

El reconocimiento de las necesidades de convivencia de personas con discapacidad motora a través de la historia de vida

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Introduction: Recognizing the needs of coexistence of people with physical disabilities (PWPD) may subsidize occupational therapy domiciliary care, which in turn may increase the opportunities of social and community participation. This presentation is part of the Master's research carried out in a primary health care service, in communities with low socio-economic indexes in São Paulo (Brazil).

Objectives: To understand the conditions of coexistence of PWPD, emphasizing the social and support networks and to discuss domiciliary care as a modality of assistance in occupational therapy aiming at social participation. Methods: From 2006 to 2007, the research studied the life stories (LS) of two men and four women with physical disability, between the age of 30 and 77 years old. These people represent the age, gender, disability and sequelae of the PWPD under care in the basic health care service. Data was analyzed based on significant social network theory (SLUZKI, 2006). Results: The acquisition of the disability resulted in ruptures within of the significant social network. A decrease in the social networks composed of family members, friends, work relations, (i.e. the living relationships) was noticed as much as a decline in social/community practices, mainly due to a disconnection with the work environment and a reduction of opportunities to circulate socially. An important decrease in leisure activities and in circulation outside their homes and a rise of new opportunities with their insertion in the health and rehabilitation services were also notice. In two LS it was possible to recognize the importance of acquiring an occupation, even if a precarious one, in positively influencing their life quality. Conclusion: The maintenance and expansion of relations of coexistence can also be the object of domiciliary care of people with disability; a path for expanding opportunities for participation in family and community life. Contributions for a practice in OT: LS may be used by the occupational therapist as a resource to identify the needs of coexistence, felt by people with disabilities. LS helps the recognition of the needs expressed by people with disability and also guides the rehabilitation, likewise in initiatives of territorial/communitarian nature.