

0769

**Para apuntar al desarrollo de la práctica de la terapia ocupacional en otras culturas. "Terapia ocupacional en cooperación internacional del Japón"**

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Introduction:

Japan offers many professional volunteers to developing countries as the government policy. 200 occupational therapists were sent to 30 countries past 20 years. We report the development of occupational therapy practice in cross cultural perspectives.

Objective:

We discuss the important factors in the development of occupational therapy practice, with narrative data on international collaborative projects for promoting therapeutic knowledge and skills among domestic occupational therapy practitioner.

Information:

We introduce the collaborative project of JICA (Japan Cooperation International Agency) from July, 2005 until July, 2007. In this project, three occupational therapists were sent to the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. At that time, the situation of each country was: Occupational therapists had just started the practice in Nursing homes in the Republic of Chile, domestic occupational therapists had began to work in the Republic of Costa Rica and occupational therapy educational program in the university was established in the Dominican Republic.

Result:

The main objectives of collaborative projects were 1) to facilitate therapeutic skills of domestic occupational therapy practitioners through shearing the practical experience in the actual therapeutic scene, 2) to carry out therapeutic skill-building workshops and 3) to facilitate domestic occupational therapy practitioners guide on interdisciplinary team work in rehab setting.

Contribution to the evidential practice of occupational therapy:

The success of cooperative practice for domestic and foreign occupational therapy practitioners is established on sharing meaningful actual feeling on the therapy for both. We had lived and worked with domestic people, speaking native language for two years, and we came to realize native partner's different social and cultural backgrounds, so we shared our cross-cultural perspectives and began to communicate with new point of view. As the result, domestic and foreign practitioners sympathized the essence of occupational therapy, which is, to enable people to do things that will enhance their ability to participation on daily basis, we finally came to the vivid change of our cooperative practice.