

# Research on the Application of OSCE in the Skill Assessment of Students Majoring in Midwifery in Higher Vocational Education

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[**Abstract**] As an important subject education content of higher vocational colleges, professional skill assessment has very high requirements for students' comprehensive mastery of specialty theories and skills. As for current midwifery teaching in higher vocational colleges, the application of OSCE makes students widen their scope of reception for information related to specialty theories, improve their comprehensive abilities in clinical practice, and develop their professional ability, quality, knowledge and thinking. It also improves the quality of talent cultivation for midwifery in higher vocational colleges. In this regard, the paper is based on the status quo of the skill assessment of students majoring in midwifery in higher vocational schools, in which the application elements of OSCE are analyzed, and the application strategies of OSCE are proposed.

[**Key words**] OSCE; higher vocational education; midwifery; skill assessment; application

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OSCE is a multi-step clinical assessment mode, which is composed of a series of simulated clinical settings. Integrating students into it can make them apply their learned midwifery theories, skills, and thinking to clinical practice, and test their mastery of various skills and knowledge for a systematic assessment of their skills. Compared with the teaching methods of traditional midwifery education, applying OSCE in the teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty can resonate with students. Based on the specialty theories and skills of midwifery, its application provides students with multiple simulated clinical settings, where students can apply, analyze and reflect on the professional knowledge. In this way, the rational use of midwifery information can be realized, which helps students to cultivate their core professional qualities. Therefore, in higher vocational midwifery specialty teaching, we should attach importance to the application of OSCE and design the teaching process for skill assessment of midwifery, so as to achieve good quality of higher vocational midwifery specialty teaching.

## 1 Status of skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery students

In the previous teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty, the transmission of midwifery specialty theories and skills is based on the platforms of classroom teaching, practical training and experiments, so that students can obtain a lot professional information of midwifery. Similarly, the midwifery teaching in higher vocational colleges and the skill assessment for students are also based on these educational levels. Assessment of students' mastery of professional skills should be completed with the educational objectives of midwifery. However, due to the problems exist in traditional midwifery education, the effect of skill assessment for midwifery students is affected. On the one hand, the connection between professional teaching theory and practice of higher vocational midwifery specialty is not enough. The information transfer of midwifery specialty theories and skills is achieved in classroom teaching, and lacks the integration with practice. Students have few opportunities in midwifery practice

and operation, which is not conducive to the effectiveness of their mastery of professional skills, and affects the effectiveness of the assessment of professional skills; on the other hand, the skill assessment system of higher vocational midwifery specialty is not systematic enough, and not able to design systematic teaching mode for midwifery according to the professional skills of students. Therefore, the assessment of students' midwifery skills is not targeted, not only affecting their mastery of midwifery knowledge and skills, but also lacking effectiveness in the assessment of midwifery.

## **2 Application elements of OSCE in the skill assessment of students majoring in midwifery in higher vocational schools**

Problems existing in higher vocational midwifery education result in an ineffective skill assessment for students majoring in midwifery. The application of OSCE in the teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty not only contributes to the effectiveness of higher vocational midwifery courses, but also realizes the pertinence of students' skills assessment. In the OSCE-oriented higher vocational midwifery teaching, all aspects of teaching should be OSCE-oriented. The OSCE teaching mode and teaching methods should be designed to meet students' midwifery skill assessment, so that they can integrate into it, where they can not only learn OSCE information and knowledge, but also know about their extent of application of relevant professional information and skills. As a result, professional education can achieve good results, and can further pursue students' assessment abilities in professional skills. In higher vocational midwifery education, the following application elements need to be satisfied when applying OSCE.

First, clarify the assessment objectives of OSCE. When applying OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, the clarification of its teaching objectives should be based on OSCE teaching design mode and the comprehensive development of students required by OSCE. Therefore, design of the assessment objectives of OSCE for higher vocational midwifery specialty should not only include the design of teaching objectives at the level of theoretical knowledge of midwifery, but also at the level of professional skills of midwifery. For example: the teaching objectives of professional skills and theories of midwifery, innovation and entrepreneurship, and communication and cooperation abilities. Based on the assessment objectives of OSCE, the design of midwifery education of OSCE will be promoted.

Second, take cases as the basis. When applying OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, the selection of clinical cases should be emphasized, and the information of midwifery and clinical practice should be integrated to create a professional platform of practicability and operability. In the skill assessment of midwifery professional skills, the selection of cases is the key, in which real cases need to be selected. Cases and simulations are used to restore the real job model, so that students can integrate into it and conduct operation and practice. In this process, midwifery professional knowledge is used to achieve the enhancement of midwifery professional skills.

Third, clinical work is the main line. When applying OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, not only should the real clinical cases be selected, but also the design of midwifery curriculum teaching corresponds to the clinical work requirements. For example, when applying OSCE in the skill assessment of midwifery, based on clinical cases, the real scene of the cases should be restored according to the actual work requirements of the cases. The division of roles should also be clarified, so that students can integrate into them and take up different roles. In response to some unexpected clinical situations, students can solve the problems with their own professional ability, quality, and thinking, so that a good educational performance can be achieved and students' practical ability in midwifery can be improved. In conclusion, the design of skill assessment for midwifery needs to take OSCE as the orientation and clinical work as the main line, to create a real practice scenario, and

allow students to practice and operate independently, which enhance the comprehensive ability of students and achieve a good skill assessment model.

