

Participatory Digital Methods and Methodologies for Transformative Occupation-Based Research among Children and Youth: Utility and Cross-Cultural Relevance

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Introduction: Application of diverse participatory digital methods/methodologies can support researchers in capturing a critically-informed, first-hand, perspective on the occupational participation of children and youth from various cultures. Collaborative, creative and participatory approaches are essential to mobilize in efforts to re-dress situations of occupational injustices in ways that involve working with children and youth. Although the utility of Photovoice has been explored within occupational therapy and science, other participatory methods/methodologies have been used sparingly despite their potential to be applied within a transformative research agenda.

Objective: To explore and discuss the utility of participatory digital methods/methodologies, specifically, digital storytelling, participatory videos/filmmaking, and participatory GIS, as means to enact transformative occupation-based research with children and youth, with a specific emphasis on cross-cultural application.

Method: A methodological review was conducted by systematically searching databases to identify interdisciplinary exemplars of the application of participatory digital methods/methodologies for transformative research with children and youth that addressed their occupational lives and situations of injustices. Relevant articles were critically analyzed to examine if and how such approaches were used cross culturally, how they addressed occupation, and whether transformative purposes were integrated.

Results: Participatory digital methods/methodologies can be effective tools for communication and representation of the occupational experiences of children and youth across cultural contexts. In addition, they create spaces for critical dialogue, reflection, and social action.

Conclusion: Expanding methodologies to be inclusive of emerging participatory digital methods/methodologies is one way forward in enacting the call for a transformative occupation-based research agenda.