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Bridging the gap:

Educational strategies for
integrating occupational justice
into clinical practice



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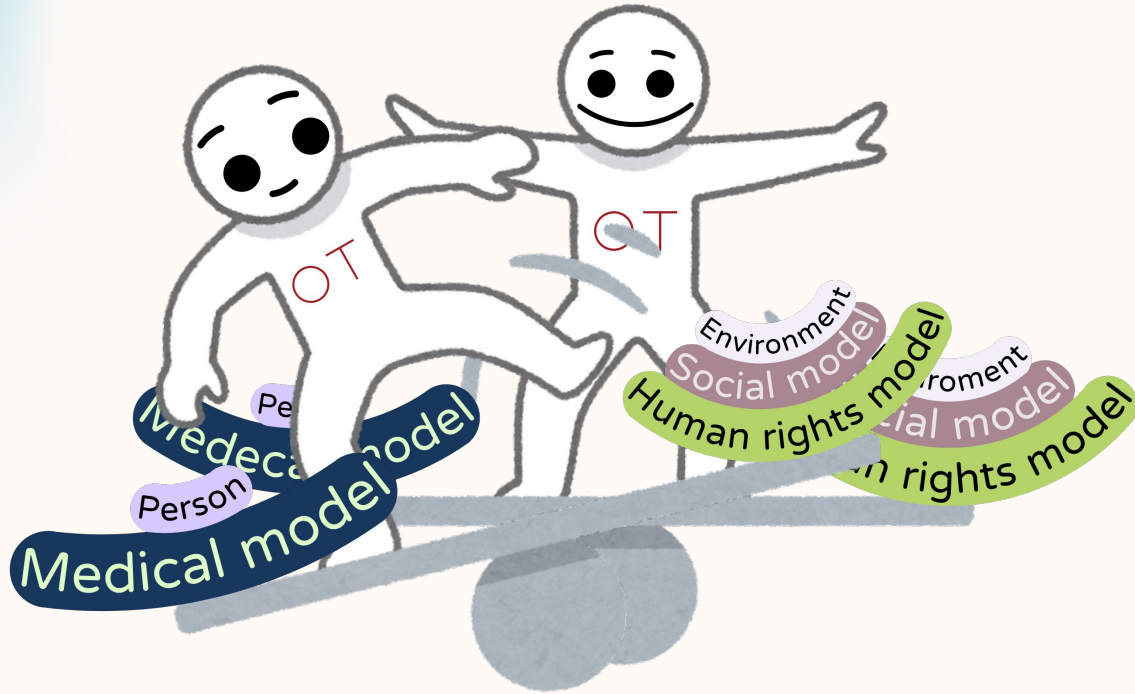


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Introduction



Paradigm Shift





Occupational Justice

- People should have the right to engage in diverse and meaningful occupations to meet people's individual needs and develop their potential.

(Whiteford, et al., 2021)

