

ESSAY DESCRIPTION OF MIDWIFE OCCUPATION

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"Women have always been healers. They were the first medical doctors and anatomists in western history. They knew how to procure abortions and acted as nurses and counselors. Women were the first pharmacologists with their medicinal herb crops, the secrets of whose use were passed from one to the other. And they were also midwives who went from house to house and from town to town. For centuries women were untitled doctors; excluded from books and official science. Their experiences were passed between neighbors or from mother to daughter. The townspeople called them "wise women," although to the authorities they were witches or charlatans. Medicine is part of our heritage of women".

-Bárbara Ehrenreich-

Midwifery is possibly the oldest profession of humanity since from the beginning the woman asked another woman with experience to support her in it, accompanying her during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium. What is a midwife? midwifery is any health service and health personnel required to support and care for women and newborns during the prenatal period, pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum, covers prenatal care, prevention, detection of complications and emergency care in case of non-having qualified medical personnel, therefore, the midwife or midwife is any person who dedicates their work to the obstetric process, regardless of their degree of professionalization.

Midwives work in many settings, including maternity units in hospitals, birthing centers, obstetrician consultation rooms, midwifery clinics, community health centers, and in private homes.

Approximately 85% of deliveries are attended in a health institution and the other 15% are attended at home.

In 1900, there were almost the same numbers of midwives as registered doctors:

- ✓ Midwives: 2668
- ✓ Doctors: 2794

At the end of the 20th century, there were 1,788 midwife titles compared to 226,179 medical titles.

It is to admire the work of a midwife, without a doubt it is not at all easy since it takes dedication, commitment and time for what she does, I consider that having a job as a midwife is one of the most beautiful things they can see now that they are part of a process for the life of a new being, in addition to sharing and living the birth with the mother, for this reason they have been known as godmother and matron, from the Latin *matrina*; in addition, this term comes from *mater* and *matrix*, which means mother.

Midwives continue to play an important role in maternal health, given that they are widely accepted in communities, receive training in good practices, and can detect early changes in pregnancy and childbirth.

Bibliography:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1016/j.jmwh.2009.08.016>

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