

**A comparative study of factors influencing people with SCIs' success or failure to return to their previous job following participation in the work rehabilitation programme at the (CRP)**

Amir Rizvi

*BHPI, CRP, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

**Introduction:** Employment opportunities for people with disabilities in Bangladesh are very limited. There is a national policy on equal access to employment for people with disability; which includes a job quota of 10%. However, in reality it might be even less than 1% of people with disabilities that are actually employed.<sup>1</sup> Among the 10% ten percent of the total population with disability, 4.6% are spinal cord injuries.<sup>2</sup>

**Aim/Objective:** The aim of the study is to identify factors which influence people with spinal cord injuries' ability to return to their previous jobs following participation in OT department of CRP's work rehabilitation programme (WRP) partially funded by USDOL.

**Methodology:**

Research design: The research was conducted as exploratory qualitative study following a comparative method.

Sampling: Identify the successful and unsuccessful participants of the WRP by convenience sampling.

Data collection: Document of the CRP's WRP reviewed from the occupational therapy department. Semi-structured face to face interview of the selected participants was conducted and Took detailed information.

Tools: A tape recorder was used to conduct the interview with the participants' permission. Data was collected and tabulated and the themes related with factors were identified.

**Results:** Several factors contributed people with SCI ability to return to work, the rehabilitation programme; interest and motivation; physical status; family members; society people and CRP's staffs' support; and work place have identified as influencing factors for people with SCI to return to work.

**Conclusion:** The important factors were identified which were influencing the participants to return to work. Recommendations were made to provide the services and further development of OT department of CRP's work rehabilitation programme.

**Contribution to the practice:** As an undergraduate study it helps significantly in OT practice in Bangladesh to make a framework and ideas to develop WRP to assist the people with SCI to return to their previous work.

- 1. CSID report, (2002) Employment Situation of People With Disabilities in Bangladesh, conducted by- Centre for Services and Information on Disability, December 2002, p. 2
- 2. Hoque, M. F. et al. (1999) Spinal Cord Lesion in Bangladesh: an epidemiological study 1994-1995. *Spinal Cord*, 37 (4), 858-861