

Activities and occupation: the discussion of the terms in theoretical production of Brazilian occupational therapists (1990-2009)

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Introduction

Occupation and activities are important tools to occupational therapists and participate on the construction of therapeutic process. Different concepts of activities are present in the Brazilian theoretical production, what is expressed on the multiplicity of terms used by occupational therapists to name their tool and object of study.

Objectives

The aim of this work is to present the state of the art of the discussion about activities and occupation in Brazilian Occupational Therapy. The objective of the research that has been developed was to point out the use of terms and conceptions, their definitions, categories and contexts, theoretical-methodological perspectives.

Methods

This inquiry is a bibliographical revision designed to evaluate the *state of the art* of the Brazilian occupational therapists' theoretical production about activities. The initial clipping delimited articles published in national journals from 1990 to 2009.

The material collected was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. The work will be concluded with a survey in international databases, aiming to contextualize the national quarrel in the international production.

Results

192 articles that discussed the field of activities in Occupational Therapy had been found in five national publications of the area, between the years of 1990 and 2009. All these articles were analyzed quantitatively; 88 articles were selected for the qualitative analysis.

Conclusion

With the accomplishment of the bibliographical survey, localization of the sources, mapping of the production and analysis of the materail, was possible to point out trends and interests in the theoretical production of the Brazilian occupational therapists. We could map the terms more often used, the conceptions and fields of the activities most frequent, and their joint to theoretical-methodological perspectives.

Contribution to Occupational Therapy

Although the activities play a central role in Occupational Therapy, the diversity of the experiences and approaches to this subject makes it difficult to discriminating different theoretical perspectives in the area.

When differences on the conceptions and ways of working with activities are expressed, we produce a better and deeper understanding of practices and theoretical approaches in the field. This creates, also, the conditions to implement proposals with activities that promote emancipation, health and social inclusion.

