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Opportunities and Perceived Barriers to Applying the ICF Model with Consideration to Environmental Factors

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OVERVIEW

• Common framework and language (universal application)
• Conceptualization of function using real-life models
• Choice -specific to individual.
• Government, health and rehabilitation entities are key to successful implementation
• The environment plays a primary role in facilitating or impeding an individual’s ability to physically function and participate. (Tomey and Sowers, 2009)
Variables influencing successful implementation of ICF
Global Implementation of the ICF
Activity and Performance

- **Activities** (def) the execution of tasks or actions by an individual, and *activity limitations* are difficulties in executing activities as a result of an interaction between a health condition and the context in which the person exists. (*Tomey and Sowers, 2009; McConachie, Colver, Forsyth, Jarvis, Parkinson, 2006; Rimmer, 2006*)

- **Participation** (def) involvement in a life situation, and *participation restrictions* are problems an individual encounters in a life situation. (*Tomey and Sowers, 2009; McConachie, Colver, Forsyth, Jarvis, Parkinson, 2006; Rimmer, 2006*)

- Practitioners must delineate the discrepancy between capacity and performance so as to enhance the environment and promote participation.

- Discrepancy or ‘participation gaps’, are defined as ‘measurable differences in levels or quality of participation between those with, and those without, disability’. (*Bickenbach 2002*)
PARTICIPATION

*Discretionary participation*: availability of appropriate assistive technology, environmental modification or personal assistance

*Educational participation*: quality and value of education

– Children in most cultures participate (in education)
– Education is the key to acquisition of life experiences and new skills.
Participation

- Social interaction
- Play and exploration
- Mobility - self directed/propelled
Key concepts of participation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1</th>
<th>Q2</th>
<th>Q3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What does the child want to do?</td>
<td>How does the child interact?</td>
<td>What activities have high social, developmental or educational priority?</td>
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Personal factors influencing participation

- Lifestyle
- Experiences
- Habits
- Motivation
- Behavior
- Education
- Coping Styles
- Interests
Environmental Factors Impacting Activity and Participation
1. Products and Technology

Products
- Availability of resources - assistive devices
- Funding to secure resources

Technology
- Medical
- Communication
- Mobility
2. Natural environment

Environmental Centralization (Reid, 2003)
- Restricted to family home

Outdoor facilities
- Trails & parks should have an accessible route or path.

Historic Sites
- Educational
- Recreational
3. Changes made to the environment (by humans)

Accessibility to public venues
- Social
- Exercise
- Religion

Social venues
- Visiting friend/family
- Social isolation

Transportation
- Public transportation and educational
- May have limited accessibility
4. Social support and relationships, attitudes

Social support
- Medical
- Psychosocial

Transportation
- Accessibility

Attitudes
- Cultural
- Interaction
- Social context
- Atmosphere
- Expectation
- Stigma
5. Services - governmental and NGO

**Non-governmental organization (NGO)**
- Initiates services with the expectations government will fund and continue services

**Governmental agencies**
- Health
- Education
Variables influencing participation

- Environment
- Culture
- Social
- Family

Participation level
Challenges

Adaptation of recreation and leisure activities - pools, playground, hotels, restaurants, city sidewalks, athletic activities/sports venues
Environmental support/facilitation vs. barriers/challenges

- External environment impacts activity and participation, depending on the degree of modifications, equipment and assistance provided.
External environment sometimes serve as a barrier
• Resource constraints – may limit self-care, mobility, school activities
• Secondarily influenced by access to aids and equipment as well as home modifications.
• Often leads to higher costs of support services or delayed return to the school/work.
• Environments that are not modified to meet the needs of all citizens contribute to an individual’s to disability.
• Limits individuals ability to fulfill roles appropriate to their age, sex and social and cultural identity.
Physical and architectural constraints at home...
Leads to isolation...
and may limit activities and participation in education
Undiagnosed or untreated pathologies may limit activities and participation across the lifespan.
Access to resources motivates the child and family
Capacity and performance- child and family

• Societal perception of child
• Family social perception
• Uncompensated financial costs
• Restricted employment opportunities
• Participating in gainful employment constrained by the perception that the individual is not capable of employment.
• Participation measurement in different cultural settings requires sensitivity to differences in social attitudes and stigmatizing values.
• Adaptation of recreation and leisure activities- pools, playground, hotels, restaurants, city sidewalks, athletic activities/sports venues
Societal perception of child

Limits family participation...     ..and the child’s participation
Lack of family financial resources and time

• Without personal assets, access to adequate medical care may not be available
Uncompensated financial costs

- Poor quality or lack of medical care makes it necessary for families to acquire funding support - travel and payment for diagnostic/medical care.
- Example: Family secured funding for surgery:
  - Significant financial resources
    - Procedure $70,000.00 eu ($100,00. usd) cash
  - Ability to secure a medical visa
Restricted employment opportunities

- Social Factors
  - Participating in gainful employment constrained by the perception that the individual is not capable of employment.

- Environmental factors
  - Mobility limitations
  - The availability or absence of workplace features such as accessible transportation, parking, lifts, and appropriate workstation conditions proved to be important facilitators or barriers
Limited access to quality medical care

- Limited access to medical diagnostic testing
- Families incur significant expenses
- Communication to family can be eminence based not evidenced based - child’s physician suggested the child no longer attend school as her life expectancy was short.
- Educational laws and time to implementation
• ICF increasingly influenced governmental, health care, and rehabilitation entities both in the many developed countries

• Develop strategies for supporting implementation of ICF in developing regions around the globe to ensure that...
Social attitudes

• Participation measurement in different cultural settings requires sensitivity to differences in social attitudes and stigmatizing values.
Opportunity and empowerment
Environmental factors should support an individual’s choice and provide opportunities for participating in meaningful activities.