Empowerment



Assets

- Strengths
- Skills
- Resources



Capabilities

- Physical or cognitive abilities
- Freedom to choose
- Opportunity to act on

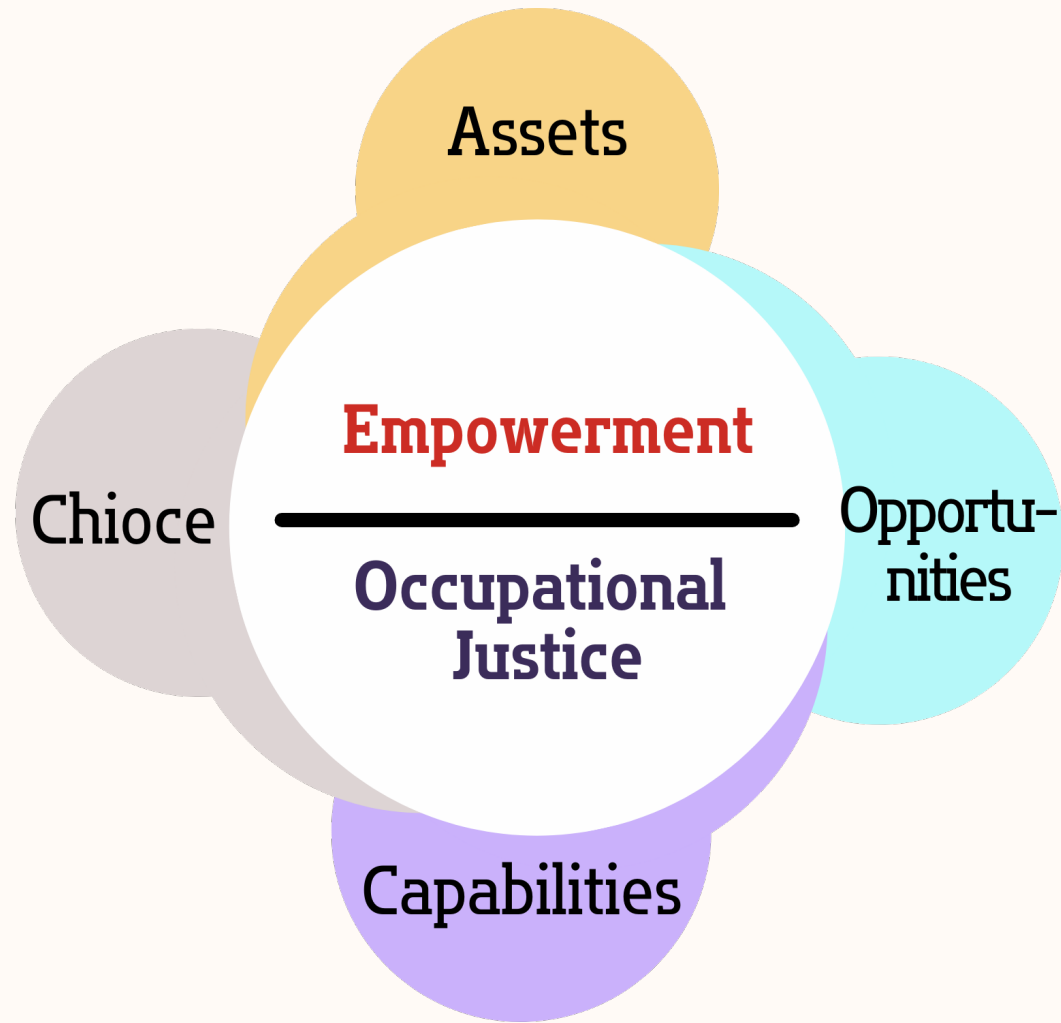
(Hammell, 2016)



*World Occupational
Therapy Day*

27th October 2022

*Opportunity + Choice =
Justice*



Occupational Justice Interventions

Micro level (Person)

- Reflexive practice

Meso level (Institution, Community)

- Intra-organizational transformation

Macro level (Policy advocacy, Social inclusion)

- Participatory Occupational Justice Framework (POJF)

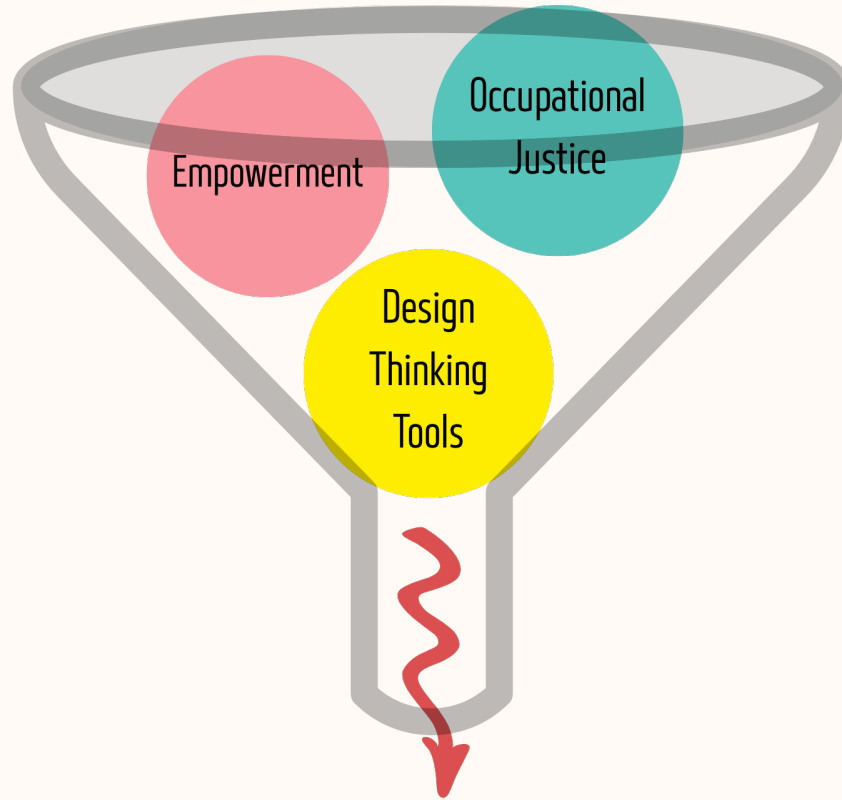
- Occupational justice has become a critical concern in occupational therapy.
- However, many clinical practitioners continue to perceive it as abstract, overly ambitious, or difficult to translate into everyday practice.



