



## UCU Midwifery Program Champions Gender and Society Class on Sexual and Reproductive Health-Care Services

In a progressive step towards inclusive and comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health, the Midwifery Program of Urdaneta City University (UCU) has introduced a dynamic course on Gender and Society that equips students with essential knowledge on gender equality, sexual health, and reproductive rights. This initiative, a first of its kind in the region, seeks to empower future midwives with skills and insights to provide more empathetic and informed health care to diverse communities.

The course covers a wide array of critical topics, including family planning, maternal health, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and the importance of accessible reproductive health services. The UCU Midwifery Program recognizes that midwives often serve as the primary touchpoint for reproductive health in many communities, making it essential for students to have a nuanced understanding of gender sensitivities and patient-centered care.

“The Gender and Society course is essential in molding compassionate and well-informed health care providers,” one of the course facilitators. “By focusing on the intersections of gender, culture, and health, our students are learning to approach patient care with respect for individual identities and needs.”

The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313) and the broader goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Students explore the impact of social and cultural factors on reproductive health choices and discuss strategies for overcoming barriers to health care access.

UCU’s efforts have garnered praise from local health organizations and community leaders. “This program not only improves the education of our future midwives but also contributes to the overall health literacy and empowerment of our communities,”.

With this innovative program, UCU continues to lead in advancing educational practices that prioritize human rights and health equity, preparing its students to make a positive impact in health care and beyond.

