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Examining social engagement of residents living with dementia both in and outside the nursing home: Rehabilitation approaches

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Aalborg Kommune

The study is approved by the Danish Data Protection Agency and will follow the guidelines of Alzheimer Europe(11) regarding consent and information gathering when involving nursing home residents with dementia in research.

EXCERPTS OF PRELiminary results

Data analysis: Data collection period was completed in July 2018, with data analysis in its initial stage. Collected data will be subject to a system analysis based on Luhmann’s system theory with special focus on developing the professional caregivers reflection theory.

Preliminary themes:

The professional caregiver’s attitude to social activities:
• The assessment of the resident’s need for social activities
• The assessment of the resident’s physical, social and cognitive function in relation to social activities

The nursing home resident’s response to social activities:
• Verbal response to social activities
• Nonverbal response to social activities

The physical and socio-cultural environment:
• The influence of physical space & interior design on social engagement
• The influence of an institutional or homelike atmosphere
• The influence of nursing home organization, fundamental values and function of professional caregivers

The results of this study form the basis for development of a reflection theory in a subsequent study, with the aim of providing an empirical and theoretically more qualified (i.e., evidence-based) and well-founded (i.e., from tacit to explicit knowledge) alternative to how the professional caregivers reflect on rehabilitation interventions focused on resident engagement in social activities.

EXPECTED implications

For policy makers:
• Provide practice-oriented knowledge and insights for development of future dementia policies

For practitioners:
• Provide practice-oriented knowledge to the scientific gap in the field of dementia and rehabilitation research
• Contribute to practice-oriented research and increase the practical relevance of research results

For researchers:
• Provide practice-oriented knowledge to the scientific gap in the field of dementia and rehabilitation research
• Contribute to practice-oriented research and increase the practical relevance of research results

REFERENCES