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Objective





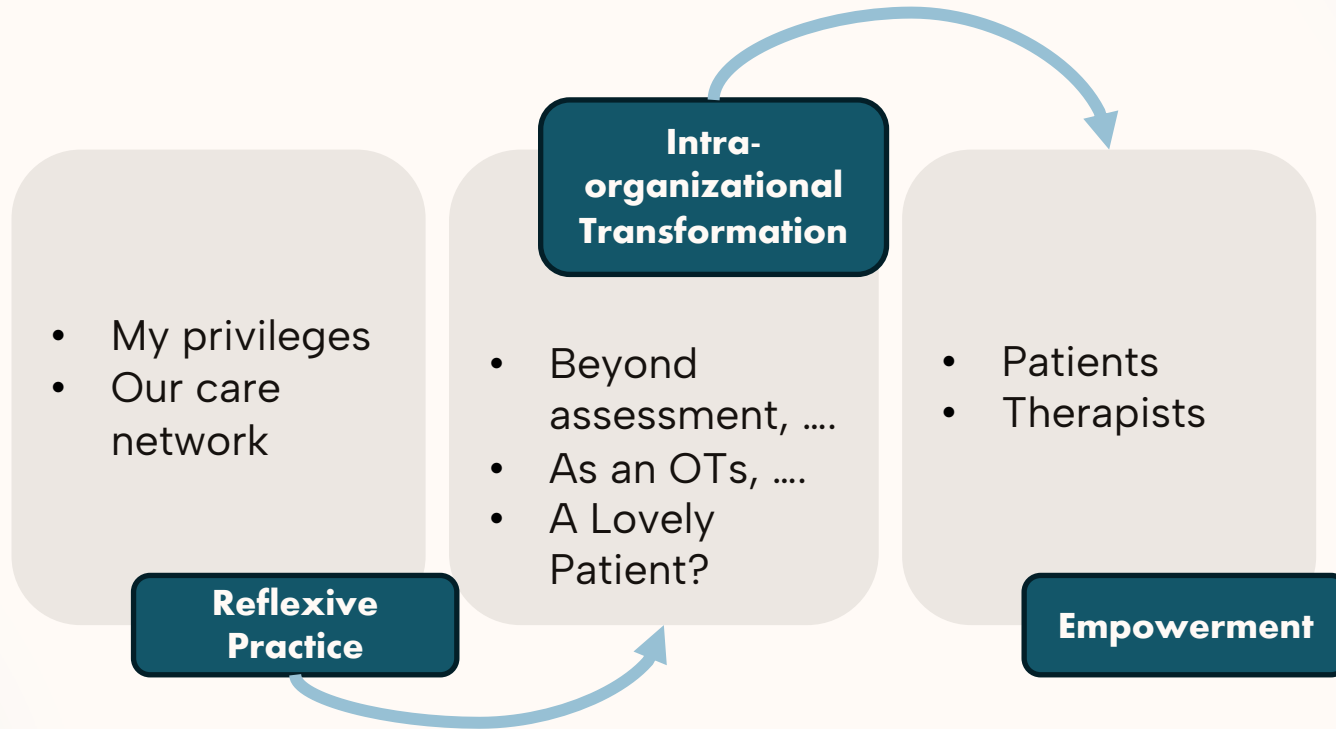
Workshop-based strategies to make occupational justice more accessible and applicable in clinical practice.

3 Approach



- Three workshops on occupational justice
 - Online workshops (2 hr. x3)
 - In-person workshop (full-day session)
 - Brief in-person workshop (20 min.)
- These workshops engaged over 30 OTs, and their feedback was collected.

Reflection Tools



What Are My Accessibility Privileges?

