

Occupational Therapy Technicians, a much needed category, but slowly dying

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Introduction: Occupational Therapy Assistants were introduced into the health system as part of the Occupational Therapy Profession. The initial idea was to assist Occupational Therapists in alleviating the demand in working with a broad spectrum diagnoses. But with the advent of new types of workers in a similar category, this profession is experiencing slow growth

Objectives: To identify what the causes are of this decline in OTA/OTT growth and to understand the experiences of the OTA/OTTs.

Method: The Occupational Therapy Technician task team initiated by OTASA, will look to identify possible future training and development for this category. As it is steered by an OTT, the understanding of needs is better defined. OTA/OTTs will be engaged by this task team as to understand their needs and experiences.

Practice Implications: A new path for OTA/OTTs in South Africa could be forged as they have come to a standstill. With no future in sight, they are uncertain about their own profession and are losing hope. This will keep their fight and profession alive as they will be engaged into this process, which could potentially identify new ways that have not been explored before.

Conclusion: The OTA/OTTs have come to a brick wall in their education and training travels. They are also in a stagnant space. But with the hope of a new dawn for the profession, an understanding that was not there before, this allows the quality and strength of their work to shine through on a new dawn.