

## EXPERIENCES OF MIDWIFE STUDENTS ABOUT PEER-MENTORSHIP AND PEER-LEARNING IN DEDICATED EDUCATION UNIT IN PREGNANCY AND POSTPARTUM WARDS

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**Background:** The Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) -practice has been implemented in midwife students' practical training at Kuopio University Hospital (KUH) in collaboration with Savonia University of Applied Sciences (Savonia UAS). DEU-practice has been started during Covid-19 Pandemia in Pregnancy and Postpartum wards and will continue after pandemic. The DEU -practice includes 2-4 midwife students working together independently based on their daily learning goals under the supervision of a midwife mentor. The supervision of teacher implemented electronically via Teams.

**Aim:** The aim of the study was to describe midwife students' experiences of peer-mentorship and peer-learning in the DEU in Pregnancy and Postpartum wards at KUH during Covid-19 Pandemia.

**Methods:** Data was collected from midwife 4-year midwife students from the Forms-questionnaire. Data was analysed in Excel statistically.

**Results:** Students expressed how peer-mentorship affects to their competencies. The major affect were the development in Midwifery Profession, implement of Clients' Care Process, Co-working with peers, and also strengthening self-efficacy and making visible their own knowledge and skills. Minor affects were handling of ethical issues, reflecting their own learning process. Development of self-confidence and interaction in Client relationship have both major and minor affects. From Peer-learning midwifery students put in light as most majority learning from performance of other students, sharing their own knowledge and skills with peers and also giving support to peers. Minority issues in peer-learning were feedback receiving from clients and feedback giving to peers.

**Conclusions:** Most midwifery students experienced that Peer-mentorship and peer-learning have positive affects to their competencies. However, there are still matters to enhance after the Covid-19 Pandemia. At the moment it has been already developed new evaluation form for midwifery students practicing in DEU, which includes peer-mentorship and peer-learning. It is also necessary to add peer-mentorship and peer-learning approach to midwifery curriculum.

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