- 1. Accessibility Privilege**
Introducing the concept.
- 2. Guided Imagination**
Imagining life with visible or invisible impairments.
- 3. Reconstructed Self**
Reflecting on a changed sense of self.
- 4. Peer Sharing**
Sharing experiences and building empathy.
- 5. Critical Reflection**
Examining bias, identity, and shared humanity.

My accessibility privileges

If I go through really bad hair loss, have sudden moments where my mind goes blank, forget things I need to take care of, sometimes hear someone yelling at me and feel angry and scared like I'm the only one hearing it, and occasionally have headaches that are so intense I just don't want to do anything...



What type of person would I become?

How will my life change from this point on?

What benefits do I get now that I'm accessible?

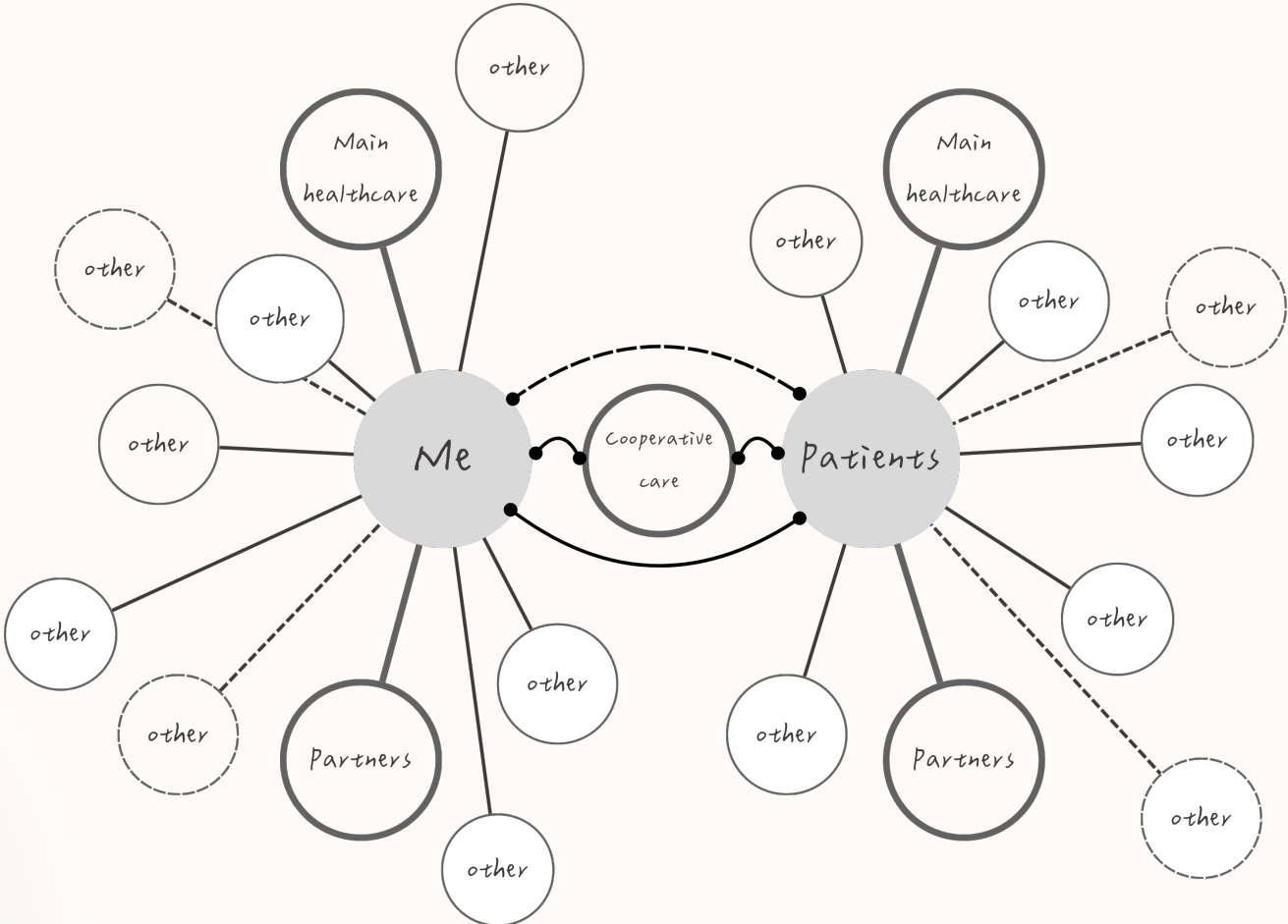
What Are My Accessibility Privileges?

