

**PERCEPTION OF PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS REGARDING TO  
THEIR PROFESSION**

**Md. Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar**

**Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy (B.Sc. PT)**

**Session: 2006-2007**

**BHPI, CRP, Savar, Dhaka**



**Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI)**

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We the undersigned certify that we have carefully read and recommended to the Faculty of Medicine, University of Dhaka, for the acceptance of this dissertation entitled

**PERCEPTION OF PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS REGARDING  
TO THEIR PROFESSION**

Submitted by **Md. Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar** for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy (B.Sc.PT).

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## **Declaration**

I declare that the work presented here is my own. All sources used have been cited appropriately. Any mistakes or inaccuracies are my own. I also declare that for any publication, presentation or dissemination of information of the study. I would be bound to take written consent from my supervisor.

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**Md. Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar**

Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy (B.Sc.PT)

Session: 2006-2007

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## Abbreviations

<b>BHPI:</b>	Bangladesh Health Professions Institute.
<b>CSP:</b>	Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
<b>IHT:</b>	Institute of Health Technology
<b>NITOR:</b>	National Institute of Traumatology Orthopedic Rehabilitation
<b>PIHS:</b>	People Institute of Health Sciences
<b>SCHS:</b>	State College of Health Science.
<b>SIMT:</b>	SAIC Institute of Medical Technology
<b>WCPT:</b>	World Confederation for Physical therapy

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## Abstract

*Purpose:* The purpose of the study was to explore the perception of physiotherapy students. *Objectives:* To identify the factors to influence their study selection, To figure out the obstacles are faced by physiotherapy student, To determine their satisfaction level as physiotherapy student, measure the confidence level of physiotherapy students. *Methodology:* Face to face qualitative research approach is applied with open ended question form. Total number of sample was 24 Physiotherapy students with age ranging (18-21) (41.6%), (22-25) 58.4%. Thirteen male and eleven female was involved with (54.2%) and (45.8%). *Results:* Most of the student chose physiotherapy because it is a medical related profession, huge opportunity to serving mankind, publicity of sports physiotherapist, most of them are satisfied but not sure about the future and job opportunity, some of them were not satisfied earlier, most of them are confident and states increase opportunity will increase their confident level. They perceived problems like lack of opportunities for job and higher study, lack of knowledge among people and other professionals, no council and physiotherapy college and mal practice. *Conclusion:* In conclusion it can be said that ninety two percent physiotherapy students are satisfied and confident to their profession. But this profession is facing a lot of obstacles and difficulties like lack of opportunities for job and higher study, lack of knowledge among people and other health professionals, no council and physiotherapy college. So more orientation in people about physiotherapy is recommended. It is good news that physiotherapy is included in health policy of Bangladesh, but there is no specific guideline about working area. So more specification of about physiotherapy should be included in health policy. Government should create post for the physiotherapy.

*Keyword: Physiotherapy, Profession*



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### 1.1 Background

Any profession can be characterized by that it represents a social standing in relation to other professions and in modern society social position is determined of any person to a great extent by occupation of individual (or one's parents' occupations) in spite of inherited standing (Turner, 2001). There is evidence that an individual's character, level of intelligence and education, ability and personal acceptability are assumed from an occupational label (Whitefield et al, 1996). Certainly the status and profile of an occupation is completely dependent on frequent interest of its members and physiotherapy is no exception (Turner, 2001). There have been several and huge studies of carrier selection, satisfaction and aspirations within the medical profession there have been little investigation of other health professionals such as physiotherapy. This may be partly due to the fact that the therapies tend to be perceived as occupations rather than profession (Nordholm & westbrook, 1979). Health professionals used to include a wide variety of the occupations engaged in the business of health care (Sim, 1985). Health care professionals are encouraged to provide a multi-faceted service working in collaboration in the health care team when communication and management skills will be of central importance (Lindquist, 2006). Further research informs to healthcare services about the requirement of physiotherapists to carry out their work in a variety of environments and settings, and in multidisciplinary teams within a competitive market of rationalization of healthcare resources (Richardson et al, 2002). Physiotherapy today manifests many of the attributes connected with a profession: an ethical code, an incipient specific and systematic body of knowledge, and a discernible shift towards a greater degree of clinical and managerial autonomy (Sim, 1985). As a manager of wide range of health problems that physiotherapists have to deal now demands a broad view on the profession and a consideration of the relations between health problems, society problems and style of life (Bjorke, 1988).

Several studies provide information concerning the prestige of physiotherapy in various countries. Another suggestion is that physiotherapy generally has had little in the way of professional status granted to it by commentators outside of the profession

(Sim, 1985). So the study is aimed to find out the perception of physiotherapy students, thus to explore professional socialization in physiotherapy students of different institutes of Bangladesh. perception of a an individual about his occupation influences the quality of his work, undeveloped and failed and unclear perception can result in dissatisfaction, poor professional performance, and abandonment of the field after graduation (Corb et al. 1987).

