

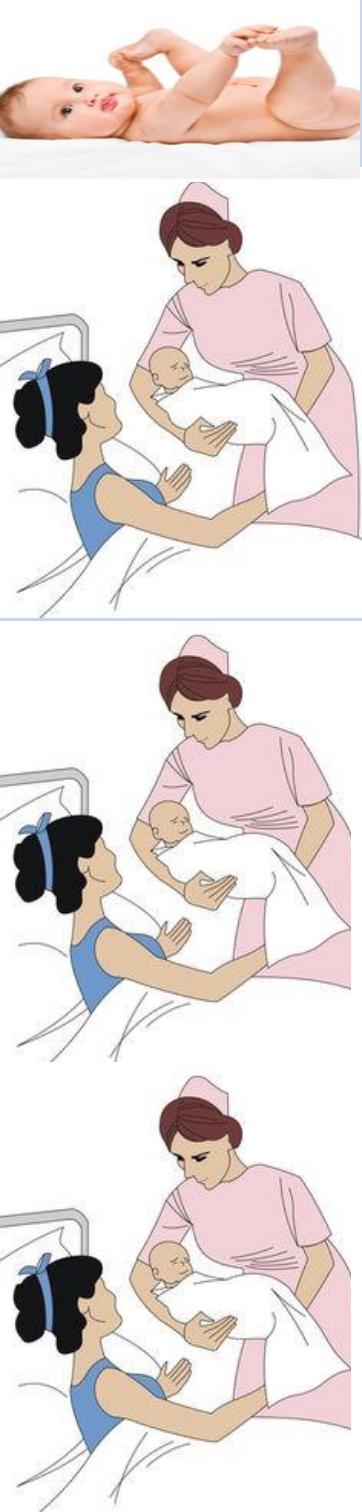


Dr Veronica Dzomeku (Ghana)

Dr Adwoah Bemah Mensah (Ghana)

*Exploring midwives' understanding
of respectful and non-abusive
maternal care*





Exploring Midwives' Perspectives on Respectful/Disrespect Maternity Care in Kumasi, Ghana.

Presenters: Dzomeku Veronica Millicent
Boamah Mensah Adwoa Bemah

Dzomeku et al. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-019-2691-y>

(2020) 20:15

BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth

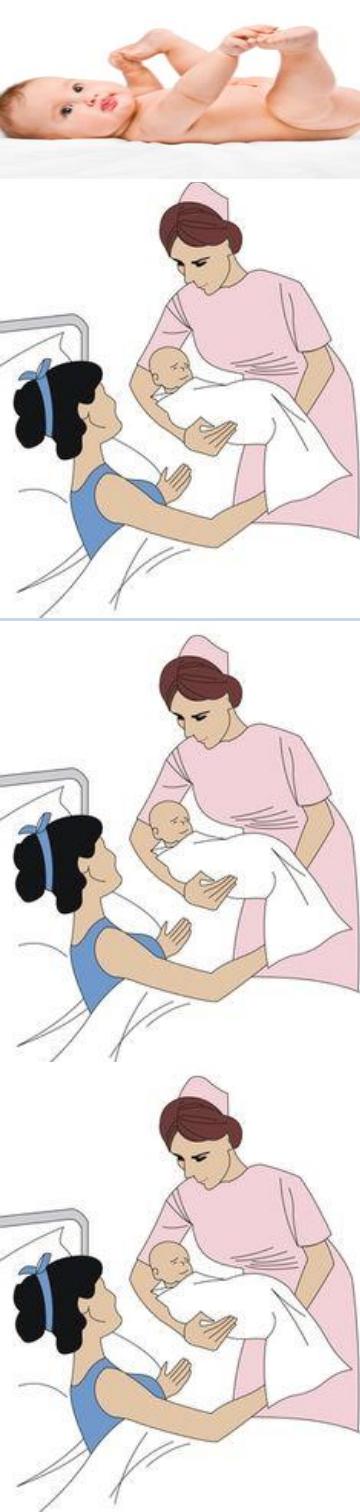
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

