

A Conceptual and Practical Solution for Differentiating Activity and Participation in the ICF

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EVALUATING SOCIAL
PARTICIPATION:
Applications of the ICF and ICF-CY

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Objective

- To offer improved conceptual differentiation of activity and participation in the ICF, with clearer definitions and a methodology for dividing the current list of combined activity and participation codes into two distinct lists

The U.S. Institute of Medicine

- In *The Future of Disability in America* (2007), the IOM endorsed adopting the ICF
- But criticized the ICF for failure to adequately distinguish activity limitations from participation restrictions or to offer a single uniform method of applying activity and participation codes, stating that the lack of operational differentiation between the concepts of activity and participation is a significant deficit in the ICF

IOM Recommendations for ICF-2

- Clarifying or otherwise resolving the lack of operational definitions between the concepts of activity and participation
- Explicitly incorporating quality of life in the ICF
- Developing classifications of personal factors
- Further developing classifications of environmental factors
- Incorporating secondary health conditions in ICF
- Making the ICF a more dynamic model

Activity and Participation in ICF

- Presented as conceptually distinct with different definitions
 - Activity: execution of a task or action by an individual
 - Participation: involvement in a life situation
- But the actual classification scheme provides a single combined list of life areas that are not specifically linked to one concept or the other

Possible Uses of the A&P List in ICF

- Divide the A&P list into two distinct sets
- Divide the A&P list, but allow overlap
- Detailed categories as Activity, broad categories as Participation
- Use the list for both Activity and Participation with total overlap of domains
 - Use the qualifiers to distinguish
 - Capacity qualifier as Activity
 - Performance qualifier as Participation
 - Develop new qualifiers for Participation

Researchers Have Criticized the Lack of Distinction Between A&P

- Jette et al. 2003
- Nordenfelt 2003
- Simeonsson et al. 2003
- Barral 20004
- Schuntermann 2005
- Whiteneck 2006
- Badley 2008

IOM Report Concludes

- Operational differentiation among concepts and the ability to measure each concept precisely and distinctly is important for clear communication, monitoring, and research.
- If the differences between these two concepts are not clarified or otherwise resolved in some coherent fashion and if different users distinguish these core concepts in different ways, the goal of a universal and standard language for classifying individuals with respect to the burden of health conditions will remain unfulfilled.

Nordenfelt Solution 2003

- Combine Activity and Participation into a single Domain called Action
- Eliminate the current qualifiers and simply distinguish between simple and complex action
 - Walking is simple
 - Working is complex
- Looses the distinction between the individual and the societal perspective

Whiteneck Solution 2006

- Uses the focus suggested by Annex 1 in ICF
 - Activity represents the individual perspective of functioning
 - Participation represents the societal perspective of functioning
- Returns to the Nagi focus on social role fulfillment for societal level functioning
- Relates Participation to the “Full Participation” concept of the Americans with Disabilities Act

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Participation

Societal Level

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level
Performed Alone
Simple

Participation

Societal Level
Performed with Others
Complex

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Simple

Related to Impairment

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Complex

Related to Quality of Life

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Simple

Related to Impairment

Less Environment Dep.

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Complex

Related to Quality of Life

More Environment Dep.

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Simple

Related to Impairment

Less Environment Dep.

Medical Model of Disability

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Complex

Related to Quality of Life

More Environment Dep.

Social Model of Disability

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Simple

Related to Impairment

Less Environment Dep.

Medical Model of Disability

Focus of Rehab

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Complex

Related to Quality of Life

More Environment Dep.

Social Model of Disability

Focus of Consumers

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Simple

Related to Impairment

Less Environment Dep.

Medical Model of Disability

Focus of Rehab

Assessed in Hospital

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Complex

Related to Quality of Life

More Environment Dep.

Social Model of Disability

Focus of Consumers

Assessed in Community

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Simple

Related to Impairment

Less Environment Dep.

Medical Model of Disability

Focus of Rehab

Assessed in Hospital

Clinician Assessment

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Complex

Related to Quality of Life

More Environment Dep.

Social Model of Disability

Focus of Consumers

Assessed in Community

Self or Proxy Report

Differentiation of Activity & Participation

Activity

Individual Level

Performed Alone

Simple

Related to Impairment

Less Environment Dep.

Medical Model of Disability

Focus of Rehab

Assessed in Hospital

Clinician Assessment

Not Always Possible

Participation

Societal Level

Performed with Others

Complex

Related to Quality of Life

More Environment Dep.