Physiotherapists need a clear view of the purpose and intent of their profession and a conscious awareness of a professional identity which encompasses purposeful actions to pursue professional goals in changing practice contexts throughout the span of their careers (Richardson, 1999). Individuals learn the values, attitudes and beliefs of their chosen profession and develop a commitment to a professional career through a process of professional socialization (Richardson et al, 2002). In recent years, physiotherapists have been increasingly interested in defining their professional identity (David et al, 2010).The shaping of a professional identity is closely connected to the process of professional socialization and Socialization is the process that allows individuals to adopt norms, values and rules that will be accepted in the groups of which they are or will become members. Professional socialization theory emphasizes the students' interaction with the field in focus, their preferences and choices as well as their role models (Ohman et al, 2002). Educational outcomes for professions are attained through the socialization of students to the values, attitudes and beliefs of their chosen profession and a commitment to a professional career (Lindquist et al, 2006). Professional socialization starts at the beginning of the educational programe and is a continuous, life-long process of learning formal knowledge, skills and rules, as well as informal and tacit knowledge, norms, values and loyalties within the profession. The process gradually leads to a professional identity (Ohman et al, 2002). During the professional socialization period students entering the profession are not a homogeneous group some similarities may exist which influences the initial pursuit of the profession, each student differs with respect to his individual qualifications values, attitudes, and perceptions of the profession and of himself as a part of that profession (Corb et al. 1987).

## **1.2 Rationale**

Some Studies was conducted about physiotherapy student's perception, carrier choice attitude, and life view in Australia, Canada and Sweden. In Australia study was done about the perception of graduate physiotherapy students and another one is about the perception of undergraduate physiotherapy students. Research was done about the attitude of novice of physiotherapy student in Sweden and also research was conducted about the ethical view and life view, interprofessionals perception of physiotherapy student. Another research on carrier choice and professional preferences in a group of physiotherapy students was performed in Canada. In Bangladesh no international study is done yet about the physiotherapy Students. So it's become necessary to find out the perception of Bangladeshi physiotherapy students. Because Students are the future professional of a profession. Development of a profession is completely depending on the positive perception of students. This study shows how to create better understanding in students about physiotherapy profession. It explores the student's beliefs, opinion emotion attitude, view, ideas and expectation from physiotherapy. Students are able to differentiate physiotherapy from other medical profession and helps to build positive perceptions of students. As a result the outcome of the study may help to inform about the process of their professional socialization.

### **1.3 Research question:**

What are the perceptions of physiotherapy student regarding to their profession?

### **1.4 Objectives:**

#### **1.5.1 General objective**

To determine physiotherapy students perception of physiotherapy as a career.

#### **1.5.2 Specific objective**

- To identify the factors influenced their study selection.
- To figure out the obstacles are faced by physiotherapy student.
- To determine their satisfaction level as physiotherapy student.
- To measure the confidence level of physiotherapy students.

## **Operational definition**

### **Physiotherapy**

Physiotherapy is a healthcare profession that works with people to identify and maximize their ability to move and function. Functional movement is a key part of what it means to be healthy. This means that physiotherapy plays a key role in enabling people to improve their health, wellbeing and quality of life.

### **Perception**

Perception is the ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses or the way in which something is regarded, understood, or interpreted.

### **Profession**

A disciplined group of individuals who adhere to high ethical standards and then uphold themselves to and are accepted by the public as possessing special skill and knowledge in a widely recognized, organized body of learning derived from education and training at a high level and who are prepared to exercise this knowledge and their skills in interest of others.

Physiotherapy or Physical Therapy or PT, is a conservative science of the treatment and management after the clinical examination, assessment and diagnosis of the diseases for restoration of the neuro-musculo-skeletal and Cardiopulmonary efficiencies, managing pain and certain integumentary disorders with the help of physical means like radiation, heat, cold, exercise, current, waves, manipulation, mobilization etc (Sharma, 2012). Physiotherapy practice encompasses a broad range of activities that include management and research skills, in addition to an expanding range of techniques. Given this breadth of professional activities, the ongoing monitoring of clinical practice is essential from the standpoints of both education and research (Turner, 2002).

Physiotherapy, another term is physical therapy. Formally described physical therapy as providing services to people and populations to develop, maintain and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan (WCPT, 2012). Physiotherapy can be described as a branch of applied based on of it's own knowledge, educational methods and a practical application that has an important task for the society (Noren & Grottel, 1999).

The basic aim of physiotherapy is to help alleviate pain and restore normal movement and function patterns to help return the body to its neutral state. Physiotherapy includes the assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention and evaluation of patient's treatment (WCPT, 2012). Physiotherapy practice encompasses a broad range of activities that include management and research skills, in addition to an expanding range of techniques (Turner, 2002). A most valuable goal of physiotherapy practice is to provide the right assessment or treatment to the right client at the right time (O'Brain, 2001). Physiotherapy units provide care either an individual or group basis for persons of all ages, ranging from maternity and child welfare clinics to the care of the elderly deal with manifold tasks and Most of the clients are working-age residents of the municipality suffering from musculoskeletal disorders the responsibility for the



acquisition and maintenance of medical aids also bear by physiotherapist (Viitanen, 2000).

