'Specialization in ICTs and Special Education: Psychopedagogy of Integration'
Postgraduate Program Studies
DEMOKRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE Department of Hellenic Philology
in collaboration with
NCSR DEMOKRITOS Informatics and Telecommunications Institute

UTILISATION OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE INTERVENTION FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS BY OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

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POSTGRADUATE
THESIS

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Review

Contemporary Occupational Therapy intervention, and especially intervention for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, has undoubtedly been influenced by the current technological advances. The aim of this study is to examine the utilization of Information and Communication Technology in the intervention for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder by professional Occupational Therapists who practice Occupational Therapy in Greece. The main research questions address the issue of the degree and the frequency of the use of ICTs in regard to the intervention goals, the reasons why Occupational Therapists choose (or not) to utilize technology and the attitudes of Occupational Therapists towards ICTs. A sample survey was conducted and the data were collected via an online questionnaire. The research process included designing the questionnaire, defining the sample choosing method, distributing the questionnaire, having it filled and coding the data. The documentation, management and processing of the data was performed through the SPSS 23 platform. One hundred occupational therapists took part in the study, 52% of whom stated that they utilize ICTs. The results of the study showed that tablet applications are the most popular technological tool in use and edutainment is the goal regarding which technology is mostly utilized with the aim of offering incentives to students, while the main obstacle considered to avert Occupational Therapists from utilizing ICTs is the lack of material-technical infrastructure. Additionally, Occupational Therapists are inclined to educate themselves on the subject and are open to the idea of ICTs being used more widely in intervention. Concluding, it is documented that Occupational Therapists in Greece tend to show interest towards the utilization of ICTs in the intervention for students with ASD, though not to the extent that widespread and well-established use of ICTs could be reported.

Key-words: Information and Communications Technology, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Occupational Therapy, intervention

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