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**Evaluation of the impact of Participatory Community Practice Projects conducted by Occupational Therapy students on the Practice of Occupational Therapy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

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**Introduction:** The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (OT) students at Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University (PNU), commencing in 2013, undertake Participatory Community Practice projects (PCP) for two semesters in their final year of study. They work closely with a “host” agency to address a population health based issue. Projects include emerging areas of practice for OT in traditional, non-traditional and role emerging settings. The PCP fieldwork provides the opportunity to develop the scope of practice in Saudi Arabia which has been primarily hospital based.

**Objectives:** To evaluate the PCP projects from the perspective of students, host agency professionals and educators.

**Method:** 50 students participated in focus group discussions, 5 host agency surveys were carried out, and 3 educators gave their perspectives through case studies.

**Results:** Students gained generic work skills required for OT practice and reported that implementing the projects built their confidence for working in unfamiliar areas of OT. The host agencies indicated increased knowledge about OT which assisted them in understanding the needs of their clients, the scope and potential OT practice hospitals/facilities. The educators had an enriching experience and an opportunity to assist students to transfer theoretical knowledge into practice .

**Conclusion:** From the educators perspective the PCPs may lead to greater diversity in OT practice in Saudi Arabia. New graduates can position themselves in more diverse settings, able to articulate the OT process with renewed confidence of working within unfamiliar areas of practice. Host agencies gained invaluable knowledge on the diversity of OT practice.