

Master of Clinical Science

Maternal mortality in Cambodia,
Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka: a
review of practice and policy strategies.

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Abstract

Objectives: To systematically review the strategies that have reduced maternal mortality within four countries; Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Sri Lanka.

Methods: Published and unpublished English language articles from 2000 through 2010 relating to maternal mortality were identified with electronic searches of medical and social science databases. In addition, bibliographies of articles were examined for eligible studies. A systematic review of text and opinion papers was conducted, as outlined in the methods chapter.

Results: Thirty-three text and opinion papers met the inclusion / exclusion criteria. The textual papers were analysed using JBI-NOTARI. The process of meta-synthesis involved the extraction of conclusions, which were grouped into categories, then analysed to generate synthesised findings. Nine syntheses were derived with key themes related to decreasing maternal mortality, including professionalization of midwifery, free and equitable health care, strengthening of health systems, appropriate task-shifting, access issues for women, empowerment of women, improved data collection methods and global assistance.

Conclusion: A combination of these nine essential factors, empowered by an enabling environment, will lead to an improvement in provision of skilled attendance for birthing women. All governments, health professionals who work to provide skilled attendance, and women and their communities must work together, with a shared commitment to tackle these issues of maternal mortality.

Keywords: maternal mortality, skilled birth attendant, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka.

Student Declaration

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