A military physician Dr.Lorenz Gleich first use of the word physiotherapy is found in German Language as the word “Physiotherapie” in 185 and Physiotherapists were given official registration by Sweden’s National Board of Health and Welfare in 1887 which was then followed by other countries again the word “Physiotherapy” was coined by an English physician Dr.Edward Playter in the Montreal Medical Journal in 1894 after 43 years of the German term “Physiotherapie” (Sharma, 2012). A specialization in medications, physical therapy and physiotherapy occur during the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century including various options like manipulation, message, hydrotherapy, balenotherapy, electrotherapy, light therapy, heat and cold (kumar, 2010). Lucy Marianne Robinson, Rosalind Paget, Elizabeth Anne Manley and Margaret Dora Palmer established as the Society of Trained Masseuses in 1894 and it acquires the legal and public status of a professional organisation and becomes the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses.in 1900 and the first journal of chartered society physiotherapy began in 1915,first online journal of Chartered society of physiotherapy was at 1988 and CSP launches the first website at 1990 (CSP, 2012). In 1916 there was an epidemic of polio and during this time a woman named Mary Macmilan treat polio by passive movements and established the American women physical therapy association which is latter change to American physical therapy association (Kumar, 2010).

A profession can be defined, as an occupational group monopolizing a specific body of knowledge, which is perceived as essential for society and which constitutes the basis of the monopoly of certain occupational positions and professional interest must hold the occupational group together, and clients must be willing to ascribe professional status to that occupational group (Bergman, & Markland, 1989). A profession has three specific characteristics; a unique body of knowledge, a set of rules or codes based on acknowledged ethical principles and the ability to discipline members who contravene those rules in ways amounting to professional misconduct. In the case of physiotherapy, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy publishes and regularly updates the curriculum of study which indicates the unique body of knowledge attributed of chartered physiotherapists (Richardson, 1999). According to functionalist model a profession is body where membership is obtained after a long

effective training under the control of experts in a university context, which guarantees the quality and effectiveness of members' work.

The contact with established practitioners and formally acknowledged by membership of the relevant professional society is influenced Professionalization new recruits begins in undergraduate education (Miller et al, 1997). Learning a body of knowledge, developing essential skills, and acquiring values and attitudes deemed appropriate by the profession is called professional socialization and an important goal of professional socialization is the development of clear and accurate perceptions of the role of the profession and of the individual as a part of that profession (Corb et al. 1987). Factors that causes choosing a carrier are educational setting, philosophy, course of study, organizations, and social groups at a particular institution reinforce the particular personal characteristics (Jacobson, 1980). Various studies was performed about the perception of physiotherapist among patient and non patient, medical practitioners (Turner, 2001). Perception of physiotherapy relative to other profession is done (Whitefield et al, 1996). The interest of physiotherapist for defining their professional identity is increased in recent years (Nichols, 2010). Education of physiotherapy over the past few decades. throughout the world has undergone a number of changes The most significant of these is the transfer of programmes from colleges and hospitals, where they were predominantly 'vocational' or clinically-focused, to universities, where they have assumed applied sciences and clinical sciences frameworks (Hunt, 1993). Physiotherapists are educating themselves for many years to become expertise and to have professional status, financial support, and legislative and protection a view of the body that distinguishes them from other practitioners (Nicholls et al, 2010). In Bangladesh physiotherapy education is also in a move and there are six institutes running the physiotherapy course. The literature review did not find publications about the perception of physiotherapy students regarding to their profession. This study is to find out the perception of Bangladeshi physiotherapy student and it is a inventory one.

### **3.1 Study design**

Qualitative research approach was applied to find out perception of physiotherapy students to their profession. Qualitative method of data collection and analysis are appropriate where classification of attitudes to a particular development or experience among a specific professional group is being sought (Barnard and wiles, 2001). Perception, believe, fear attitude cannot be described in quantitative method. So Qualitative research qualitative method is used to find out perception of physiotherapy students.

### **3.2 Study settings**

- Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI), Savar 25 Kilometer away from the capital named Dhaka.
- State College of Health science (SCHS)
- National Institute of Traumatology Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR)
- Peoples Institute of Health Science (PIHS)
- SAIC Institute of Medical Technology (SIMT)
- Institute of Health Technology (IHT)

### **3.3 Population**

All B.Sc.in physiotherapy students of Bangladesh were the study population.

### **3.4 Sample**

Twenty-four samples from six institutes of physiotherapy were selected.

### **3.5 Sampling procedure**

Sampling procedure was purposive study.

### **3.6 Inclusion criteria**

- Participants were B.Sc physiotherapy students of from different institutes of physiotherapy.
- Male and female both were the participants.
- Students who was agreed to participate and easily accessible.

