

## 2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

## **Department of Nursing Science**

- **RFN:** Eunice Abimbola OJO
- **RD:** Nursing Science
- **RS:** Nursing Sciences
- RE: favouredbim@gmail.com
- RAE: ojo0236@babcock.edu.ng
- RP: 08023027428
- **RT:** Training of Trainers Strategy for the Implementation of Kangaroo Mother Care among Carers in Tertiary Hospitals in Ogun State, Nigeria
- MS: Prof. Christiana Olanrewaju SOWUNMI
- ME: sowunmic@babcock.edu.ng
- SP: 08023500321
- CS: Nil
- CE: Nil
- CP: Nil

**AB:** Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is an effective method of care for Low Birth Weight (LBW) infants. Studies showed high mortality rate among premature babies and low implementation of KMC in referral hospitals in Ogun State. This necessitates the training of nurses and mothers to improve their knowledge and skills on KMC. Furthermore, in Nigeria, studies showed minimal utilization of Training of Trainers (ToT) concept to address nurses' and mothers' low knowledge and skills on KMC. Therefore, the study explored the ToT strategy for the implementation of KMC among carers in tertiary hospitals in Ogun State, Nigeria.

A mixed method approach was utilized, including a pre- and post quasi experimental design. The study was conducted in the newborn care units of two selected tertiary hospitals. Six nurse leaders were purposively chosen as key informants. Using criterion-based sampling, 62 nurses were selected from a total population of 85 for the ToT, and 17 mothers of LBW infants for the implementation of KMC. The response rate was 100%. After the ToT, simple random sampling technique was used to select 17 nurses that trained the mothers. An unstructured interview guide was used for key informant interview. Four adapted and validated instruments with reliability indices ranging from 0.75 to 0.87 were used to ascertain knowledge and skills of nurses and mothers on KMC through a one-group pre- and post quasi experimental design. The ToT strategy packages were adapted from the WHO KMC guidelines. Post-intervention measures were collected at six weeks for nurses trained by the researcher and one week for mothers trained by the nurses. Qualitative data were thematically

analyzed while quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics at 5% level of significance.

Qualitative data revealed three themes: KMC knowledge (management of LBW infants, existing guidelines and policies, improvements); attitude (good, bad) and practice (barriers to practice, weak knowledge, inadequate electricity supply, insufficient manpower, inadequate equipment). The ToT strategy results pre- and post-intervention revealed knowledge mean scores of nurses to be  $11.76 \pm 2.47$  and  $14.35 \pm 2.14$ ; and nurses skills mean scores were 6.79  $\pm 1.73$  and  $21.60 \pm 0.75$  respectively. After ToT for nurses, mothers trained by nurses had pre-and post-intervention knowledge mean scores of  $2.76 \pm 1.09$  and  $5.65 \pm 1.37$ , and skills mean scores of  $2.64 \pm 0.77$  and  $10.24 \pm 0.66$  respectively. There were significant differences between pre- and post-intervention mean scores of nurses on knowledge (t(61) = -5.60, p = 0.00), nurses' skill (t(61) = -76.5, p = 0.00); mothers' knowledge (t(16) = -32.73, p = 0.00), and mothers' skills (t(16) = -5.54, p = 0.00).

In conclusion the ToT strategy proved effective in improving KMC knowledge and skill of nurses and mothers and helped in implementing KMC. It is recommended that institutions adopt the ToT as a suitable policy and strategy for the implementation of KMC and for continuing nursing education in tertiary hospitals.

**Keywords**: Kangaroo Mother Care, Low birth weight, Low birth weight infants, Premature birth, Training of Trainers strategy

Word Count: 478

Abbreviations: RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB:Abstract

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