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# *A Survey of Occupational Therapists' Involvement in Facilitating Self-employment for People with Disabilities (PWDs)*

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# Background

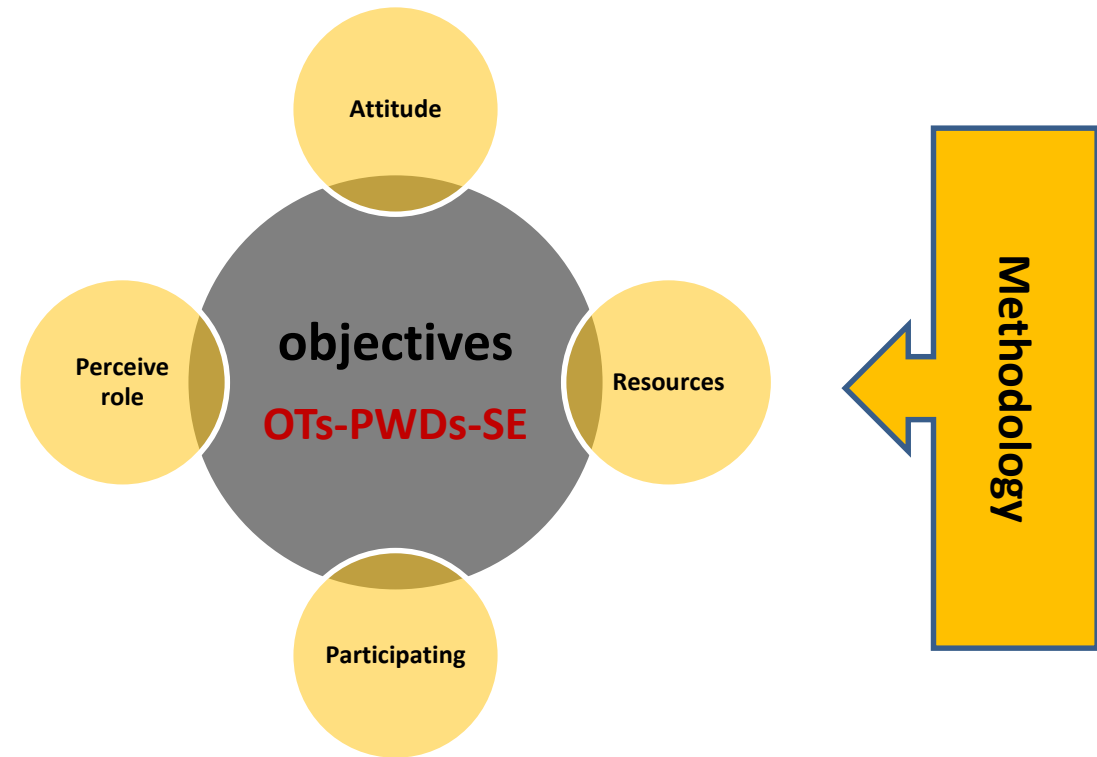


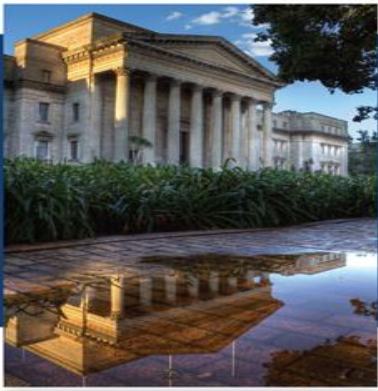
## Problem

- High rates of unemployment
- People with disabilities (PWDs) affected the most<sup>1</sup>
- 8/10 (80%) PWDs are unemployed in SA
- Patient seen by OTs included
- Post injury → Low rates of RTW → resort to disability grant

## Solution

- SA government encourages self-employment (SE) → ↓ unemployment<sup>2</sup>
- OTs should play a role in SE:
  - Philosophy is occupation based
  - Nature of their training
  - ↓ literature on OT in relation to SE





# 1. The **attitude** of occupational therapists towards facilitating self-employment amongst PWDs

90% - in support of SE	10% - Not in support of SE
Reasons provided	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of opportunities in corporate for PWDs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PWDs' dependency on government's disability grants</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential to empower PWDs, their family and/or community - limiting the effect of disability, such as a relapse</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disability awareness in communities</li> </ul>	



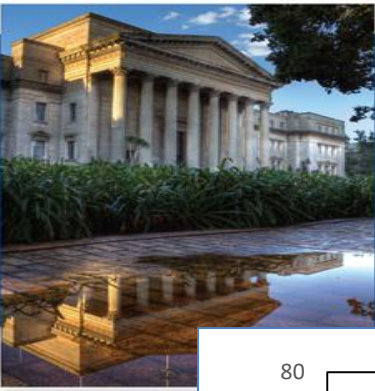


## 2. The awareness of occupational therapists of **resources** that PWDs can access for entrepreneurial endeavours in starting their own businesses

