



Cultural Competemility & Professionalism:



An Innovative Approach to Enhancing Culturally Sensitive Equitable Perinatal Care

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Promoting access to quality and equitable care for a diverse population is a global priority that needs to be attained and can be achieved by integrating cultural competemility and professionalism that embrace culturally sensitive practice during perinatal help-seeking encounters. According to the 2019 World Health Organization (WHO, 2023) report, the maternal mortality ratio leveled by 38% between 2000 and 2017, with an estimated 810 perinatal women who died from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. However, even with this drop, the maternal death ratio was reported to be high in some low and high-income countries during this report period. For example, in 2017, the U.S. and Dominican Republic reported a significant increase in their maternal mortality ratio (WHO, 2023; Commonwealth Fund, 2023).

Inequality in access to quality and equitable care is highlighted as the leading cause of maternal death (WHO, 2023). Building mother-professional solid communication successfully improves help-seeking behaviors (Park et al., 2017), and applying the cultural competemility and professionalism approach aids in strengthening the relationship. The "Cultural competemility and professionalism" approach is client-centered, which aims to provide some strategies that can help the professional take ownership of building positive relationships with mothers and be innovative while providing equitable and culturally sensitive care. This approach allows professionals to infuse cultural competence and humility into practice to engage in meaningful relationships and develop culture-sensitive innovative interventions while encouraging helping-seeking among perinatal mothers.

CCP Model Conceptualization

Cultural competemility and professionalism is conceptualized as an ability for a professional to be culturally competent and humble. In cultural competemility and professionalism context, to provide quality equitable care and encourage help-seeking among perinatal moms' professionals cultivate the ability and willingness to learn from moms during their encounters. Even with their level of education, years of practice experience, or expertise in perinatal care, professionals' endeavor to gain moms' perspectives on the best way moms would like professionals to serve them and integrate this information they gained from moms into the intervention-implement plan..

CCP Model Concepts

- **Interpersonal relationships:** Interaction or interconnectedness between moms and professionals. Being culturally competent and humble helps build and improve the working relationship.
- **Service interpretation:** An ability for professionals to move beyond their own interpretations of problems and interventions to deepen understanding of how moms interpret a presenting problem and its solutions.
- **Strength:** Centers on moms' resilience—identification of moms' individual adaptive capacity (social support system, personal characteristics ability to access resources, etc.) and able to include them in the intervention plan.
- **Intervention:** Professional ability to use both information to develop and implement a culturally sensitive intervention and ensuring that the recommend resources are accessible to moms.

Cultural Competemility & Professionalism: Application Process

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