



ROLE OF SUPPORT GROUPS

Families of children with disabilities

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Introduction

- Disabilities in children have adverse effects on the livelihood of families.
- Resulting into poor treatment outcomes
- Mildmay Uganda offers Outpatient services run through appointments

Interventions

- Group therapy with a multidisciplinary approach
- Train caregivers on handling techniques
- Caregivers supported to start home based IGAs
- Group sessions take place both at facility and homes
- Older children are trained in therapeutic vocational skills

Methodology

- Retrospective review of documents from support groups
 - Assigned secretary kept good notes of activities
 - OT, physiotherapist and social worker kept progress notes
- 25 participants
- Constant comparison of note to find commonalities
- Identified common themes and sub-themes

Results – Impact of Support Groups

- **Psychosocial Issues**
 - Positive
 - Negative
- **Managing Disability**
 - Handling
 - Feeding
 - Behavior Management
- **Educational Needs**
 - Etiology
 - Prognosis
 - Accessing Resources

Results

Psychosocial Issues

- Positive
 - Acceptance
 - Feeling Support
- Negative Ones
 - Stigma
 - Financial Concerns

Managing Disability

- Handling the Child
- Mobility and Transfers
- Addressing Feeding
- Managing Behavioral
- Home Modifications

Educational Needs

- Etiology of Disorder
- Prognosis and the Future
- Education and Training Needs of the Child
- Accessing Resources

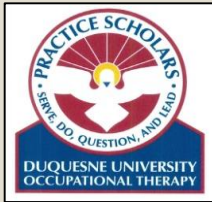
Conclusion

- Support groups are an effective means to identify needs of the family
- Group process supported identification of both common and individual concerns
- Evaluation of group processes can inform the development of family-focused rehabilitation programs for families affected by disabilities.

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