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LA SALUD COLECTIVA COMO NUEVO REFERENTE TEORICO-METODOLOGICO PARA EL DESARROLLO DE LA TERAPIA OCUPACIONAL.

CG Muñoz

Universidad Austral de Chile, Valdivia, Región de Los Ríos, Chile

The topic of collective health fits in an interdisciplinary field of knowledge and practices, developed in Latin-American since the 70's, which is concerned about health as an object of study, understanding it in its social-historical dimension, assuming that health / illness processes keep a close connection with people's life conditions and society's characteristics in where they live. The intervention exceeds the medical action and must involve social changes, processes in which the United States, citizens and area workers are involved.

The aim of this analysis is to contribute in thinking about occupational therapy and its development with a new theoretical and methodological placing, such as collective health.

Occupational therapy, consistent with the flexerian traditional model under the wing where it was born and has mainly developed, constitutes a discipline that besides a constant search to construct epistemological own columns, tries to respond to the global modernization demands of health care. From that point of view, where the gap between individual and collective and the social and biological is reinforced, as well as the preventive and the healing, there are a lot of professionals that in their approach to the social problematic and to work over social determiners of health, see their practice without any solid methodological technical support. Collective health has a tendency to research and analysis of the origin and distribution of illnesses in society as production processes and social reproduction, when constructing its object in the biological and social interaction. It tries to understand the ways that society identifies their needs and health problems; it looks for its explanation and it is organized to confront them.

The proposed analysis contributes to a critical look of public health, of the traditional doctor's model and of the community practices of occupational therapist intervention, who are day by day asking themselves and trying to explain the attention senses within the clinical and social contexts, about its role on the transformation of social realities and also about the limit between what is normal and pathological.