the women and services being given to women on knowledge of vaginal examinations during labour which has an impact on their attitude on the vaginal examinations during labour.

Recommendations: There is need for increased education on vaginal examination on pregnant women and on women in labour.

Biography

Moreblessing Mapfumoisa is a Nurse from Managerial Hospital in Zimbabwe, She had the passion of being a Midwife when she was pregnant and the experience she went through motivated her to become a midwife. She did her Midwifery Diploma and went on to do a Schooners Degree in Midwifery with the National University of Science and Technology, Zimbabwe and a Post Graduate Diploma in Paediatric Nutrition with Boston University, USA. She is an alert midwife who is keen on Learning and loves keeping a breast with current information. Research is her starting point as she believes in scientific based evidence. She looks forward to being part of a research Centre in the near future, and to be able to identify problems in women of child bearing age and their families. Being a midwife, she uses her work experiences to treat women as individuals who have right to their care.