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EMBRACE: Co-creating intercultural birthing centers with communities

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With the advent of national policies supporting culture-sensitive and intercultural health programs, government implementers continue to dialogue with communities in determining how “intercultural” and “culture-sensitive” would manifest on the ground. Through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and observation, this formative study delves on key themes which should be considered in designing a culture-sensitive birthing center for indigenous communities. With genuine community participation, implementers can conceptualize and co-create a culture-specific facility using the EMBRACE framework derived from this study. EMBRACE is an acronym for: Environment (structural designs, visuals, space for practices, mobility); Material culture (bars/ropes, diet, chair/kneeling pads, clothing); Birthing positions of preference; Rituals, beliefs and traditional practices; Attitude of providers and assistants (sensitivity and positive reinforcement); Community (traditional healers) and family participation; and Efficiency (anticipating risks, feedback, capacity building, and support).

Biography

Ryan Camado Guinaran is a second year student of PhD in Rural Development and he holds Post-graduate Degrees in Community Development, Development Management, Training Management and Global Health. He is the Executive Director of the Doctors for Indigenous Health and Culturally Competent Training, Education, Networking and Governance (DITENG Inc.), a group based in Benguet, Philippines which is involved in indigenous peoples health and advocacy.

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