



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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Key words in Occupational Therapy

- ✓ Participation
- ✓ Inclusion
- ✓ Right protection
- ✓ Improvement
- ✓ Adaptation
- ✓ Prevention
- ✓ Rehabilitation
- ✓ Teaching/Learning
- ✓ Development
- ✓ To be continued...

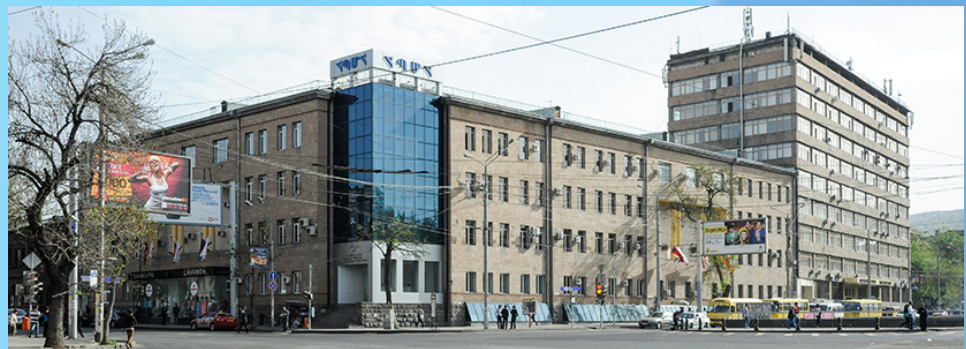


Profession entry into Armenia

- TEMPUS MP-JEP-23154-2002 project “Development of Occupational Therapy Education in Armenia and Georgia” in 2003.
- ENOTHE, ASPU and ArBeS
- 13 students from Armenian and 13 students from Georgia
- Department of Occupational Therapy has been opened in 2005 within the frame of the faculty of Special and Inclusive Education
- Master Education has started in 2017

Occupational Therapy education

- ✓ Khachatur Abovyan Armenian State Pedagogical university
- ✓ Faculty of Special and Inclusive Education
- ✓ Chair of Speech and Rehabilitative Therapy
- ✓ Department of Occupational Therapy



Occupational Therapy MA courses (1st year)

- ✓ Organizing scientific research in OT
- ✓ Theoretical foundations of OT
- ✓ The connection of OT related disciplines
- ✓ OT with children
- ✓ Occupation as a research issue
- ✓ Methodology of sociological research
- ✓ Social and scientific perspectives of OT
- ✓ OT in Mental health
- ✓ OT in the field of Neurology and Elderly care

Occupational Therapy MA courses (2nd year)

- ✓ Ethics in OT
- ✓ ICF as assessment and intervention model in OT
- ✓ Community based rehabilitation in OT
- ✓ Occupation and environment
- ✓ Disability definition and legislative procedure bases in Armenia
- ✓ Research Data Analysis Methods
- ✓ Scientific writing (thesis, article)
- ✓ Participation of individuals and communities, health and prosperity

Armenian Ergo Therapists' Association



- Was founded in 2007
- 7 founders
- President: Zaruhi Harutyunyan
- Mostly conducts volunteering activities
- Ready and open to discuss and conduct projects in cooperation with our colleagues from diaspora

Our graduates

Graduation year	Number of alumni	With excellence	Work as OTs
2008-2009	12	6	6
2009-2010	11	1	5
2010-2011	14	1	6
2011-2012	12	3	9
2012-2013	14	0	9
2013-2014	3	1	2
2014-2015	-	-	-
2015-2016	8	1	5
2016-2017	8	0	5
2017-2018	8	0	3
2018-2019 MA	9	2	6
2019-2020 MA	7		
Total	106	15	46

Occupational Therapists in Armenia work in the following fields

- **University/Education (3)**
- **Medical-Social expertise Agency (1)**
- **Rehabilitation centers (3)**
- **Non-governmental organizations (NGO) (21)**
- **Hospital (2)**
- **Day care centers (4)**
- **Home care (1)**
- **Children home (3)**
- **Inclusive/Special Schools and Educational-psychological support centers (10)**
- **Research (3)**

Achievements (1)

- 90 BA graduates
- 16 MA graduates (7 out of this number will graduate soon)
- EU MSc 2 specialist, one is coming soon
- 2 PhD manuscript defense in the field of OT, 1 is coming soon
- More than 18 articles published in local journals
- 4 articles published in USA and Europe

Achievements (2)

- The profession is included in four legislative acts (government decision, ministerial order, draft decisions)
- Printed methodological guidance in Armenian language



Methodological guide books

- Occupational Therapy with children with physical disabilities
- Occupational Therapy intervention in Inclusive schools



Challenges

- ✓ Closing the bachelor's degree program
- ✓ Low level of public awareness
- ✓ Practical field constraint
- ✓ Lack of Armenian language literature
- ✓ Lack of association funding



Future perspectives

- ✓ Development of OT in the field of Neurology
- ✓ Development of OT in Elderly care
- ✓ Increasing research opportunities in the field



