

The Embodied Experience of Social Occupation: How Participation in a Farmers' Market Shapes Identity

Background

- Identity → social comparison connecting self to others⁸
- Occupations → people make dynamic choices transforming identity¹
- Occupation ↔ identity: transact within a reciprocal give and take⁴
- Farmers' markets = meeting places⁷

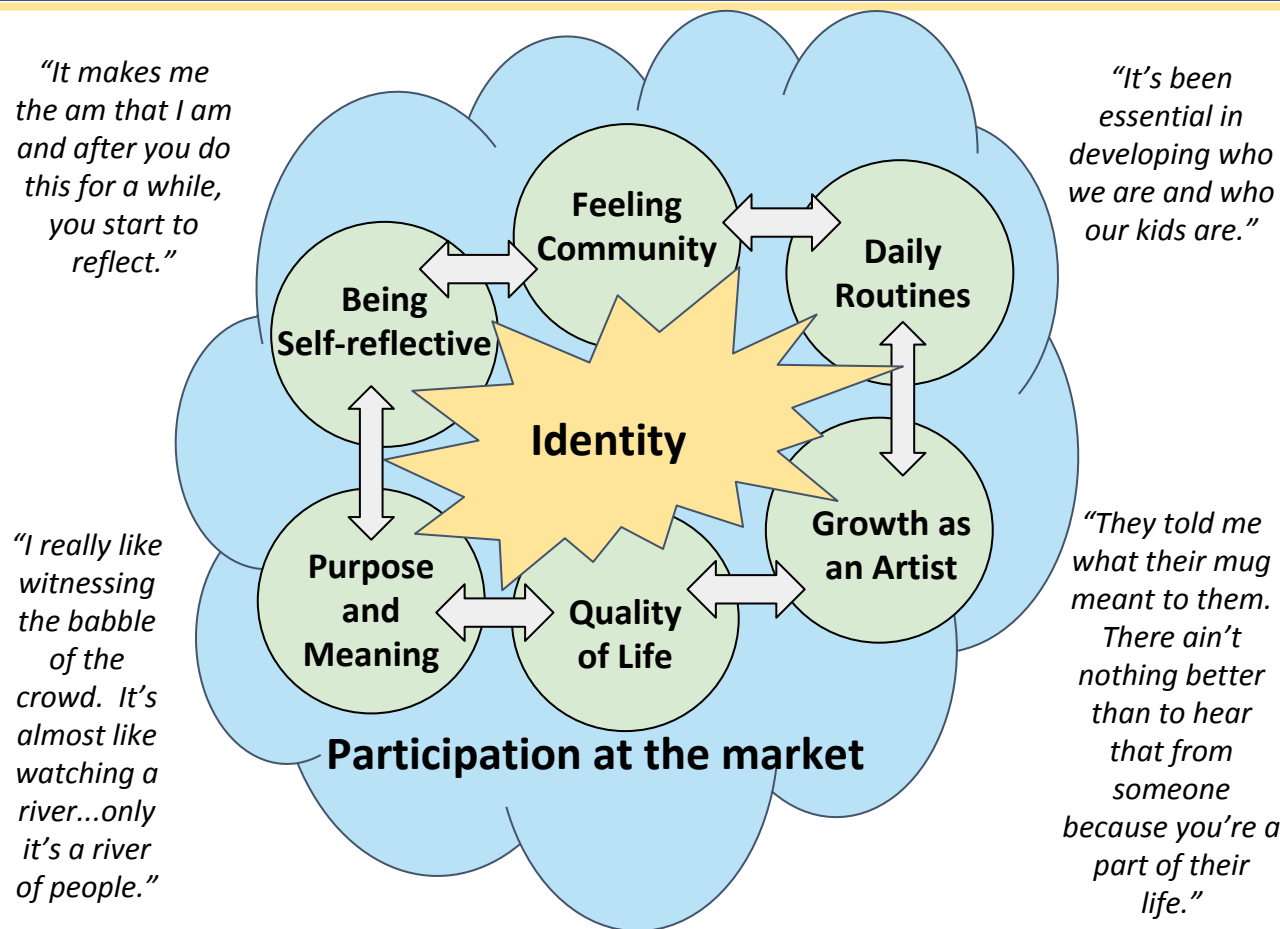
Area of Inquiry

To explore how participation in a farmer's market, as an art vendor, shapes identity

Methods

- Participants:
 - potter, woodworker & basketweaver
- Data Collection:
 - observation
 - semi-structured interviews
- Analysis:
 - thematic coding

Findings



Discussion

- Social participation shaped identity and built community.
- Participants expanded notion of self = collective purpose
- They valued contributing to quality of life (QOL) of others.

"When you're making one-of-a-kind things, people feel one-of-a-kind themselves."

- Processes of self-reflection were extremely significant.

Conclusion

- Identity and meaning = social constructs³
- Relationships → enhanced health, QOL and feelings of belonging⁵
- Occupational therapy frameworks: ↑ analysis of social patterns in communities²
- Participation in interviews = therapeutic intervention⁶

References

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