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Occupational Therapy in a Developing Country:Facilitating Inclusive Education in a Guatemalan Village

O Jayne Bowman¹, Amy De Young²

¹*Texas Woman's University, Houston, Texas, United States*, ²*New Life School, Santa Maria de Jesus, Guatemala*

Congress Themes

Occupational Therapy Practice Development and **Culture and Occupation** will be addressed.

Maximum Number of Participants: No Maximum

The **purposes** of this workshop are to familiarize participants with the challenges and rewards of practicing OT in a developing country, introduce the audience to some aspects of Guatemalan culture, present basic principles of providing services to an indigenous population in a developing country, describe an OT program in a school for children with disabilities in a village in Guatemala, and present a cross cultural format to evaluate children.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the workshop participants will:

- Relate geographical and demographic information about Guatemala, including its size, its geological characteristics, and its ethnic groups.
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- Identify the economic strengths and weaknesses of Guatemala, including the economic conditions that may impede occupational justice and social participation.
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- State the major social problems of Guatemala, identify how its history contributes to those problems, and assess the role that occupation might play in alleviating some problems.
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- Explain several conditions in Guatemala that interfere with providing services to children with disabilities.
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- State 10 principles of practicing as an OT in a developing country of which one is not a citizen
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- Demonstrate knowledge of a cross cultural format to evaluate the physical and perceptual strengths and weaknesses of a child

Description of Teaching Methods

The speakers will narrate each major point of the workshop and highlight those points by providing a PowerPoint presentation, photographs illustrating each point will be shown via the PowerPoint presentation, native dress of indigenous people of Guatemala will be worn by the speakers, and Guatemalan music will provide the audience with a "taste" of Guatemalan culture. Opportunities for participants to ask questions and provide input during the workshop will be provided.

References:

Moller, J. and Menchu, T. R. (2004). *Our Culture Is Our Resistance: Repression, Refuge, and Healing in Guatemala*. Brooklyn, N. Y.: Powerhouse Books.

Pettersen, C. L. (1976). *Maya of Guatemala: Life and Dress*. Seattle: Ixchel Museum of Guatemala and University of Washington Press.