

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY THROUGH A FEMINIST LENS

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SESSION
LEARNING
OUTCOME

To be able to describe three ways in which feminism can enhance critical exploration of occupational therapy theory and practice.

CONSIDERING YOUR STARTING POINT

Contribute to the word cloud:

- Words that you would use to describe feminism and feminist thinking
- Words that you would use to describe someone who describes themselves as a feminist



<https://www.menti.com/t762nrjnkp>

Or go to **www.menti.com** and use the code **8603 2839**

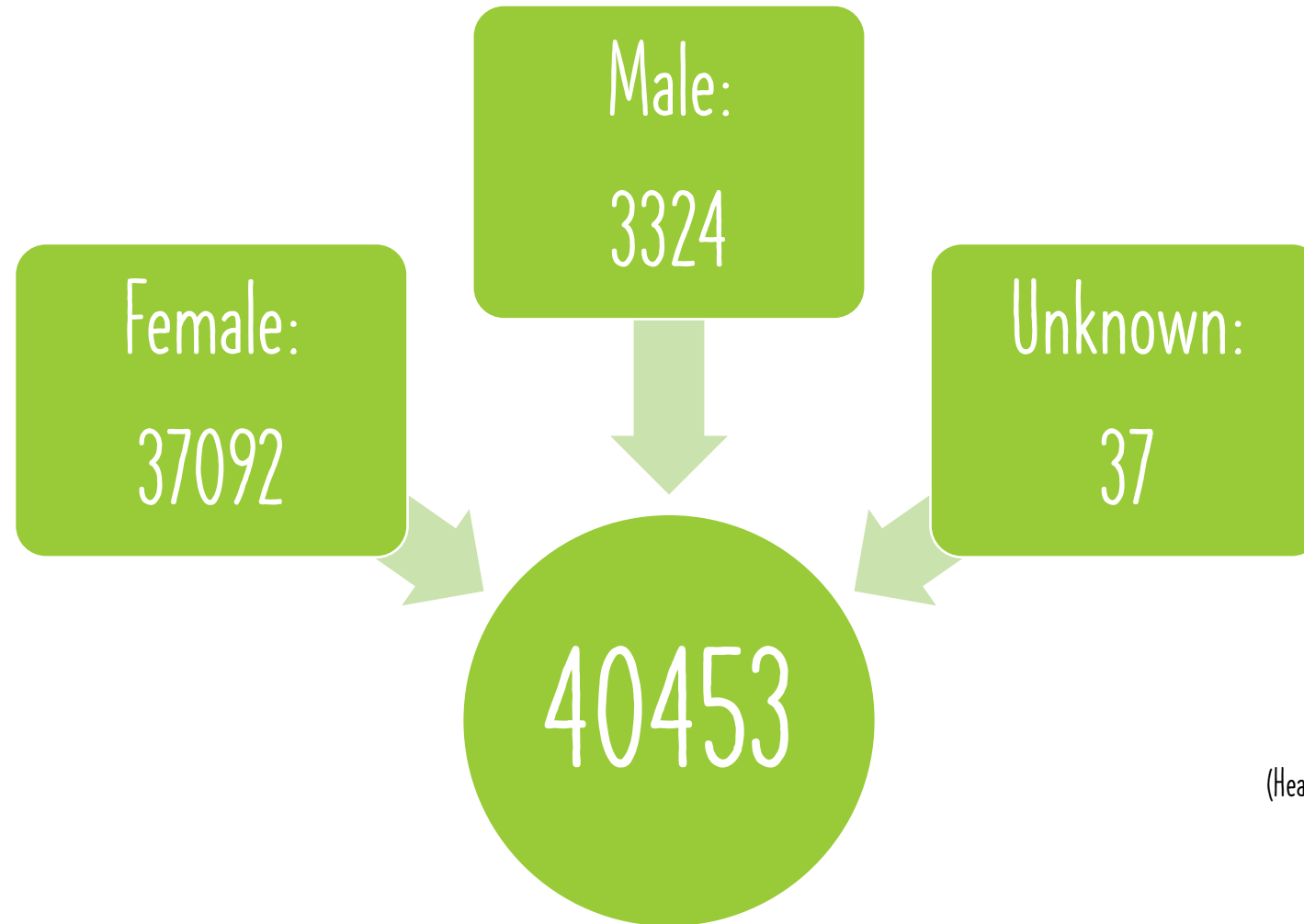
FEMINISTS

- Are concerned with enabling equality of experience regardless of the gender of the person (Walby 2011; Hooks 2015)
- Hold the fundamental belief that all core values in the world are gendered (Usher 1996)
- Regard society as inherently patriarchal (Usher 1996)
- Assert that women will remain inferior all the time that they exist in a world where truth is defined by the abilities of men (Usher 1996)

FEMINISM IS NOT

- Dead or no longer required (Redfern and Aune 2013)
- Concerned with success for women at the detriment of the experience of men (Redfern and Aune 2013)
- Just for white, middle class women (Redfern and Aune 2013)

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AS A FEMALE DOMINATED PROFESSION



(Health and Care Professions Council 2021)

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES REGARDING FEMALE DOMINATED PROFESSIONS

- Women historically encouraged into careers that reflect traditional female roles in the home (Charles 2002)
- Impact on the development of Occupational Therapy as a profession and the individual professional (Meade et al 2005 cited in Pollard et al 2009)
- Consequences for those who do not identify as female?

CHOICE, OPPORTUNITY, AND OCCUPATIONAL BEINGS

- ' ... working with people and communities to enhance their ability to engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do ... ' (World Federation of Occupational Therapy 2012)
- The influence of role expectations on people as occupational beings (Creek 2010)
- Occupational injustice occurs when there are factors external to the individual that act to limit the occupational choices available to them (Wicks and Whiteford 2005)
- Patriarchal society functions for the benefit of men and consequently women have a unique, often challenging experience of life as a result (e.g. Oakley 1985; Hooks 2015)

ONGOING RELEVANCE ...

Inequalities for women continue in the
workplace (Olchawski 2016)

'Double burden' (Slaughter 2012)

The transitional nature of the caring role (Scholtz 2010)

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AS ACTIVISTS

- ' ... occupational therapy is a justice-oriented profession at its core ... ' (Bailliard et al 2020:144)
- Striving for social transformation (Angell 2012)
- Moving away from an individual focus to driving social change (e.g. Gupta and Garber 2016)

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