



Challenging the Elephant in Africa

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Strengths of Short term staff:

- They have access to financial resources
- They make a contribution by providing materials and equipment
- They have specialist knowledge and skills
 - Eg in Neurology, Psychiatry

Problems with Short term staff:

- They come with unrealistic expectations
- Their stay is too short to really get to know the people and the situation
- They are restless, entertaining friends and family

Diversity of Expectations Staff

Ex-patriots

Want to make a
difference - Create a
better world

Bring about change

Train OT students

Develop OT school

Have an “African
experience”

• Tanzanians

- Want qualifications –
degrees

- Learn new OT
techniques

- Want better facilities

- Want sponsorship

- Want to “work it out
themselves”

Students' Expectations

Committed to study and learn - motivated

Want a qualification - degree

Want the best opportunities to learn

Want to learn about Research

Want to improve their language – English

Want to improve technical skills –
computers

Want to be good OTs

How to make it happen together

To create a sustainable future for Occ.
Thy. in Tanzania

According to Kaplan (1996)
‘sustainability can only be assured once
interdependence has been achieved’

A give and take situation

HOW?

Identify Diversity

Accept diversity

Channel diversity appropriately

Develop a common vision

Develop Confidence and Trust

Establish Partnerships

CONCLUSION

TIME !!!!

- Time to get to know the people, each other
- Time to listen and share expectations
- Putting aside our own preconceived ideas
- Being flexible and adaptable
- Being yourself

A Chinese Poem

– “Go to the people, live with them
Learn from them, Love them.
Start with what they know
Build on what they have.
But of the best leaders,
When the work is done, the task accomplished
The people will say:
We have done it ourselves”



The challenges are many...

“Challenge one Elephant a day”

Pole, pole !

