

1855

Interdependence in Occupational Therapy practice: providing culturally safe and relevant practice for clients from Eastern cultures.

Ayat Al Lawati

Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, Oxfordshire, Tonga

Introduction: While occupational therapy (OT) is claimed to be a very culturally sensitive profession, it places independence -a Western cultural value- as a cornerstone of the profession. In contrast, it pays limited attention to clients from Eastern cultures who strive to be interdependent. Interdependence forms a crucial part of Eastern clients' cultures identity in addition to a few other cultures.

Objectives: The study started by looking at the cultural challenges of applying OT theories and concepts. Databases were searched systematically. Inclusion and exclusion criteria were applied and the reminder articles were appraised. Finally, the data were extracted and analysed. This led to establishing a gap in literature and research around the concept of interdependence.

Approach: A critical literature review approach was used to examine current research and literature available around the topic.

Practice implication: The lack of guidelines and research around the concept of interdependence has led to Western therapists not understanding clients' cultural norms and therefore setting irrelevant goals. It also resulted in Eastern therapists facing challenges that are not accounted for. Both problems had led to occupationally unjust practice for clients from Eastern cultures.

Conclusions: This literature review has looked at the concept of interdependence in relation to Eastern cultures. It has found that despite the importance of the concept to Eastern clients, interdependence has not been researched sufficiently. Additionally, there were very few guidelines on interdependence leading to question the safety and relevance of occupational therapy practice for clients from Eastern cultures