

PRODUCCIÓN CULTURAL DE LAS OCUPACIONES DE UN GRUPO DE JOVENES EN LA LOCALIDAD DE SANCRISTOBAL DE LA CIUDAD DE BOGOTÁ.

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Currently, there is a growing call for the occupational therapists and occupational scientists global community to engage in the study of the various and complex cultural conditions which determine the ways human beings assume distinct occupations in different social settings and in specific times. After having made a conceptual review of the works carried out by occupational therapists on the culture-occupation relationship, it was decided that this research would embrace Bordieu's perspective of culture, which conceives occupations as cultural outcomes and people as individuals belonging to a social system. Besides making a critical review of the concept of culture, this research aimed at accounting for the kind of relationship that exists between the social positions and the occupational choices of a group of young people, as well as their motivations and the steps taken to tackle such choices. Interviews and focus groups were the two techniques used to collect the data about 300 young inhabitants of San Cristobal, a locality of Bogotá. This study took into account the following variables: identification and social position (age, gender, socioeconomic level, family composition), occupation choice, jobs and professions which are more appealing to young people, influences and reasons for the choices, assessment of the feasibility of performing the job/profession, and the activities linked to the choice of the occupation an individual likes the most. The results showed different trends according to sex, age, and socioeconomic level. Likewise, significant differences were found between the occupational choices of young men and young women of the locality, and it was seen that their choices responded to the "habitus"; in other words, the occupational choices revealed how personal likes and patterns of perception are different concerning social positions. Another result, which stands as a contribution to the theoretical basis on profession, refers to the need of reconstructing the concept of culture which lies beneath the concept of profession. This study showed that there are certain mediating elements, derived from social tensions, which take part in the processes young people undertake, and culture does not only emerges from this mediating elements but also gets reconstructed by them.