

Determinants of Social Participation in Youth with Physical Disabilities: Literature Appraisal Based on the ICF/ICF-CY Framework

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Social participation involves forming and maintaining social relationships through interactions with others during daily activities and is supported by accessible environments. Youth with physical disabilities experience increased challenges in social participation given their difficulties in mobility, communication and socialization. Restrictions in social participation may increase their difficulties associated with successful transition to adult life. Knowledge of factors that are facilitators or barriers to social participation is limited in youth with physical disabilities. This review appraised research evidence on multiple determinants that affect social participation based on the framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and its children/youth version (ICF-CY). Knowledge of determinants of social participation should help therapists better understand factors pertain to body functions and structures and activity, as well as personal and environmental factors associated with higher social participation. An important role of physical therapists is to provide support and services, or to remove barriers, that will facilitate youth's engagement in community social life and contribution to society. The findings will have implications for providing youth- and family-centered services that support youths in achieving their goals for social participation and community integration. (FJPT 2013;38(1):29-36)

Key Words: Participation, ICF-CY, Determinants, Physical disabilities, Youth

INTRODUCTION

Participation creates avenues to form friendships, develop self-concept, and determine a sense of meaning in life.^{1,2}

Participation is broadly defined as "the involvement in life situations" in the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF)³ and the children/youth version of ICF.⁴ The ICF/ICF-CY model provides a conceptual frame-

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