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Reflecting on practice: the influence of models of disability

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Background:

Client-centred practice has the potential to promote social participation and human rights, but to do this the therapist needs to recognise the individual's own "world view" of disability. This requires a more nuanced understanding of models of disability, particularly the human rights and affirmation models. This workshop aims to be a practical session to enable therapists and educators to examine the influence of the models of disability on their own current and future practice.

The skills developed in this workshop will empower therapists to critically review their practice, and better equip them to enact change to promote human rights and social inclusion.

This workshop will be presented by two disabled occupational therapists, working in different countries, with experience within the disability rights movement and Deaf rights movement.

Learning objectives

By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of models of disability such as the charity, medical, rehabilitation, social, rights-based and affirmation models of disability;
- Analyse the impact of these models in occupational therapy philosophy and practice;
- Audit practice for operational values and assumptions; and
- Debate the future of occupational therapy within the emerging global move toward rights-based services for disabled people.

Time required: 1.5 hours

Description of teaching methods

The session will include structured brainstorming, which will focus on the models of disability,. Discussion will be used to analyse the influence of these models on occupational therapy philosophy and practice. An audit toolkit (including structured reflection), will be provided to participants, and will be applied in groups to practical occupational therapy situations. This toolkit and reflective structure will enable participants to understand and develop skill in reflecting on and auditing their own practice. Narrative strategies will be used, whereby participants will visually "plot" the impact of different models of disability on practice in the past, present and project to the future. The session will conclude with discussion and action planning.

Each participant will be provided with the audit toolkit, which has been designed specifically for occupational therapy practice (as yet this toolkit is unpublished).

Participants: 25