Fourth, the implementation program of assessment. When applying OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, the skill assessment of students acts as the last link. Through the integration of students into clinical practice, teachers can observe and access relevant information about students, clarify the effectiveness of operation and demonstration of students' skills, and ultimately integrate the information. In this way, students can receive targeted evaluation and true information about their skills, so that they can know about their own deficiencies in midwifery skills, thus adjusting and modifying themselves through the after-school organization mode to enhance their comprehensive mastery of midwifery theories and skills. Based on this, when applying OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, it is necessary to pay attention to the construction of skill assessment program, so as to clarify the effectiveness of students' skill assessment. At the same time, the individualized skill assessment program should be constructed according to the differences of students to meet the needs of students' diversified professional development of midwifery.

### **3 Application strategies of OSCE in the skill assessment of students majoring in midwifery in higher vocational schools**

To apply OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, it is necessary to build a systematic skill assessment system of higher vocational midwifery specialty under the support of advanced information technology. The use of OSCE in all aspects of midwifery education should be promoted, including pre-class, in-class, and post-class. And the value of OSCE in midwifery teaching in higher vocational colleges should be highlighted.

#### **3.1 Application in pre-class teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty**

In the teaching of higher vocational midwifery skill assessment, OSCE is applied to pre-class teaching of midwifery, so as to achieve good results of midwifery skill assessment. In the pre-class teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty, OSCE is used as a guide to design relevant pre-class, in-class and post-class teaching processes, and clarify that the pre-class teaching aims to promote students' mastery and cognition of the theoretical information of midwifery. Based on this, in the pre-class teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty, teachers design the pre-class teaching mode of midwifery according to the requirements of OSCE as well as the matters of teaching and assessment during and after class. In the teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty, according to the practical part during the class, teachers will strengthen the education of students' professional theory and skills before the class, so that they can master the relevant professional information. For example: the use of micro-course and MOOC to carry out pre-class teaching sessions, promote students' mastery of professional theoretical information, and under the support of students' theoretical information, promote the deepening of professional skills, thus helping to achieve the effectiveness of practical teaching of midwifery.

#### **3.2 Application of OSCE in professional courses of higher vocational midwifery specialty**

Applying OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, with the emphasis of the design of professional practice teaching, and the orientation of pre-class midwifery teaching, the in-course teaching mode of midwifery can be designed. First, teachers take the teaching objectives of midwifery as the guidance, clarify the students' mastery of midwifery course, and deepen their further cognition of midwifery knowledge. Second, teachers take case teaching as the guidance, in the professional skill teaching, lead students to carry out professional clinical practice, set up a number of practice scenarios for them, let them integrate themselves into the situation according to their own preferences, carry out the assessment of skills, and realize students' application of midwifery skills. Finally, in the professional practice teaching, teachers should strengthen

student leadership, and act as the appropriate role to help students deepen the knowledge of the problem, to promote them to quickly complete the assessment of skills, so that students can integrate into the next practical situation, and thus enhance the quality of education of higher vocational midwifery specialty.

### 3.3 Application of OSCE in post-class teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty

Applying OSCE in the teaching of higher vocational midwifery specialty and using OSCE in post-class teaching play an effective role in the finalization of midwifery teaching. Teachers use OSCE as a guide, through the collection of students' information mode before and after class, including students' professional independent learning mode, professional skills, knowledge mastery, application of professional knowledge and skills, etc. Comprehensive evaluation to achieve the goal of assessment of students' skills will be given according to the information. For some students who have not reached the goal of midwifery skill assessment, teachers will give them certain suggestions to lead them in the post-class practice to promote in-depth mastery of midwifery course knowledge, make up for the deficiencies in midwifery teaching, and then promote the cultivation of their core professional qualities. In addition, for the application of OSCE in the skill assessment of higher vocational midwifery specialty, teachers can adopt the questionnaire survey after class to deeply understand the information obtained by students in OSCE assessment, and know the insufficiency of the application of OSCE in professional teaching and strengthen the design and adjustment of professional teaching, so as to realize the application of OSCE in higher vocational professional teaching and highlight its value.

## 4 Conclusion

It is essential to study the application of OSCE in the skill assessment of students majoring in midwifery in higher vocational education, which is not only the need for the reasonable application of OSCE in higher vocational midwifery education, but also the need for the innovation of higher vocational midwifery education, and the need for the enhancement of midwifery students' comprehensive quality and ability. Therefore, in higher vocational professional teaching, for the assessment of students' midwifery skills, it is necessary to pay attention to the application of OSCE, realize the optimization of students' midwifery skill assessment mode and method, reconstruct the education system of higher vocational midwifery education system, and promote the improvement of the quality of higher vocational midwifery education.

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