

Parent Impact on Occupational Choices of First Generation College Students (FGCS) to Participate in Higher Education

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Introduction

- Occupational choice is influenced by environment^{1-2,3-4}
- Educational attainment as inherited family capital^{5,6}
- First generation college students (FGCS)
- Internalization of family social structures leads to predisposition to certain occupations³⁻⁵
- FGCS context may limit their occupational choices, creating an unequal opportunity for their participation in higher education, and putting them at risk for occupational injustice.

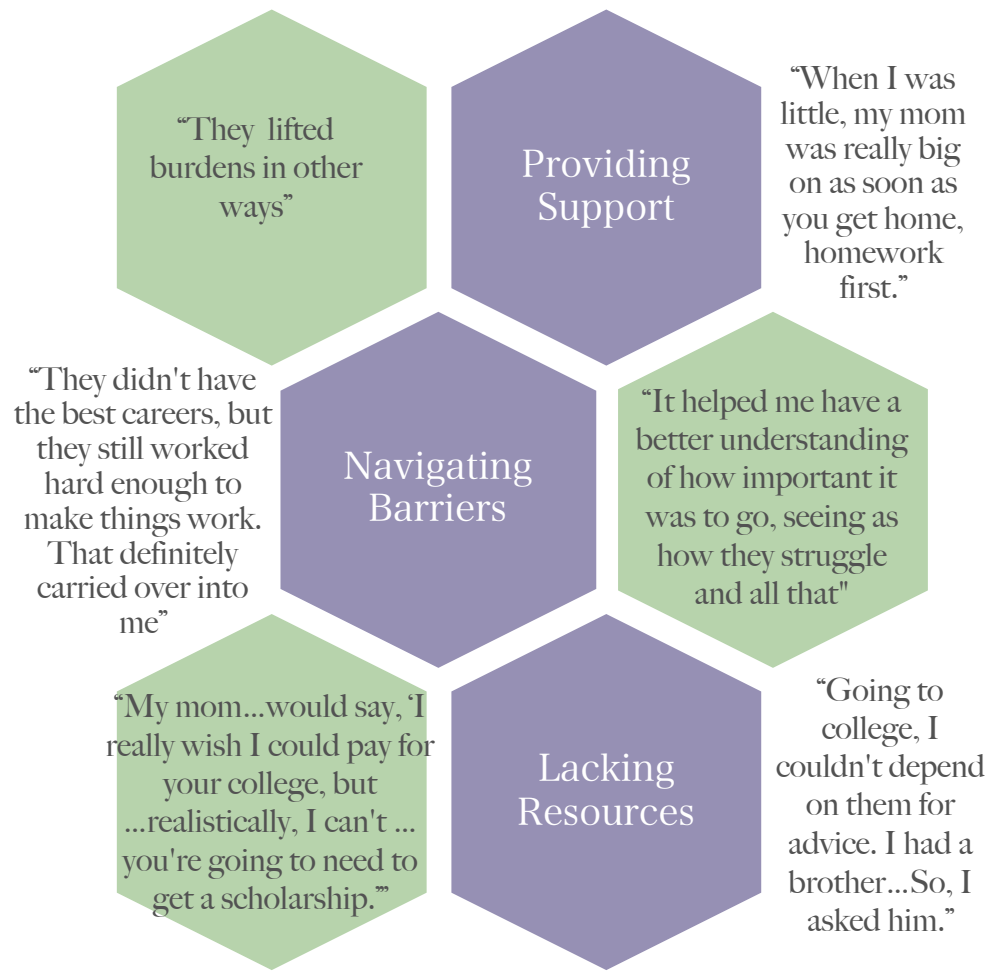
Study Aim

To understand how parents shape FGCSs' occupational choice to participate in higher education

Methods

- Qualitative Study Design
- Transactional Perspective
- Purposive sampling
- Three FGCS, female participants 23-25 yo
- Semi-Structured interviews
- Thematic Coding and Analysis⁷

Findings



Discussion

- Findings reflect current understanding of occupational choice within occupational science literature that views occupational choice
 - as a process¹ that changes according to the composition and configuration of other elements in every situation²
 - as not being derived solely from the current conditions³, but instead is coordinated within a sociohistorical context²
 - as elicited by environmental challenges⁴
- In conclusion, findings indicate that parents of FGCS have the ability to positively impact their child's occupational choice to higher education, regardless of their own educational attainment.

Implications for OS/OT

- Through understanding an OS perspective of choice, OTs can further contribute to minimizing contextual barriers and maximizing existing environmental supports in order to promote occupational justice

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