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Attitudes of occupational therapy students in India about inclusive education

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Abstract

Background/Aims: Current occupational therapy students pursuing their courses in India are the future practitioners of tomorrow, and their attitude towards practice settings will determine their professional careers. Among these different practice settings, one that is undergoing a huge change is in the field of education, with the growing acceptance of inclusive education. Hence this study aimed to investigate the attitudes of Indian occupational therapy students towards inclusive education of children with disabilities and compare the attitudes of undergraduate and post-graduate occupational therapy students about inclusive education in India.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, a total of 187 students participated from twelve different occupational therapy colleges across India.

Results: The study's results revealed that in general occupational therapy students in India have a positive attitude toward inclusive education. In addition, no statistical differences in attitudes between undergraduate and postgraduate occupational therapy students were found.

Conclusion: Positive attitudes of Indian occupational therapy students towards inclusive education, combined with the expected impact of attitudes on behaviors, provide a sense of hope for the future of occupational therapy in Indian education's movement towards inclusion.

Keywords: Inclusion, School-based occupational therapy