

UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT Nigeria



ACE-PUTOR e-Newsletter



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Rise and rise of ACE-PUTOR PG Midwifery education

*A Midwife must possess the hands of a Lady,
The eyes of a Hawk,
And the heart of a Lion -ARISTOTLE*

PREAMBLE

Safe childbirth is a significant maternal accomplishment in Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa and much of the Third World. Quality Nursing and Midwifery care plays a critical role in positive labour and birth outcomes. To give quality healthcare delivery to society, this crop of personnel must be highly trained and motivated to serve this important humanitarian profession.

The density of a country's health workforce has strong correlation with positive health outcome and coverage for essential health intervention. Nigeria is not only short of qualified Nurses and Midwives to provide services in all tiers of healthcare delivery, but the academic component of this vital profession is grossly inadequate. There is, therefore, a crying need to higher educated and research-based scholarly Midwives to drive the process of training the next generation of midwife educators for the sector. This gap is being filled by ACE-PUTOR, Uniport for the Nation and Sub-Saharan Africa.

ACE-PUTOR Midwifery Education

The Midwifery programme of the World Bank Africa Centre of Excellence in Public Health and Toxicological Research at the University of Port Harcourt has punched far beyond its weight division with impressive exploits in the training of academic Midwives who are properly equipped to engage in high impact research that would enable them train others. Apart from the basic professional certificate programmes on offer, there is a huge gap in world class Midwifery education in Nigeria. With approval and support from the World Bank, ACE-PUTOR mounted the first Postgraduate Midwifery Education in Nigeria under the "ACE Impact 3 Project." This landmark



DR DAPRIM OGAJI
Centre Leader

programme commenced in June 2019 and in June 2020, the first batch of admitted national and regional students had defended their dissertation report before renown academics. Lectures for the second batch of students which commenced in June 2020 is up and running to the satisfaction of all stakeholders in the programme.

The success story that has already been recorded in the Midwifery programme is largely due to the robust support extended to it by the workaholic and visionary Centre Leader, Dr Daprim Ogaji, who leaves nothing to chance. Since the inception of the programme, he has closely supervised and monitored every stage of the programme to ensure strict compliance with global best standard in line with the mandate of ACE-PUTOR. The other key component of the success story is traceable to the programme Coordinator, Dr Faith Diorgu, who is Nigeria's first doctorate degree holder in Midwifery, awarded to her by the prestigious University of Chester in the United Kingdom. Dr Diorgu who is a board member of the nurses and

midwifery council of Nigeria, is a passionate midwife tutor and a key driver of the postgraduate midwifery education in the ACE-PUTOR, University of Port Harcourt.

Admission of Students

The rigorous admission processes into the Postgraduate Midwifery programme of ACE-PUTOR kick-starts with the scrutiny of the entry credentials of prospective candidates, followed by oral interview. Prospective students must possess the bachelor's degree in Nursing or Midwifery with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.0 and above on a 5-point scale). This is in addition to being verifiably certified as Registered Midwives by the relevant professional bodies. PUTOR additionally requires that prospective candidates must be passionate, open-minded, highly motivated and hungry to explore the emergent frontiers of Midwifery science and practice.

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Dr Faith C. Diorgu
Post Graduate Midwifery Programme Coordinator



Dignitaries seated during Students' Orientation



Cross section of the audience



Standing for University Anthem



Internship students (in blue) with guests



Internship at Fertility Clinic, Abuja, FCT



Internship at Fertility Port Harcourt



Internship at PHC, Port Harcourt



Students orientation/campus tour



Some internship students

← Cont'd from p1

Programme Duration

The programme duration is 12 months for candidates on Full-time, while those enrolled into the Part-time programme spend 24 months. ACE-PUTOR has been able to attract National (Nigerian students) and Regional (students from other African countries) to the Midwifery programme. The programme currently has students from Uganda, Ghana and Cameroon. The high subscription rate for the programme can be gauged by the fact that out of the 62 students who applied under the first batch, 50 enrolled, while the attrition rate was only 6%. In the second batch, 74 candidates applied, while 56 were admitted into the programme.

