

An exploration of the occupations of live-in domestic workers in Brasília: work and occupational injustice

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Introduction: In Brazil, nearly 20% of women in the country are domestic workers. Domestic work has a restrictive nature that can lead to occupational deprivation and occupational marginalization. This may be the case of live-in domestic workers in Brazil.

Objective: Our research question was: What are domestic workers experiences of their everyday work life as a form of participating in occupations?

Method: A qualitative perspective was adopted; convenience sampling was used to select 5 participants in the *Plano Piloto* region, Brasilia. Through applying systematic text condensation, the data analyses was conducted as a collaborative negotiation.

Results: We identified one theme and two categories. The theme, Grappling with being a domestic worker, described the domestic workers ongoing confrontations and tensions experienced in their daily lives. This experience of wresting with the influence of being a domestic worker was constituted through two categories, namely a sense of 'belonging to the labor role' and 'negotiating patterns of employer exceptionalism'.

Discussion: Our discussion sought to contribute to a critical perspective of occupation. We focused on how external (historical, social and political) factors in oppressive environments influence marginalized groups and their construction of every-day life.