



TITLE OF THE BOOK

VdTMoCA The Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability: Origins, Constructs, Principles and Application in Occupational Therapy

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The reviewer declares no conflict of interest or bias, other than being proudly South African.

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A review of the book: *The Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability: Origins, Constructs, Principles and Application in Occupational Therapy*

The Review

The Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability (VdTMoCA) was created by an acclaimed South African woman in the 1960s and has been refined over decades of practice both in academic and clinical settings. To date, this book is one of the most comprehensive collections of the VdTMoCA by renowned, internationally acknowledged editors and contributors. It examines one of South Africa's most significant inputs into occupational therapy theory in a commanding manner.

In the *Foreword* of the book, Theresa Lorenzo, underscores the value and significance that the VdTMoCA holds for occupational therapists ... (the model) "enables occupational therapists to assess a person's ability to participate in their own healing and development". Lorenzo explains that identifying a person's level of creative ability allows therapist of all levels of experience and skill to identify the best occupational therapy intervention. The model provides a means of measuring the creative ability of occupational therapy service users at both personal and community levels, allowing pre-and post-testing of interventions and offering a framework for explaining the process to family members and multidisciplinary teams. VdTMoCA model has been the subject of various international congresses, it is frequently the subject of academic and scientific journal publication, numerous focuses on post-graduate research studies, and has led to works with a magnitude of reach such as the APOM. Although undergraduates are often overwhelmed by the theory, we all soon come to realise that this work gives a backbone to our practice, as understanding our clients' level of creative ability not only aids the preparation of the intervention but also the quality of our clients' outcome.

As a book, it is logically arranged, starting with the historical origins and theoretical framework of the model, followed by an in-depth perspective of its core constructs, such as the creative ability levels, volition, and action. With the help of case studies and the insights of esteemed occupational therapists, the book's second half looks at the model's clinical application, including assessments and interventions. Each chapter builds on the previous to provide a holistic understanding of how the model can guide occupational therapy processes. Motivation, the importance of graded activities, and the potential for growth in clients are some of the key themes found throughout the book. For example, in discussing volition, the book emphasizes that "volition is not static but develops in response to the environment and occupational challenge"—a concept central to both client-centred practice and our African occupational realities (POE model). For busy and overwhelmed occupational therapists, this book delivers an extensive glossary and index where specific information is at your fingertips, readily and instantly accessible.

The relevance of the book to occupational therapy in South Africa, as well as broader African contexts, cannot be overstated. The model's culturally adaptable and developmental nature aligns well with diverse client populations, often with resource constraints, and the need for context-sensitive therapeutic models. Its principles promote empowerment and capacity building, which are critical in our post-colonial health care settings. In comparing this book to others in the field, it is evident that while internationally recognized models like MOHO offer valuable frameworks, the VdTMoCA brings a uniquely African perspective that incorporates both individual potential and socio-environmental factors synergistically.

In conclusion, The Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability is an extremely valuable resource for both novice and experienced occupational therapists. It is theoretically precise and practical. Some readers may find the academic tone dense at times, but other than this minor critique, this book provides a worthwhile, meaningful, and impactful contribution to the profession.