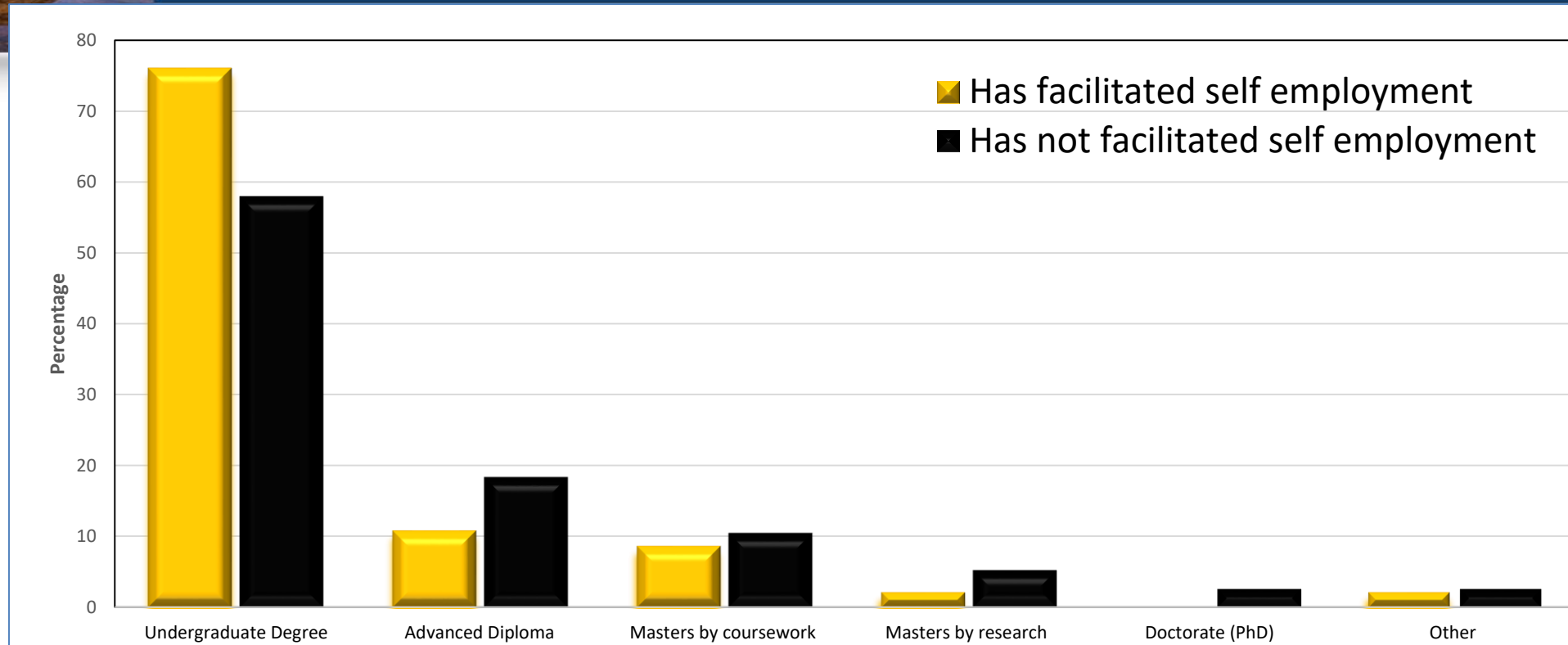
- 74% were aware of resources and 26% were not aware

Retail	Services & Skills	Manufacturing/ Production
<b>EXAMPLES</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spaza shops (selling of. airtime, cigarettes etc.)</li> <li>• Second hand clothing</li> <li>• Vendors (outside schools, street pavements, at taxi ranks ,etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hair salon</li> <li>• Recycling</li> <li>• Tutoring</li> <li>• After school care services</li> <li>• Car wash</li> </ul>	Hand work such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metal work</li> <li>• Plastic weaved mats</li> <li>• Dog biscuits</li> </ul>





### 3. If occupational therapist are **participating** in facilitating self-employment amongst PWDs



> **53%** reported no experience; Lack of exposure;  
69% - not sufficiently skilled; SE facilitation- given advice on SE, ran income generation projects.



#### 4. What occupational therapists **perceive their role** to be in facilitating self-employment amongst PWDs?

- SE is not unique to OT
- Further OT training and experience is NB
- 10% were indifferent
- 20% - OTs are sufficiently skilled in SE from undergraduate training
- 75% indicated their patients would consider SE



## Conclusion

- Positive attitude - SE
- Awareness of available SE resources
- ↓ literature - SE

## Recommendation

SE – potential to transform the profession

- More OT research - SE
- ↑ Document & Disseminate

## Limitations

- Small sample
- Only sampled OTs affiliated to OTASA and RuReSa

## Acknowledgements

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- Co-authors: Dr. Denise Franzsen and Dr. Hester van Biljon



# Key Reference List

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# KEA LEBOGA

