An innovative education model to build capacity for the future of occupational therapy in developing countries: Vietnam case study

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Introduction

• Vietnamese-Australian partnership
• Increasing international focus on participation relating to health
• Occupation facilitates health promotion, community participation, and community development (Sinclair, 2009)
• Sustainable Occupational Therapy Development (SOTD) model
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Objectives

- To assist local Vietnamese partners to develop occupational therapy for the benefit of Vietnamese people with disability
- To deliver sustainable, culturally appropriate and contextually relevant occupational therapy education to support the development of the profession in Vietnam
• Collaborative partnership based on shared learning and decision-making (Leffers & Mitchell, 2011)
• For-purpose teaching materials developed so the essence of occupation reflected the cultural context (Watson, 2006)
• Course delivered in Ho Chi Minh City University
• Assessment consisted of lectures, laboratories, tests, group projects
• Clinical placements at hospitals in the city
- Underpinned by educator cultural humility (Tinkler & Tinkler, 2016)
- Reciprocal and equal partnership avoiding the “Western expertise dissemination” (Elliot, 2015)
1) Review of the doctors course → Continuation of partnership to deliver training to technicians
2) Review of the technicians course → Identified need for context-specific capacity building
3) Implementation of long-term partnership supported by student and academic engagement
Enabling factors

- Financial investment/support
- Team approach
- Relationship building based on cultural humility
- Whole system approach
- Co-production
- For-purpose teaching materials to capture the cultural essence of occupation
Practice Implications

1. Sustainability needs to underpin all actions
2. Knowledge of the local culture, context, and health system is a must
3. To have a sustainable impact, changes must occur amongst and be supported by those with greatest influence on the health system
References


Thank you

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