

Occupational therapy in the construction of individual projects: value and affection in the work possible

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Introduction: We will present the actions of the PACTO TRABALHO group within the Permanent Program of Artistic Composition and Occupation Therapy (PACTO) of the Course of Occupational Therapy of University of São Paulo. A broader understanding of the work concept helped us in the double task: constructing social participation with guaranty of rights, followed by the production of value and income.

Objectives: To build up individual life projects through actions related to the construction of some possible work in the sense of producing value and generating income for the participants whose disruptive experiences of vital processes, such as the fragility of social networks and miserable conditions of life: hunger, homelessness, loneliness, leading to difficulties and exclusion. To allow the appropriation of the whole process by the subjects, thus promoting the strengthening of their autonomy.

Methods: Research-action articulating different research procedures. This assumes the active and cooperative participation of all subjects involved. We created actions able to concretize individual projects related to the generation of income and production of value. The group device targeted on promoting rich resonance, conflicts, exchanges and partnerships among participants and their projects mediated by occupational therapists.

Results/Discussion: Group belonging and strengthening of the exchanges with the beginning of the production of the participants in the socio-cultural context; constructing and following up the healthcare network with the needs of each participant; organizing exhibits of the artistic productions and participating in art and craft fairs; discussions about the labor market and art market.

Conclusion: It is essential to acknowledge the importance of the configuration of devices which operate the flexibility of the work concept and build new ways of social participation and income generation. The populations facing social problems experiencing exclusion benefit from the actions of the occupational therapists who serve as interlocutors of those subjects to face life in precarious and contradictory socio-cultural grounds.

Contribution to the practice: The presence of occupational therapists serving as mediators among institutions, projects and the uniqueness of the subjects increase the potential of new cultures and practices and ensure the construction of rights and citizenship of populations facing social difficulties.