



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Women and Birth

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/wombi



Case study

A research method to explore midwives' views of national maternity service reforms

Bridget Roache^{a,*}, Jennifer Kelly^b

^a Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences (HES), University of Southern Queensland, 11 Salisbury Road, Ipswich, Queensland, Australia

^b Head of School Health and Wellbeing, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences (HES), University of Southern Queensland, 11 Salisbury Road, Ipswich, Queensland 4305, Australia

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 13 August 2017

Accepted 13 September 2017

Available online xxx

Keywords:

Case Study

Midwifery

Continuity of care

National Maternity Services Plan

Case study midwifery maternity

ABSTRACT

Background: Priorities of the National Maternity Services Plan (NMSP) are a significant contrast to current standard hospital maternity service provision. This paper demonstrates the applicability of case study methods to explore the views of midwives during a period of midwifery reform.

Aim: This research aims to highlight key findings and insights surrounding recommended changes facing midwives that can be shared with education providers to incorporate strategies into education programs to ensure contemporary midwifery practice.

Methods: Exploratory Case Study methodology was employed using ethical processes and designing semi-structured interview questions to explore participants' views. Purposive sampling ensured participants were currently practicing midwives in order to reflect the perspective and intent of this study. Data were analysed and findings presented in categories and subcategories.

Results: Case Study methodology enables an in-depth understanding of a phenomenon to be explored within a natural context. The participants of this study formed a single unit of analysis to ensure the research makes a worthwhile contribution to the profession of midwifery.

Conclusion: This paper demonstrates that Case Study methodology is a valid research approach to exploring the views of midwives employed in standard care settings during a period of national reform. The rigorous processes and versatility of Case Study methodology ensured a systematic, critical enquiry was undertaken to gain understanding of the views of participants in implementing the NMSP. This understanding is reflective of the real life contexts of midwives to promote understanding and provide a body of knowledge where there is ambiguity and uncertainty.

Crown Copyright © 2017 Published by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of Australian College of Midwives. All rights reserved.

Statement of significance

Problem/issue

What level of knowledge do midwives working in standard care settings have in relation to the National Maternity Services Plan (NMSP)?

What is already known

The National Maternity Services Plan will have an impact on every aspect of maternity care in Australia. Models of continuity of care have high quality outcomes in relation to satisfaction of users and providers of maternity care, in addition to the cost effectiveness of midwifery models of continuity of care. Little is known about the views of midwives working in standard care settings during a period of reform.

What this paper adds

This paper provides qualitative evidence that there exists a lack of in-depth knowledge in relation to the impact the national maternity reforms will have on midwifery practice. The midwives that participated in this study valued their contributions to the midwifery profession despite feeling

* Corresponding author at: Faculty of Health, Engineering and Sciences (HES), University of Southern Queensland, West Street, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350, Australia.

E-mail addresses: bridget.Roache@usq.edu.au (B. Roache), Jennifer.Kelly@usq.edu.au (J. Kelly).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wombi.2017.09.014>

1871-5192/Crown Copyright © 2017 Published by Elsevier Ltd on behalf of Australian College of Midwives. All rights reserved.

burdened with the need to change and the potential for marginalisation between midwives. Some midwives are eager to embrace changes that impact on midwifery practice while others will leave the profession.

1. Introduction

This paper justifies the appropriateness of Case Study methodology to gain insight and understanding into the views of midwives during a period of reform. Case Study is a qualitative approach that affords rigorous formality to analyse data to acquire knowledge and understanding. As such, Case Study is appropriate to explore the implementation of national maternity reforms. There is little published data on the complexities of midwives views in relation to national maternity reforms, therefore Case Study methodology provides a structured approach to obtaining, analysing and presenting data in a manner that is meaningful and relevant.

