

**COMMUNITY RE-INTEGRATION:
THE CLIENTS PERSPECTIVE
(A STUDY OF SCI PATIENT IN CRP)**

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ABSTRACT

Aim: To explore the clients perspective towards community re-integration after following Occupational Therapy.

Objective: To identify clients expectations, needs and recommendations.

Purpose: To explore the use of Occupational Therapy service for community re-integration.

Design: Exploratory qualitative study through semi-structured face-to-face interview schedule.

Subjects: Seven spinal cord injured patients were chosen using convenient sampling.

Setting: Half-way transit hostel in Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in Bangladesh.

Results: The upshots were presented by performing the coding system of the data and ten main themes were produced. These are– (i) The overall CRP treatment was considered an exceptional one, (ii) The clients were generally satisfied with Occupational Therapy treatment, (iii) The clients were very pleased with the Occupational Therapist's professionalism, (iv) Occupational Therapy was adequately suitable towards community re-integration, (v) Occupational Therapy was befitting to achieve self-reliance of the clients, (vi) Clients accessibility in half-way transit hostel and home in the community are a bit different, (vii) Half-way transit hostel was satisfactorily befitting towards community re-integration, (viii) Clients are fairly positive about returning to the community, (ix) Clients express mixed reactions about community people receiving them, (x) Clients gave a wide variety of suggestions to develop Occupational Therapy.

Recommendation & Conclusion: The purpose of the study was pertinent since it was conducted at a time when the Occupational Therapy services were becoming diversified to meet the needs and expectations of clients to achieve the ultimate goal of community re-integration. The study should have been conducted on a large sample to generalize the findings at actual communities though none of these were the case. Though, the study adequately explains the areas where the client's expectations and needs were met and where it failed to do so. The study is sufficiently able to recommend some measures to be taken up to bring in modifications in the existing Occupational Therapy programme for patients to meet their needs and expectations fully for effective community re-integration in the communities of Bangladesh.

Key words: Spinal cord injury, community re-integration, perspective, occupational therapy.