

**ROLE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST AS EDUCATOR FOR  
THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN THE FIELD OF  
DISABILITY**

BY

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## Abstract

### **Introduction**

Occupational therapy is a new health care profession in Bangladesh. This study was performed about the importance of occupational therapists as educators for community health workers (CHWs) who were working with the people with disabilities in the community. Health workers were the participants of this study.

### **Key words:**

Occupational therapy, disability and community health worker.

### **Aim of the study**

The aim of the study was to find out the community health workers' (CHWs) perspective about occupational therapist as educator in the field of disability for community health workers.

### **Objectives of the study**

- To give general education about occupational therapy (definition, working area, role of the occupational therapist in the community, treatment phase) and disability to the community health workers (CHWs).
- To provide practical demonstrations about some assistive and adaptive equipment for the people with disability.
- To explore the community health workers' (CHWs) perspective about the practical application of the training.

### **Method of the study**

A qualitative method was followed for accomplishing the study.

### **Sampling of the study**

For this study purposive sampling was used, samples were taken from an NGO who worked with disability in the community. For selecting the sample inclusion & exclusion criteria were maintained.

### **Procedure of training**

After selecting the sample, they were given 5 lectures on related topic all this lectures were not theoretical but most of the lectures based on practical demonstration. At that training session all the participants were involved equally and provided opportunity to share their pervious experience with one another. After that they were given 1 week time to practice in the field.

### **Data collection and analysis**

For taking interview semi-structured questionnaire was used. For collecting data, tape recorder & note book were used. Researcher also observed the participants during the class. After collecting the data, these were categorized through the analysis of the answer of the participants.

### **Results and discussions**

Results were prepared on the basis of the participants' answers and views. Discussion was done deeply on the participants perspectives about the training. The community health worker discussed their feelings about the training. All of them thought that the training was important for the CHWs. The participants learnt some new skills to work with the people with disability. The CHWs enjoyed the practical demonstration classes because from these classes they learnt some techniques how to make some assistive equipment. Though according to the participants the training was important, they wanted more time for practical demonstration.

### **CONCLUSION**

This study showed the effectiveness of the training which was given for the community health workers (CHWs). It also expressed the importance of occupational therapy in the filed of disability.