

RESEARCH ARTICLE

DYSFUNCTIONAL OCCUPATIONAL PERFORMANCE, A THEORETICAL PROPOSAL FROM THE ACADEMIC PERSPECTIVE.

DESEMPEÑO OCUPACIONAL DISFUNCIONAL, UNA PROPUESTA TEÓRICA DESDE LA PERSPÉCTICA ACADÉMICA.

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SUMMARY

Introduction: How the performance of daily activities called occupations has been called chronologically, which can be altered by multiple factors, those related to alterations in the physical component of the human being, causing these daily activities to not be performed in the most effective and satisfactory manner. For the people. **Method:** Preparation is conducted to conceptualize the object of study and the approach, including the thematic cores of the research, according to theoretical parameters of the discipline, categories of information are established, organized in three phases, contextualization, analysis and interpretation and theoretical reconstruction. **Results:** The collection aspects of the consulted documentary sources are established, it was added in an open categorization, the categories are life cycle and intervention sectors, for the contextualization of the information the documentary review carried out was classified through an open categorization, (Prato 2011) with the purpose of delimiting each

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theoretical reference according to two important aspects in relation to age and professional field of action. **Conclusions:** There is no literature that conceptualizes dysfunctional occupational performance, specifically to categorize the relationship between performance and occupational dysfunction, it could be inferred that they are theoretical references that, although they are directly related to the object of study, the justification of the analytical interpretation allowed carry out the theoretical reconstruction of occupational performance, from the base concepts of occupational performance and occupational dysfunction, based on deductive analytical argumentation and theoretical demonstration, formulated from a conjecture, corroborating it and finally justifying it theoretically, (Morales 2021), According to the proposal The theoretical definition of dysfunctional occupational performance is a direct interaction between occupational dysfunction generated by the decrease or loss of the individual's capabilities.

KEYWORDS: Capacity, performance, dysfunction, occupation,

RESUMEN

Introducción: El desempeño de unas actividades diarias llamadas ocupaciones el cual pueden alterarse por múltiples factores, siendo principalmente los relacionados por alteraciones del componente físico del ser humano ocasionando que estas actividades diarias no se desempeñen de la manera más efectiva y satisfactoria para las personas.

Método: Se realiza la preparación para conceptualizar el objeto de estudio y el abordaje incluyendo los núcleos temáticos de la investigación, según parámetros teóricos de la disciplina, se establecen posibles categorías de información, organizadas en tres fases, contextualización, analítica y la de interpretación y reconstrucción teórica. **Resultados:**

Se establecen los aspectos de recopilación de las fuentes documentales consultadas, se agregó en una categorización abierta, las categorías son ciclo de vida y sectores de intervención, para la contextualización de la información se clasificó la revisión documental realizadas mediante una categorización abierta, (Prato 2011) con el propósito de delimitar cada referente teórico según dos aspectos importantes con relación a la edad y el campo de acción profesional. **Conclusiones:** No existe literatura que conceptualice el desempeño ocupacional disfuncional, específicamente para

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categorizar la relación entre el desempeño y disfunción ocupacional, se podría inferir que son referentes teóricos que si bien se relacionan directamente con el objeto de estudio, la justificación de la interpretación analítica permitió realizar la reconstrucción teórica del desempeño ocupacional, desde los conceptos base del desempeño ocupacional y la disfunción ocupacional, basado en la argumentación analítica deductiva y la demostración teórica, formulándose desde una conjetura, corroborándola y finalmente justificándola teóricamente, (Morales 2021), Según la propuesta teórica de definición del desempeño ocupacional disfuncional, es una interacción directa entre la disfunción ocupacional generada por la disminución o pérdida de capacidades del individuo.

PALABRAS CLAVES: Capacidad, desempleo, disfunción, ocupación,

INTRODUCTION

The discipline of occupational therapy, throughout history, has represented an evolution of theoretical paradigms, always oriented towards the function of a person's performance, using purposeful activities as an intervention tool, with the aim of achieving greater efficiency or independence in the daily actions that people perform. Chronologically, the performance of certain daily activities, called occupations, can be altered by multiple factors, primarily those related to physical component alterations of the human being, also known as physical dysfunctions, causing these daily activities not to be carried out in the most

effective and satisfactory manner for individuals.

