

DISCUSSING CONCEPTS OF PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE WITH FUNCTIONAL LIMITATIONS

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INTRODUCTION: In Brazil, where research shows a steady increase in the number of elderly and disabled people, few products are designed taking into consideration this public. Internationally some concepts of products developed taking into account this customers are discussed.

OBJECTIVE: To present and discuss concepts towards the development of products for people with functional deficits. Encourage discussion on existing concepts and ratify the need to think and develop specific methodologies for this group of users.

DESCRIPTION: This study is based on literature search. Initially is present the Design profession being doing a parallel with the history of development of adaptations made by practitioners of Occupational Therapy. Are presents the concepts of Assistive Technology, Universal Design and Inclusive Design. Pros and cons of the concepts are presented to discuss the feasibility of implementing each.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS: Issues like specific methodologies and visions of individuals and other professionals involved in design of products for people with disabilities are essential. But this is a latent discussion. In reviewing the concepts exposed we can conclude that in some projects may fit a concept more than others and vice versa. In a heterogeneous and globalized society like the current, where the different becomes the most common, models and approaches towards the development of products and services should be reconsidered and adapted to accompany its users.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: This work brings the Occupational Therapy in discussions relevant to their clinical like the development of products for people with functional deficits.