

PACTO-D-ComunicARTE: Building Dementia-capable Communities Through Communication, Arts, And Family Support

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Preliminary findings of this study support the feasibility and acceptability of integrating communication partner training, arts, family support, and workforce development in community-based dementia care.

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	RESULTS	CONCLUSIONS	REFERENCES
Low- and middle-income countries face major gaps in dementia care, particularly in access to non-pharmacological, family-centered, and community-based support. In this context, PACTO-D-ComunicARTE was developed as an innovative dementia care practice integrating communication-centered care, arts-based group environments, caregiver support, and primary care workforce development. The model targets three groups: (1) people with mild to moderate dementia, (2) family caregivers, and (3) primary care professionals.	Four family dyads already participating in a remote support group underwent in-person group meetings which were held twice a month (20 hours in total). Group sessions integrated Nonviolent Communication circles, storytelling, and playful nonverbal activities. Sessions opened and closed with live violin performance. Primary care professionals participated in a 20-hour training program covering dementia, cognition, functionality in Alzheimer's disease, and communication challenges and strengths in dementia care. The training combined classes, group discussions, and role-play activities.	High attendance and active participation was observed with family members expressing interest in sharing their feelings and people with dementia engaging in nonverbal playful activities. This experience produced a refinement of communication-centred and arts-based activities. Thirty primary care professionals, predominantly community health workers, completed the training program and actively participated in discussions and role-play exercises focused on communication with people with dementia. Feedback indicated high acceptability and perceived relevance of the content. Recruitment of people with mild to moderate dementia for the pilot intervention is ongoing.	PACTO-D-ComunicARTE demonstrated preliminary feasibility as a community-based dementia care initiative integrating communication, arts, family support, and primary care workforce development. High engagement among pilot families and active participation of 30 primary care professionals supported the acceptability and perceived relevance of the program. The ongoing recruitment of individuals with probable Alzheimer's disease in the early stages revealed important logistical and engagement barriers, highlighting the need for active outreach, repeated reminders, and flexible implementation strategies.	Lee SJ et al. Clin Interv Aging. 2022; 17:937-946. https://doi.org/10.2147/CIA.S361071 WHO toolkit for dementia-friendly initiatives (DFIs). 2021. Haas AN, Akindejoye F, Brandão L. Arts in Health approaches to support dementia. In: Dementia in the Majority World. 2025. CONTACT: lenisa.brandao@gbhi.org  Role-play activity with primary health care professionals