

1502

Occupational Therapist, Social manager of the social policy

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Introduction

This presentation is a reflection from my role of occupational therapist, as a social manager, about the promotion of quality of life and health to the population, particularly to people with disabilities, from the social determination perspective.

Objectives

My presentation aims to point out on how, from the practice, we recognize ourselves as political subjects that contribute to social transformation of the everyday environments of people with whom we work.

Methods

Research, action, participation perspective (Fals Borda).

Results:

The role as a social manager means to:

Recognize the moment of life of every person, their roles and relationships.

Recognize people in their different conditions related to ethnicity, gender, abilities, disabilities, etc.

Recognize the multiple cultures of the place where they spend their lives: their own territory, country, region, town, village.

Recognize the world of individual and collective life: family, school, work, etc.

Understand the situation of people in their contexts identifying: their ability to make decisions about their lives (autonomy), recognition of diversity (equity), power relations and interests of actors (democracy), and environmental sustainability.

Conclusions:

à We act as social managers, this is, as informed subjects with the ability to understand and interpret reality. With political intentions, a way of making decisions, a communications strategy, resources; with responsibility to provide knowledge, ideas and feelings to eliminate and reduce social inequalities, and to break or transform power relations.

à We need to develop civic skills, this is, abilities and skills from "being", "knowledge", "knowing" and "living together", essential to meet the needs of people in the territories.

à In the world of economic, political and social interests, in the social practice, it is necessary to give meaning and direction in order not to miss the action center, which main interest is to pursuit people's happiness.

à Finally, there are gaps and tensions that must be seen as challenges to the social contribution of occupational therapists in the development of territories, whether they be rural areas, towns or countries.