

# Restoring Independence to the Practice of Midwifery: Towards Light, Love and Power for Women

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## Abstract

The lack of autonomy/independence in the practice of midwifery in Japan for the past 30-40 years is quite significant. About 60% of midwives work in hospitals, 35% are in private clinics and 5% are in Independent Midwife Clinics (*Report on questionnaire concerning the status of the midwifery job, 1989*). This means that the majority of midwives practice under the supervision of obstetricians. Midwives who work in these clinics have no responsibility for their practice, particularly prenatal examination. The women are routinely examined by obstetricians using ultrasound scanning each time they visit the clinic. The role of midwives in prenatal care is to give health-giving advice to pregnant women after the obstetrician's examination. In this study, the literature was reviewed to determine why midwives have lost power.

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