Mapping out one’s own paths towards work: Focus on work after spinal cord injury

Lisa Holmlund, Reg. OT, MSc, PhD Student
Claes Hultling, Professor
Eric Asaba, Associate professor
Presentation overview

- Participation-participatory research design
- Photovoice
- Findings, illustrated by stories and photos
- Reflection on findings and implementation
Return to work after spinal cord injury

- Life disruption, often during working age
- Role of work meaningful participation
- Low employment rates
- Lack of intervention research
Participation

Engaging in occupations

Inclusion, power, voice, access

Research design and methodologies
What is Photovoice?

a. record and reflect strengths and hinders in their communities
b. engage in critical dialogue about important topics
c. play an active role in reaching the public and policymakers
Method- Aim and members

**Aim:** To explore experiences of hinders and possibilities in return to work among working adults with SCI using photovoice methods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Members of the photovoicegroup (n=6)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>28-52 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years post injury</td>
<td>3-10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of SCI</td>
<td>C6-L1 (AIS A-B)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>3 men &amp; 3 women</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Method - procedure and analysis

Data generation

- Weekly photovoice sessions for 8 weeks (2 hour sessions)
- Initial orientation session (photovoice, ground rules, ethics)
- Photos between each session
- Digital recording of discussions and fieldnotes

Data analysis

- Visual analysis of pictures
- Thematic analysis of narratives (transcribed text, field notes)
There is only one way

The pictures are taken by the photovoice participants
Welcome back
or not

The pictures are taken by the photovoice participants

Toilet sign: Eng. X’s outhouse
To be like anyone else
or to be perceived as someone else

The pictures are taken by the photovoice participants
Friction
in an absence of clarity
Integrating strategies in everyday life with work
Conclusion

Work viable and rewarding

Contributes to doing, being, becoming, belonging

Need to map out one’s own paths towards work
Conclusion

- Collaboration to improve health care interventions
- Design personalised support to facilitate the process
- Address gaps in work and community contexts
Thank you!

Read more/contact:
- Publication: Submitted to Qualitative Health Research
  http://journals.sagepub.com/home/qhr
- Email: lisa.holmlund@ki.se
- Profile page: https://ki.se/en/people/lisber
- Research gate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/

Selected references:
Methodological consideration

- Engagement in critical dialogue about communities
- Burden of participation
  - Balanced with modification
  - Brief introduction
  - Flexibility in ground rules
- Role of researcher in analysis “whose voice”
Eligible criteria

- Men and women 18-55
- Having returned to paid employment
- Having had to make some form of adaptation to the work situation after injury
Themes for the photovoice sessions

1. **Orientation session**
2. Barriers and solutions with a focus of work
3. The social dimension of working with SCI
4. Experiences I like to share in regards to work after SCI
5. My driving force in choosing work
6. To challenge the norm at work
7. **Visual analysis**
8. How do I get work to work?