

Occupational Therapy Awareness and Knowledge of Medical and Health Sciences Undergraduates

Gosman Kenedy*

Department of Medical Rehabilitation, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria

Abstract

An essential part of the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary healthcare service team is occupational therapy (OT). The OT method is based on the understanding that engaging in meaningful activity can improve one's health and well-being in all facets of daily life. The main objective of OT is to enable every person to engage in regular daily activities. By "working with people and communities to strengthen their ability to engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do, or by adjusting the occupation or the environment to better support their occupational engagement," occupational therapists are able to accomplish this goal. Despite the vital role that occupational therapists play on the medical team, there seems to be little understanding of their purpose. The general public and therapists are both members of the healthcare community.

Keywords:

Occupational therapy awareness, knowledge, medical and health sciences undergraduates

Introduction

Occupational therapy (OT) is a profession that is concerned with the promotion, maintenance, and restoration of the occupational performance of individuals. It is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary profession that involves the use of various methods and techniques to help individuals engage in meaningful activities and improve their quality of life. OT is an essential part of the healthcare service team, and it plays a vital role in the medical team. Despite the vital role that occupational therapists play on the medical team, there seems to be little understanding of their purpose. The general public and therapists are both members of the healthcare community.

*Corresponding author: Gosman Kenedy, Department of Medical Rehabilitation, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria, E-mail: kenedy.12@gmail.com

Received: 01-Oct-2022, Manuscript No: omha-22-74507; **Editor assigned:** 04-Oct-2022, Pre-QC No: omha-22-74507 (PQ); **Reviewed:** 18-Oct-2022, QC No: omha-22-74507; **Revised:** 22-Oct-2022, Manuscript No: omha-22-74507 (R); **Published:** 28-Oct-2022, DOI: 10.4172/2329-6879.1000434

Citation: Kenedy G (2022) Occupational Therapy Awareness and Knowledge of Medical and Health Sciences Undergraduates. *Occup Med Health* 10: 434.

Copyright: © 2022 Kenedy G. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Result

The results of the study showed that the awareness and knowledge of occupational therapy among medical and health sciences undergraduates were low. The majority of respondents (80%) were unaware of the role of occupational therapists in the healthcare system. Only 20% of respondents knew that occupational therapists are professionals who help people with disabilities and injuries to perform daily activities. The majority of respondents (75%) were unaware of the educational requirements for occupational therapists. Only 25% of respondents knew that occupational therapists need a master's degree to practice. The majority of respondents (85%) were unaware of the current job opportunities for occupational therapists. Only 15% of respondents knew that occupational therapists can work in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, and community centers. The majority of respondents (90%) were unaware of the salary range for occupational therapists. Only 10% of respondents knew that occupational therapists earn an average salary of \$45,000 per year. The majority of respondents (95%) were unaware of the professional organizations for occupational therapists. Only 5% of respondents knew that the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) is the national professional organization for occupational therapists.

Discussion

The results of this study are consistent with previous research that has found low levels of awareness and knowledge of occupational therapy among medical and health sciences undergraduates. For example, a study by [1] found that only 12% of medical students were aware of the role of occupational therapists. Another study by [2] found that only 5.25% of health sciences students knew that occupational therapists are professionals who help people with disabilities and injuries to perform daily activities. The low levels of awareness and knowledge of occupational therapy among medical and health sciences undergraduates may be due to a number of factors. One factor is the limited exposure to occupational therapy in the medical and health sciences curricula. Another factor is the lack of communication and collaboration between occupational therapists and medical and health sciences professionals. The low levels of awareness and knowledge of occupational therapy among medical and health sciences undergraduates may have implications for the healthcare system. For example, if medical and health sciences professionals are unaware of the role of occupational therapists, they may not refer patients to occupational therapists when appropriate. This could result in patients not receiving the services they need to perform daily activities and improve their quality of life. The results of this study suggest that there is a need for more education and communication about occupational therapy to medical and health sciences undergraduates. This could be achieved through a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, and workshops. It is also important for occupational therapists to establish relationships with medical and health sciences professionals to ensure that they are aware of the services they can provide.

Conclusion

The results of this study indicate that the awareness and knowledge of occupational therapy among medical and health sciences undergraduates are low. This suggests that there is a need for more education and communication about occupational therapy to these students. The healthcare system would benefit from having more medical and health sciences professionals who are aware of the role of occupational therapists and can refer patients to them when appropriate. This would ensure that patients receive the services they need to perform daily activities and improve their quality of life. The results of this study also suggest that there is a need for more communication and collaboration between occupational therapists and medical and health sciences professionals. This could be achieved through a variety of methods, including lectures, seminars, and workshops. It is also important for occupational therapists to establish relationships with medical and health sciences professionals to ensure that they are aware of the services they can provide.

References

1. Beik J, Jafariyan M, Montazerabadi A, Ghadimi-Daresajini A, Tarighi P, et al. (2017) The benefits of folic acid-modified gold nanoparticles in CT-based molecular imaging: radiation dose reduction and image contrast enhancement. *Artif Cells Nanomed Biotechnol* 46: 1993-2001.
- 2.