6. Critical Reflection on Professional Biases

- Did your imagined self reflect stereotypes of “patients” or disability?
- Did you overlook your professional expertise and personal capacities?
- What truly distinguishes you from the clients you work with?
- How might we lose sight of our shared humanity in clinical practice?

This process helped participants recognize unconscious bias and prepared them to move from self-reflection toward systemic analysis.

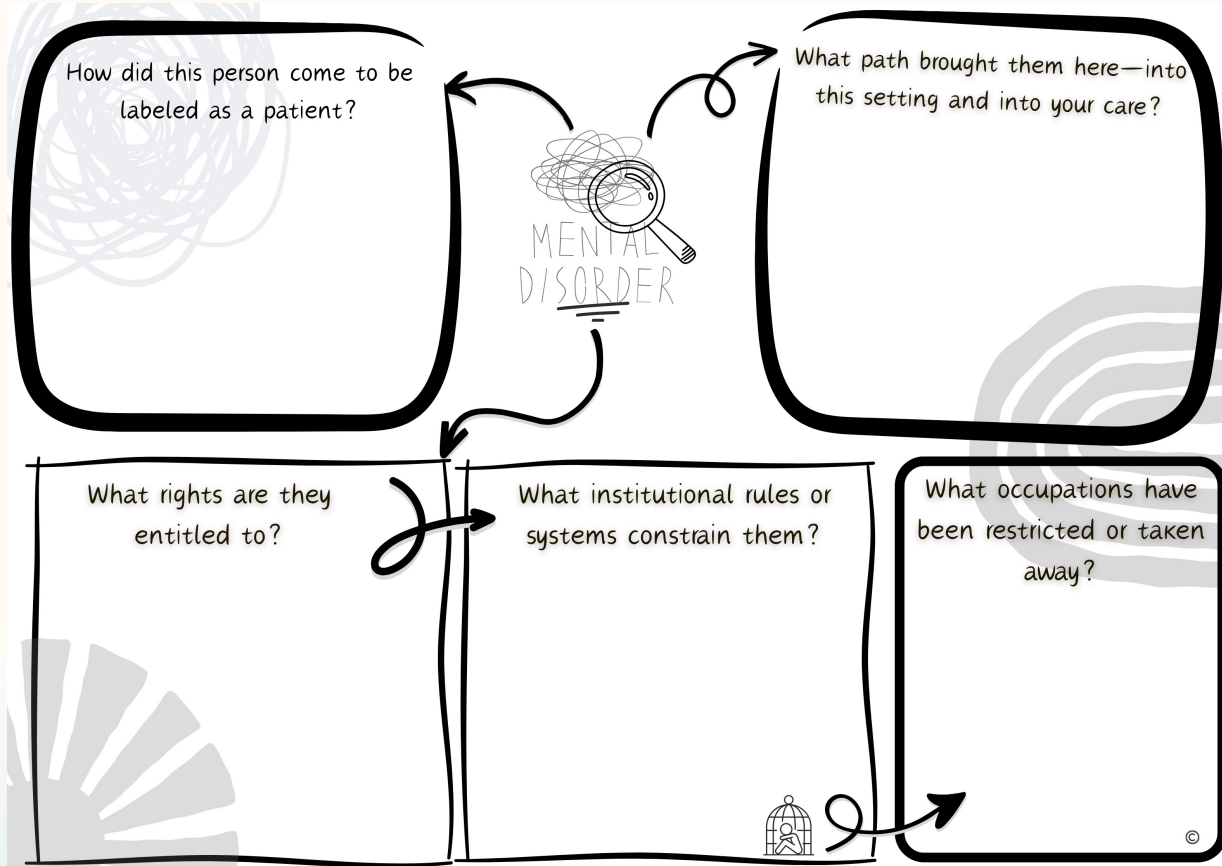
Our Care Network



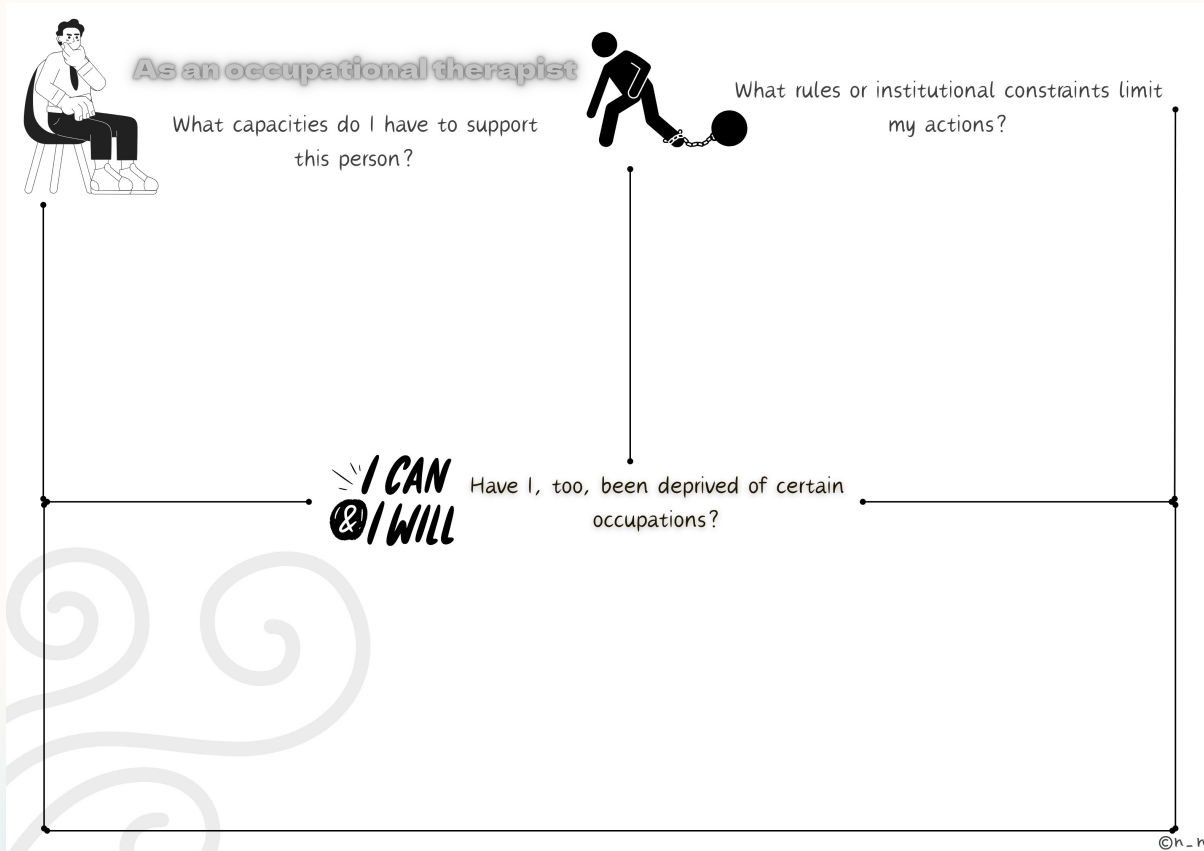
A photograph of seven light-colored wooden blocks arranged to spell out the word "CHANGE". The blocks are slightly irregular in shape and are set against a dark, solid background. The letters are arranged in two rows: the top row contains 'C', 'H', 'A', 'N', and 'C', and the bottom row contains 'G' and 'E'. The 'C' in the top row is positioned above the 'G' in the bottom row.

“Opportunities and possibilities for
occupational justice”

Beyond Assessment, How Do we Understand This Person?



As an Occupational Therapist,



A Lovely Patient?

