



**Prof. Smriti Mani**

## Focused Group Discussion....

### **WHY NURSING STUDENTS ARE NOT CONFIDENT IN CONDUCTING DELIVERIES?**

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It is a common observation that nursing students in India, at the completion of their respective training (ANM, GNM, and B.Sc.N) get registered at their state registration councils and they are expected to conduct normal deliveries, but they lack the confidence to do so.

A Focused Group discussion (FGD) was conducted by Prof. Smriti Mani, Principal, College of Nursing, Medical College, Kolkata at ANSWERS in Hyderabad in the month of April, 2013 to get an in depth insight on this topic.

**“Why nursing students are not confident in conducting deliveries? Are they getting adequate clinical experience or not?”**

The participants were B.Sc and M.Sc, nurses who had been working as midwifery tutors in various nursing schools and colleges.

Discussion started with introduction, purpose, and request for participation and permission for recording, instructions regarding group principles and confidentiality.

**Interviewer:** Now a -days, why nursing students are not confident in conducting deliveries? Are they not getting adequate clinical experience?

**Participant1 :** Yes, it is a problem. Students are not confident in conducting the deliveries because they are not allowed to conduct deliveries. Some of them do not even know how to palpate a pregnant woman, properly.

**Participant 2:** But, my experience is slightly different. Our institution is under Government; our students do antenatal examinations, postnatal examinations and obstetrical examinations. Students work with staffs present in the LR. They are conducting deliveries under the supervision of staff nurses. But sometimes it depends

upon student's own interest and attitude. Some of them do not want to conduct deliveries. It means they have poor attitude for practical work. However, these students have got an adequate theoretical knowledge on the subject.

**Participant 3:** The students are not confident to conduct deliveries because there are some other reasons also. They do not have a teacher all the time to supervise them. So the students do not take initiative on their own to conduct deliveries. There is one more reason, in the nursing schools and colleges attached to medical colleges for conducting deliveries, both medical & nursing students are present. But the nursing students have fear and they do not ask, do not go forward to conduct deliveries. The medical students go forward and conduct cases. According to INC, at least 20 deliveries should be conducted by each student by the assistance and under the supervision of teachers. Students are not conducting 20 cases but writing in the casebook. Students are writing false cases & the teachers are not observing it properly or knowingly ignore it.

**Participant 1:** I have observed that, in the hospitals attached to medical colleges the post graduate students are not giving chance to student nurses to conduct deliveries. In the corporate hospitals, hardly 50% mothers go for normal delivery and those deliveries are conducted by higher level doctors or PG students. So, chances are not given to the nurses to conduct deliveries.

**Participant 4:** If students have to fulfil INC criteria then students have to go for posting in the labour room in the night shift, because more deliveries occur during night hours. But there is another problem, no teachers will go for night duty with the students and students will remain unsupervised. Moreover, some teachers themselves do