

"Development of Strategy for Community Based Rehabilitation in Chile- Metropolitan Region"

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During the last ten years in Chile, CBR strategies have been gradually installed, forming part of public health policies. Nevertheless, there has been no systematization in the development of its implementation.

Considering this, the purpose of the investigation is to know the implementation of these experiences in relation with international theoretic foundations that supports the CBR strategy.

By means of a qualitative, descriptive and exploratory study, information was obtained of seven prevailing CBR experiences in the Metropolitan Region, through semi-structured interviews and a discussion group.

After analysis, the origin of each experience is identified, and the influence of the approach and methodology used. The evolution of the experiences relates directly with the work team and with the process of identification of needs, if these were defined by the team or rose from the community, where different levels and ways of participation exist among community organizations and support networks

In conclusion, it is observed that the CBR strategy is in an initial stage of development in our country, and that it is active in public policies and among supporters of different sectors. Although in latin american CBR tradition, the community defines its own problems and solutions, in our country's context there is no social and political culture that facilitates social participation.

This investigation contributes to Occupational Therapy practice, as the people interviewed consider the Occupational Therapist as the key protagonist in the development of these experiences. Understanding and establishing CBR practice will permit the validation of its action with the team, implementing programs that guarantee community participation, facilitating conditions which increase opportunities of social inclusion and the exercise of disabled people's rights, as well as their family's and their community's.