New developments in health and welfare challenges the new curriculum
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New developments in health and welfare challenges the new curriculum: positioned for impact

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Introduction
Rising financial costs of the healthcare system and decentralization of health and social services caused radical reform in the Dutch Health and Welfare system. As a result, the Dutch welfare state shifted to a participation society\(^2\). An increasing importance of the social environment in providing healthcare is stated. Citizens are expected to manage their own welfare and healthcare. These developments result in challenges for education of future Dutch Occupational Therapists (OT). Another challenge is the didactics in connecting with the adolescent brain of contemporary students.

Objectives
A new bachelor curriculum of the OT-professional of the future was developed that matches present-day developments in health and welfare and matches with present-day students.

Approach
Based on these developments we created an occupation-based curriculum focussing on:

- **Individual perspective**
  - person-centred OT (practice contexts 1 + 2)
  - social/societal perspective:
    - organization-centred OT (practice context 3)
    - population-centred OT (practice context 4)\(^2\)
- **Strength-based approach\(^3\)**, supporting the client as actor of the intervention;
- Modules on practice-based themes with integrated supporting courses\(^4\);
- Modules of four weeks, matching the shorter attention span of nowadays students.

Practice Contexts OT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Primary Care &amp; Community</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Individual perspective</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Social/societal perspective</strong></td>
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Results
Student and teacher evaluations show that:

- the new curriculum has a good mix of person-centred, organization-centred and population-centred care;
- is focusing on equality in the dialogue client-OT;
- students show more responsibility for their study process;
- students like the short practice-based modules;
- study-success has improved;
- students and teachers are satisfied with the regularity of the week-scheme.

Conclusion
The new curriculum integrates new developments in healthcare and social services with a strength-based approach in didactics. Education is positioned for impact of our future OTs on society and improving health and well being in persons, organizations and populations.

References