

A comparative study of factors influencing people with spinal cord injuries' success or failure to return to their previous job following participation in the work rehabilitation programme at the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP)

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1. ABSTRACT

Study design: This study was an exploratory qualitative study following a comparative method.

Aim of the study: The aim of the study is to identify factors which influence people with spinal cord injuries' ability to return to their previous jobs following participation in CRP's work rehabilitation programme (WRP).

Methodology:

Research design: The research was conducted as exploratory qualitative study following a comparative method.

Sampling: Identify the successful and unsuccessful participants of the WRP by convenience sampling.

Data collection: Document of the CRP's WRP reviewed from the occupational therapy department. Semi-structured face to face interview of the selected participants was conducted. Took detailed information about the influencing factors that the participants think effected their ability to return to their previous job.

Tools: A tape recorder was used to conduct the interview with the participants' permission. Data was collected and tabulated and the themes related with factors were identified.

Results: The results showed several factors contributed people with SCI ability to return to work, CRP's rehabilitation programme, interest and motivation, physical status, family members, society people and CRP's staffs' support, work place have identified as influencing factors for people with SCI to return to work. Participants' suggestions for the people with SCI to return to work has also included in the result.

Conclusion: The important factors were identified which were influencing the participants to return to work. Extra care, enough facilities, networking with other organisations, encouragement and social support are the critical aspect to provide the services and further development of CRP's work rehabilitation programme.

Key words: Spinal cord injury, work, work rehabilitation, influencing factors.