

Challenges posed by dementia in daily routine for employees in facilities for people with intellectual disabilities

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Introduction:

Life expectancy of individuals with intellectual disability (ID) has increased in the last decades (Dieckmann & Giovis, 2012). This has led to an increased risk of ageing related disabilities like dementia. Objectives of the study are the following changes in daily work routines for the staff.

Method:

We conducted semi-structured interviews concerning the following topics: daily routine, diagnosis, frame structure of the facilities, participation, assessment of personal needs and future circumstances.

We conducted 12 expert interviews in 4 residential facilities for people with ID. In each facility we interviewed home staff, manager of residential facilities and area manager. The interviews have been evaluated using qualitative content analysis by Gläser und Laudel (2010).

Residents with dementia in daily work

3. How does a dementia effect your daily work with your clients?
4. Is there a change in your daily work caused by residents suffering from dementia?
5. Which known activities are affected by the changes?
6. What are the challenges in your daily work?
7. Which challenging symptoms can you observe in your residents?
8. Did you notice any changes in communicative behavior in the people with ID?
9. How would you asked for understanding for these partly strenuous residents with ID and dementia?

Fig. 1 Survey questions about everyday work

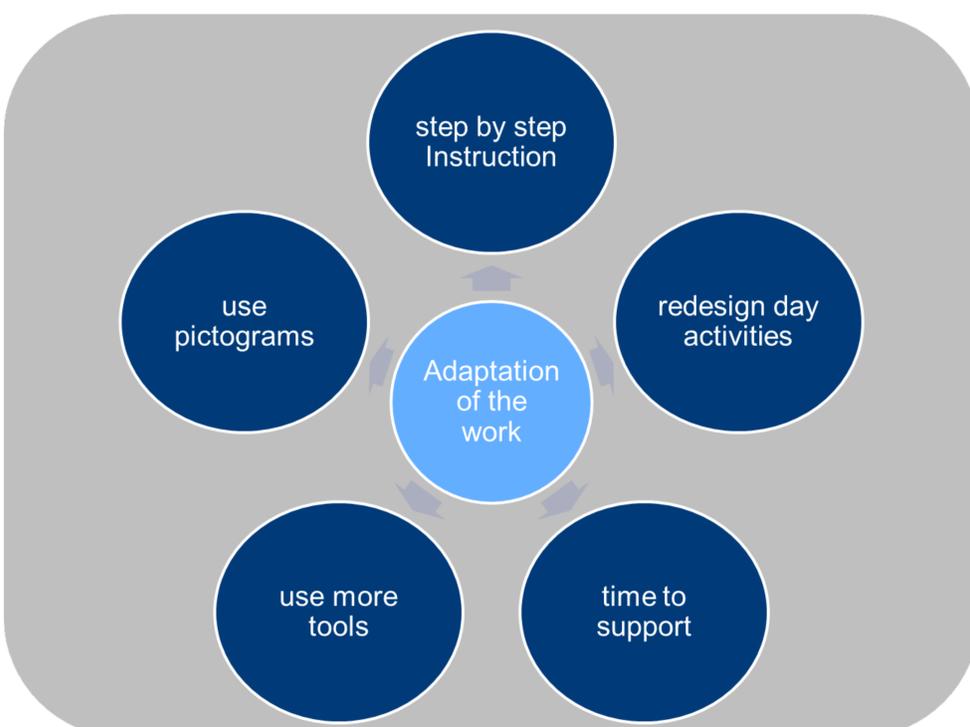


Fig. 2 Changes in daily routine

Results:

Changes in care and support of adults with ID affected by dementia:

- Provide increased assistance for personal care, for example disorientation or restlessness and wandering
- Difficulties in the organisation of daily structure by resident with dementia. (Fig .2)
 - Disengagement from familiar activities
 - Redesign day activities and programs

Challenges through the progression of dementia (Fig. 3)

- Decrease of skills leads to an increase of instruction in early stage
- Provide increased assistance

