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Building a Flexible Framework for a Sustainable Future in Occupational Therapy Education

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Introduction: This paper describes a pyramid framework used to guide educational provision and curriculum design for occupational therapy students. Considering the educational needs of the market from assistant practitioners through to clinical doctorate, the framework is presented as a tool to enable flexibility and progression for individual learners, whilst meeting the quality needs of the market & making best use of resources available.

Objectives:

Explain a pyramid framework of educational development for workers in occupational therapy.

Describe the introduction and development of the framework as a guide for the design of a suite of curricula in a UK university

Evaluate working practices to point the way to use the framework for a future educational development strategy in OT

Description:

A pyramid framework that enables market sensitive courses in occupational therapy to be offered to students at assistant practitioner, bachelor, masters and doctoral study will be explained. The opportunities for shared learning to optimise resources will be outlined and the use of the framework for development of academic expertise in OT will be explored. An analysis of the drivers and constraints of this framework will be evaluated, together with a overview of the opportunities and limitations of this for the student, the university, service providers and those who financially commission student places. The potential of the framework to help meet changing future demands in the OT workforce will be analysed together with the need for flexibility in order to sustain the OT workforce.

Conclusion:

The framework enables a full range of academic education to be offered meeting a wide range of aspiration and need amongst students, employers and service providers. It is acknowledged that this needs to remain reflexive to market forces as demands for occupational therapy change in the future.

Contribution:

Flexibility in OT education is required to sustain future development of the profession sensitive to need