

PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

TITLE (PROVISIONAL)	Workplace-based occupational therapy for mental health in Africa: a scoping review protocol
AUTHORS	Hoosain, Munira; Plastow, Nicola Ann

VERSION 1 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Monica Robinson The Ohio State University, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
REVIEW RETURNED	29-Aug-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>I enjoyed reviewing your protocol and I look forward to the final paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Abstract – The interdiction uses the terms “mental health workers”, “at work” and “workers” perhaps the term can be mental health service providers to reduce the repetition of the word “work” in different contexts. Stakeholders are not involved in the actual review; a more clear aim may be “ This review aims to collaborate with stakeholders to identify literature on workplace-based occupational therapy interventions supporting the mental health of workers in Africa. <input type="checkbox"/> Keywords – consider adding “mental health” since that is in your title <input type="checkbox"/> Page 5, Line 40 – Write out United Stated Dollar (USD) for the first use of the acronym <input type="checkbox"/> Page 5, Lines 57 – clarify regions. Suggest, “ more than 70% in all other WHO regions outside of Africa.” <input type="checkbox"/> Page 6, Line 12 – are all workers “adults”? perhaps, “the majority of workers” <input type="checkbox"/> Page 6, Lines 30 – 50 – you might want to include the WHO Mental Health Atlas 2017,[4] explicitly names occupational therapy as a mental health provider in many regions around the globe. <input type="checkbox"/> Page 6, line 37, mentioning SLP is a distraction from the topic at hand; OT. <input type="checkbox"/> Page 6, line 51 – “....workplace-based mental health interventions from other professions, [12-20]” <input type="checkbox"/> Page 6, line 55 – “The practice of occupational therapy in Africa has unique contextual considerations due to the difference in mental health care service provision, poverty and associated malnutrition and low education levels, violence and political instability, mental health stigma, a wide variety of cultures and languages, and community-centredness.[21]” How is this uniquely OT and not also social work? Or those who are sociologists”? You have not linked these terms to mental health AND work. You are not pitching the
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	<p>need for OT here that can be in your discussion and conclusion of your final paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> When you have your discussion and conclusion, use our origins are founded in mental health, use OT language of client-centered (you said), holistic approach, evidence-based interventions, we uniquely consider the person, the occupation (job), and the environment to foster optimal performance including mental health. <input type="checkbox"/> AIMS – Just a question, is focusing on workplace interventions too narrow? You could have a more broad aim looking at “What literature exists that identifies occupational therapy addressing mental health in Africa” or “What literature exists that identifies occupational therapy addressing mental health in the workplaces in Africa” then more broadly identify trends and gaps in the findings. You may miss assessment studies, studies that address supports and barriers or contribute to OT involvement in MH, qualitative interviews of employers or employees experience with OT, etc.... by casting a wider net you may gather valuable data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with any scoping review, you can narrow or broaden your inclusion and exclusion criteria as you become more familiar with the literature. <input type="checkbox"/> Page 8, line 21 – mix methods studies as well? Or add and/or in the sentence. <input type="checkbox"/> Page 8 inclusions and exclusion: needs more details. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will you include: conceptual papers, dissertations/thesis, conference abstracts, or protocol papers? • Will you hand-select studies from the references of full-text articles. • Recommend a year span, even if it is 2000-2021 • Do you want to include only papers that have mental health OC measures of the OT intervention(s)? • How will you handle studies that include a team of individuals that includes OTs and others in the intervention? <input type="checkbox"/> Search Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You might want to reconsider all substance use disorder terms, schizophrenia, and PTSD, these require specialized interventions of many individuals • To ensure you get studies that include OT limit the OT terms to OT and maybe rehab - occupational therapy or occupational therapist or occupational therapists or OT • Other work related words: work or workplace or occupation or employment or job or career or organization* • I would add an intervention line and review those terms separately from OT, which is a distinctly different search. interventions or strategies or best practices or treatment* or therapy or program* or service* • The country search terms need an explanation to the readers as to why only specific countries were listed and why “Africa” as not listed <input type="checkbox"/> Page 10, line 34 – spell out NHMRC
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REVIEWER	Deshini Naidoo University of KwaZulu-Natal, Occupational Therapy
REVIEW RETURNED	20-Sep-2021

GENERAL COMMENTS	<p>This is a well- written review. The rationale for the scoping review and the objectives are clear. There are some revisions or considerations that need to be addressed.</p> <p>The role of the stakeholders need to be more clearly defined for example what questions did you ask them and how did their</p>
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	<p>feedback influence the design of the review. How will their feedback influence the findings/ results of he review? Please see attached PDF</p> <p>The reviewer provided a marked copy with additional comments. Please contact the publisher for full details.</p>
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VERSION 1 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

