

Exploring dementia care needs and preferences among persons with dementia and family caregivers in Malaysia

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TAKE-HOME MESSAGE: Incorporating the lived experiences of PwD into dementia care planning is essential. Person-centered care should be practical and support independence and quality of life.

INTRODUCTION	METHODS	KEY FINDINGS	CONCLUSION	REFERENCES
BACKGROUND • Care needs and preferences of persons with dementia (PwD) and family caregivers are insufficiently understood. • In Malaysia, dementia care often lacks active inclusion of PwD and family caregivers in decision-making, especially at home (Rosli et al., 2021). • A more integrated and holistic care framework is needed (Gerlach & Kales, 2022). AIM • To explore the care needs and preferences of persons with dementia and their family caregivers.	• Qualitative research design. • Semi-structured, in-depth interviews. • Participants: 6 persons with dementia and 15 family caregivers. • Recruited through community-based networks. • Interviews explored experiences with dementia, perceived care needs, support preferences, and coping strategies. • Interviews were audio-recorded, transcribed verbatim, and analyzed using thematic analysis.	1. COGNITIVE AND EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES • Making sense of memory changes. • Emotional responses to dementia. • Evolving self-identity. 2. CARE NEEDS AND PREFERENCES • Autonomy and involvement in decisions. • Respectful communication. • Emotional support. • Individualized care approaches. 3. DAILY CHALLENGES AND ADAPTIVE COPING • Managing functional limitations. • Maintaining independence. • Using personal and social resources. • Adapting to everyday life.	Dementia care practice should prioritize autonomy, respectful communication, psychosocial support, and individualized approaches that strengthen coping and resilience. Incorporating the lived experiences of PwD into dementia care planning is essential to delivering practical, person-centered care that supports independence and quality of life.	Gerlach, L. B., & Kales, H. C. (2022). <i>Moving towards more person-centered dementia care</i>. 34(3), 227–228. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1041610221000478.Moving Rosli, R., Goodson, M., Tan, M. P., Mohan, D., Reidpath, D., Allotey, P., Kamaruzzaman, S., Chin, A. V., & Robinson, L. (2021). Challenges and research priorities for dementia care in malaysia from the perspective of health and allied health professionals. <i>International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health</i>, 18(21). https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18211010 CONTACT Corresponding author: Assoc. Prof. Sharifah Munirah Syed Elias, PhD RN shmunirah@iium.edu.my 