

Project Title

Therapists' Perspectives of Core Characteristics Required for Rehabilitation in
Community Setting in Singapore

Project Lead and Members

- Jingyi Lin

Organisation(s) Involved

SPD

Healthcare Family Group(s) Involved in this Project

Allied health

Applicable Specialty or Discipline

Community rehabilitation

Aim(s)

- To gather therapists' perspectives on the essential skills and characteristics required for rehabilitation in the Singapore community setting.
- To identify the challenges faced by therapists and explore potential solutions for overcoming the challenges encountered by AHPs in the community sector.

Background

See poster appended/ below

Methods

See poster appended/ below

Results

See poster appended/ below

Conclusion

See poster appended/ below

Project Category

Applied/ Translational Research

Mixed methods

Keywords

Community Rehabilitation, Community Therapist, Core Competencies

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Therapists' Perspectives of Core Characteristics Required for Rehabilitation in Community Setting in Singapore

INTRODUCTION

Healthcare in Singapore has seen a shift towards community-based rehabilitation due to an ageing population, higher prevalence of chronic diseases, and the various population health initiatives.^{1,2} Allied health professionals' (AHP) roles are evolving, focusing on primary care¹, upskilling community care workers, and integrating technology.³ This creates the push for AHPs to engage in value-added, transdisciplinary, and community-based work.⁴ To meet the rising demand, it is crucial to equip AHPs with appropriate training and comprehensive understanding of the skills, knowledge gaps, and characteristics required for community therapists.⁵ Also, emphasis must be placed to attract and retain AHPs in the community sector.

Objectives

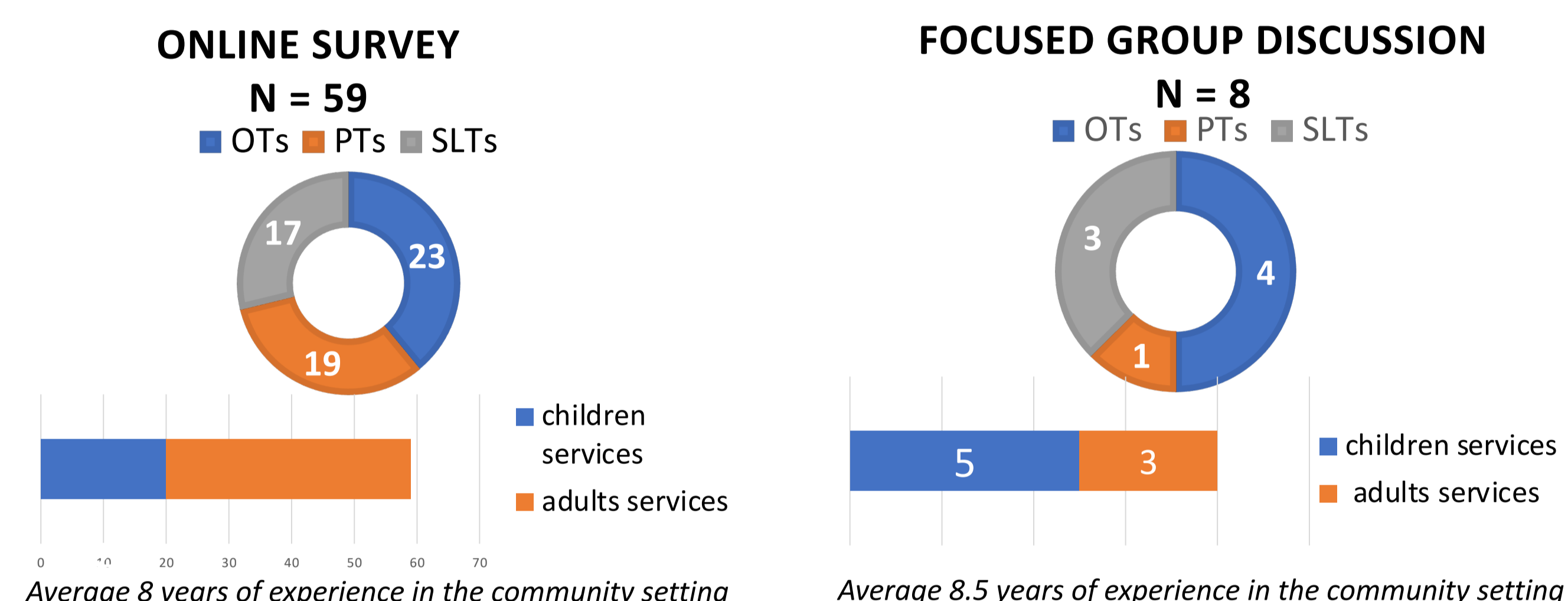
1. To gather therapists' perspectives on the essential skills and characteristics required for rehabilitation in the Singapore community setting.
2. To identify the challenges faced by therapists and explore potential solutions for overcoming the challenges encountered by AHPs in the community sector.

