

Constructing as a occupational therapist - Contributions of extention projects to professional pratice

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Extension projects permit the construction of a common knowledge by combining the produced in the university with the one that exists in the community, resulting in a relation of education - learning for those involved in this process. These projects constitute themselves into an important resource for academic training and professional practice, enabling students to undertake the management of academic knowledge to establish a relationship with the community. This study aims discuss the contribution of Extension Projects in academic training of Occupational Therapy students. This discusion was developed based on the experience of these students with Extension Project, conducted by the University of São Paulo - Ribeirão Preto - Brazil, whose aim was to promote income-generating activities based on cooperative and solidary work. For the development of its proposal, a team work was performed, comprised Occupational Therapy and Administration students, coordinated by an occupational therapist and a teacher responsible for the project. The team work received support of activity at two points: during the study-meeting and during supervision / planning. In supervision / planning the students used to report the actions taken in groups, discussing and planning, with the entire team, the next performance. It allowed the understanding of different issues that comprised the situation experienced. The study-meeting provided a space for the study of these issues, including knowledge of different fields, to address the diversity of needs perceived in the groups. These points permitted the learning and the experience of an interdisciplinary intervention, enabling students to establish contact and dialogue with community values and cultures, some different from their, realizing the influence of such context on community actions and those developed by them in the groups. The students could understand the other as a knowledge owner and agent in the group reality and knowledge's construction. Besides, the autonomy, democracy and collective management's principles also guided the students' moments of teaching - learning, providing then to get these values and knowledge, and construct the project in each action, becoming protagonists of their own academic training.