

**CAREGIVER'S EXPERIENCES OF USING ANKLE FOOT
ORTHOSIS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPASTIC
DIPLEGIC CEREBRAL PALSY**

Md. Aminul Haque

4th Year, B. Sc. in Occupational Therapy

The University of Dhaka

BANGLADESH HEALTH PROFESSIONS INSTITUTE (BHPI)

(The Academic Institute of CRP)

Savar, Dhaka- 1343, Bangladesh

April 2010

Title: Caregiver's experiences of using ankle foot orthosis (AFO) for children with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy (CP).

The purpose of this research was to explore the caregiver's experiences of using ankle foot orthosis (AFO) for children with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy (CP). This qualitative grounded theory study was conducted by using convenience sampling procedure to identify the caregiver's experiences of using AFO. Semi-structure face to face interviews were conducted in participant's home environment in community setting and six participants are caregiver's of children with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy (CP) are selected for the study. Eight themes were identified by using content analysis through data analysis of the interviews: caregiver's are knowledgeable about the device. Caregiver's of children with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy (CP) have to know how to use of the device but difficulty to maintain the proper way to use it, they give importance to use the ankle foot orthosis (AFO) for their child; maximum children face physical difficulties or challenges during the use of device; to overcome the physical difficulties or challenges caregiver's are preferred to stop use the ankle foot orthosis (AFO) and use medication; children face negative experience or challenges in the community; to overcome these challenges by understanding the purpose or benefit of ankle foot orthosis (AFO); ADL's performance has been improved their children but not according to the caregiver's expectation.. The findings of these themes were compared with literature and interpretation. Caregiver's stops to use the device after facing some physical difficulties, social barriers, also can't achieve in the daily living activities according to their expectation. Sometimes difficulty faces to maintain proper way of using the device. As a result the treatment outcome may be hampered and overall goal of ankle foot orthosis becomes unmeet.

Key words: Spastic diplegic cerebral palsy, Ankle foot orthosis (AFO), Caregiver's experiences.