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Programa de Capacitación Comunitaria sobre Inclusión de las Personas con Discapacidad. Una Experiencia con Estudiantes Universitarios en Venezuela.

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Introduction

The strategy of Community Care for Persons with Disability is the transference of instrumental abilities and skills to the community, so that it becomes an active part in the organization, participation and inclusion of persons with disability. This paper shows how Occupational Therapy students participate in social change, characterized by equality, solidarity and respect for diversity.

Objective

To promote Occupational Therapy education with social characteristics and principles such as equality, solidarity and social justice, so that students will be prepared to provide support, from university spaces, to persons with disability, within the venezuelan social context.

Description

This experience is part of a Community Service project carried out by university students. Its aim is the inclusion of persons with disability in their own communities and in society in general, by means of the sensitization and training of community health promoters led by Occupational Therapy students. To achieve this, training workshops, debates, forums and role-play on the subject of disability were held.

Results

Thirty (30) community health promoters attended sensitization and training activities, and in turn transferred the information to their communities. At conclusion they were motivated, sensitive to diversity and with high degrees of commitment and solidarity. At the moment the project is still being carried out, involving new students and participants from communities.

Conclusion

This experience allowed Occupational Therapy students to become involved with communities, sharing learning opportunities and participating in the application of public health policies. Also, the guidelines expressed in the World Declaration on Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century: Vision and Action (UNESCO, Paris-1998) were followed.

Contribution to Practice

This opens the way to a community experience, seen in the context of in-service learning, where students put into practice, not only the scientific knowledge related to the profession, but also ethical and humanitarian values.