Professionals Perspective of Prosthetic and Orthotic Services in Tanzania, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Pakistan

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In order to implement the CRPD, the quality of prosthetic and orthotic services in low income countries is of concern. Therefore aspects related to quality of prosthetic and orthotic services have been investigated in this paper comparing findings from four low and middle income countries.

**AIM**
To compare findings related to experiences of prosthetics and orthotic service delivery and education in Tanzania, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Pakistan, from the perspective of local professionals.

**METHODS**
In total 49 prosthetists/orthotists and prosthetic/orthotic technicians participated from four countries. A comparative analysis of the results of the three studies [1, 2, 3] was conducted. The analytical approach used was a second ordered concept analysis where subthemes, categories and conceptions were aggregated into themes.

**RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes common to Tanzania, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Pakistan</th>
<th>Sub-themes from Tanzania and Malawi [1]</th>
<th>Sub-themes from Sierra Leone [2]</th>
<th>Sub-themes from Pakistan [3]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low awareness and prioritising of prosthetic and orthotic services.</strong></td>
<td>*Varied support from senior staff and other professionals.</td>
<td>Low priority on the part of government.</td>
<td>Low awareness of prosthetic and orthotic services.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Difficulty managing specific pathological conditions and problems with materials.</strong></td>
<td>Low-status profession.</td>
<td><em>Appraisals of work satisfaction and norms.</em></td>
<td>Management of specific pathological conditions and administrative duties are most difficult for graduates.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Limited access to prosthetic and orthotic services available.</strong></td>
<td>Helping people with disabilities is the motivation.</td>
<td>Problems with materials and machines.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The need for further education and desire for professional development.</strong></td>
<td>Lack of materials.</td>
<td>Different demands when working in underserved and less resourced setting.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>People with disabilities have low social status in Sierra Leone.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited access to the prosthetic and orthotic services available.</td>
<td><em>Currently varied opportunities for professional development.</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<td><em>Varied support from senior staff and other professionals.</em></td>
<td>Well-functioning support from senior staff.</td>
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<td>Suggested ways of keeping updated.</td>
<td>Prosthetists/Orthotists would like to specialise.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Desire for professional development.</td>
<td>A desire for networking within the country and interaction from outside.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REFERENCES**

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