Human Trafficking and Occupational Justice

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Presentation Outline:
• What is Human Trafficking?
• Why do we need an occupational perspective?
• ‘Trafficking in Persons Report’ Case Study
• Practice Implications
What is human trafficking?

**Coercion**

**Movement**

**Exploitation**

40.3 million people in slavery

**Push and Pull factors**

**Long term health impacts**

An occupational perspective

We are occupational beings with rights to occupation.

Occupational rights: “the right of all people to engage in meaningful occupations that contribute positively to their own well-being and the well-being of their communities” (Hammell 2007, p.62).

“the immediate and intergenerational suffering associated with occupational injustice is brought to life, made immediate and understandable, when viewed from an occupational perspective” (Hocking 2017, p.13).

Occupational Injustice

Coercion

Movement

Deprivation
- Limited range of occupation
- Prevented from Doing, Being, Becoming, and Belonging

Exploitation

Imbalance
- Over-occupied
- Under-occupied
- Un-occupied
- Meaningless occupation

Marginalisation
- Lack of opportunities
- Lack of choice
- Limited decision making
- Discrimination

Alienation
- Disconnected and isolated
- Loss of identity
- Meaningless occupation
- Forced occupation

Push and Pull factors

Long term health impacts

Nicole left her impoverished family to work as a maid in Kuwait with the intention of sending her earnings back home. For nine months she worked constantly, suffered physical and verbal abuse, and received no pay. When her work visa expired, her employer took Nicole to the police and falsely accused her of a petty crime. Nicole tried to explain her innocence, and reported that she had not been paid and had been abused over the past nine months. The police did not listen and instead jailed Nicole for six months. After her time in jail, Nicole was deported and returned home without any compensation.

(US Department of State, 2017, p.11)

Case Study

Human Trafficking and Occupation

- Movement
- Coercion
- Exploitation
- Marginalisation
- Deprivation
- Imbalance
- Alienation
- Push and Pull factors
- Long term health impacts
- Forced Occupation & Lack of Occupation
Practice implications

**Occupational Science**

*The occupational injustices of human trafficking: marginalisation, deprivation, imbalance and alienation.*

- Occupation can have a positive and negative influence of health and well-being
- Forced occupation is damaging to health and well-being

**Occupational Therapy**

*Working with people who are at risk of trafficking, are being exploited, and in recovery and reintegration.*

- Identifying people at risk & people being exploited
- Recovery through the power of occupation
- Prevention of slavery

Gorman and Hatevich (2016).
“Positioned for impact”

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