



# Determining How Midwifery As A Profession Is Perceived By Men And Women, And How Gender Impacts Success Of Men Versus Women As Nurse-Midwives In The Lake And Western Zones Of Tanzania

---

## Gender Assessment of Pre-service Midwifery: Focus on Group Discussion Guide for Secondary School Students

### INTRODUCTION (5 minutes)

Objective: Get to know the interviewee, make them aware of the purpose of the interview, and establish an open and honest atmosphere for discussion.

Welcome. My name is [name of interviewer]. I would like to thank you for your willingness to participate in this assessment. [Give a short introduction about your role in the project and a brief overview of MBM-RTz project.]

This discussion is part of an assessment that seeks to understand gender relations and your perception on the midwifery profession and factors that could facilitate or inhibit gender equality in education environment which in turn could impact the success of men or women as midwives in the Lake and Western Zones of Tanzania. We would like to hear your opinions on some issues that if addressed gender will be integrated in the implementation of all key activities of MBM-RTz project. We are expecting to compile all the necessary information we get from you and other interviews to gain insight on the gender issues and how they could be addressed with resources at our disposal.

You were selected because you were identified as a relevant and influential respondents in this assessment. Please feel free to give as much information as you can in response to the questions and please ask me for clarification if you don't understand a question.

I want you to know that your participation in the assessment is completely voluntary. [Participant is handed copies of all informed consent documents and confidentiality forms.] Do you want me to read these documents to you? [If participants says yes, or is having difficulty reading the documents, the interviewer will read all documents aloud.] Do you have any questions? Do you agree to the content on each form? [If the participants agrees will sign the forms.]

If the content of the focus group discussion becomes too sensitive, emotional, or makes you feel uncomfortable, you have the option to end the discussion at any point. The discussion will be recorded using this machine [hold up machine]. It is very important that we record this FGD in order to capture your opinions in detail. After the discussion, the recording will be transcribed and the tape will be

destroyed. Remember, all contributions to the discussion will be confidential and all personal information will be removed from the transcription. Do you understand? Do you have any questions?

This discussion will take approximately sixty minutes. Can I begin the recording? Can we begin?

### **WARM-UP STAGE**

1. First, I'd like you to learn a bit about each other, so let's go around the room and introduce yourself. Please tell us your first name, your origin, subjects you like and anything else you'd like to share with us.
2. Definitional questions: What does gender mean to you? Any training on gender? Can you briefly explain midwifery as a profession?

### **CENTER OF DISCUSSION (50 minutes)**

1. Can you share your thoughts about who you want to become in the future (career choice) and why?
2. What kind of support do you get from your family or community to attain your education? What does your family advice you on your career choice?
3. What profession does your community prefer you to attain and why?
4. What kind of advice do you get from your teachers regarding career choice?
5. Have you ever been advised on opting midwifery as a career?
6. What is your perception on the profession?
7. What kind of support do you need to facilitate you to make appropriate career choice?
8. Please give us your opinion on sex ratio in your school/class; which sex happen to be fewer than the other in your school? Why do you think there is a difference?
9. Does gender roles and norms in your community have any effect on enrolment and performance of students?
10. Does your parents have sex preferences among male and female on who should attain education? Why?
11. Who decides/contributes on matters related to your education issues? How these decisions did affected you?
12. What school activities are there to promote the participation of girls in science and math's subjects? What should be done to improve girls' participation?
13. What are the factors that you consider challenging that hinder your academic performance. What should be done to improve the challenges?
14. What approaches/techniques do you think can be applied to ensure gender equality in learning environment?

### **CLOSING STAGE (5 minutes)**

- Considering what we have discussed today, do you have any specific suggestions for the MBM-RTz project staff on how to improve gender equity in midwifery profession?
- Is there anything else you want to add or ask that we didn't discuss during the interview?

Thank you so much for participating in this assessment. If there is anything else you wish to share at a later point, please do not hesitate to contact me.