### **3.7 Exclusion criteria**

- Diploma physiotherapy students or other course student.

### **3.8 Data collection**

The base of any study is data collection. This study has followed all rules of data collection including method of data collection, materials used for data collection, duration and procedure of data collection.

#### **3.8.1 Method of data collection**

Face to Face interview by the researcher were held by providing a semi a structured questionnaire form.

#### **3.8.2 Questionnaire**

For data collection a semi structured questionnaire were used to find out the perception of physiotherapy student. Which includes close ended question in part-1 to obtain sociodemographic information and open ended question in part-2 to find out the perception of physiotherapy student.

#### **3.8.3 Duration of data collection**

Data was collected in between 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012. Each data was collected carefully and confidentiality is maintained. Each participant provided particular time to collect data. Each questionnaire took approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

#### **3.8.4 Procedure of data collection**

Data was collected by the researcher himself. The questionnaire form were completed or filled up in front of the researcher.

### **3.8.5 Data analysis**

Data was analyzed by themes. After completing the data collection researcher made some themes based on the response of the participant. Calculator was used to find out the percentage of participant response and shown in bar graph and tables.

### **3.9 Ethical consideration**

- All the participants and authority were informed about the purpose of the study
- All the interviews were taken in a comfort feeling and confidential place.
- Researcher ensures the confidentiality of participants and share the information only with research supervisor.

### **3.10 Informed consent**

Participants for the interview were explained clearly about the study and verbally informed that their information would be published but their name and address would not be used in any means in the study project. The interview notes and recording words would not be shared or discussed with others. The study would not harm or embarrasses her or him in order to participate in the study. Participants also ensure that their participation were voluntary and they can reject or withdraw from the study any time.

### **3.11 Rigor**

Researcher always tried not to influence the process by his own value and biases .No leading questions were asked or no important question is avoided. When conducting the study the author take help from his supervisor and follows his direction appropriately.

### **3.12 Limitation of the study**

There was no international research available about perception of physiotherapy students of Bangladesh. This is the first one in Bangladesh. Research about perception on other countries was not latest. All Physiotherapy Institute of Bangladesh does not have student of all years. Time was too short to conduct study on six institute at a time

There were twenty-four physiotherapy students from Bangladesh Health professions Institute (BHPI), National Institute of Traumatology Orthopedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), State College of Health Science (SCHS), People Institute of Health Science (PIHS), Institute of Health Technology (IHT), SAIC Institute of Medical Technology (SIMT).

#### 4.1 Sociodemographic information at a glance

Among seventy-two students (18-21) year old student were forty-two with percentage (58.3) and 22-25 year old participant were 30 with 41.7% from them male were 42 with 58.3% and female were 30 with 41.7%. Muslim student were 64, Hindu 6 and Christian 2 with a percentage of 88.9%, 8.3% and 2.2%. From them 58 Students lives in nuclear family with a percentage of 80.6 and 14 lives in extended family representing 19.4%

Age	Number	Percentage
18-21	10	41.6
22-25	14	58.4
Sex		
Male	13	54.2
Female	11	45.8
Religion		
Muslim	21	87.5
Hindu	3	12.5
Family type		
Nuclear	19	79.1
Extended	05	21.9

Table-1: Sociodemographic information of the participant.

Students participated from Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) sixteen(6), State college of health science (SCHS) eighteen(6), National institute of traumatology orthopedic rehabilitation (NITOR) fifteen(5), Peoples Institute of Health Sciences(PIHS) seven(2), Saik institute of medical technology(SIMT) eight(2), Institute of Health Technology(IHT) eight(8), with a percentage of 25%, 25.0%, 20.%, 8.5%,8.5%and 13%. Shown in table-2

Institute name	Number	Percentage
Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI)	6	25
State college of health science (SCHS)	6	25
National institute of traumatology orthopedic rehabilitation. (NITOR)	5	20
Peoples Institute of Health Sciences. (PIHS)	2	8.5
Saik institute of medical technology )	2	8.5
Institute of Health Technology(IHT)	3	13

Table-2: Participant location

## **4.2 Following Themes and sub themes are emerged on the basis of data analysis**

### **4.2.1 Factors influenced study selection of physiotherapy students**

- Related to medical science
- Opportunity to serve the mankind
- Publicity of sport physiotherapist

### **4.2.2 Satisfaction level as physiotherapy student**

- Satisfied but not sure about future.
- Not satisfied earlier.
- Not satisfied with the job opportunities

### **4.3.3 Problems perceived by physiotherapy student**

- Lack of opportunities for job and higher study.
- Lack of knowledge among people and other health professionals about physiotherapy.
- No council and Physiotherapy college.
- Mal practice.

