

# Effectiveness of Occupational Therapy Training Program for Cambodian Rehabilitation Health Personnel

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## Introduction/Rationale

Currently, Cambodia does not provide occupational therapy service to patients with limited participation in daily life, and rehabilitation health personnel is mainly composed of doctors, physical therapists, and nurses, making it difficult to provide universal and systematic rehabilitation services.

Since 2019, the **Korea National Rehabilitation Center(KNRC)** has been commissioned by the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) to run the **Cambodia Rehabilitation Health Personnel Training Program (Dr. Lee Jongwook Fellowship Program Clinical Course)** for the past five years. Occupational therapy professors participated in the course to provide occupational therapy clinical foundations and practice education, contributing to the implementation of occupation-based practice in Cambodia.



## Objective

The purpose of this study is to improve the knowledge of occupational therapy, improve the capacity of daily living training and dysphagia rehabilitation therapy, and improve the capacity of occupational therapy delivery education for Cambodian rehabilitation professionals through a rehabilitation health personnel training program. In addition, the aim is to evaluate the satisfaction level of the

## Method/approach

The National Rehabilitation Center faculty selected 1 nurse and 2 physical therapists as trainees, a total of 3 people in April 2024. The **invitational training** was conducted at the **National Rehabilitation Center in Korea** for a total of 10 weeks (100 hours) from June to August 2024. The training content consisted of occupational therapy clinical foundations and practice, Khmer-version MBI assessment, and dysphagia rehabilitation educational materials.

**Invitation training**

2024. Jun. - Aug.

**3 OT trainees**

**On-line lecture**

2024. Sep. - Oct.

**On-site follow up**

2024. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>

In September and October, **on-line training** was provided on **occupational therapy clinical basics and activities of daily living (ADL)** to doctors, nurses, and physical therapists.

The National Rehabilitation Center faculty **visited Phnom Penh, Cambodia from November 4 to 7 to conduct inspections, guidance, and training.** The trainees' performance in daily life training, MBI assessment, dysphagia rehabilitation therapy capacity, and delivery of occupational therapy educational materials were checked, and **occupation-based practice and dysphagia rehabilitation** were taught to a total of 25 Cambodian doctors, nurses, and physical therapists in a workshop format.

### Results

The trainee OT knowledge evaluation score improved from 28 points to 84.7 points, and the education satisfaction was scored at 81 points. The faculty confirmed work capacity that the trainees improved the dressing, personal hygiene, and eating performance of 18 patients.

In addition, **the most significant improvement** is the first implementation of Neuro-muscular Electronic Stimulation (NMES) therapy and **14 out of 36 patients with dysphagia were improved diet level.**

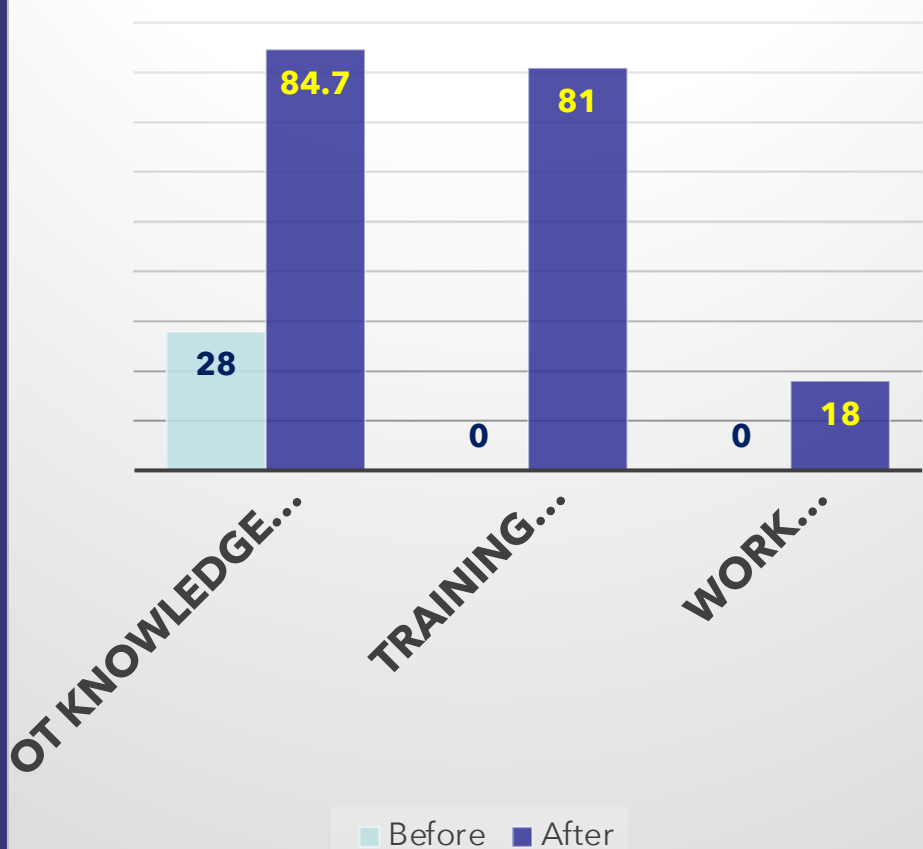
### Conclusion

This training program not only provided Cambodian rehabilitation experts with the cornerstones for improving their occupational therapy knowledge and potential, implementing occupation-based practice, also contributed to improving Cambodian patient's daily activities participation.

**Occupational therapists should provide much support and exchange to countries with limited occupational therapy to occupational justice implementation.**



Training results



Results of dysphagia therapy