1. Is it the person that troubles you—
or the situation they are placed in?

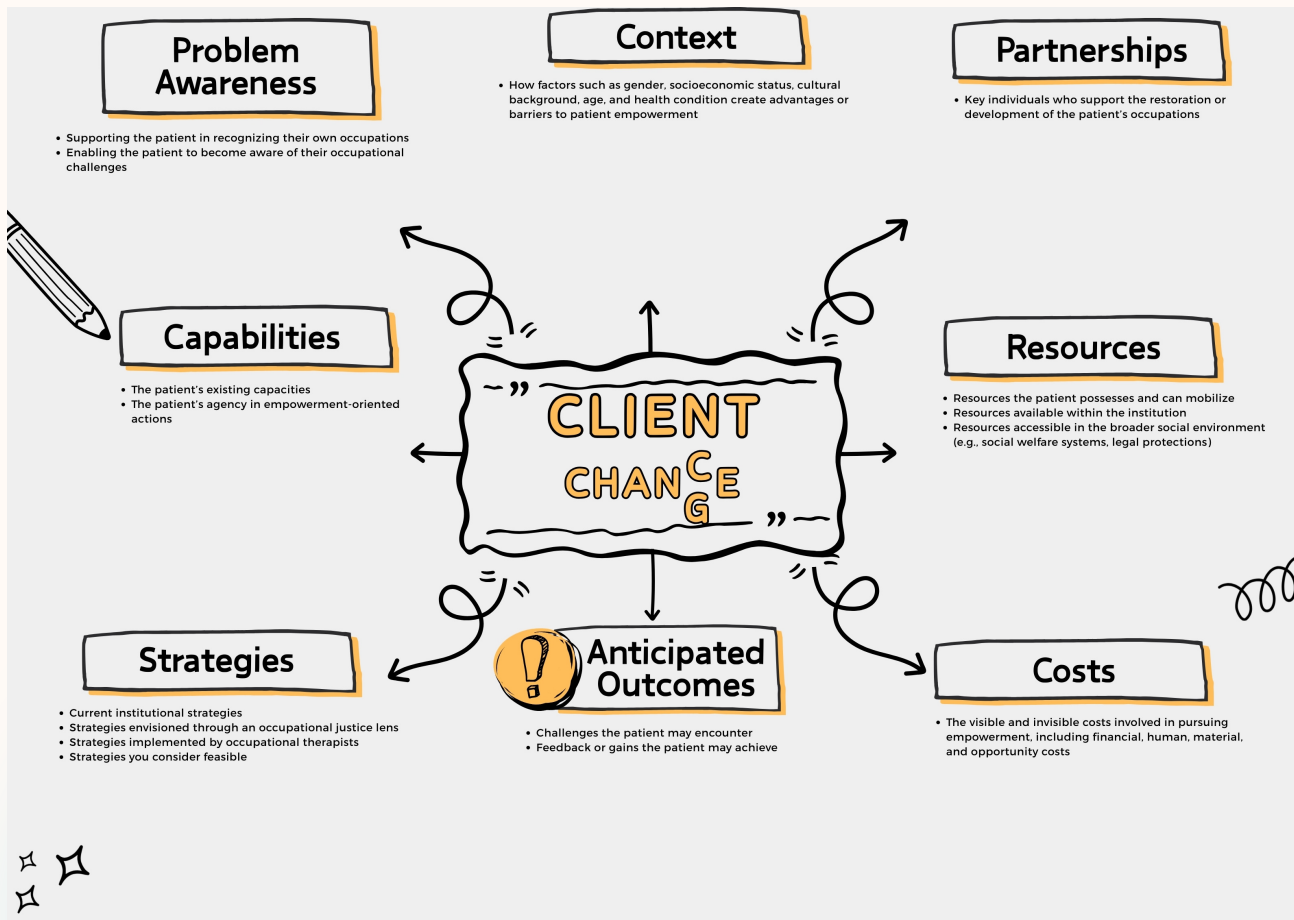
3. How might you attempt to
address this challenge?

