

The Development of the Occupational Therapy Profession in Zambia: An Exploration of Influencing Contextual Factors

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RATIONALE: Occupational Therapy was introduced to Zambia in the 1960's. Development of the profession has not progressed and most Zambian healthcare institutions and communities lack OT services. Awareness of the profession within Zambia is limited.

For OT to become an integral and sustainable part of Zambian health and social care systems, the reasons contributing to and inhibiting the developments of the profession require exploration and clarification.

OBJECTIVES: To gain insight into noteworthy factors contributing to the development of OT in Zambia.

To critically analyse significant findings and perspectives that have influenced the development of the OT profession.

To share the knowledge and information gained within Zambia and the region.

APPROACH: A case study approach is being used to include:

Interviews with OTs and others with experience of working in Zambia.

The examination of reviews, reports and other documentation, formal and informal, to identify and document meaningful factors.

PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS: The study contributes to the awareness of the current situation, and the development and sustainability of, the OT profession in Zambia. An understanding of how the profession has evolved will give assurance to future OT's as they graduate from the planned OT school in Zambia.

CONCLUSION: An understanding of the contextual factors that have inspired, influenced and shaped the development of the profession contributes to a relevant and effective strategy for the future advancement of the OT profession in Zambia.