E-Poster

Abstract

Title: Dignity-preserving dementia care: A metasynthesis

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BACKGROUND: Research indicates the essentiality of dignity as a vital component for quality of life. Estimates show 47 million people living with dementia worldwide. World Health Organization, United Nations, European Union, UNESCO and Alzheimer's Disease International emphasize dignity as an inherent human quality, an essential need and fundamental human right. Several countries are now preparing for the growing challenges within dementia care by developing national plans, placing dignity-preservation as a fundamental aspect. However, these documents do not specify the underlying components of dignity-preserving dementia care, as perceived by healthcare professionals within dementia care practice. **AIM:** The aim was to develop a theory-model concerning crucial aspects inherent in dignity-preserving dementia care as perceived and practiced by nurses and allied healthcare professionals (HCP) documented in previous empirical qualitative studies.
METHOD: Noblit and Hare's meta-ethnography was utilized to synthesize 10 qualitative articles from various cultural contexts, exploring nurse and allied HCP perception concerning dignity-preserving dementia care practice. Constructing a theoretical understanding of the findings, Katie Eriksson's Theory of Caritative Caring was utilized as theoretical framework.
RESULTS: Advocating autonomy and integrity of each person with dementia, involving having compassion for the person, confirming the person's worthiness and sense of self, as well as creating a humane and purposeful environment, was found a primary foundation for dignity-preserving dementia care. Balancing individual choices among persons no longer able to make sound decisions, against the duty of making choices on behalf of the person, was considered dignifying in certain situations – employing persuation and/or a certain degree of mild restraint in order to meet the person's essential needs. **CONCLUSION:** «Sheltering human worth – remembering those who forget», was identified as a comprehensive motive and core value within dignity-preserving dementia care.

Biography



Oscar Tranvåg is postdoctoral fellow and co-leader of Centre for Elderly and Nursing Home Medicine, Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, University of Bergen, Norway. His position as postdoctoral fellow is established in cooperation with Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Women's Health, Oslo University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Norway, and Department of Nursing, Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway.



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