

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES: STRUGGLES AND SUCCESSES TOWARDS BUILDING A HOLISTIC SERVICE IN A LIMITED RESOURCE AREA.

ANTHONY THOMAS EPHRAIM², BRENDA DEBORAH SHUMA¹

¹*Gabriella children Rehabilitation centre, Moshi-kilimanjaro, Tanzania,* ²*Kilimanjaro Christian medical university college, Moshi-Kilimanjaro, Tanzania*

Occupational therapy is a growing profession in Tanzania due to this not many communities are aware of rehabilitation services and are immersed in various beliefs and traditions that are negative towards the development of people with disability. for this reason it is important to start services in the communities that will address the needs of people with disability and lift the stigma surrounding them. however there are challenges and success towards this Journey

Objective: Rehabilitation service that is community owned and supported by all stakeholders

Approach: lobbying, advocacy, fundraising

Practice implication: rising public awareness and involvement towards services for people with disability formation of disability alliance which includes cbo, DPO, NGO and governments organization sustainability strategies in place for local organization

Conclusion: in the battle against stigma and better development of children and youth with disability. it is important to use all locally available resources including human resources. where establishing of services within the community and involving stakeholder is essential.