Taking into account significant activities in volunteering with residents with dementia

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Method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research subject</th>
<th>Data collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theme</td>
<td>Participants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research question</td>
<td>Students from the B. Sc. in Health Sciences who volunteered for the project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of:</td>
<td>Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Significant activities</td>
<td>Report to be filled by using Fluid Surveys Software by the volunteer-students after every meeting with the resident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Participation and social roles in LTCF</td>
<td>Questions to report on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Language and active offer of French health care</td>
<td>• Participation (or lack of) of the resident to significant activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Knowledge of life history</td>
<td>• Barriers/facilitators that were encountered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Impact of culture on the significant activities</td>
<td>• Need of motivation, methods used to engage the resident</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main research themes for the literature review

- Quality of life
- LTCF
- Dementia
- Participation

Main key words for the peer-reviewed article research

- Vocational occupation
- Elderly
- ADL (Activities of Daily Living)

Analysis of data

Approach: Qualitative
Content analysis to extract themes from the volunteer-students’ description of their experiences during their meetings with the residents

Data processing software: Vivo

Current research status

The objectives of this research project were not met within the time restriction. Due to recruitment difficulties, no data related to the interaction between residents and volunteer-students has been obtained to this date.

Recruitment
340 Initially interested volunteers

Participation
257 Disinterest

277 Disinterested

7: Lack of time

16: Disinterest

3: Personal reasons

1: Other

Recruitment
64 Non participating residents

Participation
7 Participating residents

Reasons
No explicit reason

Conclusion

Unanswered questions:
1. “What is the importance of significant activities on interpersonal relationship facilitators between the resident and the student-volunteer?”
   • Delay in data collection.

2. “Why are residents and their families unwilling to participate in an interaction project with volunteers?”
   • Should be further researched.

Next step for the project
- Contact other LTCFs for possibility of recruitment.
- Continue resident recruitment process within the LTCF already addressed.

Future contribution
The findings in the scientific literature have allowed the research team to be more aware of the impact of significant activities, which will be important in the next stages of the project.

The results of this study will allow a better understanding of social interactions of residents in LTCFs with dementia. This could help establish beneficial activity programs in LTCFs in the future.

Current state of knowledge

The importance of significant activities in long term care facilities (LTCF) has been documented in scientific literature.

- Knowledge of life history reduces aggressive behavior and conflict with family and personnel (Reichman and al., 2004; Egan and al., 2007).
- Lack of activities leads to boredom, apathy, disruptive behavior, loss of self-esteem, depression, social exclusion, and solitude (Kolanowski and al., 2006).
- Significant activities include reminiscence, leisure, expression, and vocational occupation (Smit and al., 2014).
- The implementation of significant activities in LTCF is difficult due to lack of financial and personnel resources (Train and al., 2005; Harmer and Orrell, 2008).

Project

A formal volunteer project is put in place in a LTCF to create an interpersonal interaction between volunteer-students and residents with dementia in their mother tongue.

This research will help understand how a good social interaction and participation in significant activities by residents can be achieved in LTCFs. This information will be helpful in activity planning.

Discussion

According to the literature

1. Placement in a LTCF of a spouse can generate feelings of guilt, responsibility, protectiveness, powerlessness, and shame. (Hagness and al., 2014).

2. Significant activities can be simple: getting up, eating, receiving physical care, interest in objects, helping others, social conversation, etc. (Elliot, 2011).

3. Patients are often unaware that these services exist or of their beneficial impacts. Positive impacts of significant activities include:
   - increased happiness
   - decreased of behavioral problems
   - improved nutritional status
   - diminished social isolation (Smit and al., 2014).

Acknowledgments, contact information and references

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References