**Occupational Deprivation and MOHO**

**Date: Wed, April 18, 2007 10:52 am**

Hi! I'm a student of OT in Portugal and I'm studying the term ocupacional deprivation. I have to make the relation between this term and the MOHO. Anyone have something about it? I didn't find any article or book that relates them. If you have please send me to my e-mail ana_lucia_fruhoso@hotmail.com

Thanks, occupationally
Ana Lúcia

**Date: Thu, April 26, 2007 6:35 pm**

Ana Lucia: I believe you would find the following chapter in particular and the book in general (listed below) very helpful for your study. I wish you well.


Bill Potocnik Juenemann

**Date: Fri, April 27, 2007 1:19 pm**

Ana-
You pose a very interesting question.
MOHO is ultimately concerned with an individual's occupational adaptation— that is, their construction of a positive occupational identity and achieving occupational competence to meet that identity over time. Rather than focus on deprivation, MOHO asks us to consider:
1) Does this person have a lack of engagement or limited engagement in occupational roles due to changes in performance capacity, environmental barriers and restrictions, lack of routine, or a low sense of capacity and efficacy?
2) Is this person having difficulty sustaining a pattern of competent
participation over time, and are they able to meet internal and external expectations and responsibilities?

The answers to these questions depend on the unique circumstances of the client, and their volition, habitation, performance capacity, skill, and the environment and culture in which they are engaging (or not engaging).

Now- back to your question about the term "occupational deprivation"- why is that person not participating? Is it environmental- a lack of appropriate occupational forms/tasks that are meaningful and accessible to that person? Or is it a volitional challenge, and the person has a low sense of efficacy and so avoids engagement in occupations? MOHO and it's dynamic approach to understanding occupation allows us to more systematically determine WHAT is impacting occupational participation (and adaption) and WHY, so then we can provide the correct supports and therapeutic interventions in collaboration with the client to support change and more successful occupational adaption.

I hope this answers your question!
Best of luck in your studies-
Jessica

Jessica Kramer

Date: Tue, May 1, 2007 9:00 am

I agree with Jessica's thoughts and will offer a further consideration.

I think we have to be careful with the use of terms like "deficit", nonadaptive, dysfunctional, deprived and so on." We used to use the term, "occupational dysfunction" in MOHO and we dropped this term in response to criticisms of the deficit or fault-finding approach of rehabilitation in general that were proposed by scholars in disability studies. Disabled people, especially those involved in disability studies or disability rights, strongly prefer to avoid such terminology. Also although terms like deprivation are now in vogue because of discussions of social justice concerns in OT, I think we have to be careful. Contemporary approaches to empowering oppressed groups stress supporting individuals to understand and give voice to their own oppression, not having professional groups label the oppression. I think
OT has somewhat missed this point in our use of terms like deprivation, occupational justice etc. It would be far better for us to be doing participatory research and intervention that allow people to give voice to their own experience rather than labelling it for them. This is a very nuanced point, but I would refer you to works like, "The Limits of Benevolence" or "Pedagogy of the Oppressed", which offer nice discussions on these topics.

Gary Kielhofner