

12-2016

## News & Events

Follow this and additional works at: <http://ecommons.aku.edu/jam>

 Part of the [Nursing Midwifery Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

News & Events. Journal of Asian Midwives. 2016;3(2):3-6.

**The Young Midwifery Leaders Programme  
Introductory Workshop  
5-9 December, 2016  
Abu Dhabi, UAE**

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) is leading Young Midwifery Leaders (YML) programme, supported by Johnson and Johnson, in order to develop the leadership capacity of young midwives, member associations and subsequently the midwifery profession as a whole. This programme is the continuation of the May 2016, Midwifery symposium: Young Midwives potential leaders, where 30 young midwives around the globe were selected to participate in the midwifery symposium. Among those 30 midwives, 12 were invited to be in the first cohort of the 18 month training programme. The programme will run through face to face and distance learning. The purpose of YML program is to develop leadership skills and empower young midwives to participate in evidence based decision making and policy initiatives; thus bringing positive change for midwifery profession. The programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Challenge each midwife through a project that broadens her understanding of current and emerging issues and enhances her ability to be visionary, innovative, and creative and set new directions.
- Provide forums for learning and sharing experiences, both with each other and with identified regional midwifery leaders in all fields not only midwife leaders.
- Develop a continuing network that will support participants to further develop their leadership potential.

**Introductory Workshop:**

The first face to face workshop was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE from 5-9 December, 2016. Twelve YMLs from Asia, Africa and America participated in the workshop. The workshop mainly focused on:

- Midwife leaders as a change agents and primary advocates for women and newborn:  
Introduction to advocacy, lobbying and policy formulations

- Health systems, power and public policy and their impact on women and children's health
- Communication and leadership in the health system
- Power basis and role of midwife leaders
- Leadership project development

All young midwives leaders have been assigned a mentor with whom they will work on the project for next 12 months. At the midpoint the progress will be shared and during the last month of 2017 the final report will be presented. All projects are action based and they will benefit to other midwives in their respective nation as well. The final outcome will be that nations will get some potential young leaders in midwifery who carry forward the future of midwives and midwifery. For further information please refer, ICM website link:

<http://internationalmidwives.org/news/?nid=386>

Reported by:

Marina Baig, Young Midwife Leader Pakistan

Dr. Rafat Jan, Mentor, Young Midwife Leader Programme, Pakistan

## **Bangladesh is Launching the First Ever Net Based Master's Programme in Asia for Midwifery Faculty Members**

Midwifery education has been identified as a critical component contributing to quality midwifery care. Good evidence-based theoretical knowledge closing the gap to supervision in clinical setting is hence crucial to ensure high quality education in midwifery. In Bangladesh, all faculty members have a Bachelor degree as a minimum level of education. However, when introducing a new cadre of professional midwives the midwives scope of practice and profession must be clearly communicated, articulated and understood amongst the faculty themselves, the midwifery students, manager, physicians, politicians and other cadres within the health care system in the country. The Directorate of Nursing Services in Bangladesh reports that the country has only 1000 midwives to serve a population of 160 million. The recommended ratio is one midwife per 175 women.

Dalarna University in Sweden became an implementing partner of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), in the beginning of 2016, to implement a one year Master Programme in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights over a period of two years. The core included in all courses and throughout the programme is the Quality Maternal and Newborn Care-framework in line with International Confederation of Midwives Global Standards. The programme is conducted as a part-time internet-based programme, utilizing a blended learning approach in which internet-based learning is complemented by Dalarna University staff regularly visiting Bangladesh to examine, lecture and introduce new courses and assignments.

During the first visit to Bangladesh in February the Government of Bangladesh approved the implementation of the Masters' programme. Thirty students have been selected out of over 70 applicants with the opportunity to get a Swedish Masters' degree. These 30 postgraduate students are faculty members from 15 institutes. At Dalarna's second visit, UNFPA, the Directorate of Nursing Services and Dalarna University launched the first ever net based master's programme in Asia for midwifery faculties, at Dhaka Nursing College on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2016.

The part-time master's programme, running over two years targets midwifery teachers. The programme provides a deeper understanding of the scope of midwifery practice and the

profession itself. In due course these graduates will educate hundreds of midwives, run research projects, and work towards sustainable development in their divisions. Dalarna University as a leading university in internet-based learning offers technical (internet) support, teaching, and library resources in order to build capacity in Bangladesh. Live-streamed and pre-recorded lectures together with online virtual meetings in seminars face-to-face with the students has been provided for the implementation. Dalarna University monitors the students' activities through a computerized learning platform and uses a plagiarism tool since the Swedish university system has zero tolerance to plagiarism. This technical support help the students comply with Swedish university standards.

To date the sixth course (of a total of seven) has started. At the third visit from Dalarna University in September the students were examined through oral seminars with cases focusing on ethical dilemmas within midwifery practice. In dialogue with the students and in stakeholder meetings it was highlighted that the programme has potential to enhance students' capability to bridge gaps between theory and practice using innovative teaching skills. These innovative teaching skills were examined in the fourth visit to Bangladesh in November-December 2016.

By basing the first ever internet based Master's programme for midwifery teachers in Asia the students can remain in their teaching positions while studying and at the same time implementing new knowledge into teaching in both theory and clinical skills. Running the Master's programme in Bangladesh may also help reduce the brain drain of highly trained midwives to high-income countries.

We want to acknowledge the Government of Bangladesh and UNFPA for technical support, UNFPA and the Swedish Embassy for financial support.

**Reported by:**

Kerstin Erlandsson, Project leader with faculty Fatumo Osman

Christina Pedersen, Ulrika Byrskog and Marie Klingberg-Allvin, Mathias Hattakka. School of Education, Health and Social Studies, Dalarna University, Sweden

Malin Bogren, Specialist, UNFPA, Bangladesh