THE USE OF 'OCCUPATION AS A MEANS' WITHIN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

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BACKGROUND

- Socially transformative scholarship and practice emphasized as important in addressing occupational injustices e.g. Occupation-based Community Development Framework (Galvaan & Peters, 2013)

- Growth of need for understanding community development approaches as health services are directed outside of health institutions

- Community development approaches that utilize the transformational power of occupations need to be researched

STUDY PURPOSE

- To develop an understanding of how occupational therapists working in community development practice in South Africa use occupation as a means within the design of their interventions

- To contribute to the ongoing theoretical development regarding occupational therapy approaches to practice within community development

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Varied ways occupation as means is used within OT settings

- Few studies exploring community-development practice

- None emphasising how occupation as a means should be used within intervention

	Traditional use of occupation as a means	Non-traditional use of occupation as a means	Reference
Community Day Clinics	X		Shediac-Rizkallah & Bone (1998).
Community-based interventions	X		Fidler (2001) Fisher (2013) Perrin & Otr (2001) Wittman & Otr (2001)
Community-development interventions		X	Lauckner, Krupa & Paterson (2011) Lauckner, Pentland & Paterson (2006)

RESEARCH AIM

- To describe the ways in which South African occupational therapists working in community development use occupation as a means within the interventions they design

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- To identify how these occupational therapists have used occupation within the past interventions they have designed

- To identify the factors that have influenced the use of occupation as a means within these interventions

METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative descriptive research design (Bricki & Green, 2007).

- Four participants were elicited
  - Experienced in working in community development
  - Few matching criteria

- Narrative interviewing (Bauer,1996)
  - Two interviews were conducted
  - 60-90 minutes

METHODOLOGY CONT.

- Thematic inductive analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006)

- Trustworthiness (Krefting, 1991)

- Ethics approval

FINDINGS

Zoe	Esther	Sarah	Giselle
• NGO • Management position	• NGO for persons with disabilities • Active OT position	• Private OT • Voluntary community development	• Programme director • Little involvement in intervention

CATEGORY 1:

THE USE OF OCCUPATION AS SUBJECTIVELY DEFINED

AND USED WITHIN PROGRAMMES

- Varied definitions and understanding and use of occupation

  "...anything that you do that has meaning and purpose..." -Esther

  "...can be comprised of different aspects that can be used for the positive benefit in an intervention." -Zoe

- Use of programmes as a consistent method of intervention implementation

CATEGORY 2:

PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES TO FACILITATE

THE DOING COMMUNITY

- Community-centered focus

"...I think our model is different because when we go into a community we participate with the community, we don't go and tell a community how to be."-Giselle

- Participatory approaches that facilitates collective doing

"...they actually prioritized what their needs were, so every group had a different occupation that they were engaging in but the actual engagement of it happend at a community level…"- Esther

- Limiting factors
  - Funding
  - Material resources
  - Organisational roles
  - Contrasting understandings between colleagues

- Skillful techniques in overcoming barriers

  "…and if we don't change to start applying for grants and to being successful and grant proposals, we actually not going to make a difference…" -Sarah

Different but evolving processes

Takes place over a period of time

THEME CONT.

Process 1

Process of the collaborative doing (of community and facilitator)

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Engagement in said occupations over a period of time

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Process 2

Catalyzes (with assistance of participatory approaches) a way for another process **(process 2)** to occur within the community

- Simultaneous

- Not overt in appearance

- Designed to achieve the community development outcomes

- Takes into consideration where the community is at and what the next step in the intervention would be.

- Timespans of outcomes cannot be limited - self-sustaining community.

DISCUSSION

- Collective doing through occupation is central for the success of community development approaches
- The relationship between the context and the occupation is critical in the design process within community development

COLLECTIVE DOING AS CENTRAL

- 'doing' - important for human connection and occupational engagement and 'doing' as culturally, temporally and ecologically contextualized (Ramugondo and Kronenberg, 2015)

- Collective doing as a key strategy for the construction of identities, belonging and autonomy (Guajardo, Kronenberg & Ramugondo, 2015)

- Occupational reconstruction (Frank & Muriithi, 2015)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONTEXT AND OCCUPATION

- Definition of occupation non-transferable
  - Ramugondo and Kronenberg (2015)
- The context is always part of the process of action (Cutchin and Dickie, 2013)
  - Context influences occupation
- Context influencing occupation as critical (Ramugondo , Galvaan, & Duncan , 2015)

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE

- Occupation as a means used to overcome injustice

- Sustainability - building capacities and potentiality

- Understanding of occupation shaped by context

- Collective as an integral part of "doing"

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