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BRIDGING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EDUCATION IN UGANDA CHILE AND SWEDEN

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Introduction: International collaboration is highlighted as central for development of occupational therapy practice and education.

Since several years there is an ongoing student and teacher exchange between the occupational therapy programs at Makerere University in Uganda and at Universidad de Chile in Santiago, Chile and Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm Sweden. The exchange has been funded with grants from the Linnaeus Palme program at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to identify and evaluate experience from teachers and students participating in this exchange.

Methods: Seven students and 5 teachers that have been part of the exchange participated in the project. Data was gathered through informal qualitative interviews as well focus group interviews.

Data was analyzed using a constant comparative method

Results: Results identified that the exchange contributed to cultural Competence among students as well as among teachers. Also result showed that the exchange involved challenging but also learning experiences of differences and possible areas for future development.

Conclusion: Student and teacher exchange between occupational therapy programs at universities outside the traditionally developed countries might involve both rewarding aspects as well as challenges.

Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational

therapy: The present study contributes to theory building on possibilities as well as challenges of collaboration between Occupational Therapy programs in different parts of the world.