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Home Environment Adaptations in Dementia: Implications for social work

Introduction

- Various studies have demonstrated that Dementia and its manifestations can have significant impact on the patient and the caregiver.
- The progressive, life limiting nature of the condition means that the home-based care by the family members remain the cornerstone of long-term care in many countries, including India.
- As a result, home becomes an important space for affected individuals and their families. The home environment of persons with Dementia have not been well explored so far.

Objective

The paper aims to present a case of home adaptations in the management of a person with dementia, supported by a scoping review of current understanding on the concept.

Method

- Using a single system case study design, the present paper studies an individual diagnosed with Dementia as per the ICD 10 diagnostic criteria through in-depth qualitative interviews and quantitative methods.
- The tools include a Semi-structured interview schedule, Clinical Dementia Rating Scale (CDR), Disability Associated with Dementia (DAD) and Zarit Burden Interview (Zarit, Reeve & Bach-Peterson, 1980).
- Understanding and importance of home environment to address the identified psychosocial factors and components of caregiver burden at the baseline assessment will be presented.

Interpretation

- The case study describes environmental adaptation in Dementia management supported by a scoping review of literature. The theoretical framework and model presented provides a useful and feasible intervention model aiming at optimizing quality of life of the patient and alleviating caregiver burden. Further research on feasibility and effectiveness of the intervention using a larger sample will be helpful.

