

Considering a critical, cultural and engaged occupational therapy

Carla Silva, Marina Silvestrini, Ana Carolina Almeida Prado, Antonio Lavacca, Leticia Ambrosio

Federal University of São Carlos, São Carlos/ São Paulo/ Sudeste, Brazil

Introduction. Culture has been considered as a structuring factor in the development of societies since 1980 and it is understood as a right that must be guaranteed for all. Occupational Therapy aims to interfere in the living conditions of subjects and communities, to promote diversity, warrant and expansion of human and social rights, justice, equity and empowerment of disadvantaged and vulnerable people and groups.

Objective. To analyze occupational therapy practices in the field of culture from experiences of management, production and enjoyment. *Method.* Four integrated projects of teaching, researching and university extension were analyzed, considering symbolic, economic and citizen dimensions of culture.

Results. The project i) "Youth, Work and Professionalization of Creativity" had as central theme the precarious insertion in the job market of youth artists, promoting the professionalization of creativity as an insertion device; ii) "Cultural Tend" was a project carried out in vulnerable territories, which offered several artistic and cultural activities and resulted in the empowerment of the local artists. iii) "Curatorship of the Art Exhibition about the Homeless Life" proposed the production and dissemination of artistic works performed by homeless artists. iv) "Powerful Expressions of Youth in Public School" offered workshops of art and culture for students in a context of vulnerability and achieved the reduction of inequalities and the enhancement of cultural diversity.

Conclusion. Culture can be considered as transdisciplinary field and the occupational therapist has the potential to act in its different dimensions, promoting rights, inclusion and diversity, as a strategy or field of action.