

Human Trafficking Among Female Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults in the United States: An Exploratory Model

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Introduction/Rationale: Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of an individual for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, and/or slavery. An estimated 26 million individuals are trafficked worldwide.

Objectives:

- Understanding how intrinsic and extrinsic factors influence a trafficked person's occupational performance throughout the stages of trafficking
- Understanding an occupational therapist's role with working with survivors of human trafficking

Approach: An exploratory model was created presenting how various intrinsic and extrinsic factors affect a trafficked person's occupational performance throughout the stages of human trafficking. Due to being trafficked, an individual's intrinsic factors can be affected resulting in a heightened risk developing of health problems such as visual deficits, auditory deficits, gross and fine motor deficits, memory deficits, depression, sexually transmitted diseases, and neurological problems. Due these problems, a trafficked person will experience decreased occupational performance hence a decreased quality of life.

Practice Implications: When survivors exit human trafficking, occupational therapists have the role of providing services to improve survivor's wellbeing. Occupational therapists determine the deficits within intrinsic factors and how these deficits are affecting survivors' occupational performance. Occupational therapists can then use intervention approaches to help these survivors successfully re-integrate back into their community and return to meaningful occupations.

Conclusion: This model explains how an individual's intrinsic and extrinsic factors affect one's occupational performance throughout the trafficking stages. Occupational therapists are vital for helping survivors increase their wellbeing.