

EXPERIENCES OF SECOND YEAR STUDENTS IN THE CARE OF THE PATIENT IN LABOUR AND DELIVERY

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A qualitative research study was undertaken in order to describe the experiences of second year students in the care of the patient in labour and delivery. Two groups of students who had experienced first actual intrapartal care of clients participated in a focus group discussion. Most of the students had described their experiences in terms of activities and feelings. Most of the students felt very anxious in their experiences of assisting doctors and providing care of the patient. Some felt empathy for the mothers in pain. A majority of the students felt positive emotions about the process of birth. A majority of the students had said that there was a huge difference in learning through simulations as opposed to learning in the actual setting. They learned that they acquired skills faster in the actual clinical setting. The students were able to cope by practising, learning to relax in the area, having the presence of mind in dealing with the stressful situations. The students were helped by the faculty members and group mates through motivation and statements affirming their ability to provide care to the patient in labour and delivery. They were also helped by the nurses and doctors present during the actual experience.