Occupational engagement in a regional secure unit – a longitudinal study

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Plan

• Descriptions:
  – Research setting
  – Research question and methodology
  – Occupational engagement

• Explore occupational engagement using case studies
Research question

How does the occupational engagement of patients in a regional secure unit evolve over one year?
Initial conceptual framework

- **Participation** “take part”
- **Interest** “curiosity”
- **Engagement** “committed”
- **Absorption** “engrossed”
- **Flow??**

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Positive consequences

Negative consequences

Key:
Blue sphere = positive value
Green sphere = negative value
Beige sphere = neutral value – participation or non-participation

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Occupational engagement: a definition

“Occupational engagement is positioned within a framework of personal value and perceived consequences to participation. Occupational engagement is the participation in an occupation with current positive personal value attached to it. Engaging occupations require more involvement than those that just interest the individual, but not as much as absorbing occupations. Occupational engagement is a fluctuating state influenced by complex and multiple internal and external factors. The person will perceive positive or negative consequences to participation which may change over time in response to feedback from social, cultural and physical environments. The aim of therapy is for people to participate in occupations with both positive personal value and positive perceived consequences for both the individual and society.”

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What has been the biggest change for you?

“It's just being able to go out. In fact I haven't seen the stars in in years, so that was really nice, going outside when it's dark and seeing the stars... Umm, I wouldn't go into how it made me feel, it wasn't like woooooooh!!! but it was nice you know, yer, just nice. Just to be able to like go out there and...Relax yeah”
References