

EDITORIAL

The Journal of Nursing and Midwifery (AJNM) has come a long way and has developed in all aspects. Its mandate was and it still is to support scholarly development of nurses and midwives in Africa. The journal provides a route for emergent researchers to publish their research findings, review and report on literature as well as refine their research methodologies. The panel of reviewers is from a wide base and where possible most Universities in Africa serve on this panel. Authorship reflects the journal's readership.

The articles in this edition reflect a variety of relevant health issues in four African countries i.e. Nigeria, Namibia, Zambia and South Africa; with authorship shared as far as Tanzania, Rwanda and Ghana. The article on *the Evaluation report* is an example of such shared authorship. The articles provide insight into nursing education matters in preparing nurses to address physical social and psychological, health problems as they present in communities. One of the articles on *abused women's shelter as a clinical learning setting* describes all types of abuse in families i.e. physical, emotional and sexual and how a place of safety can then be used to support experiential learning in the provision of first hand comprehensive management of victims of family violence. The article provides a basis for Qualitative research that is very simply presented.

In many instance community response to health promotion programmes is a result of the nurses' comprehension of health systems. The articles on *the nurses knowledge of and attitudes to exclusive breastfeeding in South West Nigeria* and *breast cancer knowledge and breast self examination practice among rural and urban women in Zambia* present issues that impact on the service providers, with special emphasis on the "what" and "how" nurses communicate information to communities for communities to comply.

The article on *factors associated with community based TB care in the Omaheke Region, Namibia*, explores measures that can be employed to facilitate community based TB care and reduce defaulters. The information in this article is valuable, especially in the wake of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in South Africa.

Examination practice among rural and urban women in Zambia

The article on the *focus group discussion* as a research tool is useful in putting this data collecting methodology in perspective, thus assisting many researchers in its use.

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