Midwifery-led researches for evidence-based practice: Clinical midwives’ engagement in research in Ethiopia, 2021

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Introduction: Health workers involvement in research had an impact on studies and whole system. They influence clinical practice and help to implement evidences. Although International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) put research as one of the midwifery competencies and professional development activity, clinical midwives are poorly involved in research.

Objective: This study aimed to assess clinical midwives’ engagement in research and factors associated so as to bridge the gap through applicable strategies.

Method: Institution-based cross-sectional study was conducted among clinical midwives working at public health facilities of Central and North Gondar Zone, Ethiopia from September to October, 2021 G.C. A structured and pre-tested self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data and entered into Epi-info version 7. Descriptive statistics was used to describe study population. Bi-variable and multi-variable logistic regression analysis was performed using STATA Version 14 and significance level declared at 95% confidence interval, p-value less than 0.05 and respective odds ratios.

Result: Out of 335 clinical midwives, 314 were participated making the response rate 93.7%. Among the midwives, one hundred seventy-two (54.8%) (95% CI: 49.08%, 60.37) have good skill on conducting research. Clinical midwives with mothers with formal education [AOR: 1.90, 95% CI: (1.03, 3.51)], currently work on referral hospitals [AOR: 2.33, 95% CI: (1.19, 4.53)] and having good level of knowledge on research [AOR: 2.19, 95% CI: (1.25, 3.82)] have significant association with having good research skill. Forty-eight (15.2%) (95% CI: 11.5%, 19.7%) ever participated in research during their clinical practice. Clinical midwives who have good knowledge on research [AOR: 0.31, 95% CI: (0.14, 0.70)] are about 0.3 times less likely to participate on research than who have poor knowledge [AOR: 0.31, 95% CI: (0.14, 0.70)].

Conclusion and recommendation: Although more than half have good research skill, only a small proportion of midwives were involved in research. Capacity building activities are crucial to strengthen midwives’ skill on research and ensure their involvement.

Key words: Research, Midwives, Skill, Participation, Capacity Building, Gondar, Ethiopia