

0807

Concepts and assumptions of a critical perspective in occupational therapy

Sandra Maria Galheigo, Claudia Pellegrini Braga
University of Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Introduction: For the last thirty years, occupational therapy practices have developed critical approaches to deal with needs and demands of persons, groups, and peoples to whom accessing human rights is partially or fully denied. Identifying concepts and assumptions that reveal a critical perspective may enable occupational therapists to affirm critical stances within their daily practices.

Objectives: To present the main axes that have been guiding occupational therapy critical perspectives and practice in Brazil.

Method: This paper uses critical theories to comprehend occupational therapy practices that aim emancipation and human rights. Literature review was undertaken to identify main concepts and assumptions embedded into practice that reveals a critical perspective.

Results: Some notions have been guiding the development of occupational therapy critical perspectives: everyday life of persons, groups and peoples are embedded into social, economic, cultural, and political circumstances that dialectically create the conditions for their own transformation; power dynamics are embedded into relations; concepts of autonomy, participation and human rights are the axes of practice; practice is a continuing process of problematization and critical reflexivity. Practices should be developed dialogically with persons, groups and peoples regarding their needs, demands and desires to promote empowerment, transform relations and accomplish a significant and creative everyday life.

Conclusion: Literature show us the path that critical occupational therapy is taking. Naming concepts and assumptions may provide us with a coherent theoretical framework to critical occupational therapy and enable occupational therapists to recognize the ethical and political commitment embedded consistently into their practices.