



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Women and Birth

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



Midwives being ‘with woman’: An integrative review

Zoe Bradfield*, Ravani Duggan, Yvonne Hauck, Michelle Kelly

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, Curtin University, Western Australia, Australia

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 30 November 2016
Received in revised form 26 June 2017
Accepted 26 July 2017
Available online xxx

Keywords:

Midwifery
Midwife
Midwives
With woman
Philosophy

ABSTRACT

Background: Midwives being ‘with woman’ is embedded in professional philosophy, standards of practice and partnerships with women. In light of the centrality of being ‘with woman’ to the profession of midwifery, it is timely to review the literature to gain a contemporary understanding of this phenomenon.

Aim: This review synthesises research and theoretical literature to report on what is known and published about being ‘with woman’.

Methods: A five step framework for conducting an integrative literature reviews was employed. A comprehensive search strategy was utilised that incorporated exploration in electronic databases CINAHL, Scopus, Proquest, Science Direct and Pubmed. The initial search resulted in the retrieval of 2057 publications which were reduced to 32 through a systematic process.

Findings: The outcome of the review revealed three global themes and corresponding subthemes that encompassed ‘with woman’: (1) philosophy, incorporated two subthemes relating to *midwifery philosophy* and *philosophy and models of care*; (2) relationship, that included the *relationship with women* and the *relationship with partners*; and (3) practice, that captured *midwifery presence, care across the childbirth continuum* and *practice that empowers women*.

Conclusion: Research and theoretical sources support the concept that being ‘with woman’ is a fundamental construct of midwifery practice as evident within the profession’s philosophy. Findings suggest that the concept of midwives being ‘with woman’ is a dynamic and developing construct. The philosophy of being ‘with woman’ acts as an anchoring force to guide, inform and identify midwifery practice in the context of the rapidly changing modern maternity care landscapes. Gaps in knowledge and recommendations for further research are made.

© 2017 Australian College of Midwives. Published by Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Contents

1. Introduction	00
2. Methodology	00
3. Search method	00
4. Search outcome	00
5. Quality of included papers	00
6. Data abstraction and synthesis	00
7. Search results	00
7.1. Types of publications	00
7.2. Qualitative research	00
7.3. Quantitative research	00
7.4. Theoretical literature	00
8. Findings	00
9. With woman as midwifery philosophy	00
9.1. Midwifery philosophy	00

* Corresponding author at: Curtin University, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine, GPO Box U1987, Bentley 6845, Australia. Fax +61 08 9266 2959.
E-mail address: Zoe.bradfield@curtin.edu.au (Z. Bradfield).

9.2.	Midwifery philosophy and models of care	00
10.	Midwives ‘with woman’ as a partnership/relationship	00
10.1.	Relationship with women	00
10.2.	Midwives ‘with women’ and birth partners/significant others	00
11.	With woman in midwifery practice	00
11.1.	Midwifery presence	00
11.2.	Being with woman across the childbearing continuum	00
11.3.	Being ‘with woman’ empowers	00
12.	Discussion	00
13.	Conclusion	00
	Conflict of interest	00
	Sources of outside support	00
	Acknowledgements	00
	References	00

Statement of significance

Problem or issue

The profession of midwifery requires a contemporary appraisal of the phenomenon of being ‘with woman’.

What is already known

- ‘With woman’ is embedded in midwifery philosophy, standards and practice

What this paper adds

- A more holistic understanding of ‘with woman’ appraising both research and theoretical sources
- A contemporary review of how ‘with woman’ philosophy intersects with midwifery practice
- Emerging understanding of the dynamic aspects of the woman- midwife relationship in the context of being ‘with woman’

1. Introduction

Midwifery is one of the oldest professions in written history.^{1–3} Written records of midwifery and the role of the midwife date back to 1446 B.C.¹ In spite of the changes that have occurred within the profession over time, one remaining hallmark of midwifery is the concept of being ‘with woman’.^{2,4,5}

Being ‘with woman’ is considered so central to the profession that it has been embedded within descriptors of midwifery practice and standards at national and international levels. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) is the registering and regulatory authority that sets the standards and codes of practice for Australian midwives. The Competency Standards for the Midwife require that midwives “... appreciate the centrality of the relationship with women to the practice of midwifery... she works *with woman* to plan and evaluate care and facilitate decision making by the woman”.^{6(p2)} At the time of writing, this is echoed through the NMBA’s Code of Conduct.⁷ Being ‘with woman’ is expressed as a partnership within the Code of Ethics for Midwives and indicates that “the midwife’s primary responsibility is toward each woman... in particular the individual woman-midwife partnership... where the partnership focuses on the health and midwifery needs of the woman...”.^{8(p3)} The importance of relationship is supported by the

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) which acknowledges the midwife as a responsible and accountable professional working in partnership with women across the childbirth continuum.⁹ The *Professional Philosophy of Midwifery* developed by the Australian College of Midwives, is prefaced by the statement “Midwife means ‘with woman’: this underpins midwifery’s philosophy, work and relationships”.^{10(p1)}

In light of the centrality of midwives being ‘with woman’ to the profession of midwifery, it is timely to review what is reported in the literature to gain a contemporary understanding of this phenomenon. As such, the aim of this integrated review is to explore, review and synthesise the literature that reports on the phenomenon of midwives being ‘with woman’.

2. Methodology

There are a range of protocols and frameworks that may be employed when undertaking a review and synthesis of the literature, such as integrative, umbrella and scoping reviews as well as systematic reviews including meta-analysis for quantitative research and meta-syntheses for qualitative research.¹¹ The design of each review protocol acts to scaffold and add rigor to the review and synthesis of literature.^{11,12} Integrative reviews are used widely in nursing and midwifery research and play a significant role in the development of evidence informed practices.¹³ Integrative literature reviews are characterised by the inclusion a range of knowledge sources including qualitative and quantitative research as well as theoretical publications such as opinion and editorial works.¹¹ This multifaceted approach assists in presenting a holistic understanding of the phenomenon under study as it facilitates the appraisal of data derived from a range of methodologies which has an important role in the development of evidence based practice.^{13–15} The integrative review presented here, used the methodology as proffered by Whitemore and Knaf (2005). The method involves five stages, namely (1) problem identification (described in the above aim); (2) literature search (search methods and outcomes); (3) data evaluation (quality of included papers); (4) data analysis (results) and (5) presentation (discussion). The use of this methodological framework offers scaffolding which systematises the review process and adds rigor.¹³

3. Search method

A comprehensive two-stage approach to searching the literature was adopted and included the following strategies (1) protocol-driven (searching electronic databases as well as hand search) and (2) ‘snowballing’ (data mining through citation tracking and reference list searches). Search terms “with woman”, “midwives” and all of their variations (see example in Table 1) were

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8566082>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8566082>

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