



St. Luke's International University, Tokyo Asia Africa Midwifery Research Center



Newsletter ⑧ Report of students' experience in Tanzania

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On November 22, 2013, we held a seminar to report students' experience in Tanzania based on the international practicum they participated in July. Fifty-one participants showed up for the seminar. The 6 Master's students provided 3 presentations: (1) What we learned from life and culture of Tanzania, (2) Health facility visits in Tanzania, and (3) Presentation and exchange with midwives and midwifery students in Tanzania. With the audience, we had fruitful discussion and learned from one another.

Report of progress from 3-year collaboration



We started with the introduction of our activities by **Dr. Horiuchi**. She explained the progress we had made for these 3 years by visiting counterpart country and had seminars together. Both Japanese side and Tanzanian side learned from each other. She emphasized how midwives were eager to obtain a learning opportunity, and therefore the ultimate goal of the current project, establishing midwifery master's program, is urgently needed.

The first presentation was given by **Nao Tanaka** and **Takae Kurahashi** on "What we learned from life and culture of Tanzania". They introduced the environment of the country and showed the culture, such as traditional cloth called Kanga, their staple food called Ugali, etc. In the end, they reached the health topic and discussed differences in maternal child health indicators between Tanzania and Japan.





The next presentation, “Health facility visits in Tanzania”, was given by **Aiko Itokawa** and **Saki Anan**. They first introduced the overall structure of Tanzanian health system and explained their observations in Muhimbili National Hospital, Bagamoyo District Hospital, Health Center, and Dispensary. They explained that Tanzanian mothers use the recording cards on maternal health and child development/immunization.

The third presentation, “Presentation and exchange with midwives and midwifery students in Tanzania”, was given by **Kana Masutani** and **Ritsuko Yamada**. They introduced the contents of their presentations in Tanzania, discussion with nurse midwives and students, and what they learned from the experience. They felt that the Tanzanian audience was quite interested and eager to learn from their presentations. Also, they found that nurse midwives in Tanzania also considered the mothers as their first priority. The presentations and discussion enabled them to understand each other.



Lastly, **Dr. Shimpuku** provided the presentation on the progress of the Reproductive Health Awareness Program conducted in Bagamoyo. She explained about the world tendency of adolescent pregnancy and its relation to high maternal mortality. She showed the contents of the program to teach adolescents about decision-making for their life. As they were still analyzing the data, she mainly discussed the methodology this time.

Also, she announced the news that the whole project of the Asia Africa Midwifery Research Center was highlighted among the entire international programs in the brochure of JSPS, the funding agency. The brochure is now available online:

https://www.jsps.go.jp/j-kokusai/data/IC_leaflet2013-14_jpn.pdf



Q & A

During the Q & A session, many questions were asked by the audience. The questions include: Why many of Tanzanian mothers do not give birth at a health facility, if they can receive Caesarean section in the small health center, what is written in the recording cards, etc. As Japanese, it was interesting to know that the Tanzanian recording card has the space to write the name of the village leader as a responsible person for the mother and infant. They commented that they want to know more about maternal and child health in Africa, and this kind of seminar stimulated and reminded them that they are living in the same world, which they tend to forget in the everyday busy life in Japan. This comment encouraged us to keep on hosting the seminar and distributing information through newsletters and research articles.



With wonderful audience



Thank you so much for the attendance! We look forward to seeing you again at the next seminar.



The website is also updated for more information :

The Center of Asia Africa Midwifery Research

<http://www.ap.slcu.ac.jp/mt5/asia-africa/>