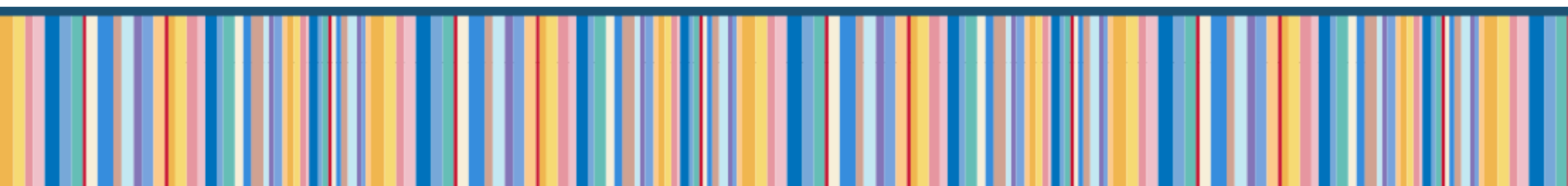


The Journey of Bachelor of Midwifery Program Birth in Saudi Arabia

Dr. Ibtisam Jahlan, PhD, BSN

**Assistant Professor and Vice-Chairperson of Maternal and Child Health Nursing,
King Saud University**

ICM June 30th 2021



Agenda Topics

Midwifery Before 2021
in Saudi Arabia

Midwifery Today in
Saudi Arabia

Midwifery Needs,
Progress & Challenges

Changes in Midwifery in Saudi Arabia

1990's

- Traditional midwives stop
- Recommendation to educate traditional midwives not welcomed
- Shifting to hospitals and medicalization till it becomes the norm
- Introducing primary care centers and integrating maternal and childcare to it
- Reduce maternal and neonatal mortality
- Undergraduate diploma (2 or 3 years)

2000 - 2015

- High rates of cesarean births and intervention (without medical interventions even)
- High rates of complication as a result of medical interventions
- Well established postgraduate degrees at universities
- Baby friendly hospitals
- Breastfeeding support, clinic and consultants
- Midwives practice was limited to labor room
- Number of Saudi midwives
- Obstetrics doctor and nurses
- No job description and scope
- No identified body

2000 - 2015

- Saudi midwives obtained PhD degree
- In August 2015: Establishing SMG under the SSOG
- Establishing 2 temporary midwifery committees at SCFHS and MOH
- Releasing directory book for midwives by MOH
- Revise midwifery classification at SCFHS
- Establishing midwifery department at the MOH
- Midwifery as a profession becomes noticed and recognised more by other medical professions
- Conduct several midwifery related events such as IMD and Annual Meeting
- SMG becomes member of ICM
- Conducted number of workshops to improve and update midwives' skills performance

Current Midwifery in Saudi Arabia

- Antenatal classes
- Doulas
- Husband attending birth
- Saudi Midwives obtained PhD degree
- Midwives attend births with defined scope of practice

Current Midwifery in Saudi Arabia

- Midwifery clinic in some public hospitals
- First private midwifery clinic opened in 2021
- Activate postgraduate diplomas at SCFHS
- All the classifications for midwives available
- Two BSM programs were announced
- Research activities about women experiencing midwifery care

Midwifery Courses Available in our Region

- Undergraduate diploma are terminated
- Postgraduate diploma
 - SCFHS
 - 2 years
 - Clinical
- Master of Midwifery
 - 2-3 years
 - Universities
 - Academic



The Need for Bachelor of Midwifery Program

- One of the pillars of a strong profession
- Number of normal deliveries in KSA
 - ½ million births
 - 60 – 70% vaginal births
 - Number of Saudi midwives – 1800
 - Around 10,000 midwives



The Need for Bachelor of Midwifery Program

- Provide the health system with qualified, skillful Saudi midwives working in partnership with women
- Ensure a continuous educational pathway
- It is a regional and international need
 - ICM Mediterranean regional meeting (4th November)



The Need for Bachelor of Midwifery Program

- Support from Ministry of Education
- Support from al Showra member
- The early beginning was in 2018
- 2019 – 2020 continuous work
- Committee members



مجلس الشورى
@ShuraCouncil_SA

#الشورى يطالب وزارة التعليم بإنشاء بكالوريوس للقبالة (التوليد) ، وتجسير الفتيات الحاليات عبر هذا البكالوريوس وليس عبر بكالوريوس التمريض ، وهي توصية إضافية مقدمة من عضو المجلس د. زينب أبو طالب.

[Translate Tweet](#)

12:57 PM · 04/02/2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

Building the Program

- A request of BSM program submitted
- First submission was a pathway then changed to independent program and specialty
- First committee established at the Maternal and Child Health Care Department at the College of Nursing on 2018 (was not successful)
- Second committee established in 2019 and the work started to build up
- Many revisions were done based on the inquiries received

Benchmarking and References

- ICM guidelines
- UK, Australia, South Africa, Germany
- King Saud University curriculum policies
- College of Nursing policies



The Final Result

- A 5-year bachelor program
 - 1 common year
 - 3 specialized years
 - 1 internship year
 - Admission criteria



Where are We Now?

- Administrative process
- Advertising the program
- Modification to prepare for the application courses



Challenges

- Acceptance of the profession as an independent program
- Accepting the specialty within the community (future students)
- Getting the support from college administration

Launching

- The first batch will start the Bachelor of Science in Midwifery in 2021
- The beginning of the academic year 2021



Future Plans

- Graduate qualified, skillful midwifery specialists who are able to work in any setting, especially community centres
- Start a new Masters of Midwifery for the graduate of BSM
- Work for PhD in midwifery
- Educate the community about midwives' role and midwifery

Dr. Ibtesam Jahlan

ibtesam.o.j@gmail.com



Thank
you

