

June 2023

Addressing Neglected Community Services in Low-Resource Settings: Bridging the Gap for Impactful Research in Rehabilitation

Received
February 23, 2023

Revised
March 29, 2023

Accepted
April 12, 2023

Ms. Sana Mehmood

Senior Lecturer, Ziauddin University
sana.mehmood@zu.edu.pk



Recommended Citation

[Mehmood S. Addressing Neglected Community Services in Low-Resource Settings: Bridging the Gap for Impactful Research in Rehabilitation. *Allied Med Res J.* 2023;1(2):3-4. Available from:

<http://ojs.amrj.net/index.php/1/article/view/21/version/21>]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.59564/amrj/01.02/002>

Dear Editor,

I am writing to raise awareness of the underutilized community services in low-resource environments within the rehabilitation profession, which presents a gap for significant future research. The absence of community-based rehabilitation services can have a negative impact on patients' recovery and impede the advancement of research in this area.

Rehabilitation services are essential in assisting people in recovering from injuries, illnesses, and disabilities¹. However, most rehabilitation services are primarily offered in clinics in low-resource settings, with little focus on community-based care. Inadequate support for patients as they move from clinical care back into their communities due to this service gap may result in poor healthcare outcomes and a decreased quality of life. The severity of health disparities and poverty in underdeveloped areas emphasizes the urgent need for community-based rehabilitation services¹. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), these areas are home to 80% of the 1 billion people who need rehabilitation services². This disparity emphasizes how urgent it is to address the neglect of community-based rehabilitation services in settings with limited resources.

A chance for future research that will have a significant impact exists because community-based rehabilitation services have been neglected. By concentrating on these services, researchers can find ways to improve patient outcomes and design creative plans to guarantee that people living in low-resource environments get the assistance they need to recover fully. However, closing this service gap is difficult, particularly given the low investment in rehabilitation services in low-resource environments³. In these environments, many healthcare systems struggle with limited funding and resources, this result in insufficient access to healthcare services, including rehabilitation⁴. As a result, health disparities between people in these environments become more evident.

To address this issue effectively, policymakers and healthcare professionals must prioritize providing community-based rehabilitation services in low-resource settings. This involves funding research to find the best methods for delivering community-based rehabilitation services in these situations and allocating enough money to make those methods work. Furthermore,

providing effective community-based rehabilitation services depends on giving training and assistance to healthcare professionals. To do this, rehabilitation specialists must be given training programs specifically geared towards them and the tools they need to provide care in settings with limited resources.

In conclusion, underutilized community services in low-resource settings present a critical gap that necessitates attention for fruitful rehabilitation research. By filling this gap, we can increase the quality of life for people living in these settings, improve patient outcomes, and lessen health disparities. Funding community-based rehabilitation services and research initiatives will be crucial to close this gap and guaranteeing all patients receive comprehensive care.

References

1. Khan F, Amatya B. Medical rehabilitation in pandemics: towards a new perspective. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*. 2020;52(4):1-4.
2. Bright T, Wallace S, Kuper H. A systematic review of access to rehabilitation for people with disabilities in low-and middle-income countries. *International Journal Of Environmental Research and Public Health*. 2018;15(10):2165.
3. Owolabi MO, Suwanwela NC, Yaria J. Barriers to implementation of evidence into clinical practice in low-resource settings. *Nature Reviews Neurology*. 2022;18(8):451-2.
4. World Health Organization. Stories of change in four countries: building capacity for integrating mental health care within health services across humanitarian settings. 2021.