

## BACKGROUND

“Cerebral Palsy is a permanent neurodevelopmental disorder. The term covers a group of conditions that result from a non progressive lesion affecting the developing brain before, during and after birth. The lesion affects motor function, posture and coordination” (Miller, 2017, p. 2)

The care of children with Cerebral Palsy (CP) requires a complex system of care that is not only heavily dependent on health care resources, but is also strongly influenced by social and cultural attributes. Hence, it is important to explore the understanding and practices of caregivers within a regional perspective. Families of children with CP, particularly the parents, play a pivotal role in facilitating the developmental milestones of children with CP. Socioeconomic status, marital discord, and other parental responsibilities can impact the care of children with CP. Furthermore, the level of understanding about CP affects the care continuum (Swift, E. et al., 2023).

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

Despite significant advancements in understanding CP, there remains a notable gap in comprehending caregivers' knowledge and their experiences managing the condition (Ni, Z. et al, 2022). Based on the reported gap by Ni et al. in 2022, and the researchers experience this study aims to address the lack of qualitative data exploring caregivers' perspectives and highlighting the challenges they face. The study will also aim to identify the informational voids that need to be filled.

## SOURCE OF FUNDING

Bethany Kids through the POTOT program will cover the expenses for this study, ensuring the successful completion.

## PICO QUESTION

Among caregivers of children with Cerebral Palsy in Kenya, how does participation in CP education and awareness programs compare to caregivers without such education in terms of knowledge, attitudes, and caregiving practices?

## METHODOLOGY

### Study Design:

A qualitative descriptive study will explore caregivers' knowledge and attitudes toward children with CP (Doyle, 2020).

### Setting:

The study will take place in a clinical setting, such as a hospital or therapy facility in Kenya.

### Procedure:

Ethical approval will be obtained from Kijabe Hospital's Institutional Scientific & Ethical Review Committee and NACOSTI. Permission will be sought from a partnering health facility, where structured interviews and focus groups will be conducted.

### Data Collection:

- **Participants:** Eleven to twelve caregivers of children with CP will be purposively recruited to ensure diverse perspectives.
- **Data Collection Tools:** A refined interview guide with open-ended questions will be used with 7 individuals. In addition there will be two focus group discussions utilizing the same interview guide with open-ended questions as the individual interviews (2-3 caregivers will be in each group). The number of participants is based on average numbers for saturation in qualitative studies.
- **Process:** Recruitment will occur through Gian Care Centre using flyers and social media. Informed consent will be obtained before data collection. Interviews and focus groups will be conducted in person or online, with voice recordings ensuring accurate transcription and analysis.

## STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. To assess caregivers' level of knowledge about CP
2. To determine the primary sources of information for caregivers regarding CP
3. To identify misconceptions and gaps in caregivers' knowledge about CP
4. To explore caregivers' perceptions of their role and responsibilities in managing CP
5. To examine caregivers' perceptions of societal attitudes toward children with CP
6. To provide insights that can inform the development of educational programs and support services for caregivers

## DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS

Research findings will be presented at the Kenya Occupational Therapy Association (KOTA) scientific conference. Implications for occupational therapy will be discussed at the KOTA annual scientific conference, emphasizing on how these findings can provide insights that can inform the development of educational programs and support services tailored to caregivers' needs.

## Reference



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