Preacher’s Kids & Occupational Choice

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INTRODUCTION

Occupational choice is the process that leads to occupational engagement\(^2\). While this was previously thought to be formed by a person’s motivation, it has recently been understood as more complex because it has many contributing factors. “Preacher’s kids” (PKs) may experience limitations in occupational choice because they feel like they live in a “fishbowl”\(^4\) and are under greater stress to live up to the expectations of their parents and the church congregation\(^1\).

RESEARCH AIM

This study aims to explore the impact that being a PK has on occupational choice.

METHODS

- Qualitative research design
- Convenience sampling
- Semi-structured interviews of 3 PKs
- Thematic coding and analysis

FINDINGS

- Always being watched
  - “They expect you to be a certain way, dress a certain way.”
  - “…I see [the congregation] as parent figures.”

- Church is life
  - “I didn’t have the freedom to just not go to church. I always had to be at everything.”
  - “I don’t think I resented it…that was just our life.”

- Can’t escape the stereotypes
  - “I stopped telling people that I was a PK, I could just be [me].”
  - “I liked when people thought I was a badass and a rebel.”

DISCUSSION

Due to the increased transparency of their life and the time commitment of attending church activities, PKs may experience occupational deprivation (loss of autonomy over choosing occupations)\(^5\) and/or occupational imbalance (excessive amounts of time spent with one occupation at the expense of another occupation)\(^3\).

IMPLICATIONS

- It is important to know the extent that external factors, like a parent’s job, can affect occupational choice/justice
- Further supports the idea that occupational choice is not solely situated within the individual and has many contributing factors

REFERENCES