

Making discoveries through research: midwifery students' perceptions of their role when caring for pregnant women who misuse substances: neonatal simulators as creative pedagogy

Dr Luisa Cescutti-Butler (Senior Lecturer Midwifery); Dr Humaira Hussain (Lecturer Health Sciences); Level Four Undergraduate Midwifery Students: Faculty of Health and Social Sciences Bournemouth University

Introduction:

An aspect of the midwifery curriculum incorporates teaching and learning to facilitate midwifery students' understanding in caring for pregnant women who may be misusing substances. This is important to lessen stigma associated with these women. There is minimal research involving undergraduate midwifery students interacting with neonatal simulators as creative pedagogy with the intention of co-creating 'new knowledge'

Aim:

To involve midwifery students within a research study using Foetal Alcohol and Drug Affected neonate simulators for co-constructing knowledge around the effects of substance misuse during pregnancy and postnatally



Method:

Data collection included a taught session on protecting the unborn environment where students interacted with Low fidelity Foetal Alcohol Simulators (demonstrating Neonate Abstinence Syndrome) and Medium Fidelity Drug Affected Simulators (demonstrating shaking and crying). Students took part in group activities including post-it note and Padlet questions on perceptions of interacting with the simulators and their role as future midwives in educating pregnant women about the impact of teratogens on a foetus and a newborn baby

Findings:



Conclusion:

Undergraduate research should be encountered early in the student learning journey. Students as 'researchers' in this study emphasized the importance of interacting with the simulators as creative pedagogy as a means of enhancing their knowledge. Students were able to build 'new knowledge' by suggesting that the simulators could be used in practice as an educational aid during parenting classes. This research has helped bridge the disconnect between teaching, research and practice as students were able to reflect on their future roles as midwives. They described an increased confidence in their ability to provide information and support for pregnant women and their babies who may have been impacted by substance misuse.



Some of our midwifery students at a Bournemouth University teaching day