Establishment of ghabelegi’s school, the first step towards midwifery education in Iran

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ABSTRACT

Until the last century, classical and higher educations in midwifery science was not common like today and the duty for newborn delivery, mother, fetal and infant’s health was under the responsibility of experienced midwives who helped the parturient using their old experiences. Sometimes, unawareness or lack of updated knowledge led to an unimaginable tragedy in the family, or in other words, lighting a candle like a baby in the family, which can cause the death of the mother like burning the butterfly with that candle. There is a proverb in our heritage saying parturient grave is open for 40 days or in another old and traditional public general belief, when a woman is ready for delivery early in the morning, someone, ponds a nail on the ground inside the house so that delivery of the baby does not extend to the sunset. These examples and parables are the clear and obvious points about midwifery condition and women diseases in those days. Until, 1919 with the efforts of Mr. Mirza Ahmad Khan Nisirodolleh, minister of education, the French girl-high-school of Franco Persian changed to Darolmoalemat (school of teachers). Aimed at training 10 students from this school, they went to woman’s hospital 3 days a week to study midwifery and women’s diseases. Dr. Matilda Deromps, a gynecologist was employed. Thus, with this history, the basis and foundation of the midwifery school was established and afterwards, even traditional midwives had to pass the exams of this school. Until now, an article titled ‘midwifery carrier at health clinic system’ during the Reza Shah’s era was written and published by doctor Elham Malekzadeh. Similar topics in brief have been published in the resources and references including books, journals and yearbooks belonging to the previous periods. However, thanks to the archived documents, an in depth history of the education of the midwifery has been obtained and will be published in the format of an article.

Before the establishment of midwifery school, there was no classical training for midwifery and traditional midwives only had responsibility for this duty. Their unawareness and lack of knowledge of Medicine led to a lot of mortality and death in newborns and their mothers, such that, doctor Amir Alam estimated the rate of mortality around 30-50 percent of deliveries. With the opening of the Darolmoalemat (teachers’ school) for Midwifery in 1919, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Ahamd khan Nasirodoleh for its foundation, the rate of mother and infants mortality was decreased significantly.

Keywords: Midwifery School, Reproduction Health, Midwifery, Nurse-midwife, Traditional Nurse-midwife


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