HOW OTs CAN CONTRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERS‘ WORK

TRAINING CLINICS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Presentation at the 2011 ENOTHE-congress, Ghent

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The Project team - Who we are:

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Where we come from:

- **University of Applied Sciences**
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The Project in collaboration with “Lebenshilfe Salzburg”

“Lebenshilfe Salzburg”:
- Organisation for People with Disabilities, located in Salzburg
- Provides assisted living, assisted working spaces, activities for leisure time,…

Project’s aim:
- working together with volunteers and elaborating how they can benefit from OT knowledge
- Enabling volunteers who work with people with disabilities through imparting, both practical and theoretical OT-knowledge to the clients’ benefit
The Project’s parts:

- 1 meeting with the clients
- 1 practical session with the clients, doing textile printing (by project team)
- 2 volunteer training clinics
  - One session on medical knowledge
  - One session on practical knowledge
- 1 practical session with the clients, doing textile printing (by volunteers)
- 3 feedback papers to evaluate the project
Meeting with the Clients

- Meeting with 11 interested clients, explaining the project, getting to know the people, with whom the volunteers work
Practical part with Clients

- Practical session with Clients - carried out by the project team:
  - Textile printing – T-shirts, Aprons, Bags, door plates
  - Session’s aim for clients: achieving satisfaction with performance on 2 pieces
  - Session’s aim for project team: determining clients’ strengths and difficulties in printing – to pass this information on to the volunteers
1st Volunteer Training Clinic
Medical Knowledge,
carried out by project team

- Session on medical knowledge with 6 Volunteers
- Session’s aim: Providing information about:
  - Spasticity:
    symptoms, different types, tips for volunteers
  - Wheel chairs:
    different types, handling, awareness
  - Seizures:
    epilepsy types, overcome prejudices, tips for volunteers
  - Autism Spectrum:
    different types, symptoms, tips for volunteers
Feedback on 1st Volunteer Training Clinic

- Prior to session: no or little medical knowledge on presented topics
- All volunteers:
  - considered session as very interesting and relevant
  - would want and attend further sessions
Knowledge about Occupational Therapy prior to Project

- Feedback paper included questions about knowledge of Occupational Therapy:
  - No knowledge: 2 volunteers
  - Little knowledge: 3 volunteers
  - Already had Occupational Therapy: 1 volunteer
2nd Volunteer Training Clinic
Practical Knowledge - Textile Printing, carried out by project team

- Practical Session on Textile Printing with 5 Volunteers
- Session’s aim: providing information about:
  - Textile printing techniques
  - Design of working space
  - Activity Analysis of textile printing
  - Textile printing with people with disabilities

⇒ Ultimate goal: Enabling volunteers to host a textile printing session with clients
Feedback on 2\textsuperscript{nd} Volunteer Training Clinic

- Topic of textile printing interesting to 4 volunteers
- Activity analysis helpful to 4 volunteers
- 3 out of 4 volunteers would attend further similar sessions
Session for Clients hosted by Volunteers

- Session by 5 volunteers for 5 clients on textile printing

- Session’s aim for volunteers:
  to transfer the medical and practical knowledge gained during the training clinics with OT students to the daily work with the clients
Feedback of Session hosted by the Volunteers

- What was successful for you while working with the clients?
  - Choose the motive and it’s position, increase the enthusiasm of clients, making compliments,...

- While printing – were there things you were not happy about?
  - Exactness of printing, working step by step according to the plan,...
Feedback of Session hosted by the Volunteers

- What did you learn for you personally and for the future when working together with clients?
  - Good preparation and doing the things with great pleasure is very important, providing support is good, being patient increases clients’ creativity, restrain personal desires, accept wishes and ideas of clients

- If there were other training clinics – which topics would be interesting for you?
  - How to support clients’ movement, memory games, medical information
Conclusion

- Volunteers feedback:
  - Overall feedback very positive – volunteers appreciated the cooperation
  - Would like further training clinics especially on medical knowledge but also on practical topics
  - Activity analysis was very helpful to them

- Our findings – project’s relevancy for OT:
  - Cooperating with volunteers useful for promoting Occupational Therapy and the image of Occupational Therapy
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION! : )

If you have any questions concerning the project and/or our presentation please do not hesitate to contact us at:

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Discussion

- In your opinion –
  - Can volunteers benefit from projects like this?
  - Should such training clinics for volunteers be held by Occupational Therapists?

- Do you think –
  - training clinics like this could help profiling and promoting occupational therapy?
  - it's good to pass on our knowledge to volunteers or other people working with people with disabilities?

- Would you offer similar training clinics in your country/ facility?