Promoting a caring atmosphere when caring for persons with dementia living in a nursing home - from the staff perspective

Mona Söderlund, RNT, PhD
Ingegerd Fagerberg, RNT, PhD, Professor
Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College, Department of Health Care Sciences
Aim

- to describe what promotes a positive atmosphere in a nursing home for persons with dementia from the staff perspective
Qualitative descriptive design

- Modified grounded theory
- Individual interviews
  (M 54 min. range 44-74 min.)
## Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>Age Md (range)</th>
<th>Care experience Md (range)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>47 (28-66)</td>
<td>23 (0.5-24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurse assistant</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licenced practical nurse</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social worker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The nursing home

8 single rooms
shared common areas and a garden

Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morning shift</th>
<th>Evening shift</th>
<th>Night shift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main category</th>
<th>A safe place for everybody</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Categories</td>
<td>Approaches towards caring for persons with dementia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approaches towards caring for persons with dementia

- Assessing persons daily condition
- Adapting to persons abilities and daily condition
- Creating a feeling of trust
Approaches to work

• Taking responsibility
• Being flexible
Approaches to each other

- Showing respect
- Using each other’s strengths
Conclusions

- Shared ground for caring
- Mutual trust between staff and manager
- Caring relationships

Further research - observations