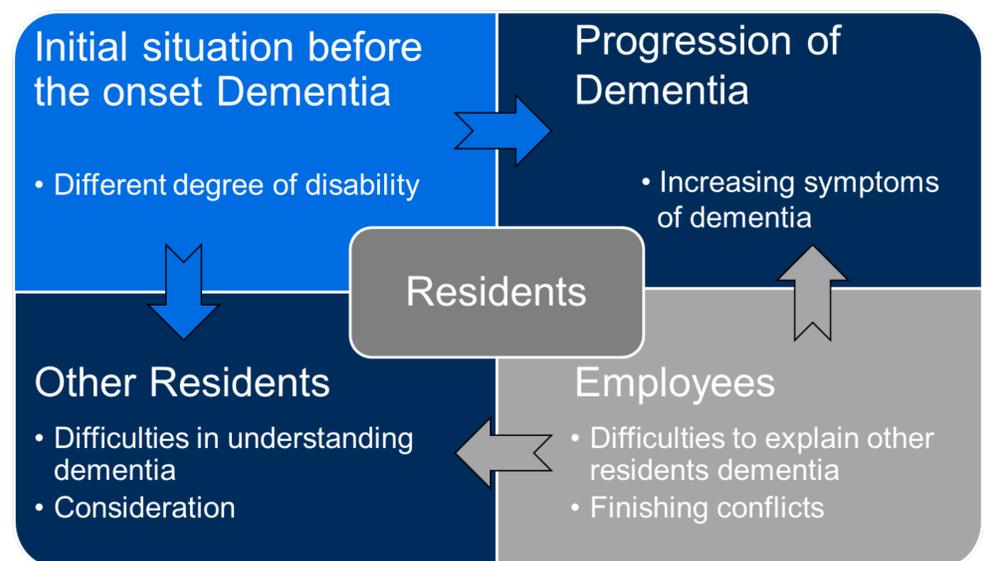


Fig. 3 Circumstances in group home setting onset of dementia

Conclusion:

The continuous support for a resident ties up the time from one employee. The needs of another daily structure leads to additional personal. In this way, the time required and the need to adapt the way of working conducts to the questions:

- How to establish dementia-focused environmental modification
- Is ageing in place an appropriate concept?
- What kind of qualification or professional trainings does the staff need?

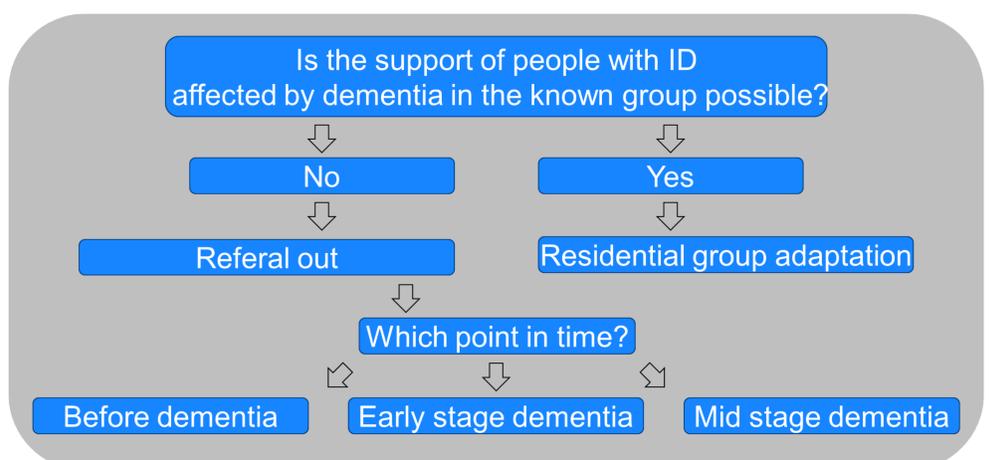


Fig. 4 Time of movement