THE IMPORTANCE OF COGNITIVE AND PERCEPTUAL ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT: PERSPECTIVES OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

By

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ABSTRACT

Purpose: to find out the importance of cognitive and perceptual assessment and treatment for clients with cognitive and perceptual deficits according to the perspective of occupational therapists.

Objectives: To explore the considerable factors which make these assessment and treatment effective for clients with cognitive and perceptual deficits and To explore the importance of cognitive and perceptual assessment and treatment for clients with cognitive and perceptual deficits.

Method: A qualitative research design was carried out in this study. The data was collected by using convenience sampling method. A semi-structured, face to face interview was conducted to obtain the information. The interview was conducted with ten occupational therapist that had experience in neurology at CRP. The data was analyzed by using content analysis.

Result and discussion: In the analysis process, the summary of the discussion are: Participants informed that at the initial stage the client is not aware of their own cognitive and perceptual problems but due to may intervention session they start to realise their existing problems. If the client was aware about their present cognitive and perceptual problems, it will be helpful for them to participate in therapeutic intervention as well as activities of daily living. Participants informed that most of the carers gave emphasis on their clients physical limitations rather than cognitive and perceptual problems, It is necessary to gain proper knowledge about client's cognitive and

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perceptual problems because it will be helpful for the family members/ carer to work for the client cooperatively, Long term experiences increase the level of confidence to deal with clients, Inadequate resources cause the limitation of cognitive and perceptual intervention.

Conclusion: The study shows the importance of cognitive and perceptual assessment and treatment for clients who are experienced a stroke or head injury in relation to the CRP occupational therapy service providing system and individual occupational therapist's experiences and clinical skills. Form the participants' views it was clarified that standardized tools for assessment and treatment and special training for therapists on cognitive and perceptual areas will make the intervention more effective.