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INADEQUACY OF EDUCATION IN MATERNITY CARE SYSTEM, AS A BARRIER TO ADVOCACY FOR NORMAL BIRTH: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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Background & Objective: The role of obstetricians and midwives in the advocacy of normal birth is emphasized in the international statement on midwifery care. Advocacy can change the attitudes of authorities and pregnant women in favour of normal birth as a low-risk and healthy way for mother and babies outcome. So exploring the barriers of advocacy for normal birth by stake holders, in the real context like delivery wards in hospitals, can help planning in the most effective advocacy programs.

Participants & Methods: This qualitative exploratory research was conducted using grounded theory. Participants were purposefully selected from the community of obstetricians and midwives whom involved in childbirth advocacy in governmental and non-governmental hospitals and private clinics in Tehran, Iran. 18 deep interviews were conducted, which lasted 35 to 120 minutes during Jun'-Feb' 2017. All interviews were fully recorded, written and then all transcripts entered MAXQDA software (ver. 10). The coding, reviewing and analysis processes of the texts were carried out using Strauss and Corbin paradigm.

Findings: The inadequacy of education in maternity care system is one of the causes of the barriers to advocacy for normal birth. It consists of two main categories of weak human resource training and inadequate education and public awareness policies on normal birth. The present article describes a theme and its sub-themes: disregard for ethics in the human resource education system and weakness in the clinical education system for normal birth.

Conclusion: The findings of this research suggest an effective manpower training strategy for normal birth, a change in the curriculum content and provision of more effective clinical education.

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