It is important to mention that the term used to describe these functional and independence alterations of a person is framed within theoretical references throughout history, where the traditional concepts of the profession predominate. However, it is also evident that as trends evolve with new health parameters, the environment, and concepts, more elements are encompassed that define the common terminology of a discipline or profession. Conducting a theoretical reconstruction of dysfunctional occupational performance, gathering theoretical trends on how the scientific

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community refers to it, is relevant for establishing a foundational theoretical analysis of the concept, supported by different authors who define it as part of the theoretical models of human occupation as an object of study. Therefore, it is intended to carry out a state-of-the-art documentary review to collect, classify, and interpret the information, subsequently analyzing the concept based on the information already established by the scientific community.

METHOD

The type of research developed is descriptive research, collecting information sources with the purpose of describing dysfunctional occupational performance descriptively by analyzing theoretical variables, to carry out an interpretation and theoretical reconstruction that involves a cognitive process based on the findings obtained during the investigative process. According to Sabino, cited by (Guevara et al., 2012), "the type of research that aims to describe fundamental characteristics of phenomena uses semantic criteria that allow establishing the structure or behavior of the

phenomena under study, providing systematic and comparable information with other sources." It is important to mention that phases of the state-of-the-art methodology collected by (Guevara, 2012) were taken into account, where different authors are referenced, specifically citing Calvo, who from 1992 to the present has categorized stages of development for executing a state-of-the-art, which are methodologically incorporated into the research and aligned with its objectives to achieve the expected results and subsequently disseminate them. The corresponding theoretical methodological phases related to the state-of-the-art are as follows: Phase 1: Contextualization According to (Guevara, 2012), the contextualization phase is characterized by analyzing the object of study, establishing specific limits within which the research is developed, considering documentary resources. Preparation is made to conceptualize the object of study and approach, including the thematic nuclei of the research. Authors from the discipline and frameworks or models of the profession that have provided philosophical and theoretical support to

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occupational therapy are included to define the necessary keywords or descriptors for the search of bibliographic resources or sources. An information organization chart will also be created to determine its context, the type of information collected, and, according to the theoretical parameters of the discipline, begin to establish possible information categories necessary in the analytical phase. Phase 2: Analytical in this phase, (Guevara, 2012) establishes that the information is classified based on analysis and systematization parameters. Categories of information and subcategories are defined to specify the analysis of the information. The research will organize the information, including necessary categories for the theoretical analysis and subcategories required to finalize the exploration and achieve the interpretation of the collected bibliography. This phase also includes the analysis by thematic nuclei determined by authors of theoretical models of the discipline. Phase 3: Interpretation and Theoretical Construction The general balance is established, identifying results, limitations, gaps, difficulties, trends, and

achievements, presenting the current state of the phenomenon. In this case, the research focuses on dysfunctional occupational performance, contrasting with the theoretical reality described not only in the foundational texts of the profession but also in the current investigative reality of the topic.

RESULTS

According to the methodology and qualitative nature of the research, the interpretation of results is presented descriptively, establishing analysis and interpretation of the collected information, structured in analytical matrices for the first and second objectives. Initially, the aspects of collecting the consulted documentary sources are established. Subsequently, an open categorization is added with the purpose of delimiting the research topic called dysfunctional occupational performance. These categories are life cycle and intervention sectors. It is worth noting that these concepts are based on the life cycle definition by the Ministry of Health of Colombia with theoretical references from the WHO (World Health Organization, 2000) and Law 949 of 2005

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of the Congress of the Republic of Colombia (Peñaz, 2016), which precisely dictate the sectors where Occupational Therapy can intervene in Colombia.

Thus, a new matrix of subcategories or emerging categories was established, where, according to the obtained classification, the way each author refers to dysfunctional occupational performance was analyzed, with the aim of identifying if there are common emerging categories by life cycle or intervention sectors.

For the contextualization of the information, the document review was classified through open categorization (Prato, 2011), which is defined with the purpose of delimiting each theoretical

reference according to two important aspects: age and the field of professional action. Each theoretical reference is categorized based on these two variables, constructing a second matrix called the operational matrix, from which the matrix of categories derives, giving rise to subcategories of information in the form of emerging categories. This is done according to the reading and analysis of each article, classified into the two aforementioned categories, supported by Office tools. The percentage distribution of the age groups categorized in the obtained bibliographic information is included.

