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The role of occupational therapy in addressing occupational injustice among individuals with hand conditions: A scoping review

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Amendments - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 30 July 2024 and was last updated on 30 July 2024.

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective Research question: What is the major contribution of occupational therapy to address "occupational injustice" among individuals with hand conditions?

Research Objectives

To define and apply occupational injustice within the context of "occupational therapy" for the people with hand conditions.

To explore the consequences of "occupational injustice" experienced by individuals with hand conditions in their daily lives, communities and workplaces.

To find out the characteristics of "occupational therapy" interventions in terms of reducing occupational injustice among individuals with hand conditions.

To evaluate the benefits of "occupational therapy" interventions to overcome "occupational injustice" faced by individuals with hand conditions.

To recommend effective strategies for integrating "occupational therapy" practice to better address "occupational injustice" in individuals with hand conditions.

Background Occupational injustice refers to situations where a person or group is deprived of meaningful participation in occupations owing to various social, cultural, economic, and political barriers. Specifically, this situation is shared amongst persons with disabilities who face maximum challenges participating in daily activities and tasks that are culturally and personally relevant. Of these, hand conditions stand out as a result of the fact that they have a primary impact on the level of ability of these individuals to perform tasks. It is in response to this that this

scoping review on the role of occupational therapy in addressing occupational injustices among people with hand conditions in Saudi Arabia explores the multi-dimensional effect of these conditions on daily life and the potential interventions which can mitigate their effects.

Hand conditions can include a range of diagnoses, such as arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, and traumatic injury, any of which can significantly impair hand function. This disability has the potential to impact a person's ability to work, participate in social activities, and complete personal care—thus creating occupational injustice. In Saudi Arabia, the cultural context emphasizes community life, participation, and involvement in family, the impact of a hand disability might be more profound, isolating, and stigmatizing. The profession of occupational therapy is founded on the promotion of functional abilities and enhancement of participation in meaningful activities; therefore, it is in a strategic position to address these challenges.

This review will focus on shedding some light on the experience of occupational injustice by persons living with a hand condition, within the Saudi context where data on this subject is sparse. It is also timely, given the recent healthcare reforms in the kingdom and increased focus on rehabilitation services, that the role of OT with regard to this particular area will be understood. This research will further investigate the various barriers—including societally induced attitudes, access to healthcare, and employability—confronting such persons and how this leads to occupational injustice.

This review aims at identifying and evaluating the characteristics of OT interventions currently implemented in Saudi Arabia to mitigate occupational injustice. This research will study the effectiveness of these interventions and will suggest optimized strategies of OT practice in Saudi Arabia. In the framework of this research, the best possible quality of life will be created for persons with any kind of condition to the hand. It will involve an integration of both quantitative data through questionnaires on the extent and types of occupational injustice suffered and qualitative insights through interviews with occupational therapists and patients to be undertaken, which will give an in-depth understanding of personal experiences and intervention outcomes.

The importance of this scoping review also comes out of a limited existing body of evidence in this

region concerning OT and occupational injustice. This review will contribute to the global discourse on occupational justice by providing an overview of the current landscape and identifying knowledge and practice gaps. It will also bring to light the special needs and challenges this population in Saudi Arabia face, arguing for better understanding among healthcare providers and policymakers for the successful design of OT interventions.

It is in this respect that this scoping review focuses on clarifying the critical role of occupational therapy in addressing occupational injustice among individuals with hand conditions in Saudi Arabia. This draws together how issues in healthcare, disability, and social inclusion interplay to further theoretical and practical knowledge in occupational therapy with regard to efforts pointed toward improving health outcomes and social integration of affected individuals. It is expected that the findings from this study will not only help in setting future research directions, healthcare.

Rationale The rationale for conducting this scoping review derives from the important for identifying how occupational injustice in people with hand conditions is identified and mitigated, particularly in the context of Saudi Arabia. As understanding and addressing occupational injustice among people with hand conditions have been highly needed, with respect to the unique socio-cultural context of Saudi Arabia. Hand conditions refer to a variety of conditions ranging from chronic conditions like arthritis to acute injuries such as fractures that reduce an individual's ability to perform daily activities, hence hampering their social, occupational, and personal roles. This not only tends to affect the health of the individuals physically but also dents into their psychological well-being and social integration. The interaction between the country's cultural values and the participation of family and community, with limitations to mobility or dexterity attributed to hand conditions, may enhance feelings of exclusion and injustice. Moreover, the rapid growth experienced in health, including occupational therapy, has therefore called for an update and further in-depth research into how such services address specific needs that emanate from hand conditions. There is an obvious gap in literature with regard to how occupational therapy interventions help reduce occupational injustice in this population group; hence, this calls for focused research in this area. It aims to map the current landscape of occupational therapy practices about addressing occupational injustice, which enables effective strategies and pinpoints areas where further development needs to be paid attention to.