METHODOLOGIES

Thematic analysis of an online survey (n = 59) and a focus group discussion (n = 8) regarding identity, characteristics, challenges, and recommendations was conducted.

RESULTS

Demographics



Identity of a Community Therapist

Therapists who have a long-term partnership with clients and their family members with the goal to enable client to *live, learn, work and play*.

Challenges

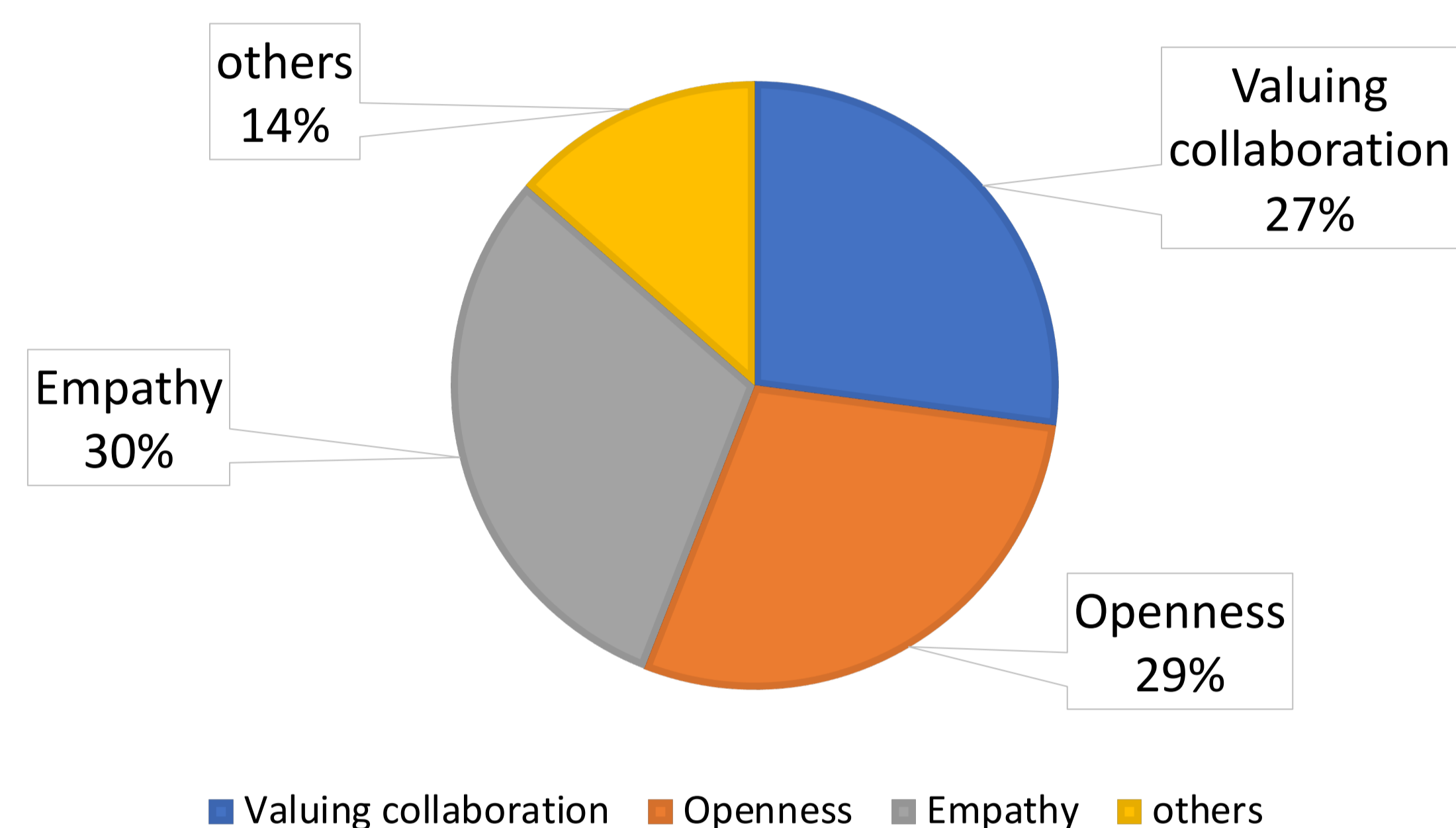
- Lack of opportunities for career progression and development.
- Lack of recognition from various stakeholders, perpetuating the perception that the community therapists are less capable and work in less glamorous settings.
- Limited resources (equipment, manpower, funding, training, and mentorship).
- Wide clientele of diverse populations with varying cultural perspectives needing the agility to address various concerns and needs.