2. What exactly is creating your
difficulty: the person, or the
systemic constraints of the
practice setting?

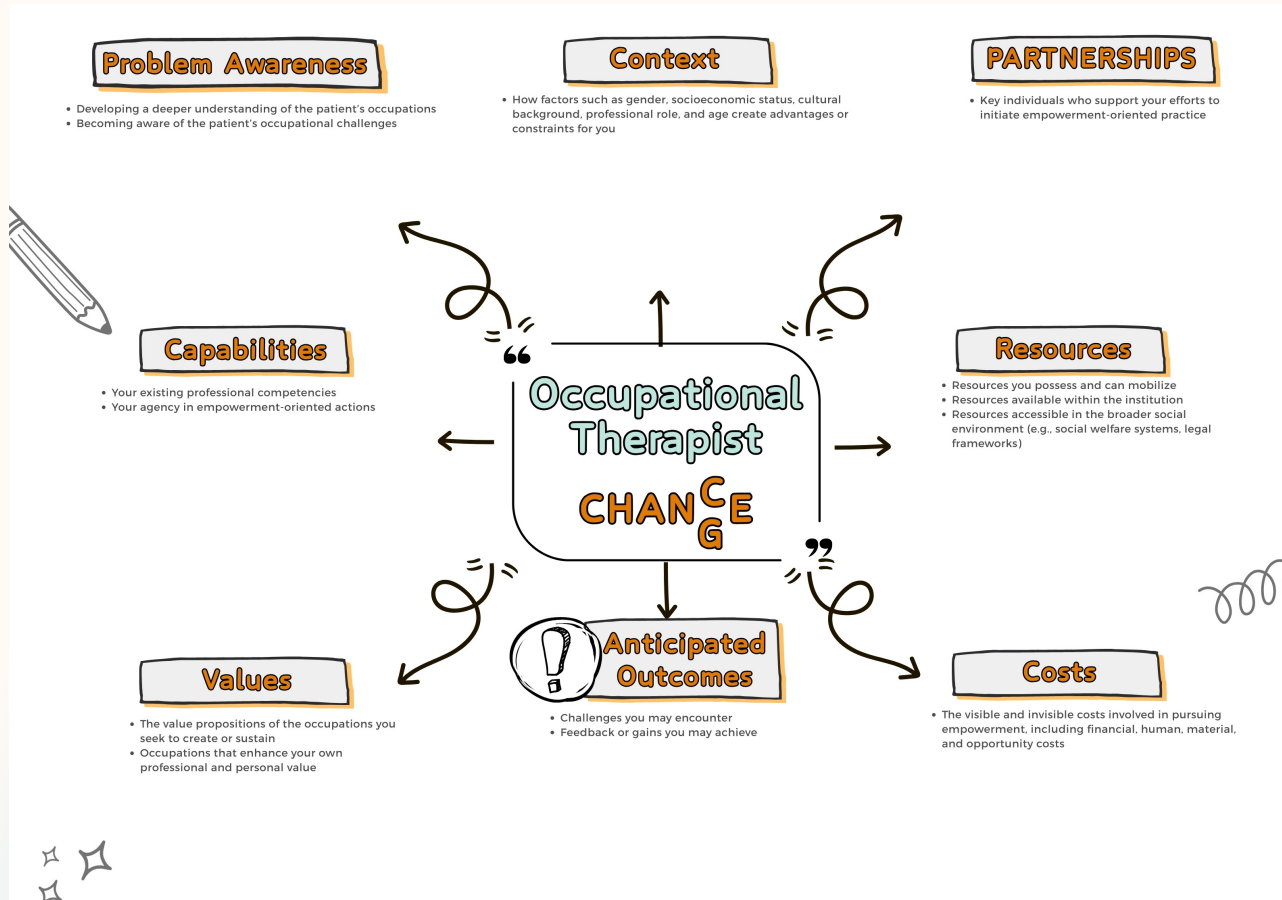


4. Does this response impose
further constraints, or does it
create possibilities for liberation?

Empowerment Opportunities for Patients



Possibilities of Empowering Occupational Therapists





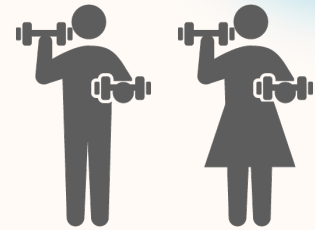
Implications for Practice

Strategies for Engaging Therapists with Occupational Justice

- **Deepen Conceptual Understanding**
Linking *Occupational Justice* with *Empowerment* to broaden professional perspectives.
- **Enhance Personal Relevance**
Drawing on therapists' lived experiences of occupational injustice to foster engagement.
- **Apply Creative Problem-Solving**
Using *Design Thinking Tools* to envision systemic solutions through an occupational justice lens.

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Contributions to OT Profession



Practical strategies to make occupational justice more accessible and applicable in clinical practice

- Support deeper integration of occupational justice principles.
- Encourage OTs to move beyond traditional models and adopt a broader, more inclusive perspective that aligns with the evolving needs of society.



Key References

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- Hammell, K. R. W. (2016). Empowerment and occupation: A new perspective. *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 83(5), 281-287.
- Whiteford, G., Parnell, T., Ramsden, L., Nott, M., Vine-Daher, S. (2021). Understanding and Advancing Occupational Justice and Social Inclusion. In: Liamputtong, P. (eds) *Handbook of Social Inclusion*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-48277-0_10-1



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