

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS ON THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY: APPRAISING AWARENES FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

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Introduction: About 15% of the world population live with some form of disability (WHO 2017). Sadly, majority of this population lives in developing countries. In Nigeria for an example, the population of individuals living with disability has been increasing with the activities of Boko haram insurgence and natural disaster. Meanwhile ignorance about the existing legislation on the right of People living with Disabilities(PWD) by the rehabilitation professionals can further worsen the plight of PWD. This study therefore presents the survey of the level of awareness of Occupational Therapy practitioner on the awareness of the right of PWD

Objective: The study aims to determine the level of awareness of occupational therapy practitioner on the United Nations Convention on the right of People with Disability which could influence the effective implementation of the convention
Method:

A structured questionnaire on the UN Convention on the right of PWD was used to appraise the awareness of 50 Occupational therapy practitioners (OTR &OTA). Descriptive statistic was used to analyse the data

Result: Majority (over 80%) of the occupational therapy practitioners are not aware of the provisions of the UN conventions on the rights of PWD and there was no significant impact of the years of practice on the level of awareness.

Conclusion: The study provides a deeper insight into the need to include disability studies and legislations on PWD in the curricular of training OT practitioners in Nigeria as this will better position them as advocates of the PWD and also facilitate the effectiveness of the convention