Recommendations

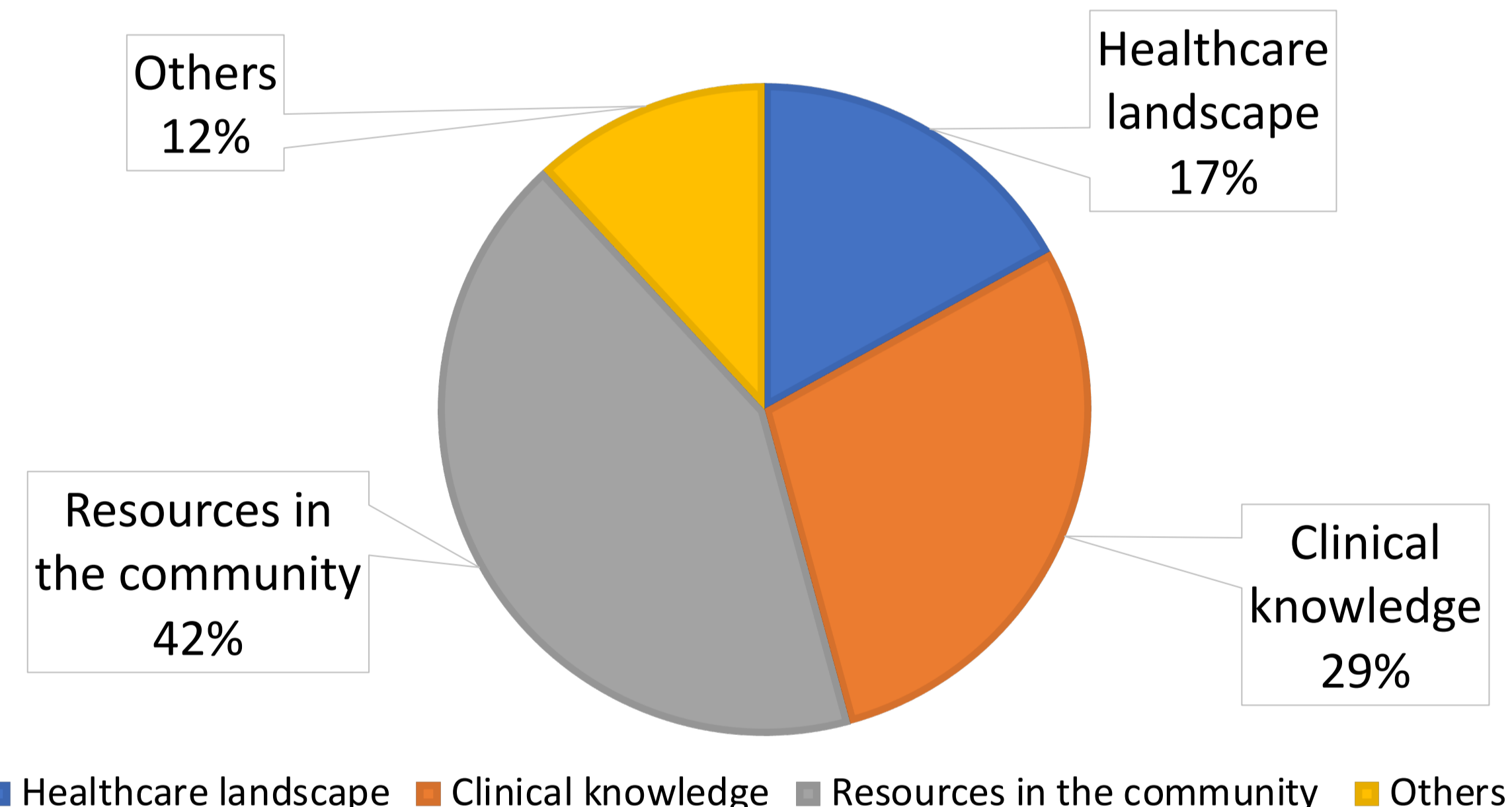
- Collectively build "community therapists" identity and recognition.
- Establishing structured and concrete pathways for professional development and clearer criteria for career advancement.
- Encourage extensive and deepened collaboration with other organizations and sector for skills and resource sharing.
- Enhancing AHPs' skills and exposure through rotations, non-clinical work, mentorship programs, and peer learning.
- Establish standardized workflows, and updated database on community programs for discharge planning and social prescription.

