INTENSIVE THERAPY WEEKS: A TOOL FOR CAREGIVERS IN FACILITATION PARTICIPATION IN LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITY

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INTRODUCTION

• This concept begun after seeing the need of having caregivers gain knowledge for better performance of their children.
• This is due to limited number of health profession and occupational therapist
• Lack of services in near by area where parents could attend daily
• Women and children are endangered to face poverty more easily than other groups.
• The burden of caring for a child with disability is most often placed on women.
• Lack of knowledge about disability affects families and children with disability do not get the opportunity to receive service.
• Supporting women and children with disabilities also takes part in reducing poverty
TARGET GROUP

• All children with disability including those with severe disability
• Parents and caregiver
• Institutions and services
• Community at large
AIM OF INTENSIVE THERAPY WEEKS

- Empower caregivers to become knowledgeable co-therapist to their own child
- To equip caregivers with the skills and become confident advocates for the rights of PWD.
- Facilitate peer education amongst caregivers
- Enable the children to develop to their full potential
- Reduce the cost to their caregiver
- Support caregiver through their grief process
SITUATION IN TANZANIA

- Stigma
- Lack of knowledge
- Negative attitudes
- Poverty
- Scarcity of resources

PWD
THERAPY WEEKS

• They Get To Have Therapy Sessions With Their Children In The Mornings
• Afternoon Discussion Sessions With Different Themes And Topics
• Feel Free To Share Their Home Situations in group activities
• Get to see specialist/consultant within and even in other institutions.
• Evaluation At The End Of The Week
• Assistive devices are designed and tried out before child take it home.
OUTCOME

• Children develop their abilities and become enabled to participate more in their communities

• Parents learn new techniques to handle their children

• Caregivers get time to share with others ones who don’t point fingers at them since they are also in the same situation

• The communities become enabled to be active participants towards the development of the child with disability
CONCLUSION

• Are very effective for the caregivers, children and youth with disability.

• Intensive therapy weeks program has been adapted by other centers in the country and the parents/caregivers in the programs show appreciation and are happy to participate.

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THANK YOU

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