Social Model of Disability

Focus of Consumers

Assessed in Community

Self or Proxy Report

Always Theoretically Possible

Badley Solution 2008

- Divides Activities & Participation into 3 domains
 - Acts: The general things that a person can do independent of context or purpose
 - Tasks: The purposeful things that people do in daily life in a specific context
 - Societal Involvement: The individual in the context of societally defined and acknowledged areas of human endeavor: defined by social role – not the acts and tasks that may or may not be involved

Badley Solution 2008

- Does not directly correspond to any ICF suggested alternative, but is most similar to the ICF suggestion of breaking the A&P list into discreet sets with no overlap.
- Dividing the A&P list into Acts, Tasks, and Societal Involvement leaves two options that are consistent with the ICF splitting suggestion
 - Split Acts vs. Tasks and Societal Involvement
 - Split Acts and Tasks vs. Societal Involvement

Endorsement of Badley Option 2

- Combining Acts and Tasks and making the split between them and Societal Involvement
 - Equates Societal Involvement with Participation (or Societal Participation)
 - Equates Participation with engagement in social roles
 - Maintains the Nagi and ICIDH focus on fulfillment of social roles as the distinguishing characteristic of performance at the societal level

Participation

- Performance at the societal level
- Defined by the fulfillment of social roles
- Measured by the degree to which an individual is an active, productive member of society, well integrated into family and community life

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 1: Learning and applying knowledge

Purposeful sensory experiences

d110 Watching

d115 Listening

d120 Other purposeful sensing

d129 Purposeful sensory experiences, other specified and unspecified

Basic learning

d130 Copying

d135 Rehearsing

d140 Learning to read

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 1 continued:

Basic learning continued

d145 Learning to write

d150 Learning to calculate

d155 Acquiring skills

d1550 – d1559 (basic and complex)

d159 Basic learning, other specified and unspecified

Applying knowledge

d160 Focusing attention

d163 Thinking

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 1 continued:

Applying knowledge continued

d166 Reading

d170 Writing

d172 Calculating

d175 Solving problems

d1750 – d1759 (simple and complex)

d177 Making decisions

d179 Applying knowledge, other spec & unspec

d198 Learning & applying knowledge, other sp

d199 Learning & applying knowledge, unspec

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 2: General tasks and demands

d210 Undertaking a single task

d2100 – d2109 (simple, complex, independently, and in a group [*note: still tasks in a group, not the role of working*])

d220 Undertaking multiple tasks

d2200 – d2209 (carrying out, completing, independently, in a group)

d230 Carrying out daily routine

d2301 – d2309 (managing, completing, managing one's own activity level)

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 2 continued:

d240 Handling stress & other psychological demands

d2400 – d2409 (handling responsibilities, stress, and crisis)

d298 General tasks and demands, other specified

d299 General tasks and demands, unspecified

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 3: Communication

Communicating – receiving

- d310 Communicating with spoken messages
- d315 Communicating with nonverbal messages
 - d3150 – d3159 (body gestures, general signs & symbols, and drawings & photos)
- d320 Communicating with formal sign language
- d325 Communicating with written messages
- d329 Communicating other specified & unspec

Communicating – producing

- d330 – d349 (similar to receiving)

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 3 continued:

Conversation and use comm devices & techniques

d350 Conversation

d3500 – d3509 (Starting, sustaining, ending, with one, many [*note: still no role involved*])

d355 Discussion

d3550 – d3559 (with 1 person, many people)

d360 Using communic. devices and techniques

d3600 – d3609 (telecom, writing, techniques)

d369 Conversation & comm devices, other

d398, d399 communication other spec & unsp

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 4: Mobility

Changing and maintaining body position

d410 Changing basic body position

d4100 – d4109 (lying down, squatting, kneeling, sitting, standing, bending, shifting body's center of gravity)

d415 Maintaining a body position

d4150 – d4159 (similar to above)

d420 Transferring oneself

d4200 – d4209 (while sitting and lying)

d429 Changing, maintaining, other sp & unsp

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 4 continued:

Carrying, moving, and handling objects

d430 Lifting and carrying objects

d4300 – d4309 (lifting, carrying in hands/arms, on shoulders, hips, back, head, putting down)

d435 Moving objects with lower extremities

d4350 – d4359 (pushing and kicking)

d440 Fine hand use

d4400 – d4409 (picking up, grasping, manipulating, releasing)

d445 Hand and arm use

d4450 – d4459 (pulling pushing reaching, turning, throwing, catching)

d449 Carrying, moving, handling, other spec & un sp

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 4 continued:

Walking and moving

d450 Walking

d4500 – d4509 (short, long distances, on different surfaces, and around objects)

d455 Moving around

d4550 – d4559 (crawling, climbing, running, jumping, and swimming)

d460 Moving around in different locations

d4600 – d4609 (within the home, other buildings, and outside)

d465 Moving around using equipment

d469 Walking and moving, other specified & unspecified

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 4 continued:

Moving around using transportation

d470 Using transportation

d4700 – d4709 (human-powered, private and public transportation)

d475 Driving

d4750 – d4759 (same as above)

d480 Riding animals for transportation

d489 Using transportation, other spec & unspec

d498, d499 Mobility, other specified & unspec

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 5: Self-care

d510 Washing oneself

d5100 – d5109 (body parts, whole body, drying)

d520 Caring for body parts

d5200 – d5209 (skin, teeth, hair, finger/toenails)

d530 Toileting

d5300 – d5309 (regulating urination, defecation, menstrual care)

d540 Dressing

d5400 – d5409 (putting on/taking off clothes & footwear, choosing appropriate clothing)

