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# Vocational Rehabilitation for Young Stroke Survivors in Gauteng Public Healthcare: Occupational Therapists' Attitudes and Perceptions

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# Data Collection & Analysis

- Qualitative research design
- Narrative, descriptive data collected
- 6 focus groups
- Occupational therapists from primary, secondary and tertiary public health care setting participated
- More than six months experience AND
- Worked in neuro rehab within the last six months
- Groups were audio recorded and transcribed
- Coding based on recurring themes and categories





# Results

- Three major themes:
  1. Attitudes towards vocational rehabilitation
  2. Barriers towards vocational rehabilitation
  3. Facilitators to vocational rehabilitation

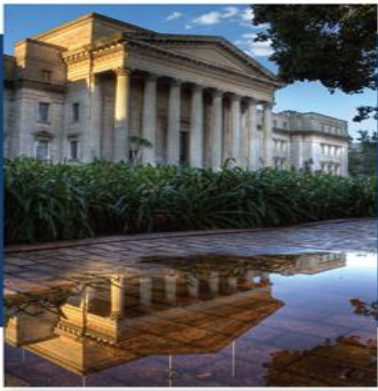




# Attitudes Towards Vocational Rehabilitation

1. Vocational rehabilitation is a complex process
  - Time consuming
  - Lack of knowledge
  - Voc rehab process is not established
2. We already have too much work
3. It's out of our control





# Attitudes Towards Vocational Rehabilitation

4. The hierarchical nature of treatment
5. The nature of stroke
  - Young/acute
  - Old/chronic





# Barriers to Vocational Rehabilitation

## 1. The rehabilitation environment

- Resources
- Communication

## 2. Characteristics of the stroke survivor

- Severity of the stroke
- Socioeconomic status
- Employment status





# Barriers Towards Vocational Rehabilitation

## 3. Nature of the work

- Executive functioning
- Manual Labour
- Specialist skills





# Facilitators to Vocational Rehabilitation

1. External resources
2. Policy and legislation
3. Undergraduate knowledge





# Conclusion



- Vocational rehabilitation is a complex, but rewarding process
- There is a lot of potential for vocational rehabilitation in Gauteng public health
- The perceived barriers can be overcome
- Negative attitudes can be overcome
  - Job satisfaction





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