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A Pilot Study to Explore the Effectiveness of Using Dementia Tour in Changing the Caring Attitudes of Residential Care Home Staff Toward Elderly with Dementia

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Introduction

Faced with an aging population, together with our urgent needs with over 70,000 dementia sufferers requiring specialized care and support. The quality of care from the staff of the residential care home for the demented elderly who are lacked self-care skill and poor in cognitive abilities was being a great concerned by the public. The most imperative challenges we are now facing is lacking of competent and caring staff and having effective mean of training to enhance their overall quality of care and especially on changing their caring attitudes aspect.

Objectives

To evaluate the effectiveness of Dementia Tour in changing participant's attitudes in dementia care.

Methodology

This was a single group pretest and posttest design to evaluate the attitudes of residential care home staff after participated in the Dementia Tour. Each participant was arranged for an individual tour after gear up with specially designed gadgets which used to simulate some of the conditions of aging and dementia. Participants were required to complete certain tasks which imitate the daily activities for an elderly with dementia. The process will be videotaped by an observer and followed by a debriefing sessions to all the participants discussing about their experiences. The Approach to Dementia Questionnaire was used to measure two aspect of attitudes in dementia care which included (1) Hope Domain (2) Person-Centred Domain.

Result

From 2014 to 2015, 37 staff from different residential care home had completed the Dementia Tour. The completed data set were analyzed by using paired t-test. There were significant improvement in the Person-Centred Domain ($p < 0.040$). Staff

in the age-group of 41 to >55 ($p < 0.39$) were having higher improvement in the Person-Centred Domain when compare with the staff in the age-group of 20 to 40. Preliminary results support the positive changes in attitudes toward dementia care for the participants of the Dementia Tour. Experiential teaching style maybe more benefit for staff in older age group. Further research with more participants and control group was highly recommended.