

**Career Choice: Explore the View of Occupational Therapy Students in  
Bangladesh**

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## ABSTRACT

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Occupational Therapy (OT) is a growing health profession in worldwide as well as in Bangladesh. It is totally a new dimension on the health care system in Bangladesh. Here, the Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI) is the only one educational institution where undergraduate program of occupational therapy are available. As a relatively new profession in the country, it faces many challenges for attracting or motivating upcoming students to choose OT as their future career. This study was conducted to find out the factors that influenced the students choosing Occupational Therapy as their future profession in Bangladesh. The study also focused on the preferred future working area of students for practicing after being graduated as occupational therapist. It was a prospective survey where all OT students of first year to fourth year at BHPI were given a questionnaire paper to answer. Forty two students returned question papers with answer and their respond rate was 82.35%. Among them 69% were female students. They openly shared their feelings about the profession at answer sheet. Most of them (62%) mentioned that they were attracted to admit in Occupational Therapy as it is a health care profession. Secondly, opportunity of job in abroad (57%), job opportunity in home, interest to work with the people with disabled (50%) and being failure to take admission in medical profession (33%) were other important reasons that influenced them to admit in Occupational Therapy. But 55% of them commented that they did not know about the program before being admitted. Among them 64% has mentioned that the present opportunities at BHPI are enough to build make own self as a successful Occupational Therapist where as rest students (36%) have directly opposed them. After completing the academic program, working in clinical areas (31%) is the top preference of career choice by Occupational Therapy students. Their other choices were to be program coordinator (26%) in different rehabilitation program and lecturer (17%). As the demand of Occupational Therapy profession increasing in Bangladesh, in this situation the findings of this study helped to plan out the education program and promotional activities of this profession.

**Key Words: Career Choice, Occupational Therapy Students, Occupational Therapy in Bangladesh.**