Programme Structure

The structure of the programme is intensive but flexible, student-friendly and adapted to the circumstances of the students to the extent that they can work and learn without compromising the

programme quality. The philosophy of the academic programmes in ACE-PUTOR is underpinned by a need to promote equity, excellence and integrity. The blend of online modular and in-person teaching brings to focus real-world, real-life and up-to-date case studies and scenarios that enables student appreciate and apply learning to their present and future works. The programme has no 'down time' because it is not affected by such institutional limitations as industrial strike actions, disruption of municipal services or international disputes. The students must complete a month-long internship experience under close supervision by relevant sectoral/industrial partners as a mandatory condition for graduation.

Research Focus

Students are taught the very best in trending Midwifery practices, high impact laboratory-based research and communication media midwifery research, such as deployment of multi-

media facilities in maternity services.

Unique Features

The programme lays emphasis on teaching advanced midwifery techniques and cutting-edge research methodologies, global best midwifery practices, including new trends in creativity and innovation in maternity services.

National Faculty

The University's favorable policy on part-time engagement of faculties for training and supervision of dissertations opened a vintage opportunity to attract highly skilled and motivated human resource to meet the Centre's quest for excellence. Ten (10) qualified and highly motivated academic staff sourced from relevant professional specialisations from University of Port Harcourt, University of Nigeria Nsukka, University of Ibadan and University of Ilorin support this uncommon achievement. The sundry

→ Cont'd on p3

Students on internship placement



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support services by our dedicated secretariat and technical personnel that keep the Centre accelerating in full gear is worthy of mention.

International Faculty

The programme is lucky to draw from the invaluable experiences of some international faculties comprising of Professor Mary Steen of the University of South Australia in Australia, Professor Josephine Etowa from the University of Ottawa Canada, Associate professor Jean Hannan from the University of Florida United America and Dr. J. Craig Phillips from the University of Ottawa Canada. Together with other seasonal experts, these selfless subject matter specialists bring international perspectives to the ACE-PUTOR Midwifery programme at the University of Port Harcourt.

Current Partnership

To further expand its capacity to deliver world class Postgraduate Midwifery

education to its increasing clients, the programme is currently in a functional partnership with the School of Nursing/Midwifery of the University of South Australia and the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa, Canada. The ACE-PUTOR leadership is fully committed to these partnerships.

The ACE-PUTOR Midwifery programme also entered into a new partnerships with the famous Harvard University School of Public Health. We are also exploring other viable partnerships that can add value to programmes offered by ACE-PUTOR.

Employability of Graduates

Feedbacks from the field happily indicate that our graduates are in high demand in the labour market to display their rare professional and intellectual skills. For instance, many graduates who participated in our first batch already are being engaged in academic job offers even before they concluded their programmes. Potential employers have identified the ACE-PUTOR Midwifery programme as highly resourceful in teaching and research—rare qualities that have been

hitherto lacking in Midwifery education in Nigeria.

Our Commitment/Gratitude

The constraining operational environment in which we are compelled to operate notwithstanding, we wish to reassure our numerous stakeholders that the ACE-PUTOR Midwifery programme in the University of Port Harcourt is willing, able and ready to continue discharging its onerous responsibilities of taking Midwifery education to a higher pedestal on the African continent and far beyond. We wish to express gratitude to the World Bank for approving our programme and supporting us. We thank the Association of African Universities (AAU) and the National Universities Commission (NUC) for their unflinching support. Also deserving of our gratitude is the Management of the University of Port Harcourt for its robust support for the ACE-PUTOR programme and especially the Midwifery component that is making high impact at the National and Regional levels have fully come on stream.

Photo View

Midwifery students on internship placement with some of their instructors/resource persons



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