The Changing Face of Childbirth

– are the needs of the diverse population being met?

Royal College of Midwives
Student Midwives Conference
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THE DIVERSE POPULATION?

What are your thoughts ?

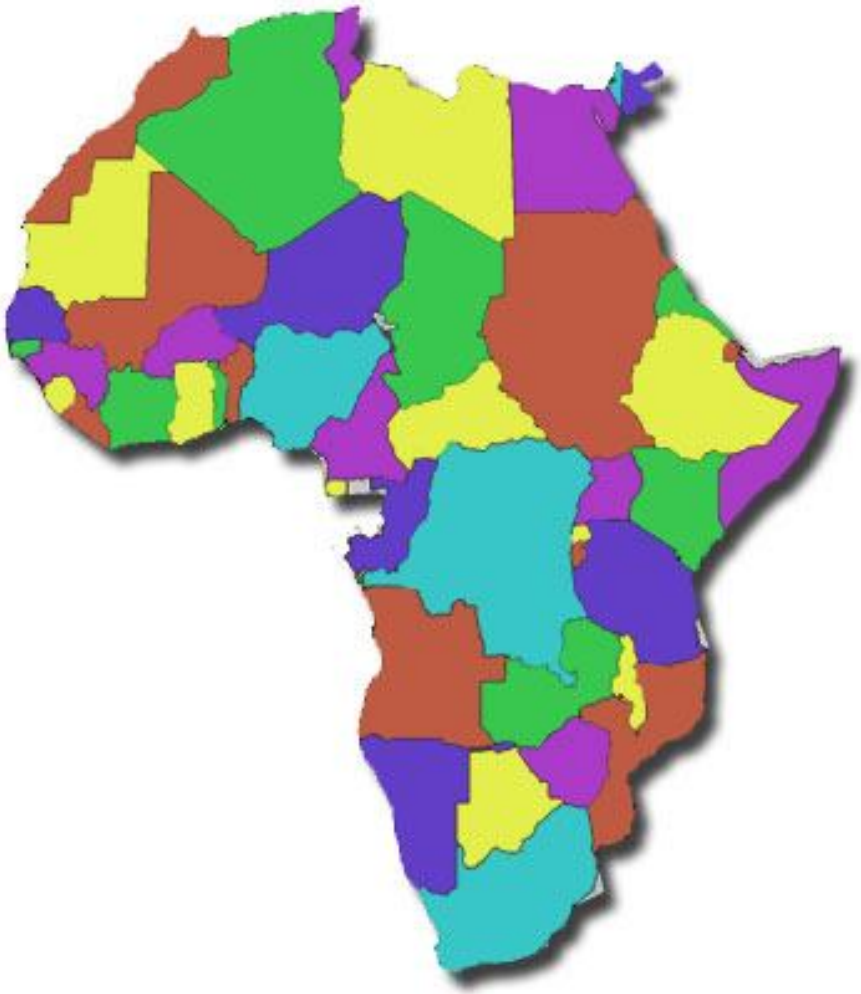
Culture

- Everyone has a culture
- Culture is influenced by
  - Gender
  - Religion
  - Place of birth
  - Life experience
  - Race
  - Sexual Orientation
  - Ethnicity

Midwives

- Midwives culture will be influenced by personal beliefs and also professional values.
- Midwives should be responsible for assessing and then responding to clients cultural needs and expectations

Africa



Women of Africa

ETHIOPIA

MALAWI

WHO 2010

IN 2007 –

- 67 million people were forced to flee their homes throughout the world
- 26 million were internally displaced due to armed conflict
- 25 million due to natural disasters
- 16 million were refugees

There are approx 600,000 pregnancies per year in the UK and approx 70,000 are to non-english speakers. (BBC 2010)

UK picture

- Census is expected to show that ethnic minority communities will total more than 5 million people or 10% of the population.

Concerns of Non-English Speaking women attending antenatal clinics

- ‘Many of the women’s concerns were about whether they themselves or the institution were the focus of care’
- Women wanted their carers to know their own history and experiences and hopes and fears’
- ‘Good communication as a matter of dialogue was important to the women rather than a one way transfer from professional to women’.

(McCourt and Pearce 2000)

Common Thread in Research

- Women expect professionals to be sensitive and delicate
- Women wanted continuity of carer

(Puthussery et al 2010)

- A female care giver would be helpful at antenatal clinics and for all care.
- Women from ethnic minority groups view pregnancy as a normal and an expected event
- Women struggle with the importance of early antenatal care

(Carolan et al 2008)

Global Picture for maternity Care for Ethnic Minorities

Amsterdam Declaration

European Initiative to encourage policy makers and hospital care providers to consider the specific health needs of migrants – there is a focus on maternal and child health.

Emphasis on early attendance at antenatal clinics – provision of information for the women is already made

(Alderliesten et al 2007)

Global Good Practice

Australia

Research by Carolan et al 2008 – found that women felt accepted + comfortable when attending for appointments. For some it was the provision of a sensitive care giver who tolerated the mothers mistakes. For others it was the pre-booking of interpreters for antenatal appointments and also for antenatal education

UK PICTURE

Black African women from deprived areas are not only less likely to attend antenatal clinics BUT they are also up to 6 times more likely to die during pregnancy or in the immediate postnatal period.

(CEMACH 2003-2005)

Challenge for Maternity Services in UK

- Culturally sensitive staff
- Demonstrate a non-threatening and nonjudgemental approach to all women
- Have an ability to signpost mothers
- Increase your world vision and knowledge
- Supportive care was explicitly linked to mothers knowing their midwives