“I wouldn't have hit you, but you would have killed your baby:” exploring midwives' perspectives on disrespect and abusive Care in Ghana



Veronica Millicent Dzomeku^{1*} , Adwoa Bemah Boamah Mensah¹, Emmanuel Kwaku Nakua², Pascal Agbadi¹, Jody R. Lori³ and Peter Donkor^{4,5}



Outline

- Introduction
- Study Aim
- Methods
- Findings
- Conclusion/Recommendation



Background



- A growing body of evidence indicates that
- disrespect and abuse (DA) of childbearing women have become part of routine maternity care in healthcare facilities across Ghana.
- In 2017, we published a paper exploring postpartum women's experiences of maternity care at the study setting.



- Whereas some reported that they received care they considered respectful maternity care (RMC), the others said: **“We were disregarded, beaten, shouted at, and insulted by the midwives.”**

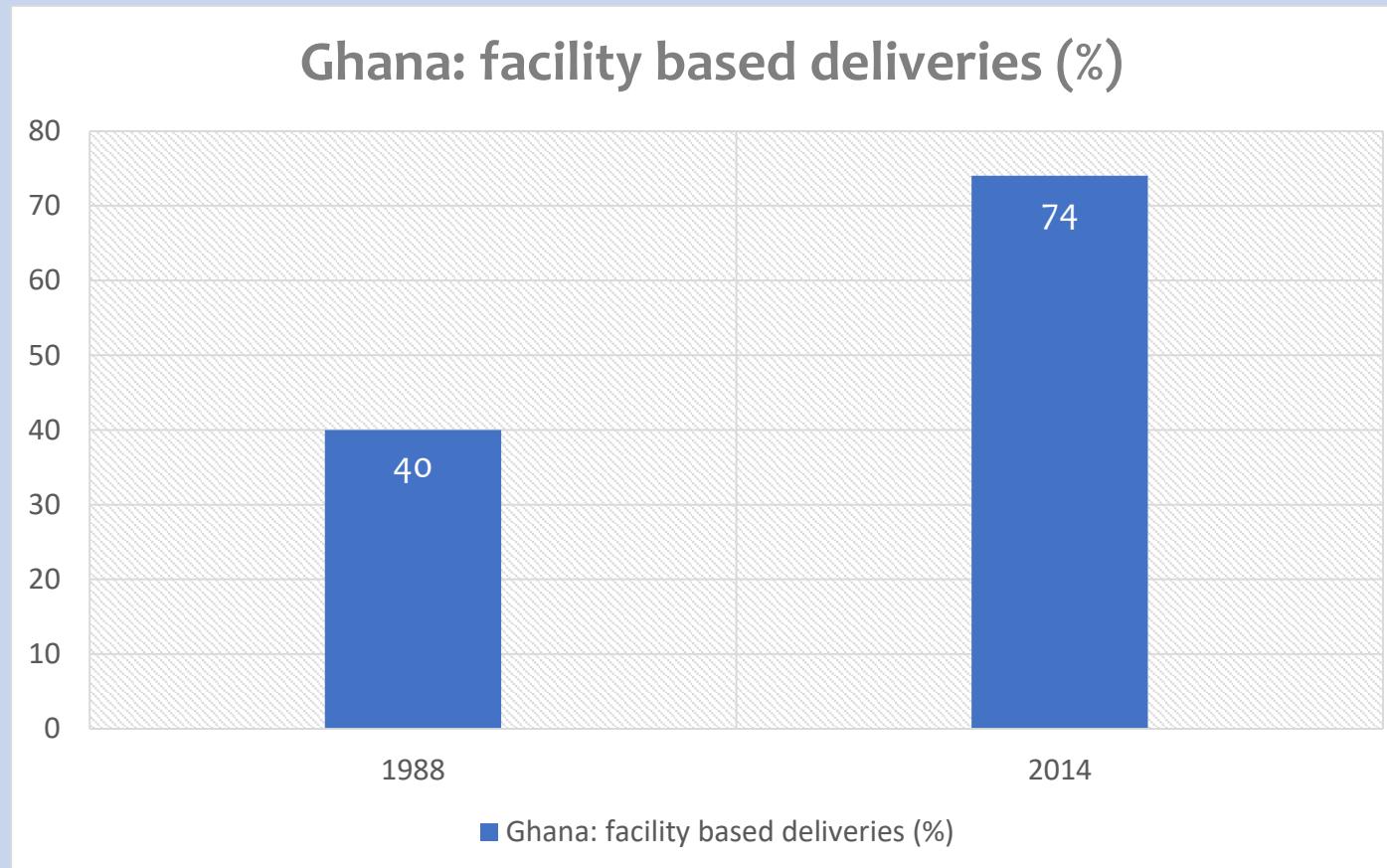


The Problem with DA in maternity care

- ... when childbearing women learn about or experience the cruel treatment in local facilities, they may refuse to use the facility in the future, even when they have risk factors and are told that the hospital is safest.
- This may push them to deliver at home.
- ... homes generally lack emergency equipment and often without skilled providers, so delivery complications often result in preventable disabilities, morbidities, and maternal and neonatal deaths.

The Problem with DA in maternity care

- ... though facility-based deliveries have increased and are linked with reductions in maternal mortality in Ghana, DA may destroy this gain.



Source: Ghana Demographic and Health Surveys, 1988-2014



Study Aim

- Having already known postpartum women's experiences of RMC and DA, our current work explored how midwives understand and describe respectful/disrespectful maternity care.
- The grand goal is to inform policies and design programs that can change the culture of disrespect at the study setting and ensure that childbearing women continually choose the hospital for childbirth to safeguard the gains of facility-based deliveries.



