

The preliminary study of adaptation to occupational life of foreign spouses in Taiwan

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Introduction: According to the Department of Household Registration, there are 380,000 foreign spouses in Taiwan. On average, there is one transnational marriage couple in ten newly-married couples; and nearly 10% of the newborn babies are from transnational marriages every year in Taiwan. Because of language and culture differences, foreign spouses tend to encounter some difficulties in daily life. These difficulties become more obviously in child raising and education. Despite that some researches studied this phenomenon, occupational adaptation was never the major foci.

Objectives:

The purpose of our study is to explore the foreign spouses' occupational difficulties and their adaptation to life in Taiwan.

Method:

The definition of foreign spouse in this study is foreign women who transacted official marriage registration with Taiwanese men. We will conduct a survey study to foreign spouses in Kao-Hsiung city. 50 samples from literacy programs of eleven districts in Kao-Hsiung city will be recruited by July 2009. A questionnaire based on the domains in occupational therapy practice framework, ATOA 2002, and the occupational adaptation model by Schkade & Schultz, 1992 is under development by the research team. The first part of the questionnaire collects their occupational difficulties in occupational performance areas, skill and pattern of performance; and contexts with a 5-point Likert scale rating. The second part consists of guiding questions about their adaptation to occupational difficulties. Demographic and marriage-related data will also be collected. The results will be analyzed with ANOVA (first part) and themes (second part).

Results:

The data collection is scheduled to be finished by July 2009.

Conclusion:

Interpretation and conclusion will be provided.

Contribution to the evidence/practice base of occupational therapy:

The result of this study is expected to enrich the knowledge of cross-cultural adaptation, and occupational adaptation in the minority; and to facilitate the development of occupational adaptation programs and government policy.