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PERCEPTIONS OF MOTHERS AND NURSES TOWARDS CARE BY MALE NURSES DURING PREGNANCY, INTRAPARTUM AND POSTPARTUM IN MBALE REGIONAL REFERRAL HOSPITAL

By

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THIS PROJECT REPORT IS SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN THE PARTIAL FULFILMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY.

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DECLARATION

I, **Gloria Nabirye**, declare that this proposal is my work and has not been submitted for any award or recognition in any University or Institution of Higher Education for any academic award.

Signature**……...** Date: 5th January 2022

Gloria Nabirye

APPROVAL

This research entitled "Perceptions of mothers and nurses towards care by male nurses during pregnancy, intrapartum and postpartum in Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda" has been carried out under my supervision and submitted to the board of examiners of Busitema University with my approval.

Signature**……** Date: 13th January 2022

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family members: Catherine Namudhiba Sizoomu, my dearest mother, whose support, prayers, and push have been unconditional throughout my educational journey. My father, Henry David Sizoomu; who believed in education and empowerment of the girl-child and encouraged me to strive and aim higher; my sisters, Martha, Vicky and Jemima, for the unwavering encouragement and enduring my intellectual absence when I had to sacrifice time to complete this research.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ ACRONYMS

ANC: Antenatal care

MRRH: Mbale Regional Referral Hospital

REC: Research Ethics Committee

SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa

SRH: Sexual and reproductive health

UDHS: Uganda Demographic and Health Survey

WHO: World Health Organisation.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Pregnancy: Is the state of carrying a developing embryo or foetus with in the female body, usually indicated by positive results on an over-the-counter urine test and confirmed through a blood test, ultrasound, and or detection of foetal heartbeat or x-ray.

Intrapartum: Refers to the period from onset of labour throughout the first, second, third and fourth stage of labour, which last from one to two hours after delivery of placenta.

Postpartum: Refers to the period of first six weeks after childbirth.

Perception: Is the way in which something is regarded, understood or interpreted.

Attitude: Refers to a set of emotions, beliefs and behaviours toward a particular object, person, thing or event.

Proportion: Is a part, share or number considered in comparative relation to a whole.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nursing is still perceived as a female-dominated career worldwide. Men who enter this female-dominated world encounter many challenges due to gender bias and stereotypes. Most of them resort to fields of nursing that require less intimate care like psychiatry, emergency and intensive care. Very few of the nurses are found to be practising obstetric care.

Aim: This study aimed to assess the perceptions of mothers and nurses towards care by male nurses during pregnancy, intrapartum and postpartum periods in Mbale Regional Referral Hospital, Uganda

Methods: A cross-sectional design with both qualitative and quantitative methods were used, and it involved face to face interviewer-administered questionnaire to assess mothers and in-depth interviews using an in-depth interview guide interview guide to assess the perceptions of nurses towards care by male nurses during pregnancy, intrapartum and postpartum at the antenatal clinic and maternity ward of Mbale Regional Referral Hospital. The Quantitative data were analysed using IBM SPSS Statistics Version 20 and Qualitative data were transcribed and subjected to thematic, content and descriptive analysis.

Results: Male nurses were found to be 10% and 14.3% of the nurses on labour suite and postnatal wards respectively. Most of the mothers were comfortable with the male nurses attempting the intimate nursing procedures; 65.48% on abdominal examination, 50.35% on vaginal examination and 47.28% on breast examination. Maternal factors that influenced the perceptions of mothers towards care by male nurses were mainly age, religion, education levels and place of residence. Nurses and midwives showed good perception towards male nurses attending to women and gave no complaints witnessed in their experience.

Conclusion: The results of the study identified varying perceptions because a great number of the mothers preferred male nurses over their female counterparts as they were perceived to be more caring, compassionate and respectful. However, religious and cultural beliefs influence perceptions of mothers as some felt embarrassed and shy to be examined by a male nurse. This study, therefore, aims to raise awareness and promote the acceptability of male nurses in labour and maternity units.

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