Method

- **Approach & Design:** Explorative, descriptive qualitative

**Kumasi, Ghana
(Tertiary Hospital)**

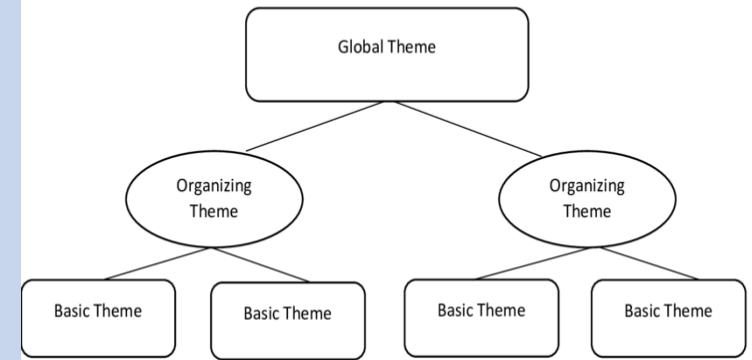


**CHRPE/AP/181/18
RD/CR17/289**

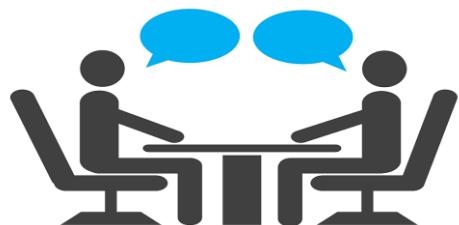


ETHICS

Analysis: Thematic Network



**Fifteen In-depth
Interviews**

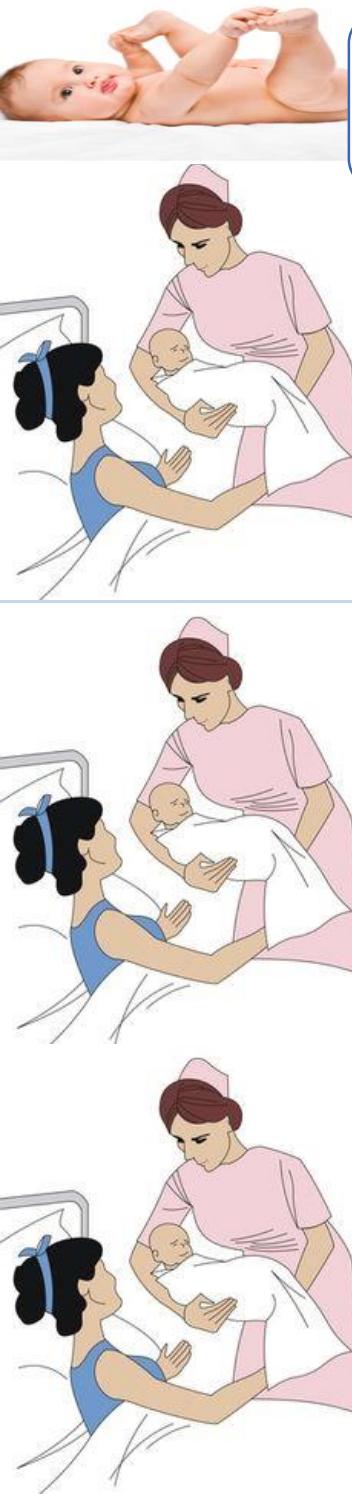


**Audio recordings of
data transcribed**



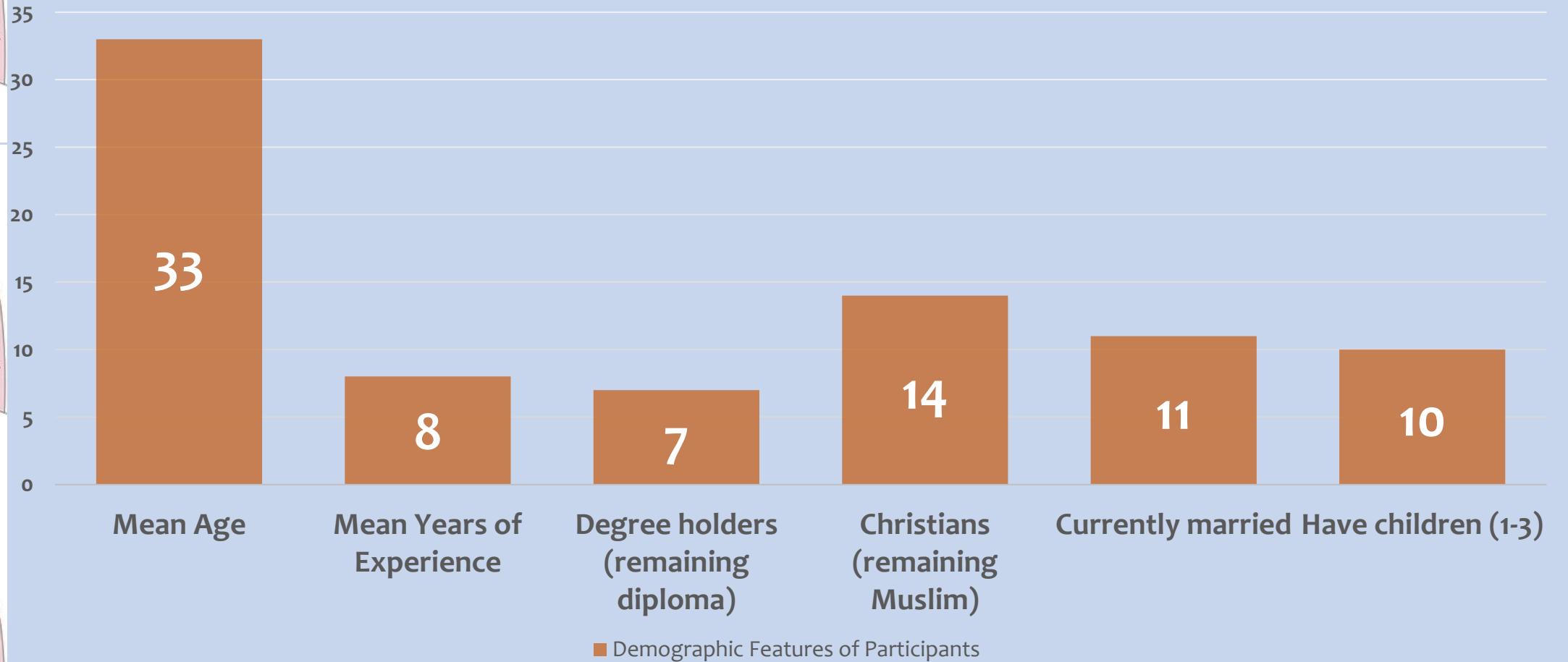
