



Model of Human Occupation

Archived List Serv Discussion

Broad Scale Assessment & Intervention

May 9, 2009

Hello,

I have tried to integrate MOHO principles into my clinical work, which up to this point has been mostly pediatric schools, clinics and homes (some adult work too). However, I am getting a Masters in Public Health online and the interventions in public health are more "upstream" solving problems for populations rather than individuals in a manner so that problems can be avoided by broad actions.

Upcoming in the course work we have a project to create some useful tool for something that fits within the scope of public health. As someone who has primarily worked with pediatric disability, I would like to carry over parts of my work in a global perspective- although I live in NYC, several people I know work with agencies in Nicaragua and Honduras. I was thinking of working on creating tools to help needs assessment, identifying environmental (physical, activity and social environment) obstacles to participation for children with disabilities. I wanted to reach out to see a) does anyone know if this type of work has already been done in Nicaragua? b) Does MOHO already have assessments that would fit this; can MOHO tools be used for broad population based assessment rather than individuals c) If such a thing does not exist- which tools and work should I look at to help form a basis for the creation of such a project?

I would love any input from anyone on not only the technical issues, but also creating the most ethical tool possible, being that I do not live in the place that I would like to create the tool for. I hope that made sense.

Thanks,
Leon

May 9, 2009

Hi Leon,
Sounds like a very fascinating project. I know that MOHO Assessments have been used in more community-oriented and programmatic efforts, especially in South America. I will send you by private e-mail a chapter with some examples and invite colleagues to respond.
Gary

May 12, 2009

Dear Leon:

We, in South America have experience working at "broad scale" in order to implement OT projects to promote occupational participation of people at risk of disabilities and /or with disabilities. We have done work with children, adolescents, adults and older adults. We have developed tools for needs assessments based and following some MOHO Assessments, depending on the population and community settings.

Working in a broad scale requires to follow same procedures as with one individual in terms of goals and therapeutic reasoning steps. It also requires procedures that allow you to collect relevant information for a representative group. I have these written in Spanish, I am willing to send you translated samples. But I will point some important strategies that have given us successful outcomes:

1. Once you have clear populations and needs you want to address, **SELECT** the representative occupational settings that are a target for you.
2. Within these occupational settings establish a procedure that involves: a) Your participation as observant participant (meaning for example to be part of activities in a classroom, being in the streets sharing activities with a group of people (that you want to help), etc.). b) Share and run an assessment with a representative group. For example, groups of parents at school; teachers, children etc. Empower them. With children you can even use play as a way of getting information, or a motivating discussion of the issues. We have gathered groups of workers at Companies or Factories when they have their own meetings as workers (I forgot the English word) and families and neighbours in Public Town Community places to evaluate with them the specific life situation.
3. Get few representatives of people within a group you want to help (people that can give you key information). Sometimes with children, he or she can be a kid with leadership characteristics or a delegate of a class, or a person can be a care provider, depending on children's conditions.
4. Get to evaluate the point of view people in charge of environment design at the key settings. This is very important, to get an insight of the values, level of knowledge, what are their cultural and education backgrounds. Empower them too. With this I mean you observe their volition and get to validate their efforts and good points, so you can integrate your vision in the conversation and see how permeable these groups of designers could be and the "whys" (same strategies for both parts). Meaning **ENVIRONMENT** always in interaction with **PEOPLE**.

Now, about your questions:

A) About Nicaragua, I know a couple of experiences with street children and I am not sure they developed special tools for the broad approach for needs assessments. In Argentina

and Chile we have interesting experiences in different settings and with diversity of people and situations.

B) Yes, MOHO tools are very helpful, depending on the needs. We have used the WEIS, SSI, Volitional Questionnaire, PVQ, Adapted OPHI-II for groups, OSA done and shared in groups. In different environments. We have done it at Universities with classes of 70 students each, and respective professors; for adolescents at risk of delinquency in Santiago, for children in special schools, for children in preschool settings, for adults, etc. MOHOST or SCOPE are also in mind as they integrate an overall view and integration of occupational participation.

Based on these assessments we have developed registration forms that integrate key aspects (contents of the assessments both for Environmental and People's factors), and use them as registration of findings. We follow FAIR scale and VQ scale, and relevant analysis to make conclusions and follow through.

I could be more specific and translate some material to you, if you want me to

Warm wishes
Carmen Gloria

May 12, 2009

Leon-

Several students and I have created the MOHO-based Residential Environment Impact Scale, but it is for group homes and still basically at the individual or small group level (free downloadable pdf at <http://www.moho.uic.edu/REISinformation.html>). However, you might take the same approach and use the components of the environment as defined by the Model, such as spaces, objects, tasks, and social groups/social environment. In addition, for your project, you may want to include the other three "contextual" factors, which are named as economic conditions, culture, and political conditions. In your case these would be very prominent. You might want to think about creating a rating framework where you have these seven components and they could be globally rated on whether they provide opportunities or constraints. That might be a place to start, and you could customize it further for your population.

I think it is a great way to think about how to expand the use of MOHO in a population based context. I am also a public health student and never thought of using it in that way!
Gail