

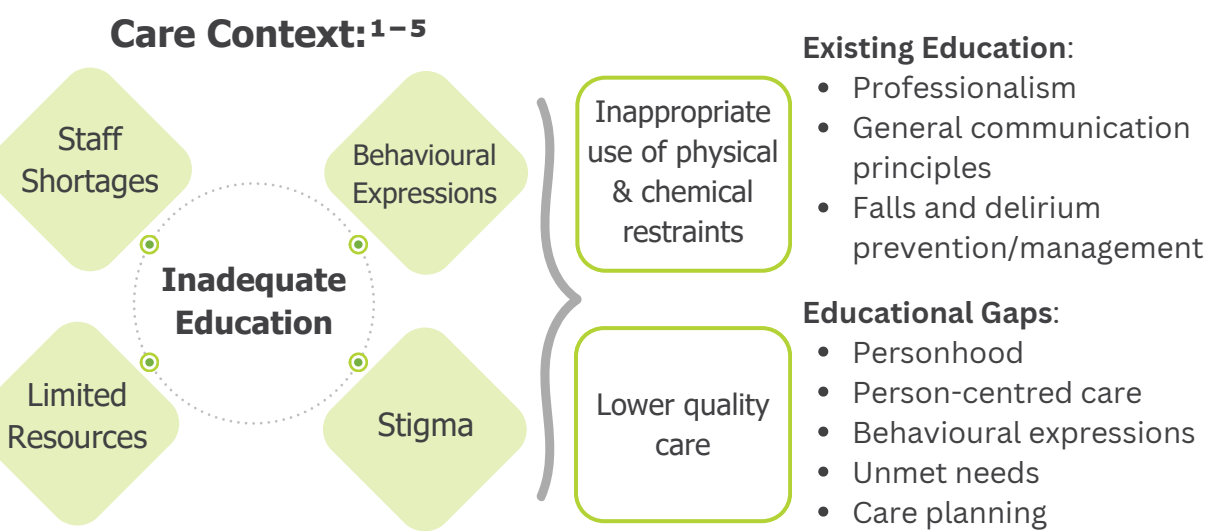
An Education Intervention to Improve Attitudes Towards Dementia and Sense of Competency in Dementia Care Among Nurses in Acute Care Settings: A Mixed Methods Study



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INTRODUCTION

20-30% of total inpatients in Canadian hospitals are older adults living with dementia.¹ Exacerbated by the pandemic, this care context has produced challenging outcomes:



METHODS

- Objectives:**
- (1) Evaluate** the preliminary effects of the intervention on **nurses' attitudes towards persons living with dementia** and their sense of competency in dementia care
 - (2) Explore** the participants' experiences with the intervention and their **perception of its applicability to their practice** and intention to use in nursing practice

Design: Convergent mixed methods

- Quantitative**
- Two questionnaires were administered to participants pre- and post-intervention:
 - Dementia Attitudes Scale (DAS)⁶**
 - Sense of Competence in Dementia Care Staff Scale (SCIDS)⁷**
 - Paired t-tests were conducted to examine change in questionnaire scores.
 - Cohen's D was calculated to measure the magnitude of the intervention effects.

- Qualitative**
- Qualitative descriptive design.
 - Interviews were completed with 14 participants after the intervention.
 - Thematic analysis was conducted.
- 90%** Forty-five of the 50 participants completed both the pre- and post-tests.

INTERVENTION

Acute care Registered Nurse (RN) & Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) participants were provided with:

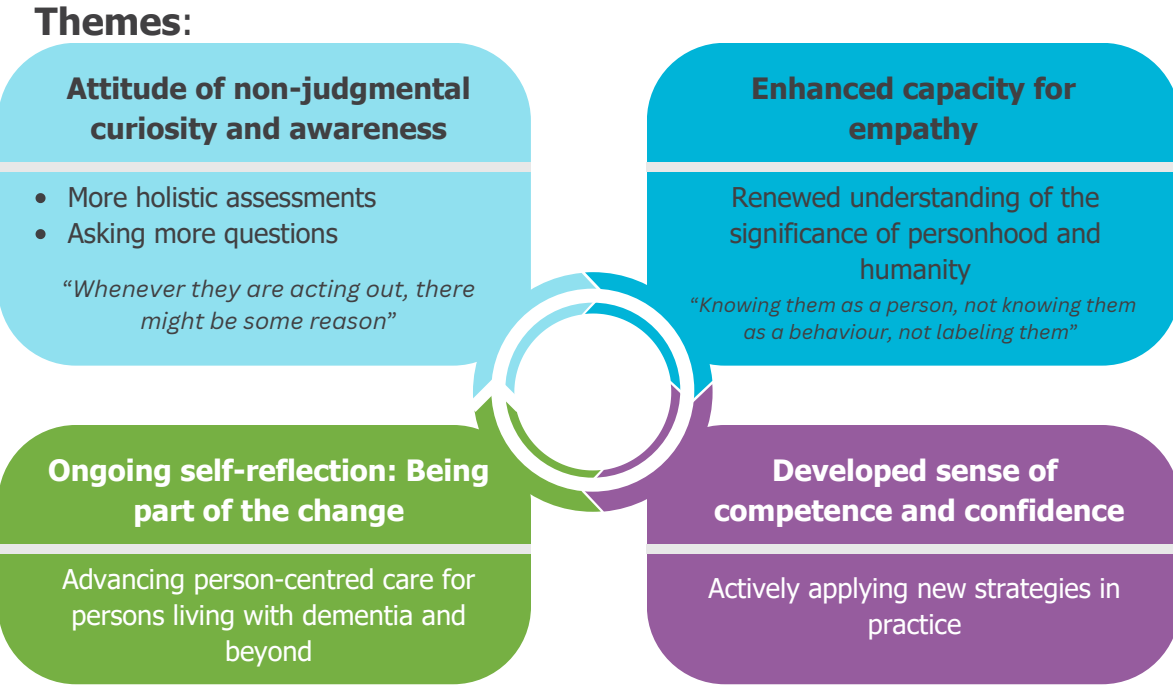
- Content Covered**
- 1 Workshop (8 hours)
 - 5 Weekly virtual check-ins
 - Workbook
 - Weekly reflection activities

- Demographics:**
- Completed intervention (n = 50)**
Provided demographic information (n = 46)
- | | | |
|--------|----------|----|
| ROLE | RN | 22 |
| | RPN | 24 |
| GENDER | FEMALE | 39 |
| | MALE | 6 |
| | OTHER | 1 |
| AGE | 18 to 24 | 6 |
| | 25 to 34 | 18 |
| | 35 to 44 | 14 |
| | 45 to 54 | 5 |
| | 55 to 64 | 3 |
- (1) Understanding dementia**
- (2) Humanism and personhood**
- (3) Dementia-specific communication and relationship building techniques**
- (4) Strategies to respond to behavioural expressions**
- (5) Person-centered care approaches in the care context**
- (6) Developing and implementing behavioural care plans**
- (7) Self-care strategies**

60% of participants reported no previous education on caring for persons living with dementia

“For years and years, and I thought I know pretty much about it, I know how to do it [...] [After the training], I knew that I don't know”

RESULTS



“Without the awareness and the dementia education that we have [...] I wouldn't have handled it the way I handled it”

Post-intervention, **statistically significant improvements (p < 0.001)** were found in:

- Nurses' attitudes towards dementia** (as measured using DAS)
 - Large effect size (d = 1.35)
- Nurses' competence in providing dementia care** (as measured using SCIDS)
 - Large effect size (d = 1.36)

Education grounded in personhood and humanism supported nurses in advancing their approach to person-centred care.

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