



Evaluation of Maternal Care Facilities in South Africa: A Randomized Field Trial for Clinical Outcomes Assessment

Mamphela Khumalo¹

¹ Graduate School of Business, UCT

Published: 17 May 2004 | **Received:** 05 February 2004 | **Accepted:** 21 April 2004

Correspondence: mkhumalo@hotmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18795660](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18795660)

Author notes

Mamphela Khumalo is affiliated with Graduate School of Business, UCT and focuses on Medicine research in Africa.

Abstract

Maternal care facilities in South Africa play a critical role in the health outcomes of expectant mothers and their newborns. However, there is variability in service quality and effectiveness across different facilities. A random allocation of expectant mothers to different facilities was conducted over a six-month period. Clinical outcomes were measured using standardised metrics including maternal blood pressure readings, neonatal Apgar scores, and hospital readmission rates. Data collection adhered to ethical guidelines and included both quantitative and qualitative assessments. In the analysis of clinical data from the randomized trial, there was a statistically significant improvement in neonatal Apgar scores (mean difference: +0.5 points; $t(1234)=2.76$, $p<0.05$), indicating enhanced early postnatal care. The findings suggest that the randomized field trial design effectively identifies disparities in maternal and neonatal outcomes, providing actionable insights for facility improvement and policy development. Based on these results, it is recommended that South African health authorities prioritise upgrading facilities with lower Apgar scores to ensure equitable access to high-quality care. Additionally, ongoing monitoring of clinical practices should be implemented to maintain these improvements. Maternal Care Facilities, Randomized Field Trial, Clinical Outcomes, Neonatal Health

Keywords: *African geography, maternal health systems, randomized trials, clinical outcomes, quality assessment, service evaluation, public healthcare*

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

Email: info@parj.africa

Request your copy of the full paper today!

SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

Submit at: app.parj.africa



Scan to visit app.parj.africa

Open Access Scholarship from PARJ

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge