

ABSTRACT

The inadequacies observed in the quality of maternal care provided by midwives attached to peripheral care institutions need to be addressed through continuing education.

Distance learning methods have not been utilized up to now for this category of health care providers although it could be utilized as a low cost effective method in providing continuing education.

This study was designed to assess the effectiveness of an experimental distance learning programme in a group of midwives in comparison with that of a inservice training programme held in the form of a workshop.

The study group which underwent the distance learning programme was selected from the midwives attached to peripheral medical institutions (from District Hospital downward) of the Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services area, Kalutara, while the control group was selected from the same type of institutions of the Kurunegala District.

Pre-test and post-test marks, before and after the intervention were analyzed using student t Test and the paired student t test.

The analysis revealed that

1. the base level knowledge of institutional midwives in both groups was low and therefore there is the need for continuing education.
2. Both methods used namely, workshop method and distance learning method were equally effective in improving their knowledge significantly.