

**ADDRESSING SYMPTOMS OF POST STROKE
DEPRESSION IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
INTERVENTION: AN EXPLORATION OF CURRENT
PRACTICE IN BANGLADESH**

By

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ABSTRACT

This research set out to explore issues in dealing with post stroke depression in current occupational therapy practice in Bangladesh. The issues that the study brought into light were whether and how the occupational therapists of Bangladesh address, place value on addressing, see barriers to addressing and their reasons behind not addressing symptoms of PSD in current occupational therapy practice.

Six Bangladeshi occupational therapists with one year's experience and who were currently treating stroke patients were sampled from four clinical setting. A mixed methodology was used in the study where the data was generated through reviewing clinical notes over a three month period maintained by the sampled occupational therapists and through semi structured face-to-face interviews. Data gathered from the clinical notes review was analysed using descriptive statistics and concluded with the findings that the occupational therapists did not address the PSD in their clinical notes. The interviews were analysed thematically and produced six themes.

The themes found that occupational therapists of Bangladesh address the symptoms of PSD insufficiently in their current practice. Despite these it was also found that they do consider these symptoms as barriers to physical and functional recovery and perceive addressing these symptoms as very important in occupational therapy

intervention. Clients/ carers low prioritization, some challenges related organization and occupational therapists were found to impede addressing symptoms of PSD in occupational therapy intervention.

The findings of the study will help occupational therapists and the organization to recognize and better address of PSD in occupational therapy intervention and therefore help in promotion of this profession in Bangladesh.

Key words: Symptoms of post stroke depression, Occupational therapy.