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Suggestions of the role which Occupational therapists should assume in job assistance.

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Introduction

Employment Service Centers are public employment offices specializing in providing unemployed persons with help-wanted information and employment consultations. Those are controlled by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan. Those have started the new programme for persons with mental disabilities in accordance with The Services and Supports for Persons with Disabilities Act (2006). The new one is called "Job Guidance". In 2007, Toyota Service Center in Aichi commissioned occupational therapists who work with a vocational training facility to cooperate in order to perform a new one. As for Toyota Service Center, it was first to tackle a positive programme for persons with mental disabilities who want to be employed. The Center had been performing the employment promotion of persons with disabilities for some time. However, since subjects were mainly persons with physical or intellectual disabilities, the support skill to persons with mental disabilities was not accumulated. Therefore, The Center has needed a specialist's cooperation.

Objectives

We described the process which cooperated in Job Guidance and considered a role of occupational therapists of job assistance .

Description

Subjects were 14 mental disabilities persons who participated in Job Guidance of Toyota Service Center in the 2008 fiscal year.

The programme has taken in three steps "Preparedness, Guidance, and Sharing." Preparedness consisted of questionnaires of Employment Service Centre, interviews of having been troubled by job-hunting activities, a request to Centre, etc. We had lectures about the synopsis of Center and the way of job-hunting in Guidance. We conducted interviews and questionnaires of Centre after receiving Guidance in Sharing. Further, Objectives held a debrief session of Job Guidance with their experience. Occupational therapists have managed in all its aspects.

Discussion

We considered that it was able to improve their occupational readiness, and to enhance support readiness of persons with mental disabilities in The Center.

Conclusion

We succeeded in deepening a mutual understanding through Job Guidance.

Contribution to the practice

Occupational therapists have acted as an intermediary between persons with mental disabilities and Employment Service Center. It showed the role which Occupational therapists should assume in job assistance .