

The Lived Experience of Newly Qualified Midwives

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Introduction and Aim of Study

- After completing a three year midwifery degree course at University newly qualified midwives are expected to function fully as autonomous, responsible NHS practitioners
- *What is the lived experience of newly qualified midwives during the first twelve months post registration?*

Approach

- 12 participants from one cohort
- Trained at one HEI
- Semi-structured interviews: at point of registration, 4 and 12 months post registration
- Analysed using van Manen (1990) and Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (Smith et al, 2009)

Analysis

Steps to analysis

1. Reading and re-reading

2. Initial noting

3. Developing emergent themes

4. Searching for connections across

5. Moving to the next case

6. Looking for patterns across cases

Link with the steps set out

Stage one = initial ideas and emergent themes (conceptual coding)

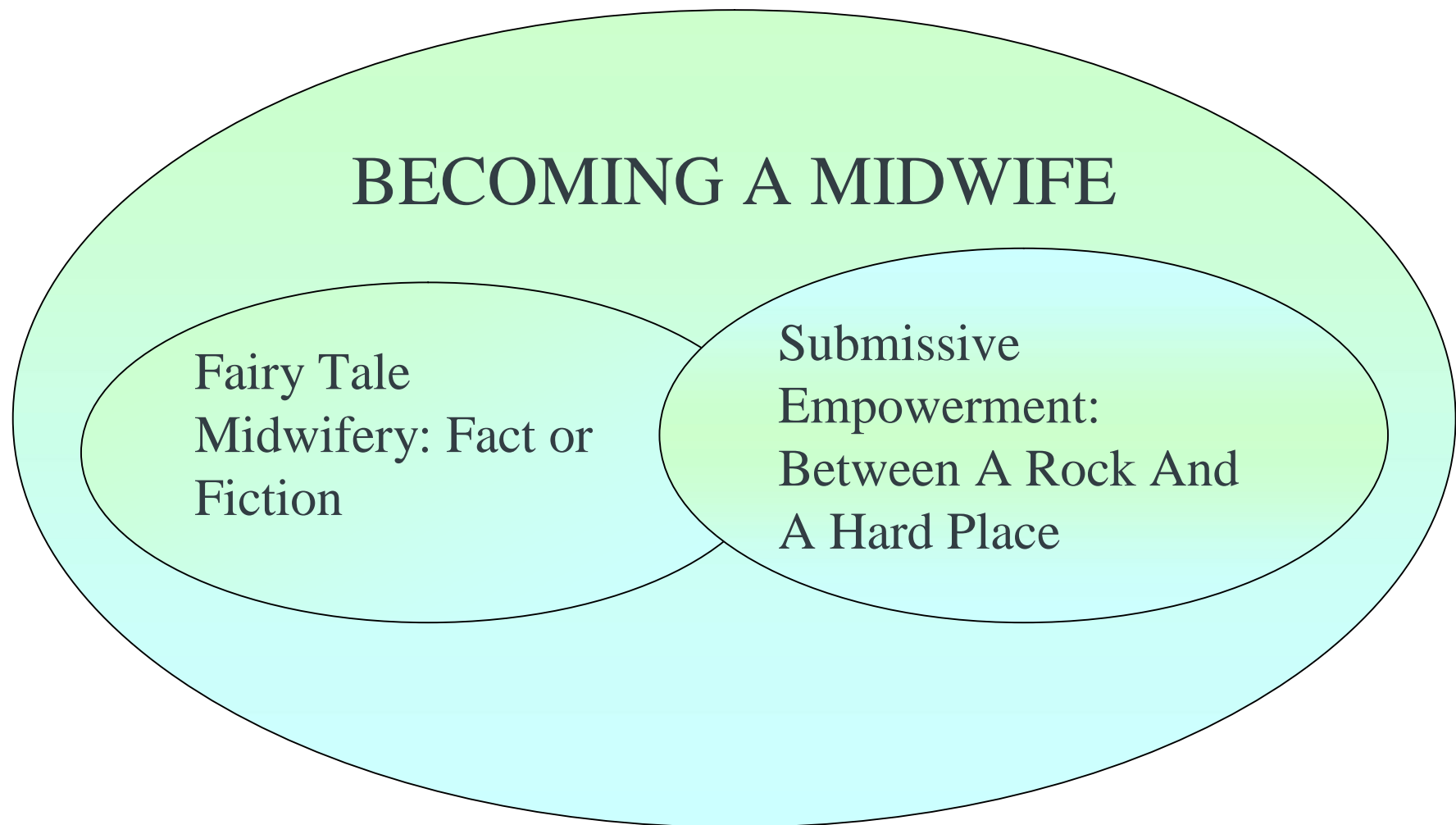
Also undertaken during interview three

Stage two = sub-ordinate themes

Stage three = super-ordinate themes

Stage four = final interpretive themes

Findings



Fairy Tale Midwifery: fact or fiction

- False promises
- Reality shock

Submissive Empowerment: Between A Rock And A Hard Place

- Beyond competence
- Part of the club
- Self doubt
- Struggling

What my study adds to the existing knowledge

- Newly qualified midwives do not perceive themselves to have autonomy and by virtue, responsibility.
- This is in relation to the complex decision-making skills and autonomy needed to care for clients on delivery suite during intra-partum care provision.
- Loss of autonomy and the ability to undertake decisions can lead to high levels of anxiety in the newly qualified midwife.

Implications for Practice

- Educational
- Clinical practice
- Professional regulatory body

Conclusions

Better preparation is needed within educational courses to support the developing midwife of the future. However, it may be that this transition is an emotional challenge and like birth, the reality is that preparation might help, but that the 'reality' can only be experienced.