The following study identifies barriers and opportunities to occupational engagement and tries to come up with actionable steps that the occupational therapists, healthcare policymakers, and community leaders could take towards the path of making health care services more inclusive and effective. Some of these findings would also contribute to the international debates on occupational justice: to include, with some caution, provisionally, insofar as they could be transferred to other regions in which similar cultural and health-care dynamics hold. This is especially important for a world that is more and more globalized, and while healthcare systems elsewhere in the world are seeking to be responsive and inclusive for the needs and interests of different communities. This scoping review is timely, but more importantly, it provides the foundation for laying future empirical studies and guidance on developing policies and practices in support of the full participation of those with hand conditions in life's aspects, hence furthering occupational justice in Saudi Arabia and beyond.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis I searched through the identified studies to identify the findings and then compared them in a critical review.

Furthermore, I focused on the weaknesses of their methodologies and how to address them.

electronic databases (Exeter university Library, SCOPUS, Google Scholar, PsycINFO, Web of Science, and PubMed).

Key words/terms

"Hand Conditions" OR "Hand Injuries" OR "Hand dysfunction" or "hand impairment" and "Occupational Therapy" or "occupational rehabilitation" or "occupational intervention" "Occupational Injustice" or "occupational imbalance" or "occupational marginalization" "Hand Conditions" OR "Hand Injuries" OR "Hand dysfunction" or "hand impairment".

Eligibility criteria - Date of Publication: Studies published between 2014 and 2024 will be considered to ensure the relevance and currency of the findings.

- Peer-Reviewed Studies: this research will include peer-reviewed articles, conference papers and book chapters to ensure the credibility and quality of the evidence.

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- Focus: Studies that specifically address occupational therapy interventions, conceptualisations of occupational injustice or outcomes related to occupational injustice in individuals with hand conditions.

Concept

The review focuses on occupational injustice, which can be defined as obstacles and unfairness concerning people's opportunities to participate in activities because of hand conditions. This entails identifying how OT interventions can assist in discovering as well as overcoming such barriers to promote occupational justice. Consequently, the review pays attention to definitions, the characteristics of the intervention, and the outcomes to say how OT can mitigate the consequences of occupational injustice.

Context

The context presents various situations which highlight the cases of people with hand conditions and their grievances of being discriminated against at work, at home and the society. To ensure that the review is broad and covers all aspects of the experiences and interventions, studies from various countries and healthcare settings are included in the review. To achieve the objectives of the review, the problems that are likely to be found in the given contexts are explored, together with the possible solutions that could be provided to promote the occupational justice of people with hand impairments.

Participants (types of participants)

The review will include studies involving individuals with hand conditions such as arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, and traumatic hand injuries. Participants should have experienced occupational injustice or received OT interventions aimed at mitigating such injustice. The studies will encompass diverse demographics, including age, gender, socioeconomic status, and cultural backgrounds to provide a comprehensive understanding of the issue.

Source of evidence screening and selection

The evidence screening and selection process involves initial screening were done by reviewing titles and abstracts for relevance to the research question. This was followed by an eligibility assessment where full-text articles are evaluated against predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Next, relevant data is extracted from the selected studies and the methodological quality of these studies is appraised. Then, a final selection is made to confirm which studies meet all criteria for inclusion in the review.

Data management

In a scoping review, data management involves organising and maintaining secondary data which are existing data collected from previous studies. Since the data are not primary, there is generally less need for strict data management protocols. The focus is primarily on assuring proper organisation, storage and

accessibility of the collected data for analysis and review in accordance with Exeter University guidelines.

Language restriction The review primarily relied on English and Arabic language sources, potentially overlooking significant studies in other languages.

Country(ies) involved United Kingdom.

Keywords Occupational therapy; Occupational injustice; Hand conditions; Saudi Arabia; Disability inclusion; Rehabilitation practices; Mixed-methods research.

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