AN EXPLORATION OF OCCUPATION BASED PRACTICE IN THE ACUTE HOSPITAL SETTING: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS’ VIEWS

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INTRODUCTION

Setting the scene:

- Participation in occupation has a positive impact on health and wellbeing (World Federation of Occupational Therapy, 2011)
- Move towards a medical model of practice focusing on neurological, kinesiological and psychodynamic approaches (Grey, 1998).
- Occupation-based practice has since been re-established but struggles with its implementation are still reported (Gordon, 2009).
AIM OF STUDY / RATIONAL

- The primary aim of this study was to capture occupational therapists’ views on occupation-based practice while working in the acute hospital setting.

Why???

- No similar studies have been conducted in Ireland in the last 10 years.
- Limited literature available regarding the meaning of occupation-based practice
- Provide an extension to current understandings of occupation based practice
- Give therapists in the acute setting a ‘voice’
- Personal interest of the researcher

DEFINING OCCUPATION BASED PRACTICE

- Price and Miner (2007)
- Grey (1998)
- Hocking (2001)
- Kielhofner (2005)
- Rogers (2007)
Previous Studies

- Price and Miner (2007)
- Estes and Pierce (2012)

Research Design

- Exploratory phenomenological approach
- Ethical approval granted by the Clinical Research Ethics Committee of the Cork Teaching Hospitals, University College Cork, Ireland
PARTICIPANT RECRUITMENT

- Snowball approach
- Information presentation
- Supplementary information letters
- Inclusion criteria:
  - Qualified occupational therapist working in an acute hospital
  - > 1 years experience working in the setting.
- Exclusion criteria:
  - Student occupational therapists

DATA COLLECTION / ANALYSIS

- Pilot study (2 semi-structured interviews)
- Semi structured interviews with 5 participants
- Audio-recorded and transcribed verbatim
- Completion of demographic form
- Transcripts coded, categorised and themed
TRUSTWORTHINESS

- Dependability: documentation of data generated, data analysis and themes recorded
- Credibility: member checking
- Conformability: audit trail
- Peer review and supervision from research supervisor

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Completion of informed consent forms
- Use of pseudonyms
- Information stored on password protected laptop
- Hardcopy information stored in locked location
### PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Four female, one male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age range</td>
<td>All within the 20-39 age bracket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nationality</td>
<td>One Indian, one South African, one Scottish, two Irish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OT qualification</td>
<td>Four honours degree holders, one masters holder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country of study</td>
<td>One trained in India, one in South Africa and three in Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years of study</td>
<td>Honours degree holders studied for four years, the masters holder studied for 24 months full-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years working as an OT</td>
<td>Ranged from 3 ½ to 15 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years working in the acute setting</td>
<td>Ranged from 3 to 12 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current area of practice</td>
<td>Various (for example Neurology, Oncology, General Medicine, Hands and Plastics)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FINDINGS

- **Theme:** ‘Working towards regaining occupations’: Occupation-based practice in the acute hospital setting

- **Subthemes**
  - Defining occupation
  - Defining activity
  - Occupation-based practice
  - Activity-based practice
**FINDINGS**

- **Theme:** ‘The magical results of using occupation’: Enabling occupation-based practice
  - **Subthemes:**
    - Benefits of occupation-based practice
    - Barriers to occupation-based practice
    - From education to practice

**FINDINGS**

- **Theme:** ‘That’s our job, this is our role’: The unique role of Occupational Therapy in occupation-based practice
  - **Subthemes:**
    - Contribution of occupational therapists to fulfil the occupation-based role
    - Characteristics and qualities of an occupation-based occupational therapist
CONCLUSION

- Occupational therapy in the acute setting is occupation based.
- Occupation vs. Activity – influences interpretation of occupation based practice
- Unique role of occupational therapy
- Benefits and barriers

REFERENCES