

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PHILIPPINE OT: PERSPECTIVES OF GRADUATES IN CHOOSING AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY CAREER IN CENTRAL VISAYAS, PHILIPPINES

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Introduction

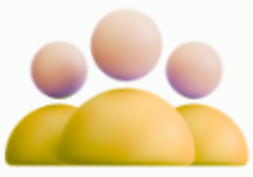
Despite OT being a growing profession globally, workforce shortages remain a challenge, especially in developing countries like the Philippines, where limited public awareness affects recruitment.

Objectives

This study explored the perspectives of Philippine entry-level OT graduates decide on their career and how their educational experiences shape their professional identity.

Results

CHOOSING A CAREER



Family Influence



Personal Experiences



Early Exposure in Career Settings



Peer Recommendations

Awareness Strategies

- Digital outreach
- Peer support
- Career guidance

Methodology

1

9 OT Graduates

2

Semi-structured interviews

3

Collaizzi's Method

4

Themes Identified

SHAPING PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

REINFORCEMENTS



- Learning experiences
- Holistic practice

CHALLENGES



- Academic Demands
- Broad Scope of Practice
- External challenges
- Limited Awareness

Conclusion

Early exposure, supportive learning environments, and mentorship are critical to shape career pathways and professional identity. Awareness strategies may be used to strengthen recruitment, education, and workforce sustainability.