RESULTS

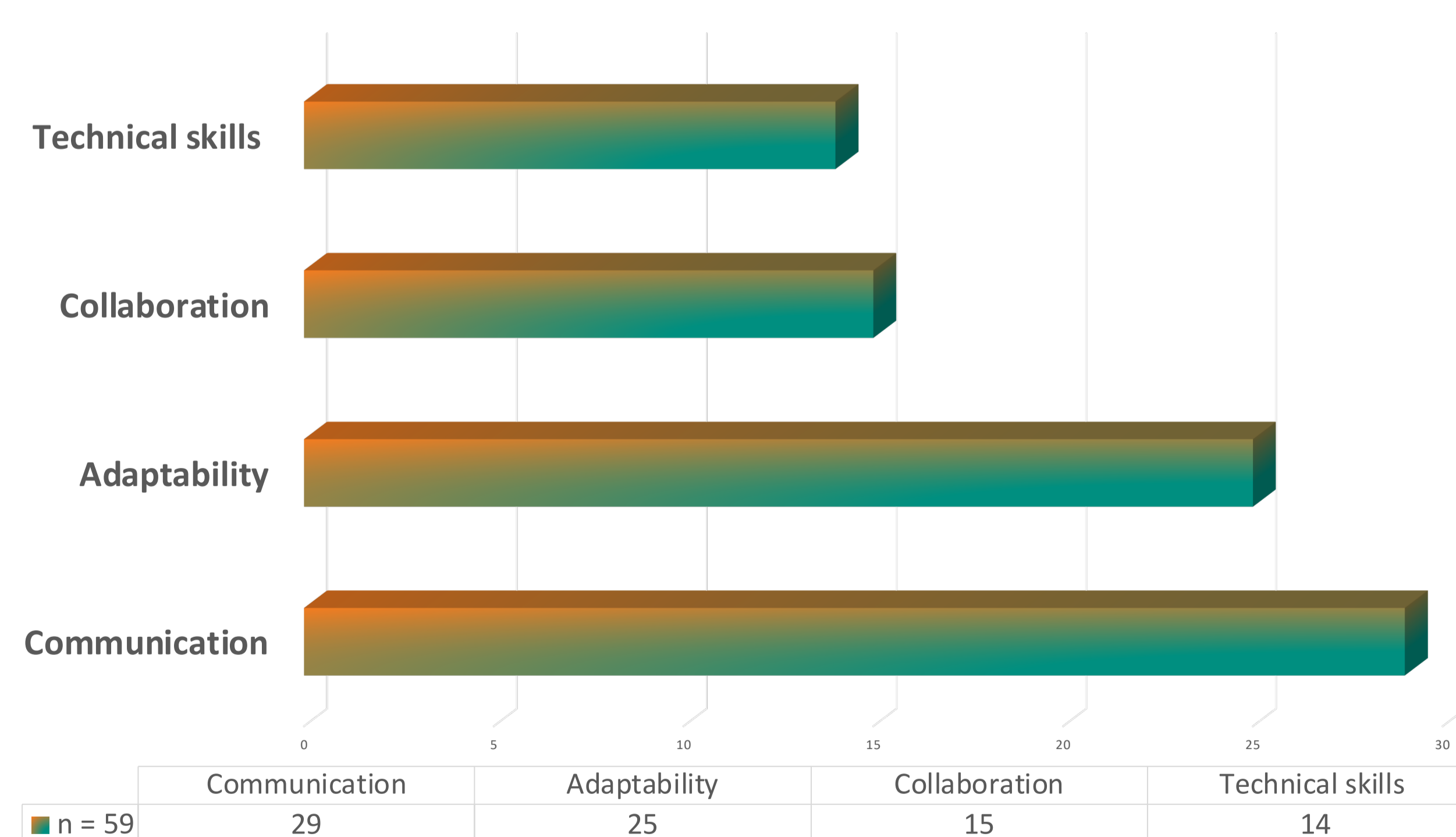
TOP 3 PERCEIVED IMPORTANT ATTITUDES AND VALUES



TOP 3 PERCEIVED IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE



TOP PERCEIVED SKILLS



CONCLUSION

The nature of community-based rehabilitation is complex, encompassing a variety of practice settings that constantly face evolving needs and challenges. Community therapists are recognized as essential partners in clients' life journeys. They possess unique core competencies that enable them to navigate the nuances of community practice. Appreciating the distinctiveness of this setting is crucial, necessitating tailored plans for attraction, retention, and development of therapists to address salient needs.

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