The 8th Pan-Pacific Conference on Rehabilitation (PPCR): Abstracts in Occupational Therapy

Abstract: OT-1

CHILD-REARING OCCUPATIONS OF PARENTS OF FILIPINO CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS: ISSUES ON ENGAGEMENT, PARTICIPATION, AND QUALITY OF LIFE

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Background: The birth of a child with special needs (CWSN) causes stress in the family, most especially on parents, consequently affecting parental engagement, participation and quality of life (QOL). A compromised engagement and participation, and lowered QOL can have grave effects on the parents’ occupation of child-rearing. This paper examines the determinants of parental QOL and describes how caring and rearing a CWSN affects the parents’ engagement and participation.

Methods: This study employed the use of a mixed-method design in which there is integration of both quantitative and qualitative approaches, recently seen in modern research. In the first part, a descriptive-correlational approach was utilized in this study. The participants are parents of Filipino CWSN (n = 76) and were asked to answer the WHOQOL-Brief Questionnaire (Filipino Version). The variables that profile parental QOL were described. Correlational analysis was used to determine the relationship between parental variables and QOL domains. The second part used a descriptive-qualitative approach was used to provide a rich straight description of the experiences of parents of CWSN in light of their quality of life based on a one-on-one interview with key-informant participants (n = 6), which were part of the previously surveyed parents. Thematic analysis of the qualitative data was performed.

Results: Results of chi-square p value analysis reveal that there is a relationship between parental physical health domain and the child’s co-morbid conditions (p = .04) and the number of days the CWSN attends school (p = .02); parental social domain and whether the child receives therapy (p = .03); parental environmental domain and parental educational level (p = .01) and family income (p = .045). Such identified factors can be considered as significant parental QOL indicators. Transcribed and analyzed interviews, led the researcher to identify four major aspects of parental life more commonly affected when parenting CWSN: Physique, Psyche, Polarity and Perimeter. Each aspect is adequately described and substantially explained in light of their engagement and participation in their daily experiences.

Conclusion: This paper profiles the QOL of parents of Filipino CWSN, and describes how they affect parental engagement and participation in their daily occupations with emphasis on rearing a child with special needs.

Abstract: OT-2

MENTORING: ENABLING THE RESILIENCE OF THERAPISTS WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN MENTAL HEALTH

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Background: Increasingly, therapists are working with children experiencing mental health difficulties. This situation can result in vulnerability to therapist resilience. The importance of strategies maximising resilience has been documented; however, little research is specific to therapists working with children experiencing mental health difficulties. This small Australian study (a) investigated the lived experiences of nine therapists: their perspectives on working with this cohort of children, nature of therapist resilience, factors impacting positively on therapist resilience, valued elements of mentoring; and (b) examined the employer’s use of therapist’s responses to increase therapist resilience via expanded mentoring opportunities.
Abstract: OT-3

THE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PREVOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING TEAM: CURRENT PRACTICES IN PREVOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES


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Background: Occupational therapists address the changing focus of skills training among adolescents with disabilities, paying more attention to developing occupational behaviour related to independent living in the community and vocational preparation through prevocational programs. The purpose of this research is to determine and describe current practices in prevocational skills training of Filipino adolescents among selected institutions in Metro Manila, Philippines.

Methods: This study employed a multiple case-study method of qualitative design. Purposive judgment sampling was employed in selecting the three institutions that participated in the study. The Document Review Guide (Driscoll, 2007), Interview Guide (Boyce & Neal, 2007) and Skilled Observation Guide (USAID, 2008), were validated and used during in-depth interviews, document reviews and skilled observation. The collected data underwent thematic analysis and triangulation using WEFT-QDA.

Results: Results of the data collected and thematic analysis provided an interesting array of responses to describe the prevocational skills training practices for adolescents of the institutions. The researchers of this study present the "Three Ps of Prevocational Skills Training" which describes practices in the domains of: Process, Program and Professionals involved. A separate section gives insight to the role of occupational therapists in prevocational programs.

Conclusion: This study was able to provide a preliminary description of the current practices that institutions employ in implementing prevocational skills training for adolescents. Such practices have been seen to be effective and follows best practices in prevocational programs, which in turn can be emulated by other institutions.

Abstract: OT-4

THE "TRAVELLING" TEAM: PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLNESS IN THE NORTHERN PHILIPPINES

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Background: In order to address the pressing problem of the lack of rehabilitation and education services in Northern Philippines, the SJL Therapeutic and Education Management (TEAM) travel for miles to visit the region with goals of promoting health and wellness through service provision of occupational therapy, speech—language therapy and special education. This paper describes the journey of the TEAM, their roles, and the challenges they face in addressing the needs of the children with special needs they serve.

Methods: Using a multi-method qualitative design, autoethnographic and online ethnographic personal accounts of seven TEAM members were collected through an online interview questionnaire and analysis of the group’s social blog. Thematic analysis was used in the organisation and analysis of the interview transcripts, followed by data triangulation.

Results: The etic language and emic virtual expressions of the participants exposes themes related to a preliminary service delivery model that illustrates how TEAM provides and promotes health and well-being through a multi-disciplinary approach to education and rehabilitation.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this presentation describes the practices and perspectives of the travelling TEAM. Much can be learned from this experience in promoting health and wellness in the northern regions of the country, and we are thus called to emulate such innovation, dedication, and challenged to defy the convention.

Abstract: OT-5

A PEOPLE-CENTRED SYSTEM OF MANAGING A HORTICULTURE TRAINING GROUP FOR CONSUMERS WITH PSYCHIATRIC ILLNESS IN THE