



UNIT – 1

Introduction to concepts of midwifery and obstetrical nursing

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INTRODUCTION

- In English, Midwifery- Mid means “with” wif means “women”.
- Gynaecology, Greek “gyne”- “women”
“logos”- disclosure.



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Definition

- **Midwifery:** A midwifery is the art and science of caring for women undergoing pregnancy, labour and the period following childbirth.
- **Midwifery**, also known as **obstetrics**, is the health science and the health profession that deals with pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period (including care of the newborn), besides sexual and reproductive health of women throughout their lives.
- A professional in midwifery is known as a midwife.

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Terminology

- **Midwifery**: Midwifery is the knowledge necessary to perform the duties of midwife.
- **Obstetrics**: It is the branch of medicine, which deals with the management of pregnancy, labour and puerperium.
- **Gynaecology**: It is the branch of medical science, which treats the diseases of genital organs.

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- **Pregnancy:** It is a state of carrying fetus inside the uterus by a woman from conception to birth.
- **Labour: Childbirth,** the process of delivering a baby and the placenta, membranes, and umbilical cord from the uterus to the vagina to the outside world.
- **Puerperium:** It is the period of about six weeks after childbirth during which the mother's reproductive organs return to their original non-pregnant condition.

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- **Gestation**: this means pregnancy or maternal condition of having a developing fetus in the body.
- **Gravida**: It is a state of pregnancy irrespective of its duration.
- **Nullipara**: is the woman who has not given birth before.
- **Primigravida**: a woman who is giving birth for the first time.
- **Multigravida**: is a woman carrying pregnancy more than once.

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- **Embryo**- human conceptus up to the 10th week of gestation (8th week postconception).
- **Fetus**- human conceptus from 10th week of gestation (8th week postconception) until delivery.
- **Viability**- capability of living, usually accepted as 24 weeks, although survival is rare.



Concepts of Midwifery & Obstetrical Nursing

- Preconceptual care
- Support and protect physiological processes and healthy outcomes.
- Provide care of women during 3 trimesters, labour and puerperium.
- Antenatal & Genetic counselling
- Immunization
- Health education



Obstetrical History: GPLAM

- G-represents gravida.
- P-represents past pregnancies that have reached viability.
- L-represents the number of children living. If a child has died, further explanation is needed for clarification.
- A-represents abortions, elective or spontaneous loss of a pregnancy before the period of viability.
- M-represents the number of Multiple pregnancy/ Medical Termination of Pregnancy done.

Example:

- Mrs. X , who is primigravida and 7 months pregnant with no history of abortion or medical termination.
- G1P1L0A0M0

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ROLE OF NURSE IN MIDWIFERY

- The midwife has a unique role in care of mothers and babies.
- To give the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period.
- To conduct deliveries on her own responsibility and to care for the mother and the newborn.

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- To promote normal birth and detect complications in mother and child, access to medical or other appropriate assistance and the carry out emergency measures.
- To involve in health counselling and education, not only for the woman, but also within the family and community.
- To involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood.
- To promote women's health, sexual or reproductive health and childcare.

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QUIZ

- In English, the meaning of midwife is.....
- What do you mean by primigravida?
- Gestation means.....
- What is the role of nurse as midwife?
- In GPLAM, L stands for.....

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Exercise

- A woman who delivered one fetus carried to the period of viability and who is pregnant again. What will be the GPLAM score?

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Thank you



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