Open Code 4.03





Findings

Demographic Features of Participants





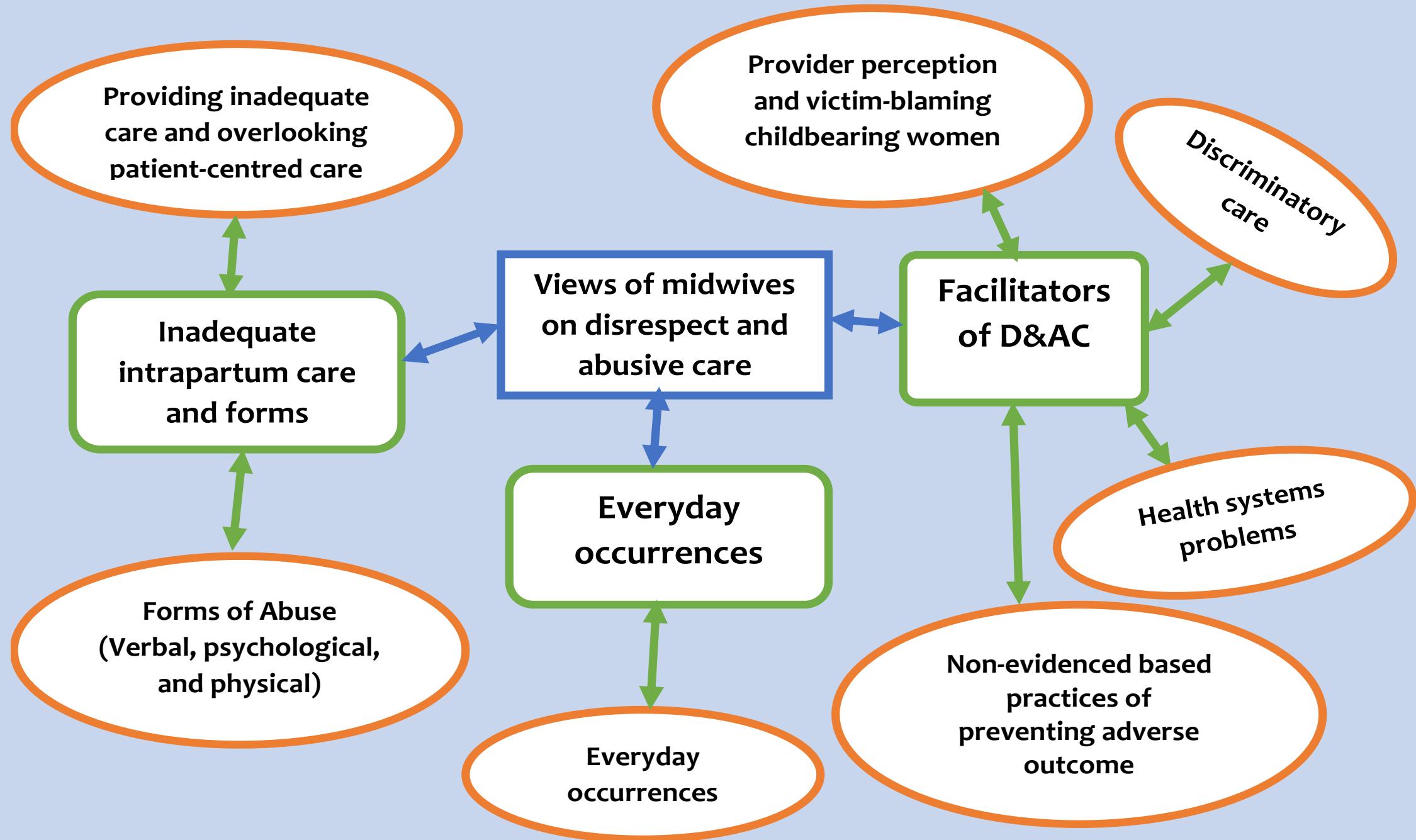
Key Findings



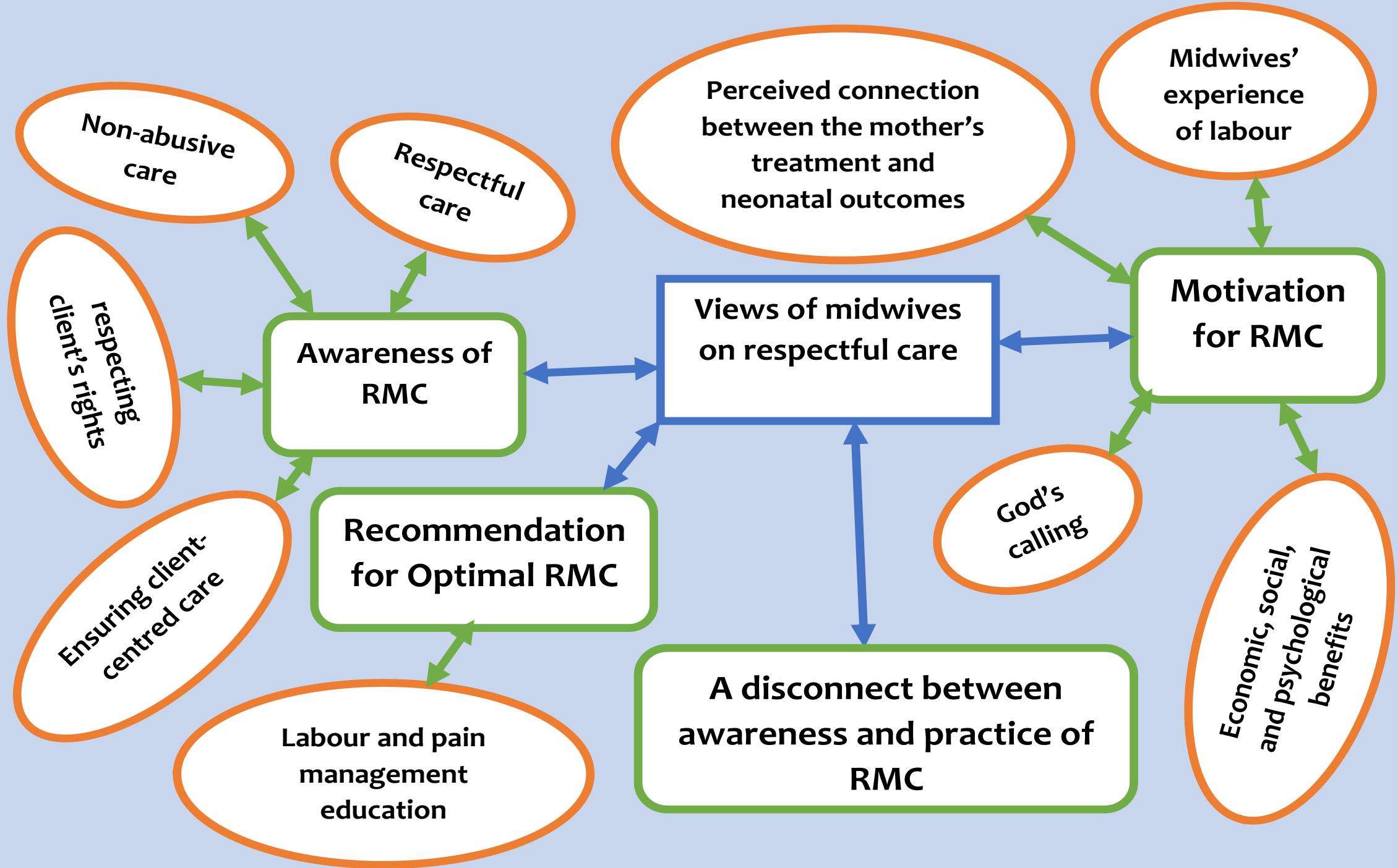
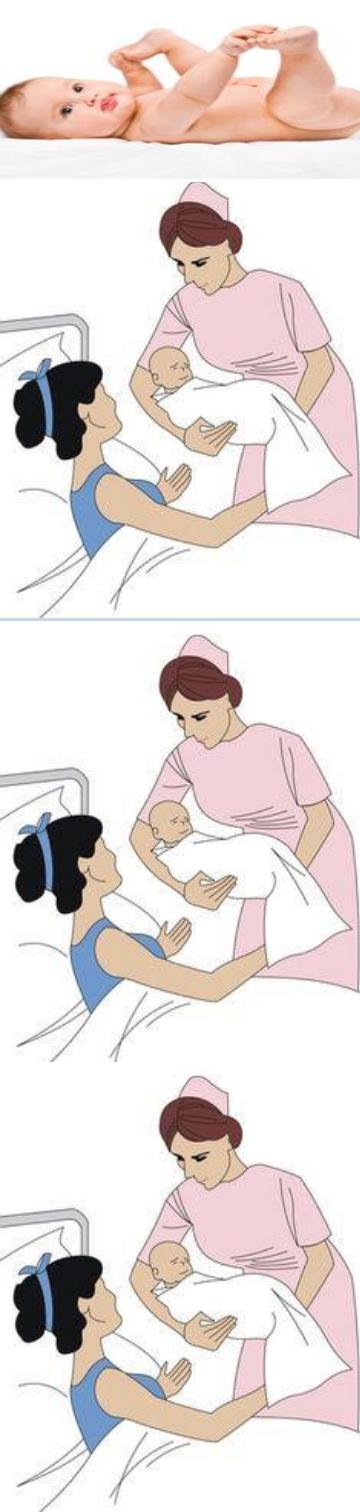
- The midwives demonstrated some degree of awareness of respectful and disrespectful maternity care.
- Despite their awareness and their claim to support the rights of women during childbirth, some midwives defended and admitted engaging in non-evidence-based practices such as hitting, pinching, and implicitly blaming childbearing women for mistreatment.
- The health systems problems driving DA include job distress resulting from unrealistic staff-to-childbearing women ratio, lithotomy-only-birthing position guidelines, and hospital policy on detaining childbearing women who could not pay for services.



Thematic Network of midwives' views on disrespect and abusive care in Kumasi, Ghana



Thematic Network of midwives' views on respectful maternal care in Kumasi, Ghana



Conclusion

- The findings suggest that there is a wide gap between what is understood or known and what is practised as RMC.
- In view of these findings, we recommend that there should be frequent in-service training for midwives and the institutionalization of regular supervision of intrapartum care services in the healthcare facility.
- Also, the government of Ghana and other development stakeholders would have to address the problems of understaffing and expand maternity care facilities to support alternative birthing positions to alleviate D&AC in Ghana.





Acknowledgement



Collaborators



Funder





Thank
you!