Magnifying the Voices of patients with Schizophrenia through Digital Storytelling.
Chijindu Ukagwu BScN student¹, Liquaa Wazni RN, PhD© ¹ Wendy Gifford RN, PhD ¹
Faculty of Health Sciences, School of Nursing

Background

• People living with Schizophrenia suffer from comorbid physical conditions, lowering their life expectancy by 20%-30% than the general population (1).
• The WHO Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan recommends policies to improve the physical health of people with severe mental illness (2).
• Research has focused on the perspectives of healthcare professionals rather than the patients themselves.
• Digital storytelling is a participatory research method in which participants collaborate to produce powerful audiovisual stories.
• Digital storytelling is an innovative tool to hear the voices of marginalized people such as those living with schizophrenia.

Objective/Aim

• Highlight the perspectives of people with schizophrenia through a literature review.
• Explore the process of developing a digital story with a healthy PhD student by creating a prototypical digital story.

Methodology

• A literature review was conducted in CINAHL database on qualitative studies of the physical health of people with schizophrenia.
• Participatory methods were used to capture a story and create a digital story from a volunteer PhD student.
• The digital story was recorded collaboratively by participant and researchers using Audacity and wevideo.com

Results

• A total 1031 studies were reviewed:15 met inclusion criteria.
• Weight gain was the dominant theme, however physical health issues faced by people living with schizophrenia were heterogeneous in nature.
• Developing a digital story was feasible and acceptable.
• A prototype digital story was developed with a healthy PhD student (see video).

Implications

• The literature review revealed a paucity of qualitative research highlighting the perspectives of people living with schizophrenia. More research needed.
• Digital stories can be a starting point to uncover the voices of people with schizophrenia.
• Further utilization of digital storytelling as a tool to elevate voices of marginalized people is promising.

References


Acknowledgements

Thank you to the University of Ottawa, the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program for this opportunity. Thank you to Wendy Gifford who was my supervisor and Liquaa Wazni for all your help.

Contact email: chijinduukagwu@gmail.com