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A Reflective Journey of Occupational Justice by an Occupational Therapist in a Pediatric Ashram

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Introduction: In Taiwan, occupational therapists have been trained mostly to work in the hospitals. It is time to recall the nature of occupational therapy and to open a new chapter which is compatible with our core value.

Objective: Every child has the right to food, play, education, and love. I then joined the Wake Foundation for an international volunteer activity for the issue of child labor in India. Sharing my reflection after this volunteer journey has helped the clinical practice and education, as well as discovery of the root-cause strategies for the application of social and occupational justice.

Approach: Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) in India was the initiator in the Save the Childhood Movement. I utilized participatory observation while I stayed in Bal Ashram. Bal Ashram provides the children with six months to one year of education and training after they have been rescued. There are 60-90 children aged from 6 to 14 living in the Bal Ashram.

Practical Implications: Prevention, protection, and rehabilitation are the three effective strategies for returning to the children a positive childhood. Legislation and the child-friendly village advocate the importance of child education, protect the children from and laboring by rescue operations and shelters, and provide the children with an education and vocational training, all of this helping the children to live a productive life.

Conclusions: Occupational therapists are sensitive about opportunities, facilitation of participation, and experience. Regarding occupational rights, it is possible to find many opportunities to facilitate occupational participation for anyone, even in the hospital framework.