

Metuia Cerrado: practices and knowledge in social occupational therapy with people with disabilities

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Introduction

Since the development of occupational therapy in the Brazilian context, social issues and the profession's role in legitimizing rights and fostering individuals' emancipation have been central concerns. The Metuia network (Figure 1) exemplifies this perspective, shaping the theoretical framework that underpins what is now recognized as Social Occupational Therapy.

Our objective is to illustrate a tangible example of the work carried out by this interinstitutional academic network, specifically the Metuia Cerrado Laboratory: Practices and Knowledge in Social Occupational Therapy branch at the University of Brasilia.

Approach and Results

This project involved a partnership with a social institution (Association of Parents and Friends of Persons with Disabilities, Brasilia, Brazil) that serves people with intellectual disabilities. Through a needs assessment, we were able to develop actions that contribute to the legitimacy of the profession within this service.

These actions were focused on demonstrating our social role in the face of disability, in addition to physical rehabilitation, carrying out actions based on an intervention focused on social participation, empowerment and promotion of citizenship.

As a result, through engagement with the service's occupational therapists and the multidisciplinary team, we have prepared an informative document (Figure 2) on the role of occupational therapy in the national social assistance system.

Conclusion

The project provided a framework to substantiate and validate their work within the Brazilian social assistance system for people with disabilities. It exemplifies how Social Occupational Therapy contributes to legitimizing the profession's role in the sphere of social policies, going beyond the health sector.



Figure 1: Social actions carried out at the institution with users and occupational therapists. Source: Personal archive.



Figure 2: Cover of the informational document developed. Source: Personal archive.

