PRACTICE PATTERNS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS IN THE MINDANAO REGION, PHILIPPINES: UPDATES, ISSUES, AND IMPLICATIONS TO THE PROFESSION

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OT PRACTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Data collected on occupational therapists in the country are:

- lumped with information about PTs and SPs

- largely from the Luzon region, particularly the NCR

- limited information has been obtained regarding the practice of occupational therapists in the Mindanao Region

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To determine:

- how the professionals are currently distributed in the region

- the profile of occupational therapists practicing in Mindanao

- the nature of occupational therapy practice in the area

METHODOLOGY

- Descriptive study using purposive sampling

- Self-report questionnaire distributed through:

  - Personal delivery

  - Electronic mail

DISTRIBUTION OF OTs IN MINDANAO

OTs IN THE MINDANAO REGION

- **DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**
  - Between 21 – 25 y/o (75.0%), female (94.0%), one or two years off college(70.0%)

  - 2 years or less in practice (79.25%)

- **NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT**

  Urban areas (90.57%) in free-standing pediatric clinics (71.0%) paid in a per hour basis (73%)

OTs IN THE MINDANAO REGION

- **PRACTICE OF THE PROFESSION**
  - Around half work 6 days per work, 8 hours a day, largely catering to the pediatric population (83.0%); mainly involved in evaluation and treatment
  - Management techniques used: BMT (98.11%); Fine Motor Skills training and Sensory Integration (92.45%); ADL Re/Training (90.57%)
  - Majority pursue continuing education activities, usually twice per year (47.17%)
  - Many do not engage in research (98.11%) and clinical training (69.81%) nor have conducted any lectures of seminars (83.0%)

IMPLICATIONS TO THE PROFESSION

- Adds to current knowledge on OT practice

- Adds to knowledge on human health resource in the region

- Highly relevant and useful in policy-making