

**Evaluating emergency obstetric care education and training in a remote area of Myanmar: a qualitative study**

Rachel Campbell

PhD student at Ulster University

Student, commencement of data collection imminent

**Abstract**

Background

The minimum care package required during pregnancy and childbirth in order to manage potentially life threatening complications is referred to as emergency obstetric care (EmOC) (WHO, 2009). EmOC education and training addresses the main causes of maternal death, stillbirth and early neonatal deaths. Evidence highlights that the provision of timely and quality EmOC can have a positive impact on maternal and infant morbidity and mortality.

Context

This study will be conducted in a remote area of Myanmar, known as Karen state. We will be collaborating with an organisation who are currently delivering a novel five year Physician Assistant (PA) program.

Research question

Are there areas within the current PA program that could be enhanced to improve the management of obstetric emergencies?

Methods

Operating from an interpretative perspective an inductive approach has been selected. Therefore, the study design is exploratory and will use a multi-methods approach.

Stage 1 will assess the level and content of EmOC education and training within the PA program. This will be achieved through documentary analysis of the current curriculum and interviews with the team responsible for the delivery of the program.

Stage 2 will explore the student experience and perception of their EmOC education and training. Students will be invited to participate in a series of focus groups.

Stage 3 will assess the preparedness of the training in meeting the practice needs of PAs in their post graduation role. Graduated PAs will be asked to keep a structured diary over 6 months, reflecting on their experiences of obstetric emergencies.

Interviews and focus groups will be conducted over a secure network such as Zoom or Skype.

#### Data analyses

Data obtained from stages 1-3 will be transcribed verbatim by the lead researcher and then analysed using thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006).

#### **References:**

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2006) 'Using thematic analysis in psychology', *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3(2), pp. 77-101.

WHO (2009) *Monitoring obstetric care: a handbook*, Geneva : WHO.