

Establishing Occupational Therapy Training in Ethiopia: A Partnership Between University of Gondar & Queen's University

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Overview

This presentation is intended to:

Showcase a customized and needs-based plan for the development of an occupational therapy program in line with the Ethiopian context using cross-institutional partnership.

Provide insight and support understanding of the applicability of OT in Ethiopia and similar settings.



Background

Estimates indicate ~ 17.6 million people may be affected by disability in Ethiopia*

According to the 2007 national census 85% of Ethiopians reside in underserved, rural areas, with limited or no access to necessary health, rehabilitation, or social services.

* *World Bank and World Health Organization: World Report on Disability, Washington, D. C., 2011.*

Background

- Currently, there is no occupational therapy education in Ethiopia.
- To the best of our knowledge there is only **one** actively practicing occupational therapist in the country.
- Physiotherapy is the main other rehabilitation profession in Ethiopia – its education began in Ethiopia in 2002.
- There are also other professions like psychiatry and social work, which are contributing to rehabilitation services in Ethiopia.



Overarching Vision

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program

A unique partnership between the University of Gondar (UoG) in Ethiopia and Queen's University in Canada to establish a rehabilitation center of excellence.

We will work nationally and in the region to:

- ▶ Create access to inclusive quality education for youth with disabilities,
- ▶ Build institutional capacity to improve educational quality and,
- ▶ Provide scholars experiential learning experiences in rehabilitation and disability-related disciplines

Overarching Vision

Unique Partnership: UoG + Queen's

Improve access to inclusive quality education for people with disabilities

Build institutional capacity

Establish undergraduate occupational therapy program at UoG

- 450 students to be enrolled at UoG
- 44 PhD enrollment, 8 research collaborations, 275 CBR certification
- 16 UoG faculty to study at Masters level and become faculty

Overarching Vision

Unique partnership:
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Goal:
establish rehab
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Access to
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Occupational Therapy Specific Objective

Establish World Federation of Occupational Therapy (WFOT) certified undergraduate occupational therapy program at University of Gondar

Provide fully funded M.Sc. level OT education at Queen's University for UoG faculty

Design a needs-based curriculum for undergraduate OT at UoG and oversee its accreditation

Launch undergraduate OT education program in partnership with Queen's & regional schools



Approach

- Using a cross-institutional capacity-building approach, faculty members at the UoG will be awarded an MSc degree in Occupational Therapy (OT) from Queen's University in Canada.
- Faculty members at both universities will co-develop and initially co-teach an accredited 4-year undergraduate curriculum for the Ethiopian context.

Phases of Implementation

Conduct stakeholder sensitization & needs assessment

Benchmark programs in other African settings

Develop & accredit national curriculum

Establish Occupational Therapy service delivery and skills lab at UoG

Co-teach an accredited 4 year undergraduate curriculum at UoG

Evaluate Occupational Therapy curriculum



Occupational Therapy Capacity Building In Africa

- Experience sharing will be undertaken with other African Occupational Therapy schools to strengthen the new program and customize it to the region's context.
- Partnerships for fieldwork placements will be established within African setting, where occupational Therapy is being practiced.



Conclusion

There is a great need for occupational therapy professionals to improve the participation and quality of life of people with disabilities in resource-limited contexts.

We intend to create collaborative partnerships and networks within the continent to build capacity for high quality OT education and ultimately, to ensure access to occupational therapy in the horn of Africa.



Discussion?


Lessons learned:

The way forward:





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Thank you !

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