

Defining the Roles and Responsibilities of Skilled Birth Attendants in India:An Overview

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This paper is to explore the roles and responsibilities of skilled birth attendants (SBA) for the delivery. It also explores how the traditional birth attendants (TBA) earlier serves for the maternal health care services and got replaced as a result of the launch of National Rural Health Mission. Literatures were reviewed to identify the trends, situation, service, roles, and responsibilities of both SBA's and TBA's. The literature suggests that there are various factors which play an important role in defining the roles and responsibilities of SBA's like demographic factors, proper training, availability of resources, transportation, communication, financial resources and so on. It is also been found that there are more of quantitative studies than qualitative studies, were done which focus on the duties of skilled birth attendants in order to render maternal health care services. Findings of quantitative studies show the trends and situations, roles, responsibilities etc, but they did not discuss about what should be the defined roles of skilled birth attendants and how to make SBA's more trained in order to achieve the targets set for maternal health like institutional deliveries, child care and so on. It is thus suggested that there is need of more of qualitative studies in order to explore the issues related to delivery care by SBA's.