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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Support - Kovai medical center & hospital for providing database access.

Review Stage at time of this submission - Data extraction.

Conflicts of interest - None declared.

INPLASY registration number: INPLASY202480034

Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 07 August 2024 and was last updated on 07 August 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective What is the effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions in enhancing work readiness for individuals with schizophrenia?

Rationale This systematic review fills a significant research void on the subject of occupational therapy interventions' efficacy in improving work readiness for people with schizophrenia. It also supports institutional goals of promoting evidence-based mental health care. This review will offer important insights into which occupational therapy techniques are most successful in enhancing employment outcomes for people with schizophrenia by compiling and evaluating the available data. This is crucial for supporting the implementation of focused interventions that improve social integration and general quality of life for this vulnerable population, as well as for guiding policy development and clinical practice.

Condition being studied Schizophrenia provides major hurdles to work owing to its impact on cognitive, emotional, and social functioning. Individuals may suffer with cognitive impairments such as trouble concentrating and problem-solving, which can hamper work performance. Emotional problems, including anxiety and sadness, can influence motivation and job engagement. Social challenges, such as decreased interpersonal skills and stigma, may further block work chances. Additionally, the unpredictable nature of symptoms, especially acute bouts or drug adverse effects, might lead to frequent absences or diminished productivity. Addressing these challenges sometimes needs specific support, including vocational rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and workplace modifications to enable persons with schizophrenia attain and keep employment.

METHODS

Search strategy Obtain articles using databases such as PubMed, MEDLINE, Wiley, Scopus, Springer, Elsevier, Taylor & Francis Online.

Participant or population Individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia.

Intervention To enhance work readiness in individuals with schizophrenia through a structured occupational therapy intervention aimed at improving job-related skills, managing symptoms, and increasing confidence and motivation.

Comparator Not relevant.

Study designs to be included Updated studies with Randomized controlled trials (RCTs), quasi-experimental studies, observational studies, cohort studies and reviews. The Level of evidences such as 1b ,2a ,2b and 3a, 3b, 4 ,5 level of studies can be taken. Articles available in full text.

Eligibility criteria EXCLUSION CRITERIA: Studies not focused on occupational therapy, work readiness, schizophrenia. Studies not in English language. Studies with incomplete data or unclear methodologies.

Information sources Using electronic databases: PubMed, MEDLINE, Wiley, Scopus, Springer, Elsevier, Taylor & Francis Online for searching and downloading relevant articles.

Main outcome(s) To identify the outcome of effectiveness of occupational therapy interventions in enhancing work readiness for individuals with schizophrenia is expected to demonstrate that targeted OT strategies significantly improve work readiness outcomes, such as skills training, symptom management, and workplace simulations contribute to increased job-related skills, enhanced confidence, and better symptom control. Additionally, improvements in work readiness are anticipated to correlate with higher employment rates and better job performance.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis The Joanna Briggs Institute's (JBI) critical appraisal tool will be used to assess the risk of bias in the included studies.

Strategy of data synthesis Combine and integrate extracted data from qualitative and quantitative studies using techniques like narrative synthesis, or framework synthesis.

Compare and contrast findings across different study designs to identify relationships, and configurations. Make conclusions based on the synthesized data, considering the strengths and limitations of each study design. Articles will be retrieved and reviewed in full by two reviewers. Each step of the selection process will be outlined in a PRISMA-style flow chart using excel spread sheet.

Subgroup analysis Not planned.

Sensitivity analysis Narrative synthesis.

Language restriction Only English.

Country(ies) involved India.

Keywords Mental health, occupational therapy assessment, qualitative studies vocational rehabilitation, work readiness, return to work.

Dissemination plans Plan to publish.

Contributions of each author

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