	Reviewer comment	Author response
	Reviewer #1	
1.	Abstract – The interdiction uses the terms “mental health workers”, “at work” and “workers” perhaps the term can be mental health service providers to reduce the repetition of the word “work” in different contexts. Stakeholders are not involved in the actual review; a more clear aim may be “ This review aims to collaborate with stakeholders to identify literature on workplace-based occupational therapy interventions supporting the mental health of workers in Africa.	<p><i>Thank you for raising this issue, we have made the changes as suggested from “mental health workers” to “mental health service providers”.</i></p> <p><i>The aim is stated as you have suggested.</i></p>
2.	Keywords – consider adding “mental health” since that is in your title	<i>We have added “mental health” as a keyword.</i>
3.	Page 5, Line 40 – Write out United States Dollar (USD) for the first use of the acronym	<i>Addressed</i>
4.	Page 5, Lines 57 – clarify regions. Suggest, “ more than 70% in all other WHO regions outside of Africa.”	<i>Addressed</i>
5.	Page 6, Line 12 – are all workers “adults”? perhaps, “the majority of workers”	<i>Addressed</i>
6.	Page 6, Lines 30 – 50 – you might want to include the WHO Mental Health Atlas 2017,[4] explicitly names occupational therapy as a mental health provider in many regions around the globe.	<i>Addressed, thank you.</i>
7.	Page 6, line 37, mentioning SLP is a distraction from the topic at hand; OT.	<i>Addressed</i>
8.	Page 6, line 51 – “...workplace-based mental health interventions from other professions, [12-20]”	<i>Addressed</i>
9.	Page 6, line 55 – “The practice of occupational therapy in Africa has unique contextual considerations due to the difference in mental health care service provision, poverty and associated malnutrition and low education levels, violence and political instability, mental health stigma, a wide variety of cultures and languages, and community-centredness.[21]” How is this uniquely OT and not also social work? Or those who are sociologists”? You have not linked these terms to mental health AND work. You are not	<i>Although occupational therapy is not the only profession dealing with these challenges, this sentence aimed to highlight the unique challenges in the African context, that occupational therapists working in this area may face, based on a scoping review about occupational therapy practice in Africa, thus highlighting the need for the current scoping review to focus on African</i>

	pitching the need for OT here that can be in your discussion and conclusion of your final paper.	<i>interventions. We have rephrased this section to make it clearer.</i>
10.	When you have your discussion and conclusion, use our origins are founded in mental health, use OT language of client-centered (you said), holistic approach, evidence-based interventions, we uniquely consider the person, the occupation (job), and the environment to foster optimal performance including mental health.	<i>Thank you for the suggestions, we have included them in the Discussion.</i>
11.	AIMS – Just a question, is focusing on workplace interventions too narrow? You could have a more broad aim looking at “What literature exists that identifies occupational therapy addressing mental health in Africa” or “What literature exists that identifies occupational therapy addressing mental health in the workplaces in Africa” then more broadly identify trends and gaps in the findings. You may miss assessment studies, studies that address supports and barriers or contribute to OT involvement in MH, qualitative interviews of employers or employees experience with OT, etc.... by casting a wider net you may gather valuable data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with any scoping review, you can narrow or broaden your inclusion and exclusion criteria as you become more familiar with the literature. 	<i>Thank you for the question. We are interested particularly in interventions that are delivered in the workplace, because we believe that mental health needs are underreported, and the context in which we are going to meet the greatest number of people with mental health problems while limiting the risk of stigma and discrimination is to address mental health as part of workplace-based interventions. There seem to be a wide variety of assessments defining the problem of mental health in the workplace – our scoping review rather aims to identify interventions addressing the problem.</i>
12.	Page 8, line 21 – mix methods studies as well? Or add and/or in the sentence.	<i>Addressed</i>
13.	Page 8 inclusions and exclusion: needs more details. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will you include: conceptual papers, dissertations/thesis, conference abstracts, or protocol papers? • Will you hand-select studies from the references of full-text articles. • Recommend a year span, even if it is 2000-2021 • Do you want to include only papers that have mental health OC measures of the OT intervention(s)? • How will you handle studies that include a team of individuals that includes OTs and others in the intervention? 	<i>We have added in more detail, and highlighted where peerling was addressed in the manuscript.</i> <i>Our expert librarian and consultant have advised that we not limit by year span, thus we have not added this as an exclusion.</i> <i>We will not only include papers with mental health outcome measures, as qualitative and mixed methods studies are also included.</i> <i>We will include all intervention teams that include an occupational therapist.</i> <i>The relevant sections and additions are highlighted in the manuscript.</i>
14.	Search Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You might want to reconsider all substance use disorder terms, schizophrenia, and PTSD, these 	<i>Thank you for your comments and suggestions.</i>

