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# Graduates' perceptions of prosthetic and orthotic education and clinical practice in Tanzania and Malawi

Lina Magnusson, Harold G Shangali and Gerd Ahlström

#### AIM

The aim was to describe how Tanzanian and Malawian graduates of the Diploma in Orthopaedic Technology offered at the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists perceived their education in relation to their profession.

#### RESULTS

#### Descriptive categories and conceptions



## Aspects lacking in the learning context

Adequate teaching but can be improved. Desire for teachers with higher degrees. Inequality in treatment of students.



#### Need for changes in the curriculum

Need for the addition of advanced prosthetic and orthotic technology. Drop technical drawing, metalwork, woodwork.

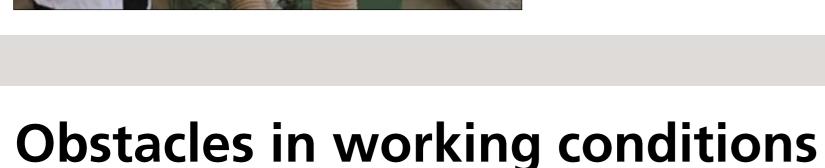


#### Well-equipped teaching facilities

Good workshop facilities.

Books were available at library,
but insufficient.

Satisfaction with hostel facilities.



Varied support from senior staff and other professionals. Lack of materials.

Different demands when working in underserviced and less resourced settings.

### **METHODS**

19 graduates from the diploma course in orthopaedic technology working in Tanzania or Malawi were interviewed.

Phenomenographic analysis was applied on the participants' statements which means identifying perceptions and conceptualized into conceptions.



#### Enable people to walk is motivating

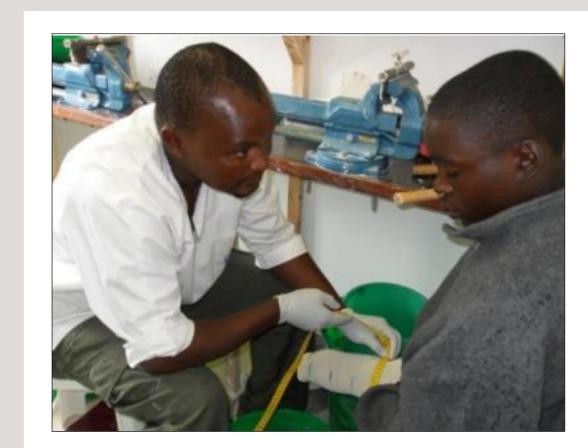
Helping people with disabilities is motivating.

Low-status profession.



# Varied awareness of the profession before starting education

Low awareness of profession. Desire to work with persons with disabilities.



#### Need for professional development

Desire for continued training.

Suggested ways of keeping updated.

All participants perceived possible improvements to the content and learning environment.

## CONCI USION

Prosthetic and orthotic services can be better provided by modifying the education program content.

Dedicating more time to the clinical management of different patient groups and applied biomechanics.

Reducing the program contents focus on technical aspects of prosthetic and orthotic practice.

Working in rural conditions has demands that graduates were not prepared for and the graduates desired continued training.

#### REFERENCE

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