

The first OT Massive Open Online Course (MOOC): An innovative approach to positioning the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability to Impact International Practice

Roshni Khatri¹, Sarah Wilson², Beth White²

¹University of Northampton, Northampton, UK, ²Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Northampton, UK

Introduction: The Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability (VdTMoCA) Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), is an innovative learning platform, shaped by the need to enable more flexible and accessible learning for practitioners within a challenging healthcare arena. It stemmed from a clinical need within Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Trust (NHFT) mental health in-patient OT services. In response, a collaborative approach between the University of Northampton and NHFT identified a national and international demand for training in the VdTMoCA, resulting in the development of the first OT MOOC. A CAIeRO (Creating Aligned Interactive educational Resource Opportunities) process was used by two lead OTs in practice, an OT lecturer and OT students from the university to design online activities for the 6-week module.

Method: An action research approach was used for data collection. The pilot MOOC was evaluated through qualitative interviews and module evaluations. The first course was evaluated through focus groups and quantitative questionnaires.

Results: An initial pilot study included participants from NHFT, Finland and South Africa and highlighted content areas for further improvement before the MOOC was launched. Further evaluation of the first course through focus groups and module evaluations facilitated enhancement of the content and informed future delivery to ensure it met the learning needs of the diverse participants.

Conclusion: This first ever MOOC for OTs provides a unique learning opportunity for students, OTs and other healthcare professionals nationally and internationally, enhancing service user outcomes through educating a growing community of practitioners using the VdTMoCA.