



## MIDWIFERY PROFESSIONALISM CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

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**Abstract, Background:** Midwives are an important profession in providing care to women during the birth process. The existence of a midwife greatly influences the welfare of women and their attitude towards the child they are born with. Midwifery professionalism is a key factor in empowering women during the birth process, so they must be nurtured since the midwife education<sup>(5,16,19,24)</sup>. This study aims to determine how to develop the character of professionalism in midwifery department at Tasikmalaya Health Polytechnic.

**Method:** This study is an explanatory-research using quantitative methods. Data were collected by filling out questionnaires, observation and documentation studies. The research subjects were 353 midwifery students.

**Results:** The results showed that professional character development in teaching and learning activities, Institutional Culture, extracurricular activities and student organizations as well as Professional Competence is related to the professional character of midwifery. Among all these variables, the one that has the strongest contribution to the character of midwifery professionalism is Professional Competence.

**Conclusion:** The Class Level contributes the most to professional competence, and professional competence contributes to professional character.

**Keywords:** development; character; professionalism; midwifery

### Background

The purpose of national education is to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and fear God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizen<sup>(1,6)</sup>. These objectives indicate that national education does not only provide knowledge, but also attention to aspects of character. Character education is an important concern in the complex problems faced by the nation and society. Character education needs to be implemented in every educational institution, including in Midwifery Department. Everyone has the right to obtain health services so that they can live in physical and spiritual prosperity, so that they are able to build society, nation and state. Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 36 of 2009 about Health, states that a health worker is any person who devotes himself to the health sector

and has knowledge and/or skills through education in the health sector which for certain requires the authority to carry out health efforts<sup>(2,12,26)</sup>.

Midwives as health workers need to be equipped with character values in order to be able to carry out their duties professionally. Midwives are required to have adequate knowledge of midwifery and also need to develop character values. A very important character in public service is a professional character. Health services, especially midwifery services for women, infants and children must be carried out by midwives in a responsible, accountable, quality, safe and sustainable manner, but this is still faced with professional obstacles<sup>(2,15,26)</sup>. Several studies have shown problems related to the attitude and character of midwives, as stated by Liz James (2013: 17) "The midwives were aware of their professional responsibility"<sup>(3)</sup>. Atiyah. K. Mohammed (2015: 26) in his research conclusion "The main

factors identified as influencing satisfaction and dissatisfaction were, caregivers and client interaction, the characteristics of the setting, the involvement of clients in the caring process". Thus, the development of attitudes and character in midwives determines the success of service to the community.

In Indonesia's 2015 health profile data shows that the Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is still high at 305 per 100,000 live births. The high MMR indicates the low level of health services, especially midwifery, this has a negative impact on aspects of people's lives, because mothers have a central role in the family<sup>(4)</sup>. Therefore, efforts to improve women's health status through decreasing MMR need to be prioritized. Efforts to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity are closely related to the midwife profession<sup>(20,25)</sup>. Midwives as health workers are one of the spearheads of basic health services in the community, so that midwife character development needs to be instilled since these midwife candidates are still in education. The Tasikmalaya Ministry of Health Health Polytechnic is one of the public health education institutions in West Java that always strives to maintain the quality of graduates. Given the importance of improving the character of midwives as health workers, the researchers raised the topic of professional character development for midwifery students in the midwifery department of Tasikmalaya Health Polytechnic.

## Methods

Design of study is quantitative research using explanatory survey method. This study aims to determine how to develop the character of midwifery professionalism in midwifery students at Tasikmalaya Health Polytechnic, with 365 subjects as midwifery students. Collecting data used questionnaire. Data analysis has used Pearson Correlation test and multivariate with multiple regression test.

## Results

The result of the research are as follow:

**Table 1.** Correlation between professionalism character development and midwifery professionalism Values

Variable	Motivation	Caring	Professional wisdom	Self development	Interpersonal competence	Professional competence	Professional character
Development in learning activities	.205 <sup>a</sup>	.378 <sup>a</sup>	.389 <sup>a</sup>	.467 <sup>a</sup>	.592 <sup>a</sup>	-0.034	.446 <sup>a</sup>
Development in institution culture	.148 <sup>a</sup>	.319 <sup>a</sup>	.274 <sup>a</sup>	.336 <sup>a</sup>	.372 <sup>a</sup>	-0.043	.306 <sup>a</sup>
Development in extracurricular activities	.121 <sup>a</sup>	.182 <sup>a</sup>	.186 <sup>a</sup>	.203 <sup>a</sup>	.324 <sup>a</sup>	-0.028	.217 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>\*\*</sup> Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

<sup>a</sup>. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

From the table above, can be seen that the character development of midwifery professionalism both in teaching and learning, in institutional culture as well as in extracurricular activities and student organizations, had a significant correlation with motivation, caring, professional wisdom, self-development, interpersonal competence, and professional character.