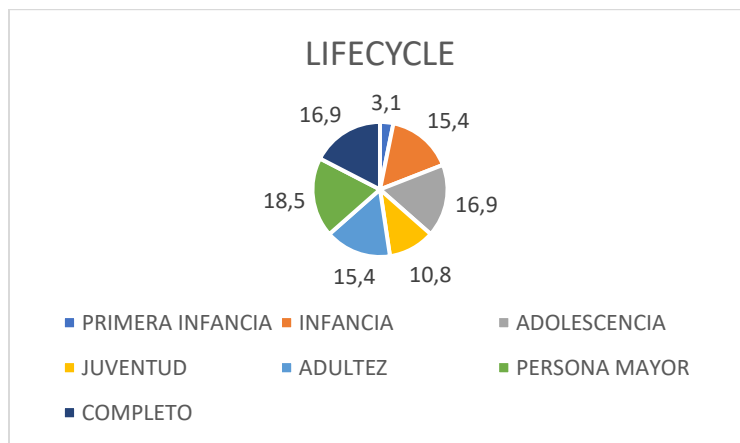


Figure 1. *Percentage distribution life cycle.*

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Note: Percentage distribution of ages according to the life cycle, based on the World Health Organization, in the "complete" category, refers to articles that did not consider any specific age.

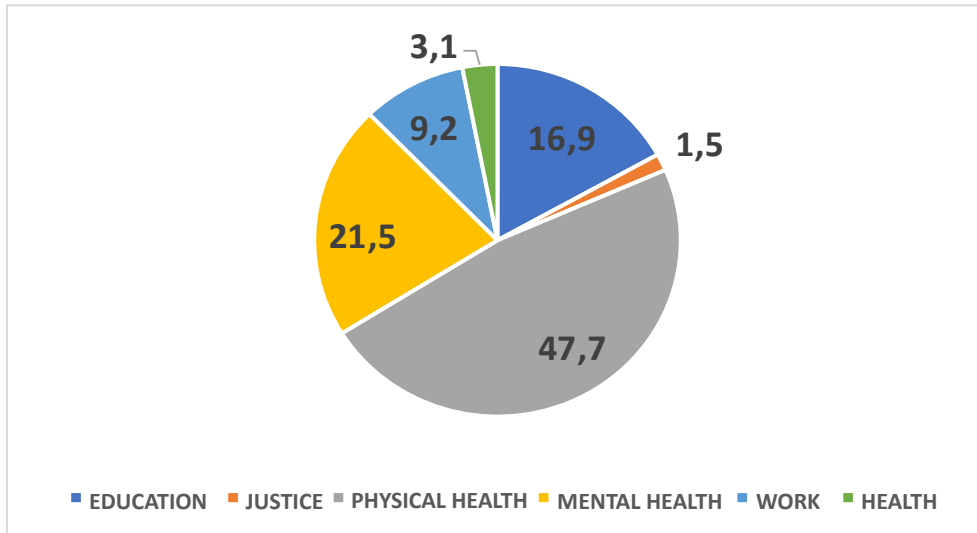


Figure 2. Percentage distribution of intervention sectors in Colombia according to Law 949 of 2015. *Note:* Percentage of the number of articles by intervention sector, out of the total bibliographic sources collected.

Finally, it is important to mention that concepts of analytical and substantial interpretation or argumentation will be revisited, according to Garzón (2012). The purpose of argumentative interpretation is to justify the problem formulation and analyze occupational

performance through deductive reasoning during the literature review. In substantial interpretation, the goal is to demonstrate by formulating conjectures and corroborating them with theoretical and empirical elements to validate the conjecture, according to Arteaga (2008).

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Figure 3. Analytical argumentation concepts

Note: The figure relates concepts of occupational function and dysfunction through analytical argumentation.

The relationship between occupational dysfunction and performance is multidimensional. Occupational dysfunction can be a significant barrier to successful occupational performance (Gómez, 2006). People experiencing dysfunction may face considerable obstacles in carrying out activities that others might perform without difficulty, impacting their quality of life, well-being, and perception of health.

