

Leisure Activities: weaving space for alterity

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Introduction-The strategies of intervention for social participation of mentally and physically-challenged people in Brazil are generally linked to actions and services of healthcare or specialized programs. Therefore, we identify the development of Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation with technical/ specialized areas of performance holders of the knowledge, which strengthens society's stance of segregation towards these people.

Objectives-The objectives of this paper were: to observe the leisure field as a fundamental area of interdisciplinary social intervention to build a society of the difference and to study a field-trip group for mentally and physically-challenged people, the Andanças Project, of the municipality of Ribeirão Pires (SP/Brazil), a public policy created based on the desire to see that population in the various social spaces.

Methods-We conducted a qualitative research with an ethnographic case study of the Andanças Project to increase the knowledge of the group's experiences. We used as procedures: Bibliographic Research, Participating Observation, Field Diary, Documental Study and Interviews with key Informants.

Results-The results state the Leisure field as a fundamental interdisciplinary intervention to build the society of the difference and to promote health. After 2 years of existence, the project had 250 participants registered and involved professional with experience with that population, but without technical specialization. In this research we verified that a diversified technical qualification can contribute with the interventions and enable experiences of the difference and strengthen social networks. The concept of leisure was understood as a constituting part of a process to build citizenship and social participation and is related to the very production of life.

Conclusions-Building up an inclusive society requires actions allowing contact with the diversity of the human existence in the daily life, in an experience of alterity spontaneously favored by the experience of leisure.

Contributions to the filed-In the Brazilian Occupational Therapy the theme has not been deepened enough and it is still loaded with prejudice. Thus, this paper brings to the field a new light to the practices and studies on leisure, a natural field of intervention of Occupation Therapy, because it is an important area of the human activity.