**Table 2.** Multiple Regression Analysis of Student Characteristics and Character Development of Midwifery Professionalism to Midwifery Professionalism Competence

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Unique Var	Std. Error of the Estimate	Sig.
1	.665 <sup>a</sup>	.442	.441	44,1	.852	.000 <sup>b</sup>
2	.793 <sup>b</sup>	.628	.626	18,5	.696	.000 <sup>c</sup>
3	.797 <sup>c</sup>	.636	.633	0,07	.690	.000 <sup>d</sup>

a. Predictors: (Constant), Class level

b. Predictors: (Constant), Class Level, Program

c. Predictors: (Constant), Class Level, Program, Dev Character in extracurricular and student org activities

From the table above, it can be seen that the R value or multiple correlation for the Class Level is 0.446, meaning that the Grade Level variable is correlated with Professional Competence of 44.6%. The variables of the Education and Character Development Program of professional midwives in extracurricular activities and student organizations are significantly correlated but have not shown an effect.

The table above shows the overall R<sup>2</sup> of the model, which is 0.633, which means that this causal model contributes to the variance of 63.3%. This shows that the variance of Professional Competence explained by the three variables is 63.3%, and the rest (36.7%) is unknown variable or residue. Of the three

variables in the model, it turns out that Class Level contributes to the variance of Professional Competence by 44.1% ( $\beta = 0.441$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ).

Grade level variables have the greatest contribution in explaining Professional Competence. This shows that the achievement of professional competence at each grade level is different. A higher grade level indicates a better competency achievement than a lower grade level. This proves that the learning process at each grade level contributes to the achievement of professional competence. Grade level shows the position of students in a learning process line. a higher grade level indicates a better character of professionalism. This shows that the learning process has a positive impact on the character building of professional midwives. From this research, it can be seen that the learning process that has been passed by students provides a differentiator to students according to the educational program and grade level. The process of learning or education implies a change from the cognitive aspect through the introduction of new knowledge, information and skills, but also changes from the affective aspect related to feelings, attitudes and emotions. The learning process is not only about knowledge (cognitive aspects) but must be harmonized with value and moral education in an effort to instill good character values, and especially for the midwife profession, the character values that must be developed are the character values of professional midwives. Instilling values through education helps students to change, so that they act in more acceptable and productive ways, both personally and socially. This change in behavior is caused by being introduced to new information which causes changes in the basic beliefs, values and attitudes<sup>(7,8,9,10,17)</sup>. The belief in question is a collection of facts or opinions about truth, beauty, and virtue /justice. The attitude is a set of beliefs that determine the choice of a particular object or situation. While values are a series of attitudes and cause or generate considerations that must be made so that they can produce a standard or set of principles that can be used as a measuring tool for an action. And morals are a set of values that can be accepted in the context of the prevailing culture<sup>(11,21,22,23)</sup>.

Professional character is explained by three variables: professional competence, character building in teaching and learning activities, and character building in institutional culture. And of the three variables above, the biggest contribution to professional character is professional competence at 38.5 percent. As stated by Epstein and Hundert, competence as a form of professionalism<sup>(14)</sup>. This statement can be interpreted that professionalism is manifest or visible in the competencies displayed. Competence is an umbrella concept that covers 3 aspects/ domains, namely knowledge, skills and attitudes. A new person is said to be professional, if the form of these three aspects in his work performance, he is intelligent, smart, capable, has broad knowledge, is skilled in doing his job (skillful), and what is no less important is that he has a good personal attitude. These three aspects must appear intact in a professional person<sup>(5,13,15)</sup>.

The first, knowledge base of a professional midwife includes; basic obstetrics, midwifery concepts, socio-cultural science. Communication science, ethics and professional code of ethics, the concept of midwifery care, disease science, the basics of research methods and statistics, and others. Second, the psychomotor system related to dexterity/ skills, body movement, stamina, coordination and basic psychological needs. Skills that must be possessed by a professional midwife include; skills in communication, providing care to women starting from pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, in-between, providing care for babies, and others. Third, the affective system which stores feelings, attitudes, and emotions. The achievement of optimal learning objectives, namely the achievement of good midwifery professional competence must pay attention to the learning methods used. The midwife profession is a profession that demands not only being skilled, but also has a good attitude, meaning that the three learning domains must be achieved optimally. The achievement of competence is the achievement of professional character values<sup>(3,5,24)</sup>.

## Conclusion

From the results of the study, that the Class Level contributes the most to professional competence, and professional

competence contributes to professional character

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