The Embodied Experience of Social Occupation: How Participation in a Farmers’ Market Shapes Identity

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Findings

Area of Inquiry

To explore how participation in a farmer’s market, as an art vendor, shapes identity

Methods

- **Participants:**
  - potter, woodworker & basketweaver
- **Data Collection:**
  - observation
  - semi-structured interviews
- **Analysis:**
  - thematic coding

Background

- Identity → social comparison connecting self to others
- Occupations → people make dynamic choices transforming identity
- Occupation ↔ identity: transact within a reciprocal give and take
- Farmers’ markets = meeting places

Identity

- Social participation shaped identity and built community.
- Participants expanded notion of self = collective purpose
- They valued contributing to quality of life (QOL) of others.
- Processes of self-reflection were extremely significant.

Discussion

Feeling Community

- Does making one-of-a-kind things
- People feel one-of-a-kind themselves.

Being Self-reflective

- Identity → social comparison connecting self to others
- Occupations → people make dynamic choices transforming identity
- Occupation ↔ identity: transact within a reciprocal give and take
- Farmers’ markets = meeting places

Purpose and Meaning

- To explore how participation in a farmer’s market, as an art vendor, shapes identity

Quality of Life

- Processes of self-reflection were extremely significant.

Growth as an Artist

- Social participation shaped identity and built community.
- Participants expanded notion of self = collective purpose
- They valued contributing to quality of life (QOL) of others.

Daily Routines

- Identity → social comparison connecting self to others
- Occupations → people make dynamic choices transforming identity
- Occupation ↔ identity: transact within a reciprocal give and take
- Farmers’ markets = meeting places

Participation at the market

- Social participation shaped identity and built community.
- Participants expanded notion of self = collective purpose
- They valued contributing to quality of life (QOL) of others.
- Processes of self-reflection were extremely significant.

References


Conclusion

- Identity and meaning = social constructs
- Relationships → enhanced health, QOL and feelings of belonging
- Occupational therapy frameworks: ↑ analysis of social patterns in communities
- Participation in interviews = therapeutic intervention