### **4.3.4 Confident level of the students**

- Most of the students are confident
- Increased opportunity will increase their confident



Discussion according to the themes are provided below

### **1. Factors influenced study selection of physiotherapy students**

#### **A. Related to medical science**

All most all the participants said that physiotherapy was not their first choice to study. Many of them tried to get admitted in medical colleges like one individual said. “I don’t get chance in government hospitals or government universities, so I decide to study in physiotherapy. Most of the individuals gives same kind answers, “I grown up with a dream to become a doctor but unfortunately I don’t get chance in government medical college, so I decide to study in physiotherapy”.

“After completing HSC exam I took part in admission exam of various universities but don’t get chance anywhere so I decided to study here.” Mentioned by one. Nearly fifty students give this type of statement. Most of the time medical professions is cited as an ideal profession and physiotherapy as semi or paraprofession implying that it is subordinate to medical practice and not attributed full professional status (Bergman & mergland, 1969). This may be the cause that most of the students chose medical as a first choice.

But things are not same in Australia Physiotherapy students were much less likely than the other group of student to say that they were influenced by a vocational counselor or selected their occupation as second choice (Nordhom et al 1979). A few students provide different view one of the student commented that, “my grandfather get physiotherapy treatment in Austria and he cures very quickly, after watching his situation I decided to study in physiotherapy. Some other individual said that “In Bangladesh I think there remains a vast area for physiotherapy, so I decided to study in physiotherapy”.

### **Opportunity to serve the mankind**

More than half of the student stated the factor of choosing physiotherapy is to serve the people. “It is a health service and there is a great scope to service directly with general people” said by one. “The main reason to select physiotherapy as a carrier is to serve the people” by another one. “One participant expressed, physiotherapy provide service to the people with disabilities this influenced me a lot to become a physiotherapist”. Several participants directly said, I want to be a physiotherapist to serve the people only”. “I chose physiotherapy because there is lot of chance to serve the common people”. Majority of student chose physiotherapy as their carrier from the Czech Republic, Poland and Spain due to their interest in the subject and willingness to help those in need. These reasons were given by all students from Latvia, Malta and the UK (Gotlib et al, 2012)

### **Publicity of sport physiotherapist**

“In cricket match when players become injured that time by physiotherapist treatment they becomes well, by watching this I want to become a physiotherapist” expressed by one student. Five more other student stated in same way. one participant said “physiotherapist role in various field of sports makes me influenced to become a physiotherapist”. “A student directly expressed that, I want to be a sports physiotherapist, that’s influenced me.

### **Bright future and opportunity in abroad**

“To speak the truth I thought this is a new subject in Bangladesh and so there will be more job and huge field of work” said by a student. One participant said, “My wish is to become established outside of the country, there are a lot opportunities in abroad this influenced me” Three more student said the same thing. Finding work as a physiotherapist does not pose a problem in EU countries such as Austria, the Czech Republic, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands and Portugal (Gotlib et al, 2011).

## **2. Satisfaction level of physiotherapy student**

### **Satisfied for serving mankind but not sure about future**

More than one third participant said that they are satisfied about their profession because they are able to serving the people directly but they are worried about their future. One participant said that, “As a moral of this profession that is to serve the people I am satisfied but I am worried about getting, honour and financial support from this profession. “Physiotherapist can offer a lot of service to the patient and patients are becoming well very quickly, I am serving the very extremely suffered people, so I am very satisfied with my profession.

Many of them said that they are satisfied because it is related to medical. “I want to be a doctor but I can't. As physiotherapy is related to patient assessment ,diagnosis and treatment, so I am satisfied”. Physiotherapy is concerned with promotion of health and wellbeing and with prevention, treatment or rehabilitation of disorders or dysfunction of human movement. Movement dysfunction may result from congenital deformity, disease, trauma, misuse, disuse, or from the emotional or physical deprivation that may result from any disability (Higgs et al, 2001).so it can easily understable that physiotherapist can serve the common people in a good manner.

### **Not satisfied earlier**

Many students expressed that they were not satisfied earlier of their study but as day passed they become satisfied by knowing the original work of physiotherapy. one student expressed that,“I was not satisfied earlier when I knew that it is not a profession of becoming doctor but when I learned about the efficacy of physiotherapy and my job is not more than less of a doctor I become satisfied.” Some other participants approximately eight commented same.

### **Not satisfied with the job opportunities**

All of the participants expressed that they are not satisfied with the job opportunities of Bangladesh. “We need more post not only government institute but also in private medicals said by one.” One informer said, “There is no opportunity for graduate physiotherapist for government job and the opportunities remains in private sector is not enough”. Most of the students support this statement. “No I am not satisfied, we

need at least one or two post in every government or non government medical hospital” mentioned by a student. Some other students gives priority to increase working field.

### **3. Problem perceived by physiotherapy students**

#### **Lack of knowledge among people about physiotherapy:**

Almost two-third student mentioned they are facing identity problem in this profession. “Some people thought this profession is as technician said one individual”. “Many people thought this profession is as like technician, Homeopath, doctor, working people in salon or masseur” said by another one.

