Occupational Therapy in Post–Disaster Relief

International Seminar
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Introduction

Key questions

- What is occupational therapy (OT)?

- What could be the specific contribution of OT to Disaster Preparedness & Response (DP&R)?
Agenda

• introductions
• definition of OT
• World Federation of OT
  Desaster preparedness and response:
    - strategy and content of intervention
• assessments in OT:
  - Kawa-River Model
• practise & discussion
Occupational Therapy

• OT promotes health and well-being through occupation

• Primary goal: enable people to participate successfully in activities of every day life
• International representative of OT
• The Federation supports: development, use and practise of OT worldwide
• Maintains connection with WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO
Linkage of WFOT & DP&R

• „Tsunami crisis 2004 in Indian Ocean has been a driving force in advancing support and capacity building to provide assistance to Ot’s in affected countries.“
Situational assessment

- The situational analysis showed overwhelming psycho-social needs and the centrality of occupation and productivity to rehabilitation."
Draft Guidelines for DP&R

- motto: working with survivors rather than for them as experts
- assess survivors needs and capacities
- analysis of data and objectives
- planning project
- evaluation
ACCESS for ALL to Rehabilitation

Focus on vulnerable groups:
• people with disabilities
• elderly
• children
• women
Disaster Preparedness and Response Framework

- DEVELOPMENT
- PREVENTION
- PREPAREDNESS
- WARNING
- EMERGENCY RELIEF
- DISASTER
- RECOVERY
- REHABILITATION
- RECONSTRUCTION
- RECOVERY
- REHABILITATION
- RECONSTRUCTION
Ot’s possibilities for bio-psycho-social intervention

- Body-function
- Activity
- Participation

- Traumatic brain injury
- Traumatic orthopedic injury
- Mental disorder
RECOVERY
REHABILITATION
RECONSTRUCTION

body-function
activity
participation

hand-function
vocational training
income-generation

rehab
Role of physical activity in OT

- functional therapy to facilitate ADL’s
- child’s play as meaningful activity
- group therapy
- sport in leisure-time
Role of bio-psycho-social intervention in OT

- focus on resources
- strengthen resilience
- provide empowerment
- create sustainability
Community focused approach

Structure of dialog

medium to strengthen capacity of community

assessment of meaningful occupation

OT-assessments

KAWA- river model
The Kawa Model

A comprehensive occupational therapy approach
What is the Kawa Model

- A new model to explain the purpose of occupational therapy
- Developed by Japanese occupational therapists Research: Michael K. Iwama
- First model with an eastern perspective
- Uses the river as metaphor for life-flow and occupation
- Adaptation of the metaphor might be necessary in a disaster area
Life is like a River
Kawa (Japanese) = River
Driftwood (Ryuboku)

- represents personal attributes and resources such as:
  - values
  - character
  - personality
  - special skills
  - immaterial and material assets
  - living situation
Spaces = Potential targets for Occupational Therapy interventions
Effect of River Components on the Flow
Participation is influenced by

- assistive devices (material assets),
- accessible environment (physical environment)
- positive attitudes
  (social environment or personal context).
Summary of the Components

- water = life energy or flow
- river side-wall and river bottom = the client’s social and physical environment
- rocks = problems and challenges in life
- driftwood = personal assets and liabilities
- spaces = occupation/participation
Usefulness of the Kawa model in rehabilitation

the Kawa River Model is useful to:

- promote a client centred approach
- set priorities and evaluate the outcome of therapeutic intervention
- useful for interdisciplinary teamwork
- supports the client in the process of adaptation
Further information

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www.kawamodel.com

World Federation of Occupational Therapists: Information and Resource Package
www.wfot.org

Iwama, M.K. (2006): The Kawa Model, Culturally Relevant Occupational Therapy,
Philadelphia, Churchill Livingstone Elsevier

Bucher, Peter; Rentsch, Hans-Peter (2006):
ICF in der Rehabilitation, Idstein, Schulz-Kirchner Verlag GmbH

Fürst Donnersmarck- Stiftung: www.fdst.de
Practice:
Draw a River which shows problems, environment and resources relating to the implementation of sport programs in post disaster relief.