

Background

The use of technology has been increasing in healthcare in the last few years. The use of technology affects the way midwives and nurses provide care to their patients [1]. Being flexible between their care at the patient's bedside and using technology is called digital adaptability.

Aim(s)

Exploring the concept of 'digital adaptability' of Flemish midwives and nurses.

Methods

The first step of Intervention Mapping, conducting a Needs Assessment, was used as the framework for this study [2]. Using Structuration Theory and Intuitive Logics Scenario Planning, the need for digitally adaptable healthcare professionals became clear. By conducting an exploratory modified e-Delphi study, the concept of digital adaptability was identified and Factor Analysis was used to explore the different aspects of the concept.

Results

First, three scenarios emerged from the Structuration Theory and Intuitive Logics Scenario Planning study, highlighting the need for digitally adaptable midwives in a multidisciplinary setting. Secondly, the e-Delphi study identified 29 items of the concept digital adaptability, competencies that midwives and nurses must possess in order to be digitally adaptable. At last, two aspects of digital adaptability were identified, "me & the digital world" and "me, the digital world and my patient".

Discussion

From these studies, the need for digitally adaptable healthcare providers in the near future becomes clear [3], the concept is shaped, and the aspects that comprise this concept are identified [4]. It sets a benchmark for the digitally adaptable healthcare professional, it provides a picture of what aspects and competencies a digitally adaptable healthcare professional must possess to keep up in current and future healthcare practice.

Implications and future perspectives

Further research will need to reveal how this corresponds to our current midwifery and nursing students and what aspects they already possess. Based on this, an intervention can be developed to deliver digitally adaptable healthcare professionals at the end of their training.

References

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3. Bleijenbergh et al. Midwifery Practice and Education in Antwerp: Forecasting Its Future With Scenario Planning. *J Contin Educ Nurs*, 53(1), 21-29, 2022.
4. Bleijenbergh et al. Digital adaptability competency for healthcare professionals: a modified explorative e-Delphi study. *Nurse Educ Pract*, 6, 2023.