People do not know about the physiotherapy even many highly educated person is unaware of physiotherapy. One person answer that, “many patient does not knows well about physiotherapy”. “People knows less about profession, they look physiotherapist in neglect eye”. One other person indicated that, “This profession faced so many problems many people does not knows it’s name, after completing this study where is the future area of work and how treatment is given in this profession this type of question have to be faced”. Rural people do not know about physiotherapy .so they have a lot of question about physiotherapy indicated by another student. One student stated this type of problem as a main problem said, “people nearly know about physiotherapy is the main problem”. One student gives importance about the publicity of physiotherapy stated as, “In this profession I have to face many question, someone says what will happened in this profession and what I will do in future, we have to provide people information about this profession”. One participant stated, “I don’t find any respect from students of other subject, everybody thought this is a diploma course”. People knows about this profession is that here treatment is given only for break (vanga) of hand and leg expressed by one. Lacking a clear identity and evidence of of uncertainty on the part of the public,and even healthcare professionals are prominent about physiotherapy,people does not know what physiotherapist do and thet are unable to differentiate physiotherapy from other health professionals (Whitefield et al, 1996)

### **Lack of opportunities for job and higher study**

All of the participants agreed with one thing that there is a lack of job opportunities in our country. "Like other professionals physiotherapists don't have job opportunities in Bangladesh. Still no chance to have higher degrees in Bangladesh" commented by one student. I am facing a lot of problems in this profession. Firstly we don't have more opportunities of job, not have opportunity in B.C.S, insulted by other professionals, no first class post and less chance of scholarship stated by another one. There is no post in government hospital, few posts were created but they are occupied by MBBS doctors. It is a very serious problem in Bangladesh for physiotherapists. Its need to be solved very quickly. Employment problems will not be due to lack of demand, but to formal obstacles such as an insufficient number of workplaces (Gotlib et al, 2012).

### **No council and Physiotherapy college**

Almost all participants give priority to have an individual council and physiotherapy college in our country. "We have no definite council and college. So I can not inform people clearly about physiotherapy to the common people" responded by one individual. One student said, "we don't have our own college and council so that we are not able to focus our problem to others. Physiotherapists don't have the opportunity to have registration, it will be possible only if we have a own council like a student said, "Job and registration of physiotherapist". The standing of the profession will be enhanced in those countries where registration is compulsory and title is protected (Whitefield et al, 1996). It is not possible without having a council or physiotherapy college.

### **Mal practice**

As physiotherapist has no council, so there is no regulatory body for this profession and there develops lot of mal practice just like (ekhane shekh deoa hoi) Heat is provided here. So it makes a very bad impact about the profession in peoples. One participant share his experience as, "I visited a rural area there I saw a signboard of diabetes examination-20 taka, physiotherapy heat-50taka, this was so embarrassing.

Many people started to practice like qualified physiotherapist after completing six or seven month course this is a real problem for physiotherapy.

### **Confident level of the students**

#### **Most of the students are confident about their profession**

More than two third participants said they are confident about their profession. One of the participant stated that “I am confident because if I treat patient by making proper assessment, diagnosis and treatment patient will cure easily and will respect the therapist”. Another one noted that, “Yes I am confident because in future this profession will spread more and we don’t have to face any dignity problem”. Other 10 students support that statement. One informant noted that, “Yes, because I believe one day peoples wrong perception about physiotherapy will removed”. Another students informed that, “Yes, because gradually the profession is being developed, but few days ago it’s condition was not so good”.

“Yes, cause I think it will develop very soon and now-a-days man are being educated and they get the education which is appropriate for them” Said by one student.

#### **Increased opportunity will increase student’s confident level**

Almost one-fourth student those notified that they are not confident about their profession mentioned lack of opportunities as the cause. One of them mentioned, “No, because there is lack of skilled teachers, practical seasons and job opportunities. Another one supports the point of lack of job opportunities. I don’t know about my future stated by another one.

If students are supported by providing skillful teacher and more practical season and more job opportunities created this will increase their confidence level. In the first year, I don’t feel confident but passing through in third year I feel confident about my profession because I complete 4 clinical placement indicated by one physiotherapy student.

In conclusion it can be said that ninety two percent physiotherapy student of Bangladesh are satisfied and confident to their profession. But this profession is facing a lot of obstacles and difficulties, like lack of opportunities for job and higher study, lack of knowledge among people and other health professionals, no council and physiotherapy college and mal practice.

So more orientation in people about physiotherapy is recommended. It is good news that physiotherapy is included in health policy of Bangladesh, but there is no specific guideline about working area. So more specification of about physiotherapy should be included in health policy. Government should create post for the physiotherapy

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## **APPENDIX I: CONSENT FORM (English)**

### **CONSENT FORM (English)**

(Please read out to the participant)

Dear Sir,

Assalamualaikum, my name is Md.Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar. I am conducting this study for partial fulfillment of Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy degree, titled, “perception of physiotherapy students regarding to their profession.” from Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI), University of Dhaka. I would like to know about some information. You will answer some questions which are mentioned in this form. This will take approximately 10-20 minutes. The objectives of this study is to explore physiotherapy students perception of physiotherapy as a career, to find out the satisfaction level of their career choice, to identify the factors influenced their career selection, to measure the reality of their original perception of physiotherapy, to know their carrier plan and aspirations, to identify their satisfaction in the profession and to develop the confidence level of the students. The participation must be voluntary. You have the right to withdraw consent and discontinue participation at any time. You might be benefited or not, but in future may benefit and would not harmful. This project is only for the development of the profession. If you have any query about the study or your right as a participant, you may contact with, researcher Md.Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar.

