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Evaluating the impact of an innovative education model to build capacity for the future of occupational therapy in developing countries: Vietnam case study

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Introduction: During 2016 and 2017, occupational therapy academics from Curtin University, Western Australia, in partnership with Viet-Nam Assistance to the Handicapped, Ministry of Health of Vietnam, and the University of Medicines and Pharmacy, Ho Chi Minh City developed and delivered postgraduate training to 35 traditionally and western trained doctors, and education and training to 62 rehabilitation workers from Tay Ninh and Binh Phuoc provinces. The aim was to build capacity for the rehabilitation of people with a disability using an occupation-based approach. Key Vietnamese partner's academic clinicians attended the training to assist in capacity building.

Objectives: (1) To evaluate Vietnamese health care practitioners experience of the education and training. (2) Understand the impact of the training on the Vietnamese health care practitioner's knowledge, attitudes, skills and service delivery.

Methods: This mixed methods research design used a survey to collect quantitative data followed by a qualitative component involving semi-structured interviews to gain an in-depth understanding of experiences in the program and the impact on participants' knowledge, attitudes, behaviours towards rehabilitation, and occupation-based rehabilitation and services six months post-training. This will also focus on understanding enablers and barriers to translating knowledge into practice.

Results: Data collection is in progress in Vietnam, and analysis will be completed prior to Congress.

Conclusion: Evaluating and understanding participant outcomes from this innovative training program is essential if it is to contribute to capacity building and sustainable delivery of an occupation-based health program to reduce activity limitations and participation restrictions impacting people with a disability in Vietnam.