

WHEELCHAIR SKILLS CAPACITY, CONFIDENCE AND PERFORMANCE OF MANUAL WHEELCHAIR USERS WITH SPINAL CORD INJURY IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES OF BANGLADESH

Saddam Hossain², Shamima Akter^{1,2}, Julker Nayan²

¹*Bangladesh Health Professions Institute, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh,* ²*Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Introduction: There is growing recognition that Occupational Therapist has a significant role along with other professionals in wheelchair skills training. In rehabilitation centre, wheelchair skills are provided as a part of community re-integration process for people with spinal cord injury. However, individual capacity, confidence, performance regarding wheelchair skills should be prioritized to ensure occupational functioning of people with spinal cord injury in the community.

Objectives: The objectives are to find out the level of wheelchair skills capacity, confidence, and performance of persons with SCI and determine correlation among capacity, confidence and performance.

Methodology: This cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out in the three communities of Bangladesh using WST-Q version 4.3. Ninety manual wheelchair users were selected purposively. Non-parametric test was used to determine correlation among wheelchair skills capacity, confidence and performance.

Result: The median (inter-quartile range) values for WST-Q capacity, WST-Q confidence, and WST-Q performance were 74.26% (57.02%-78.78%), 75.75% (66.66%-80.01%), and 72.00% (54.54%-76.47%). The total WST-Q capacity scores correlated significantly with the total WST-Q confidence scores ($r=.955$; $p<.000$) and total WST-Q performance scores ($r=.888$; $p<.000$). Success rates were $<70\%$ for 12 of the 34 individual skills on the WST-Q. Regression models for the total WST and WST-Q measures 'level of injury' and 'duration of wheelchair use' are significant predictors.

Conclusion: Occupational therapist should focus on improving participation in everyday life task using wheelchair at community level for people with spinal cord injury.