I (participant) have read and understand the contents of the form. I agree to participant in the research without any force.

Do you have any questions before I start?

So may I have your consent to proceed with the interview?

Yes:

No:

Signature of the participant \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX II: Questioner (English)

### Questionnaire sheet

**Title: perception of physiotherapy students regarding to their profession.**

Code no:                      Name:                      Date:

Address:                      Mobile no:

#### **Part-A: Sociodemographic information**

1. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Gender:
  1. Male            2. Female
3. Religion:
  1. Muslim    2. Hindu    3. Buddha    4. Christian
4. Family type:
  1. Nuclear family    2. Extended family
5. Institute name:
  1. Bangladesh Health Professions Institute. (BHPI)
  2. State college of health science. (SCHS)
  3. National institute of traumatology orthopedic rehabilitation. (NITOR)
  4. Peoples Institute of Health Sciences. (PIHS)
  5. Saik institute of medical technology.
  6. Institute of Health Technology. (IHT)
6. Year of study:
  1. 1<sup>st</sup> year
  2. 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  3. 3<sup>rd</sup> year
  4. 4<sup>th</sup> year

**Part-B: This part is designed to explore perception of physiotherapy students regarding to their profession.**

1. Where did you know about physiotherapy? ( ?)

Answer:

2. How did you decide to study in physiotherapy? ( ?)

Answer:

3. What factors influenced you to choose physiotherapy as your carrier?( ! " ! # ?

Answer:

4. What did you know about physiotherapy before admission? ( \$ %\$ ?)

Answer:

5. What kind of service does the physiotherapist offers to the patient? ( & ' # ( ?)

Answer:

6. Did you know about the status of physiotherapist in Bangladesh?

( ) ( & ( \*\$( + \$ ?)

Answer:

7. Are you satisfied with your profession? (

, -?)

Answer:

8. What kind of opportunities do you think available to develop your

skills? ( #

. \* ' ?)

Answer:

9. Are you satisfied about the job opportunities of physiotherapy in

Bangladesh? ( ) ( & ( /

. \* ' , -?)

Answer:

10. Do you think you will get respect from other health professionals in practice? ( 0 1

( 2 ?)

Answer:

11. What kind of problem are you facing in the profession? ( 34

.1 .1 ! 5 ?)

Answer:

12. Are you feeling confident about your profession? If yes why? If no why? ( 6 7 ? \* ( ? \* (

1 ?

Answer

**“Thank you for your participation”**

( ) " ! (

## APPENDIX III (A): PERMISSION LETTER



বাংলাদেশ হেল্থ প্রফেশন্স ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএইচপিআই)

BANGLADESH HEALTH PROFESSIONS INSTITUTE (BHPI)

(The Academic Institute of CRP)

CRP-Chapain, Savar, Dhaka, Tel: 7745464-5, 7741404, Fax: 7745069

BHPI-Mirpur Campus, Plot-A/5, Block-A, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206. Tel: 8020178, 8053662-3, Fax: 8053661

তারিখঃ ১২.০৯.২০১২

প্রতি  
বিভাগীয় প্রধান  
ফিজিওথেরাপি বিভাগ  
স্টেট কলেজ অব হেল্থ সায়েন্স  
ঢাকা

বিষয়ঃ রিসার্চ প্রজেক্ট (dissertation) এর জন্য আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠান সফর ও তথ্য সংগ্রহ প্রসঙ্গে।

জনাব,

আপনার সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানাচ্ছি যে, পক্ষাঘাতগ্রস্তদের পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্রে-সিআরপি'র শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান বাংলাদেশ হেল্থ প্রফেশন্স ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএইচপিআই) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অনুমোদিত বিএসসি ইন ফিজিওথেরাপী কোর্স পরিচালনা করে আসছে।

উক্ত কোর্সের ছাত্রছাত্রীদের কোর্স কারিকুলামের অংশ হিসাবে বিভিন্ন বিষয়ের উপর রিসার্চ ও কোর্সওয়ার্ক করা বাধ্যতামূলক।

বিএইচপিআই'র ৪র্থ বর্ষ বিএসসি ইন ফিজিওথেরাপী কোর্সের ছাত্র ইমতিয়াজ আলী সরকার তার রিসার্চ সংক্রান্ত কাজের তথ্য সংগ্রহের জন্য আপনার সুবিধামত সময়ে আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠানে সফর করতে আশ্রয়ী। তার রিসার্চ শিরোনাম “Perception of Physiotherapy students regarding to their profession.”

