

3

COMMITMENT TO SAFE MOTHERHOOD

SESSION 3

COMMITMENT TO SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Aims

- To enable students to reflect on their experiences in the community, and make a commitment to promoting safe motherhood through community-based care.

Objectives

On completion of Session 3, students will be able to:

- Describe the factors which people in the community consider:
 - enable safe motherhood
 - prevent safe motherhood.
- Explain how the midwife can influence these factors.
- Identify factors in the communities visited which may contribute to maternal death.
- Define maternal mortality and list the major causes of maternal death.
- Write the goals they intend to follow in order to provide midwifery care at community level to help more women achieve safe motherhood.

Plan

Group work (1 hour).

Feedback, discussion (1 hour).

Resources

Instructions for Group Work.

INTRODUCTION

In this session, the students examine the information gathered during their community visit.

Organize the students into groups and give each group the Instructions for Group Work provided at the end of this session. Allow them one hour to accomplish the assignment.

Each group member will have her/his own responses to questions 1 and 2. Make sure that all students say what they discovered.

SAFE MOTHERHOOD

Enabling factors	Preventing factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Antenatal care in the village▪ Good system of referral for women at risk▪ Safe motherhood committee operating in village▪ Maternity waiting home available to women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No trained midwives available to the community▪ TBAs untrained▪ No working relationship established with community leaders▪ No transport available for emergencies

... and so on.

Discuss the practical steps required to provide the care needed so that women in the communities visited may achieve safe motherhood.

At this point, ask for feedback on the reasons why Mrs X died - in particular the factors that students have seen during their community visits.

List the answers from the groups.

First list the factors which contributed to the death of Mrs X, then mark those which could occur in the villages visited and discuss them. Encourage honesty.

Contributing factors to Mrs X's death

Recall the contributing factors to Mrs X's death. Remind students of the story and encourage them to list similar contributing factors which they discovered during their community visit. Students can also list factors of "missed cases". These are women who almost died.

Mrs X died as a result of antepartum haemorrhage due to placenta praevia but the contributing factors to her death were:

- inadequate blood transfusion
- delay in arresting haemorrhage
- delay in receiving treatment
- inability of the woman or her family to recognize a dangerous complication of pregnancy
- chronic iron deficiency anaemia
- malnutrition
- parasitic infection
- advanced age (39 years)
- high parity
- unwanted pregnancy
- poverty
- lack of education and information
- illiteracy
- social injustice.

Contributing factors in the community

It is very important to see the real situation, and not what one would like to believe is true.

If students have difficulty, the following questions may help:

1. *What did the community members say?*
2. *What did they suggest would promote safe motherhood?*
3. *How could we as midwives or health practitioners provide/assist or enable safe motherhood?*

Discuss important practical issues which arise, including these two questions:

4. *Were there problems which need to be investigated? (e.g. iron tablets not prescribed, not available, out of stock).*
5. *What action must be taken so that safe motherhood is promoted in the community?*

Maternal death

Introduce the students to the following definition and major causes. A maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes.

The five major causes of maternal mortality or maternal death are:

- unsafe abortion
- eclampsia
- obstructed labour
- postpartum haemorrhage
- puerperal sepsis.

Statement of intent

Ask each group to respond to question 5 on the previous page by reading out their goals. Students may wish to discuss how they can combine their goals into one statement for the whole class.

Key expressions that will help the students to write a combined statement are

- *community needs*
- *community-based care*
- *access to care*
- *referral system*
- *high risk*
- *the Road to Maternal Death (with its places of entry and exit)*
- *safe motherhood.*

An appropriate statement could read as follows:

“This group affirms that maternity care in the community is essential. We therefore intend to ensure that every woman in _____ has access to a good system of maternity care which will meet her needs at community level and will include an efficient referral system.

We intend to approach community leaders and other members of the community, and in partnership with them, tackle the problems of poverty, ignorance and social injustice.

“The Road to Maternal Death” must no longer run through our community.

The statement must be genuine (students must mean what they say), and it must be possible to achieve. Encourage students to use their own words.

Take time to discuss how this can be achieved.

The students should feel they are working together with the community towards achieving safe motherhood for all women in their community.

Make sure that each student has a copy of the group statement and also write it down on the blackboard. In other modules the students will compile action plans to put the statement into practice.

SUMMARY

Summarize this session by reminding students how they have considered the following:

- *why Mrs X died?*
- *why women in their own community die?*
- *how midwives can help to promote safe motherhood?*
- *who should midwives work with in the community to promote safe motherhood?*
- *how midwives can support women in the community to make decisions related to pregnancy and childbirth?*

Tell the students that they will be helped to use their skills and develop more skills during the study of this module and the other modules. These skills will enable people in the community to achieve safe motherhood.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GROUP WORK

From the information you gathered on your community visit:

1. List the factors that enable women to achieve safe motherhood in that community.
2. List the factors that prevent women achieving safe motherhood in that community.
3. Which of these factors can be influenced to enable more women to achieve safe motherhood?
4. Which of the factors that contributed to the death of Mrs X could be contributing factors to maternal death in the community you visited?
5. In the light of your community visit, write down the goals that you intend to follow in order to provide midwifery care at community level, so as to enable more women to achieve safe motherhood.

e.g. you could begin like this:

This group affirms that midwifery care in the community is essential and we therefore intend to ...

Appoint a group leader, and a person to report back on behalf of the group.

You have **one** hour in your group.

4

WALKING WHERE MRS X WALKED
