



Perceptions of Barriers and Facilitators for Social Participation in Teenagers with a Brachial Plexus Birth Injury

Mary Phyfer Metzger, OTS; Sarah dos Anjos, PhD, OTD, MS, OTR/L
Department of Occupational Therapy | University of Alabama at Birmingham

Introduction

- Approximately 30% of newborns with BPBI experience permanent deficits in the upper extremity.¹
- Early rehabilitation is available, but teenagers with BPBI rarely receive therapeutic intervention.
- Aim: to explore the lived experiences of teenagers with BPBI on social participation.

Methods

- Population: teenagers ages 12-18 with a BPBI.
- Data collection and analysis:
 - Individual interviews via Zoom (Table 1) were recorded and transcribed.
 - Two independent coders conducted thematic analyses²

Table 1. Interview Questions

Interview Questions

- Tell me about yourself. (Name, age, grade, what state you live in, hobbies, what you want to be when you grow up)
- Which arm is affected by your injury?
- What is occupational therapy? Describe what you think is to the best of your ability.
- How was your experience in OT? Do you remember any of it?
- Describe any limitations that you feel are caused by your injury.
- How does it make you feel to have different abilities than your peers?
- Describe how you feel your injury affects your participation in social activities.
- Are there any activities that you have had difficulty with that you feel occupational therapy could have helped you with? If so, what are they?

Results

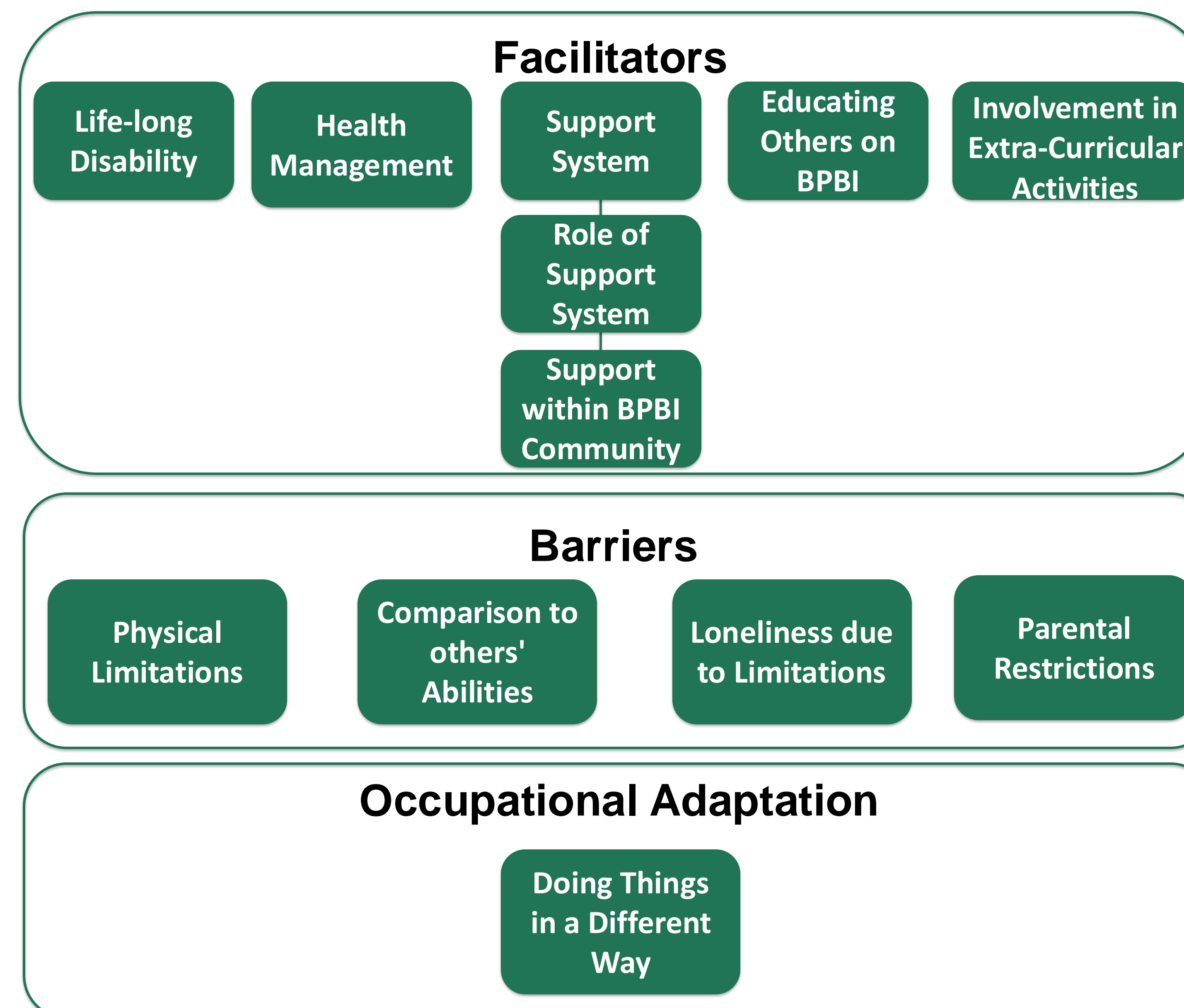
- Three participants were included. (Table 2)

Table 2. Participants

Participant	Age	Number of siblings	School system	Grade	Affected side	Hand dominance
Adam	17	5	Home School	11th	L	R
Ben	16	1	Public school	11th	L	R
Caroline	13	2	Public school	8th	R	R

- Eleven themes were identified and categorized as facilitators, barriers, and occupational adaptation (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Codes



Results (cont.)

Facilitators: factors that encourage social participation.

"I like having like my friends...they understand and will... help me adjust and even, like, push me a little bit further than what I'm used to." (Adam)

Barriers: describes factors that can be a hinderance to the social participation.

"I feel like it makes you feel. Really kind of like lonely...I just feel lonely in moments like that." (Caroline)

Occupational Adaptation: describes how the participants adapt to difficult occupations

"I usually just use my right hand for things. Usually not my left." (Ben)

Discussion and Conclusion

- Participants noted the limited research on this population.
- This study underscores the importance of addressing social participation within rehabilitation, reinforcing the need for a more comprehensive approach in BPBI care.³

References



Acknowledgement & Contact information

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Mary Phyfer Metzger, OTS - parkermp@uab.edu