তাই তাকে আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠান সফর এবং প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য প্রদান সহ সার্বিক সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করছি।

ধন্যবাদান্তে

মোঃ ওবায়দুল হক  
সহকারী অধ্যাপক ও কোর্স-কো অর্ডিনেটর  
ফিজিওথেরাপী বিভাগ  
বিএইচপিআই।

Allowed  
13/09/2012



## APPENDIX III (B): PERMISSION LETTER



বাংলাদেশ হেল্থ প্রফেশন্স ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএইচপিআই)  
BANGLADESH HEALTH PROFESSIONS INSTITUTE (BHPI)  
(The Academic Institute of CRP)  
CRP-Chapain, Savar, Dhaka, Tel: 7745464-5, 7741404, Fax: 7745069  
BHPI-Mirpur Campus, Plot-A/5, Block-A, Section-14, Mirpur, Dhaka-1206. Tel: 8020178, 8053662-3, Fax: 8053661

তারিখঃ ১২.০৯.২০১২

প্রতি  
অধ্যক্ষ  
ইনস্টিটিউট অব হেল্থ টেকনোলজী  
ঢাকা

বিষয় : রিসার্চ প্রজেক্ট (dissertation) এর জন্য আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠান সফর ও তথ্য সংগ্রহ প্রসঙ্গে।

জনাব,

আপনার সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানাচ্ছি যে, পক্ষাঘাতগ্রস্তদের পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্রে-সিআরপি'র শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান বাংলাদেশ হেল্থ প্রফেশন্স ইনস্টিটিউট (বিএইচপিআই) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অনুমোদিত বিএসসি ইন ফিজিওথেরাপী কোর্স পরিচালনা করে আসছে।

উক্ত কোর্সের ছাত্রছাত্রীদের কোর্স কারিকুলামের অংশ হিসাবে বিভিন্ন বিষয়ের উপর রিসার্চ ও কোর্সওয়ার্ক করা বাধ্যতামূলক।

বিএইচপিআই'র ৪র্থ বর্ষ বিএসসি ইন ফিজিওথেরাপী কোর্সের ছাত্র ইমতিয়াজ আলী সরকার তার রিসার্চ সংক্রান্ত কাজের তথ্য সংগ্রহের জন্য আপনার সুবিধামত সময়ে আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠানে সফর করতে আশ্রয়ী। তার রিসার্চ শিরোনাম "Perception of Physiotherapy students regarding to their profession."

তাই তাকে আপনার প্রতিষ্ঠান সফর এবং প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্য প্রদান সহ সার্বিক সহযোগীতা প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করছি।

ধন্যবাদান্তে

মোঃ ওবায়দুল হক  
সহকারী অধ্যাপক ও কোর্স-কো অর্ডিনেটর  
ফিজিওথেরাপী বিভাগ  
বিএইচপিআই।

### APPENDIX III (C): PERMISSION LETTER

To  
The Course co-ordinator  
National Institute of Traumatology Orthopedic Rehabilitation.  
Department of Physiotherapy,  
Subject: Prayer for permission of data collection for research.

Date:30/08/2012

Sir ,

I beg most respectfully to state that I am a student of 4th year, B Sc in Physiotherapy student of Bangladesh Health professions Institute. I am conducting a research on “perception of physiotherapy students regarding to their profession.” as a part of our course curriculum , under supervision of Md. Shofiqul Islam,Lecturer,Department of Physiotherapy, BHPI. I want to collect data from B.S.C Physiotherapy students of your institute.

I therefore, pray and hope that you would be kind enough to grant me and thus oblige thereby.

Sincerely yours ,  
Md.Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar  
4th year, Roll-21,  
Department of Physiotherapy,  
BHPI,Savar,Dhaka

Signature.....

*Signature: Md. Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar*  
*Date: 30/08/2012*  
**DR. MD. ZAHID FERDOUS**  
Course Co-ordinator (Physiotherapy)  
National Institute of Traumatology  
Orthopedic Rehabilitation

## APPENDIX III (D): PERMISSION LETTER

To

Date:09/09/2012

The Course co-ordinator

SAIC INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY(SIMT)

Department of Physiotherapy,

Subject: Prayer for permission of data collection for research.

Sir ,

I beg most respectfully to state that I am a student of 4th year, B Sc in Physiotherapy student of Bangladesh Health professions Institute. I am conducting a research on "perception of physiotherapy students regarding to their profession." as a part of our course curriculum , under supervision of Md. Shofiqul Islam,Lecturer,Department of Physiotherapy, BHPI. I want to collect data from B.S.C Physiotherapy students of your institute.

I therefore, pray and hope that you would be kind enough to grant me and thus oblige thereby.

Sincerely yours,

Md.Yemtiaz Ali Sarkar

4th year, Roll-21,

Department of Physiotherapy,

BHPI,Savar, Dhaka