

Gender Assessment of Pre-Service Midwifery: Interview Guide for School Health Clinic Staff

Introduction

My name is _____ and I am part of a team that is conducting a gender assessment to better understand the different experiences of female and male students at (name of school), and the gender issues that may impact female and male students' academic performance and attrition. The goal of our study is to improve matriculation rates, reduce drop-out, enhance academic performance among students, and improve student experience at (name of institution). Our assessment is being conducted by USAID's Maternal and Child Survival Program, which is implemented by Jhpiego.

I would like to ask you a few questions about your experience working with students who visit the health clinic. This interview should take approximately one hour and your responses to the questions will be confidential. During the interview, the note taker will take notes. The notes will be shared only with the members of the assessment team, to be used to analyse the results from our interviews. We will not list your name in our report. You may choose not to answer the questions if you are not comfortable. We hope you will, as your responses will assist in improving student experience and performance and the performance of (Name of Institution).

May we begin?

Guiding Questions

1. Please tell me a little about your job and your experience working at the school health clinic: How long have you been working at this clinic? What is your current position? What are your primary responsibilities in your job? Where were you working before beginning your current job, and what job were you doing? Have you ever had the opportunity to attend any trainings on gender?
2. We are interested to learn about the main reasons students visit the school health clinic. In your experience, what are the primary health problems that students are facing? Have you noticed any differences in the health issues that female students and male students face? If so, what differences have you observed?
3. An important focus of our study is student absenteeism and drop out. In your experience, what are the main health issues that lead female students to miss classes or to drop out of school? What are the main health issues that lead male students to miss classes or to drop out of school? What can the school health clinic do to address these health issues? In your opinion, are female students more likely to be absent from class or drop out of school due to health reasons, or are male students?
4. Please tell me about the family planning services (contraception) provided at the school clinic: Can students obtain contraception at the school clinic? Elsewhere on campus? What is the process for students to obtain contraception? (Probe: do they need an appointment with a doctor? Nurse? Is counseling offered on family planning? Which family planning methods are the most popular with students?). In your experience, do many students ask for contraceptives? In your experience, is it mainly women, men, or both women and men who ask for contraceptives?
5. Please tell me about female students' health needs during pregnancy: In your experience, is pregnancy frequent among female students at your school? What services does the school health clinic provide for

pregnant students? (Probe: what decisions do female students tend to make if they have an unplanned pregnancy? Are safe abortion services available?) What services are provided for female students who are breastfeeding? For female students who have young children?

6. Please tell me about services the school health clinic provides specifically for female students during menstruation? Are sanitary pads available at the clinic? Elsewhere on campus? In your opinion, does menstruation impact female students' attendance at classes?
7. We would like to understand how the health clinic addresses cases of sexual harassment and gender-based violence. Does the school health clinic have a counselor who can advise and support students who have survived gender-based violence? Besides counseling, are there any services or advice that the health clinic can provide to students on sexual harassment and gender-based violence? Counsel students on sexual harassment? Have clinic staff received any training to help them identify the signs of gender-based violence? In your experience, are sexual harassment and gender-based violence issues that impact female students' lives at the school? If so, how?
8. As we discussed at the beginning of this interview, the goal of our assessment is to improve matriculation rates, reduce drop-out and enhance academic performance among students. In your opinion, what are the most important steps that can be taken at this school to reach this goal? Can you recommend any specific steps that would help female students? Male students?