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 5 continued:

d550 Eating

d560 Drinking

d570 Looking after one's health

d5700 – d5709 (ensuring one's physical comfort, managing diet and fitness, and maintaining one's health)

d598 Self-care, other specified

d599 Self-care, unspecified

Splitting Activity and Participation

- Chapter 6: Domestic life
 - First chapter with a societal role: homemaking
 - The question is whether “housekeeping” for oneself is a societal role or whether only “homemaking” for others is a societal role
 - I argue that homemaking is a societal role
 - It is one of three key productivity roles (working, going to school, and homemaking)
 - It is a social role in that involves others
 - Housekeeping for oneself is an Activity
 - Homemaking, including housekeeping, for others is Participation

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 6: Domestic life

Acquisition of necessities for oneself or for others

d610 Acquiring a place to live

d6100 – d6109 (buying/renting/furnishing)

d620 Acquisition of goods and services

d6200 – d6209 (shopping, gathering daily necessities)

d629 Acquisition of necessities, other sp & unsp

Household tasks

d630 Preparing meals

d6300 – d6309 (simple and complex meals)

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 6 continued

d640 Doing housework

d6400 – d6409 (Washing/drying clothes, cleaning cooking area, utensils, living area, using household appliances, storing daily necessities, disposing of garbage)

Caring for household objects & **assisting others**

d650 Caring for household objects

d6500 – 6509 (making and repairing clothes, maintaining dwelling & furnishings, domestic appliances, vehicles, assistive devices, and taking care of in/outdoor plants and animals)

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 6 continued

d660 Assisting others

d6600 – d6609 (Assisting others with self-care, in movement, communication, interpersonal relations, nutrition, and health maintenance)

d669 Caring for household objects and **assisting others**, other specified & unsp

d698 Domestic life, other specified

d699 Domestic life, unspecified

Splitting *Activity* **and Participation**

Chapter 7: Interpersonal interactions and relations

General interpersonal relations

d710 Basic interpersonal interactions

d7100 – 7109 (respect and warmth, appreciation, tolerance, criticism, social cues, & physical contact in relationships)

d720 Complex interpersonal interactions

d7200 – 7209 (d7200 – d7209 (forming and terminating relationships, regulating behaviors, interacting according to social rules, & maintaining social space)

d729 General interpersonal interactions, other specified and unspecified

Splitting *Activity* and **Participation**

Chapter 6 continued

Particular interpersonal relationships

d730 Relating with strangers

d740 Formal relationships

d7400 – d7409 (relating with persons in authority, subordinates, and equals)

d750 Informal social relationships

d7500 – d7509 (friends, neighbors, acquaintances, co-inhabitants, peers)

d760 Family relationships

d7600 – d7609 (parent to child, child to parent, sibling, and extended family)

Splitting *Activity* and **Participation**

Chapter 7 continued

d770 Intimate relationships

d7700 – d7709 (romantic, spousal, and sexual)

d779 Particular interpersonal relationships, other specified and unspecified

d798 Interpersonal interactions and relationships, other specified

d799 Interpersonal interactions and relationships, unspecified

Splitting *Activity* and **Participation**

Chapter 8: Major life areas

Education

d810 Informal education

d815 Preschool education

d820 School education

d825 Vocational training

d830 Higher education

d839 Education, other specified & unspec

Work and employment

d840 Apprenticeship (work preparation)

Splitting Activity and **Participation**

Chapter 8 continued

d845 Acquiring, keeping, & terminating a job

d8450 – d8459 (seeking, maintaining, and terminating a job)

d850 Remunerative employment

d8500 – d8509 (self-employment, part-time, and full-time employment)

d855 Non-remunerative employment

d859 Work and employment, other specified and unspecified

Splitting *Activity* **and Participation**

Chapter 8 continued

Economic life

d860 Basic economic transactions

d865 Complex economic transactions

d870 Economic self-sufficiency

d8700 – d8709 (personal economic resources & public economic entitlements)

d879 Economic life, other specified & unsp

d898 Major life areas, other specified

d899 Major life areas, unspecified

Splitting Activity and Participation

Chapter 9: Community, social, and civic life

d910 Community life

d9100 – d9109 (informal and formal associations, and ceremonies)

d920 Recreation and leisure

d9200 – d9209 (play, sports, arts and culture, crafts, hobbies, and socializing)

d930 Religion and spirituality

d9300 – d9309 (organized relig & spirituality)

d940 Human rights

d950 Political life and citizenship

d998, d999 Com, soc & civic life, other sp & un

Conclusions

- There is a growing recognition of the conceptual problem associated with the failure of the ICF to adequately distinguish between Activity and Participation
- Most solutions operationalize A&P distinctions by dividing the current A&P list into separate domains with no overlap
- Returning to a focus on social role fulfillment may provide a conceptually clear and practical method to define participation

Recommendation

- NACC and the FDRG should take on the challenge of providing a better conceptualization of Activity and Participation along with a practical differentiation of A&P for inclusion in ICF-2

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