2. Qualitative research

Qualitative and quantitative methodologies are two broad approaches to conducting research. Most qualitative research is grounded in philosophy and seeks to understand phenomena from a deeper perspective. Additionally, qualitative research aims to understand human behaviour and reasons that govern behaviour.¹ Gray contends that quantitative research views phenomena from a larger population using survey methods to generate statistical data to answer an inquiry. Differences in the two methodologies can be found in the overall framework, focus and emphasis of the research. For instance, quantitative research seeks to confirm hypotheses and qualitative research aims to explore phenomena through in-depth description and understanding, and may or may not generate hypotheses to be explored.²

Qualitative research is the development of explanations and understanding of social phenomena through inquiry and exploration.³ Liamputtong asserts that qualitative research is a valid tool to use for researching the subjective experiences of people to enable the understanding people have within their own environment. Qualitative research takes place in natural settings of life and acknowledges multiple realities to present holistic accounts of the participants.⁴ In doing so, qualitative research uses the participant's words to develop a meaningful and culturally significant understanding of phenomena from the participant's perspective. These rich explanations using the participant's own words allow the research to be directed by the emergent information rather than following a rigid process of questioning technique. This information can also provide a conceptual understanding and evidence that would not be revealed in a structured format of quantitative research using a pre-determined survey. In particular, the epistemological framework of qualitative research demonstrates a competence and integrity that is congruent with qualitative research as a valuable contributor to knowledge, primarily due to the ethics and rigour of the research.^{3,5}

In recent years, qualitative approaches have increased in popularity due to the growing discontent of quantitative research being unable to explain social science paradigms in a contextual framework.⁶ Qualitative research typically employs the use of words, quotes and descriptions to explore meaning, rather than use statistics.⁷ Furthermore, qualitative research is primarily concerned with data collection that enables description and interpretation of textual data. As such, data collection is generated from conversation, observation or documentation. Kitto et al. also identified that the primary goal of qualitative research is to explore

the experiences, behaviour values, processes of interaction and meaning of purposefully sampled individuals and groups in their natural setting. Therefore, qualitative research focuses on description and interpretation of phenomena in their natural settings and to make sense of the people's belief system and what this meaning brings to these settings, and it is ideal in providing insights to phenomena where little is known.¹ A qualitative methodology provides an opportunity to understand complex and complicated issues and to uncover meanings that have significance to individuals and the wider population, which fits with understanding midwives views of the complexities of national reform.⁸

Qualitative methodologies, such as Case Study, have specific nuances that aid in determining the suitability and applicability of the approach to the intended research. For instance, Case Study approach has a strong emphasis toward social science. Moreover, Case Study research gained popularity due to the emphasis on sociological inquiry.³ Case Study exploration and analysis is considered a form of social science research that can lead to a rich understanding of phenomena.² The sociological perspective combined with the potential for gaining a rich understanding of the topic led to this methodology being employed for this study.

3. Understanding Case Study methodology

The philosophical underpinnings of Case Study research are based on a constructivist paradigm where the participant's creation of meaning equates to their reality.⁹ Case Study can be used as an education tool as well as a means to conduct qualitative research.^{2,3,4,10} The purpose and use of Case Study is often confused in relation to the conduct of research.³ Meaning, Case Study is an empirical inquiry process that poses questions and explores the "how" and "why" of a contemporary phenomenon and is capable of generating and testing hypotheses.^{1,2,9} The focus of Case Study research is to gain an in-depth understanding of a particular phenomenon at a specific time through a variety of data collection approaches, to obtain a "snapshot" view from a multidimensional perspective.⁹

Case Study can be utilised to conduct research into a broad and variable range of topics or units of analysis.^{1–3} Additionally, the versatility of Case Study methods enables the researcher to explore the real life contexts of a phenomenon within a bounded system or "case". Case Study also provides a means to explain a range of topics which is why Case Study is commonly used in social sciences and practicing disciplines such as psychology, nursing, midwifery, social work, economics and anthropology.²

Case Study methodology can provide insight into understanding and expansion of knowledge about a unit of analysis.¹ Additionally, Case Study methodology is beneficial when exploring issues where there is ambiguity and uncertainty exemplified by the phenomenon of midwives views of reform in the maternity services sector in which they work.¹ Overall, case studies are particularly useful for discovering new behaviours or new understanding of an event where there is little knowledge or understanding.³

4. Perspectives of Case Study

There are two key advocates of Case Study methodology who have consistently provided direction with Case Study research.⁹ Stake¹⁰ and Yin² both seek to ensure the essences of the phenomena are well explored through Case Study. Although Stake and Yin have similarities in their approaches to Case Study research, their methods differ considerably. According to Stake¹⁰ there are three approaches to Case Study which align with the purpose of inquiry. The three approaches identified by Stake include an "instrumental case study" which enables insight to an

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8566069>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8566069>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)