

Do We Really Need the Biel Model? – An International Perspective



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Some Background

- I am a critical thinker, educator, and researcher with in-depth knowledge of occupational therapy models of practice
- I interact with occupational therapists around the world on a regular basis
- But, I am *not* an expert in the Biel Model

Some Key Questions

- Is there really a need for another occupational therapy model of practice?
- Does Swiss (or Middle European) occupational therapy practice and research need the Biel Model?
- Does the Biel Model have anything to offer occupational therapy practice and research in other world regions?

Finding Some Answers

- Compare the Biel Model to other models of practice
 - Identify features of the Biel Model that are similar to those other models
 - Identify features of the Biel Model that are different or unique
- Determine if the features of the Biel Model fulfill a missing need for occupational therapy practice and research
 - In Switzerland/Middle Europe
 - Internationally

Types of Models of Practice

- Conceptual models of
 - The human as an occupational being and/or
 - Occupational performance
- Models that describe the stages of the occupational therapy evaluation and intervention process
- Models that specify principles and strategies for intervention

The Biel Model

- The Biel Model is a conceptual model of competent occupational performance

The Biel Model

- It should be compared to conceptual models of the human as an occupational being and/or occupational performance

Theoretical Principles

1. Occupation is goal-oriented and conscious; the focus is on everyday actions that are related to occupational domains

Theoretical Principles

1. MOHO and OTIPM: Occupation is comprised of goal-directed actions that are small units of observable task performance

Theoretical Principles

2. Occupation is motivated by personal, social, and factual meanings (desires, beliefs, satisfaction)

Theoretical Principles

2. CMOP-E, MOHO, and OTIPM: Occupation is motivated by personal meanings

Theoretical Principles

3. Basic behavioral performance is observable – everyday actions – determined by personal factors and the environment

Theoretical Principles

3. MOHO and OTIPM: Occupation is comprised of observable actions that are influenced by the task, personal factors, and the environment

Theoretical Principles

3. CMOP-E: Occupation (occupational performance) is influenced by the task (occupation), the person, and the environment

How is the Biel Model Unique?

- The Biel Model is Swiss — it is yours
- The primary focus is action and the processes that cause occupational performance
 - MOHO focuses primarily on volition and habituation
 - CMOP-E focuses on the transaction among person, task (occupation), and the environment
 - OTIPM is primarily a process model that describes the professional reasoning process

Some Challenges

- Action theories are controversial, and new research may suggest the need to update and revise the Biel Model
- Some features of the Biel Model may need to be further developed or clarified

Concern About Importing Anglo-Saxon Models of Practice

Cultural Considerations

- CMOP-E, MOHO, and OTIPM all take culture into consideration
- They are being used without problems in different world regions
- There is no reason they cannot be applied in a Swiss or Middle European context

Cultural Considerations

- The Biel Model was developed in a Swiss context
- Does it contain features that cannot be applied in other world regions?

A Swiss Model That Also Is Relevant to All of Middle Europe?

A Swiss Model That Has the Potential to Contribute to Occupational Therapy In Other World Regions?

Cultural Considerations

- If the Biel Model meets needs not filled by existing models, there will be a demand to find a language that enables you to share the model with the non-German-speaking world

Questions for Discussion

- Does Switzerland/Middle Europe need its own occupational therapy model of practice and if so, why? (What are the benefits of further developing the Biel Model for Swiss/Middle European occupational therapy practice and research?)
- Would the international occupational therapy community benefit from "knowing" the Biel Model, and if so, why? (What are the benefits of for occupational therapy practice and research in other world regions?)