

Challenges posed by dementia in everyday working life for employees in facilities for people with intellectual disability

U. Gövert* (uwe.goevert@ostfalia.de), C. Wolff*, B. Kuske*, D. Specht*, S. V. Müller*

* Ostfalia - University of Applied Science, Salzdahlumer Street 46/48, 38302 Wolfenbüttel, Germany

Aims: With the growing number of residents suffering from a dementia disorder, long stay institutions for people with an intellectual disability are faced with new challenges. The Objective of this study is to identify the changes with which the staff is confronted in the daily work routine due to residents with a dementia disorder.

Method: We conducted 12 interviews in facilities for people with an intellectual disability in Lower Saxony. Interview partners were members of group home staff, facility managers and house coordinators. The evaluation of the interviews was conducted via “qualitative content analysis” by Gläser and Laudel (2010).

Results: The decreased abilities of people affected by dementia are a major challenge for staff. The time and intensity for assistance and care increased with the progression of the illness. The current accommodation, care- and living concepts for intellectually disabled people with a dementia were considered controversially.

Conclusion: The staff of these institutions need new care concepts, as well as an improvement in the intensity of care in working with people with intellectual disability and dementia.