

Grant recipient: Dr Brightlin Nithis Dhas

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Title of project: Practice Readiness of Newly Qualified Occupational Therapists in United Kingdom

Abstract:

In the United Kingdom, around 3000 occupational therapists graduate every year and join the workforce. Previous research in the United Kingdom and other countries shows that newly qualified occupational therapists have varying levels of readiness to practice. Some of them find transition to work overwhelming. Often, new occupational therapists need extra training at the workplace to meet their job requirements. However, this training comes at a cost. The Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT) has identified addressing the effectiveness of occupational therapists working with service users as one of its top ten research priorities. University lecturers, placement educators, and work colleagues influence new occupational therapists' readiness to practice. There is a lack of understanding of the perspectives of these stakeholders. In this research study, we aim to understand the perspectives of newly qualified occupational therapists and the stakeholders (university lecturers, placement educators and work colleagues).

This study will provide further information on the readiness of newly qualified occupational therapists for practice as well as accounts of available support structures, barriers and experiences from multiple stakeholder perspectives. We will gather the information from focus group discussions. We plan to share our findings through peer-reviewed journals, conference presentations, and social media. The findings could benefit education providers and workplace managers and help design collaborative work. This would better prepare new occupational therapists to practice confidently and efficiently at the start of their career.