Moreover, occupational performance can influence the experience of dysfunction (Mota, 2009). A person who can adapt

and develop effective strategies to overcome the challenges associated with occupational dysfunction may experience an improvement in their quality of life and their ability to participate in society. For example, through occupational therapy, a person with rheumatoid arthritis can learn energy conservation techniques and adaptations (Bidart et al., 2018) to continue participating in important activities such as gardening or sewing.

According to the categorization of information in the present research, such

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as occupational performance and occupational dysfunction, to generate an analysis of dysfunctional occupational performance, there is no literature from occupational therapy or investigative products that define and describe the compound term (Aravena, 2018). It only refers to occupational dysfunction, which important authors in the field, such as Gary Kielhofner, Mary Reilly, Begoña Polonio López, among others, define as occupational dysfunction and occupational performance, as also described in the Canadian Model of Occupational Performance and by the American Occupational Therapy Association (Algado, 2006).

Therefore, it can be inferred from the analysis of subcategories that the relationship between occupational dysfunction and occupational performance is not static. Instead, it is dynamic in each person or group of people with similar characteristics of capacity alteration due to a specific agent or disease, according to occupations, roles, and environmental demands. It can also be influenced by a series of factors, including social support, access to resources, the person's motivation, and their ability to learn and adapt. Additionally, dysfunction and occupational performance may vary depending on the context and culture in which the person is situated.



Figure 4. Definition of the concept of dysfunctional occupational performance

Note: Theoretical proposal framework of dysfunctional occupational performance according to analytical argumentation and justification of the observed phenomenon.

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CONCLUSIONS

Occupational therapy has substantial guidelines for professional practice (Bravo, 2014). However, when mentioning alterations or limitations in people's occupational performance in research literature, each author determines and categorizes terms to define occupational dysfunction specifically within certain age groups or in relation to an intervention sector. Within the bibliographic compilation, it can be concluded that most literature focuses on the health sector, specifically physical health, where the results of bibliographic sources were most concentrated, followed by mental health, then education, justice, and finally, labor, revealing the need for research in other areas or sectors of occupational therapy intervention, especially with new approaches from other health professionals.

According to the types of research, primary sources of articles from scientific investigations by professionals are identified, as well as undergraduate thesis documents, e-books; however, in

the information compilation, a significant number of sources were initially found, exceeding a thousand, but when cross-referencing with different databases, it was found that they were repeated by search engines, meaning the information is duplicated across various search engines, indicating it is easily accessible.

There is no conceptualization of dysfunctional occupational performance specifically to categorize the relationship between occupational performance and dysfunction. It could be inferred that they are theoretical references directly related to the object of study, framed by professional trends, such as the Model of Human Occupation, with its main proponent being Gary Kielhofner, and occupational performance, which the American Occupational Therapy Association substantiates through the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework. Similarly, the Canadian Model of Occupational Performance focuses mainly on the individual and their actions to interact with roles and the environment.

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If specifically discussing occupational performance related to occupational dysfunction in childhood ages related to the education sector, emerging categories are defined to indicate such occupational dysfunction directly associated with the school role, such as school dysfunction or school role dysfunction. Similarly, in the health sector, occupational dysfunction is directly related to the type of limitation the person has, whether physical, mental, or sensory.

The justification of analytical interpretation allowed for the theoretical reconstruction of a concept for occupational performance, based on the foundational concepts of occupational performance and occupational dysfunction, based on deductive analytical argumentation and theoretical demonstration, formulated from a conjecture, corroborated, and finally theoretically justified. According to the theoretical proposal for defining dysfunctional occupational performance, it is established that dysfunctional occupational performance is a direct interaction between occupational dysfunction generated by the individual's

decrease or loss of capabilities and the sense of mastery of each person to act in their roles with a sense of satisfaction to master occupations and the environment in which they operate. This allows for an integrative view of models and trends in the profession and, in light of occupational therapy literature, integrating important theoretical aspects to pave the way for new postgraduate-level research to deepen theoretically and propose new models, paradigms, and theoretical references that continue to contribute to the quality of life of individuals and their communities within the framework of occupational performance.

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