



## Model of Human Occupation

### Archived List Serv Discussion

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#### Substance Misuse and Parenting

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**July 16, 2008**

I am doing my thesis on the effects of substance misuse on parental role identity and parenting capacity - is anyone working in this area and using MOHO or know of any research already done in this area?

Thanks  
Charlotte

**July 24, 2008**

Reply to Charlotte on substance misuse and parenting.

There is considerable research on problematic substance misuse and the negative impact on parenting skills. The Scottish governments '*Looking beyond Risk*' '*Parental Substance misuse; scoping study*' has a comprehensive literature review.

A number of other studies highlight how parental substance misuse, as a single factor is not solely responsible for increased risks to abuse /neglect ,but in combination with domestic violence, social isolation, unemployment , deprivation, parenting capacity can be decreased. Role is often alluded to in these papers. (*See literature review above*)

I don't know of any specific research on role identity and parenting capacity, some papers discuss the importance of developing client's narratives and identities/roles/ in recovery from substance misuse.

*McIntosh and McKeganey 2001 Identity and recovery from Dependant Drug Use; the addicts perspective Drug's education, prevention and policy.vol 8 is a useful starting place.*

Most of the papers often have a negative slant and tend to focus on substance misusing mothers rather than fathers and drugs rather than alcohol.

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One study by *Richter and Bamner 2000* a hierarchy of strategies heroin-using mothers employ to reduce harm in their children. *Journal of substance Abuse Treatment* .19 Has a more positive /strengths approach.

My preference in terms of MOHO would be the OPHI-II as the assessment can focus on the care giving/parenting role and can develop a comprehensive client narrative and life story –really important in working with this client group and understanding how clients identities /roles are developed .Obviously it would depend on the setting and the length of time you could work with clients. OCAIRS has been used when working in a community drug and alcohol clinic when the role of the parent may be discussed in a general assessment.

I hope this is of use.

Claire Parry

**July 25, 2008**

Hi all:

Regarding this issue and practice with MOHO. I totally agree with the use of OPHI-II as the best interview assessment and as a tool for intervention. I have also used the role checklist in group work and developed self-help groups addressing common and individual issues of occupational participation in this role. These group included people with different types of problems (including the one presented in this discussion) that lead on to inhibit their participation in the role of parents.

Some of them had considerable legal restriction to perform their role again. Together with members of the group set goals according each one's reality and help to problem solve, learning from each other experiences, planning and practice different skills and approaches in weekly basis. The group was ongoing, and gives each other feedback. The OT was a parent, that was important, and facilitated self assessment and self-monitoring procedures for people. As MOHO centers on the client and their realities, the group was successful on giving opportunities to explore how to match their identity with their competence in this role according to their environmental and personal factors that interfered together in occupational adaptation. Being accepted and understood (validated) and also having the possibility that peers set some limits, or helped with other vision, increase the sense of capacity. Practicing what they planned each week helped to developed a sense of efficacy and accept conditions that in other way they had not been able to do.

The variety of possibilities to perform this role was totally different from one to another. Some only had permission to see their kids on supervised basis once a week, some other were at risk of loosing them, some did not see their kids since 10-15 years..and wanted to recover some possibility to see them..

In MOHO text book 2002, there is an example of Claudio, in "Recrafting Occupational Lives", he did not had substances problems but he had a major psychiatric problem and

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personality disorder..he was part of this group.

I hope this helps on something  
best regards  
Carmen Gloria de las Heras