	<p>require specialized interventions of many individuals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure you get studies that include OT limit the OT terms to OT and maybe rehab - occupational therapy or occupational therapist or occupational therapists or OT • Other work related words: work or workplace or occupation or employment or job or career or organization* • I would add an intervention line and review those terms separately from OT, which is a distinctly different search. interventions or strategies or best practices or treatment* or therapy or program* or service* • The country search terms need an explanation to the readers as to why only specific countries were listed and why "Africa" as not listed 	<p><i>We have decided to include the listed conditions to cast as wide a net as possible. In the African context (particularly in South Africa) substance use disorder is particularly common and there are very few treatment options available.</i></p> <p><i>We have also chosen to include occupational therapy alongside the other "intervention-related" terms, as often occupational therapy is part of a team, and not highlighted in the title or abstract.</i></p> <p><i>The countries included all have active occupational therapy training programmes and are members of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. We also included "Africa" as a search term.</i></p>
15.	Page 10, line 34 – spell out NHMRC	Addressed

	Reviewer #2	
1.	<p>This is a well- written review. The rationale for the scoping review and the objectives are clear. There are some revisions or considerations that need to be addressed.</p> <p>The role of the stakeholders need to be more clearly defined for example what questions did you ask them and how did their feedback influence the design of the review.</p> <p>How will their feedback influence the findings/ results of the review?</p>	<p><i>Thank you for your kind feedback.</i></p> <p><i>We have added more information about the ways stakeholders were involved and how this influenced the design of the review.</i></p>

	Reviewer's report 1063432612 (separate pdf document)	
1.	if you are consulting stakeholders then you may need ethical approval	<i>We have outlined the ways in which stakeholders were and will be engaged throughout the review process in the "Patient and Public Involvement" section, and also discussed the ethical approval issue further in the "Ethics and Dissemination" section.</i>
2.	It would be beneficial to elaborate on this point and give examples of how the feedback was	<i>This has been added to the manuscript.</i>

	used in the design process	
3.	will you exclude any article whose intervention does not include occupational therapy.	<i>This has been addressed and highlighted in the manuscript.</i>
4.	is it therap or therapy	<i>Therap* includes any words that start with therap*, including therapy and therapeutic, for example.</i>
5.	are you limiting to these countries only? what about other countries e.g. Egypt or Sudan etc if you are limiting to these countries what is the rationale	<i>The rationale for the selected countries has been added to the manuscript.</i>
6.	why is the legend for the Table at the bottom	<i>We have moved these to the top of the tables.</i>

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

REVIEWER	Monica Robinson The Ohio State University, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
REVIEW RETURNED	10-Feb-2022

GENERAL COMMENTS	Excellent revisions. When you write the paper be clear you are examining mental health interventions in the workplace and NOT interventions in the workplace that would support employment for those with mental illness. If your objective is the latter that is not how the protocol reads. Suggestion for clarity in your discussion, I added language for context in these two sentences. This scoping review focuses specifically on mental health interventions situated within the workplace. There is a need to extend these services to include mental health interventions.
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REVIEWER	Deshini Naidoo University of KwaZulu-Natal, Occupational Therapy
REVIEW RETURNED	07-Mar-2022

GENERAL COMMENTS	I can see the effort that has gone into interrogating the reviewers comments and the resultant changes. I look forward to reading the review.
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VERSION 2 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

	Reviewer comment	Author response
	Reviewer #1	
1.	Excellent revisions. When you write the paper be clear you are examining mental health interventions in the workplace and NOT interventions in the workplace that would support employment for those with mental illness. If your objective is the latter that is not how the protocol reads.	<i>This is an important point, thank you for raising it. Our objective is as you stated it first, so we are happy that the protocol reads accurately.</i>
2.	Suggestion for clarity in your discussion, I added language for context in these two sentences. This scoping review focuses specifically on mental health interventions situated within the workplace. There is a need to extend these services to include mental health interventions.	<i>We have accepted and added your revisions to these two sentences in the Discussion to add clarity, thank you.</i>

	Reviewer #2	
1.	I can see the effort that has gone into interrogating the reviewers comments and the resultant changes. I look forward to reading the review.	<i>Thank you for your kind feedback.</i>