



Social Work interventions for Carers in Dementia: Lessons learnt

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Introduction: Dementia is a neurodegenerative condition with deterioration in cognitive, social, and occupational functioning. .



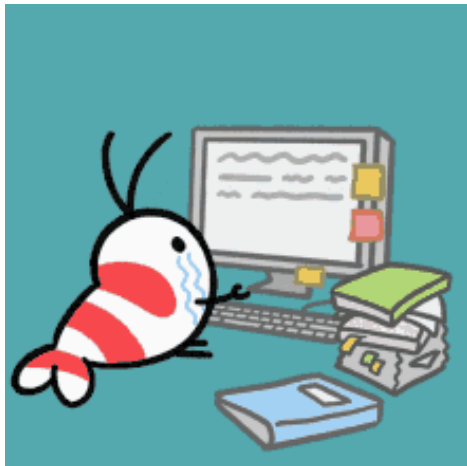
- Mortality
- Increased Disability
And Heightened
Dependency



Physical, psychological, social and economic concerns.



Clinical social workers work with the families by providing psychosocial interventions in response to the severity, felt concerns and care management.



Methodology:

Aim: To understand the issues and summarise the social work interventions in dementia based on a case-by-case approach.

Sample Collection: Case vignettes of families of persons with dementia seeking care in the out-patient and in-Patient department in NIMHANS, Bangalore, referred for Psychiatric Social Work services who were seen between July to November 2021 are presented.

Intervention: Assessment and management were done for these cases to arrive at a social diagnosis and analysis using a Chronic Illness Model (Rolland, 2001).

Results:



- 50 persons
- 3-4 sessions
- 45 mins - 1 hour
- Assessing & addressing psychosocial concerns



Emotional, Behavioural, Financial and Welfare benefits, Mental health concerns, Difficulty in self-management, Caregiver burnout, Paid caregiving, Rehabilitation and Ensuring day-to-day routine.



Understand what are the needs, the concerns, establishing the social diagnosis and analysis for the Persons with Dementia and families helping to establish the conceptual framework for individualized interventions.



Conclusion:

Social case work approach is used by the clinical social workers to provide a systemic approach to reduce the disability and ensure better quality of life for the persons with dementia and their caregivers. The current scenario has taught us the need to use unique and personalised ways to provide care and ensure psychosocial wellbeing for carers of persons with Dementia by being cognizant of the ethical principles and ensuring client's well-being as the priority always.