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Maternal health in Namibia: Lessons learned from obstetric surveillance

Heemelaar, S.

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Maternal health in Namibia

Lessons learned from obstetric surveillance

1. In Namibia, the two most important contributors to the high incidence of severe maternal outcome are poor quality of facility-based care and challenges in timely access to care for vulnerable women – this thesis
2. Maternal near-miss surveillance is a valuable addition to the Namibian obstetric surveillance system, in addition to confidential enquiry of maternal deaths - this thesis
3. Health workers need to be adequately supported, to be able to improve the quality of care they provide – this thesis
4. For successful implementation of an intervention, it is key that it addresses a local need in a context-specific manner - this thesis
5. In Namibia, the risk of poor maternal outcome mostly depends on the location of the crib of the woman herself at the time she was born - this thesis & adapted from a Dutch proverb
6. It is a human right of health workers to be equipped and trained to be able to look after the lives of the women and babies that are in their hands - Tarek Meguid, 2013
7. Health systems are complex, no simple recipe exists for success - Balabanova et al., Lancet 2013;381: 2118–33
8. In a business a customer is a king. Similarly, maternity wards in health facilities should be structured to serve queens - Ephrem Sheferaw 2021
9. Those who have the privilege to know, have the duty to act – Albert Einstein 1879 -1955
10. The time is going - Namlish proverb (a PhD journey always takes longer than initially planned)
11. Always aim high, you might be lucky (a helpful mindset for your PhD)

