



BANGLADESH HEALTH
PROFESSIONS INSTITUTE

FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES AMONG THE OLDER ADULT PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA

By

Riduanur Rahman Miraz

4th Year, B.Sc. in Speech & Language Therapy Department

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Supervised by

Nure Naznin

Lecturer

Department of Speech and Language Therapy

BHPI, CRP, Chapain, Savar, Dhaka-1343

Title: “Functional Communication Difficulties among the Older Adult Patients with Dementia”

Aim of the study: To identify the functional communication difficulties among older adult patients with dementia.

Methodology: This is a quantitative type of cross sectional survey study where 44 samples were allotted purposively conducted from BSMMU, NIMH and Sir William Beveridge Foundation. ‘The Holden Communication Scale’ (HCS) to collect data and attain a general profile of functional communication skills and verbal abilities of dementia patients. A descriptive statistical analysis (SPSS= Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) method was used for evaluating collected data.

Result: The majority of the participants 39 (88.63%) participants had cognitive impairment that refers to functional communication difficulties.

Conclusion: Functional communication difficulty is a common problem in older people with Dementia. Investigator completed the study and got most patients with dementia had communication deficits. The key findings of this study were based on functional communication difficulties in dementia patients. Among 44 samples, most of the patients (36.4%) were between the ages of 71 to 80 years and the proportion of male and female

participants was 61% (27) and 39% (17) respectively. Male to female ratio was 1.5:1, that refers the majorities of respondents were male. The current study also showed that the maximum number of participants 36.4% (16) were well educated. In this study most of the participants (78.04%) were diagnosed with severe cognitive deficit or dementia.

According to HCS score among 44 participants, (78.04%) participants had functional communication difficulties.

Limitation

This is the first primary study on functional communication difficulties among older adult patients with dementia in Bangladesh. So there were some limitations and impediments during conducting the study in different aspects.

- This study is an academic research project and the investigator got a short period to conduct the study so the sample was purposefully selected. This study had been conducted at the NIMH, Sir William Beveridge Foundation and BSMMU which are tertiary level hospitals and organizations for dementia patients in Bangladesh. Due to a short period, the investigator could not collect data from the other institutes.
- The investigator has had to find most of the participants' residence to reach them, as the patients with dementia are not kept admitted to the hospitals. That was a matter of high cost. Investigator did not get any financial support to conduct the study that is why it was not possible to move further and gather more participants from areas around Dhaka.
- There was a minor number of participants to find out functional communication difficulties among patients with dementia. Due to the lack number of the participants, the external validity of the study decreased. Time and resources were limited that put a great impact to generalize the results.
- The Investigator came to know that some of the patients with dementia had passed away while conducting study over the phone, so that information of the participants had to be considered as void.

Moreover, the study involved a considerable size of data and variables; as this was a part of the investigator's learning process, statistical analysis and interpretation could have been better.

Recommendation

During conducting the study, investigator found that functional communication difficulties occurs among older adult people with dementia. This study was done with only 44 participants as sample for conducting the study. So, it is suggested to increase the quantity of the sample as well as study location for further study on this topic. Purposive sampling was used to select participants and study place. So further study can be conducted by simple random sampling.

Further study could be conducted on:

- Further study can be conducted by increasing the number of the participants and changing the study location so the more impact will come in context of Bangladesh.
- Further study can be conduct on the quality of life of the Dementia patient with Communication difficulties.
- More detailed Language Impairments among progressive Dementia patients.
- Further study Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) effects among the older person with dementia can be conducted.
- A study can be done on investigating the effects of communication problems on burden of the caregivers.
- Further study can be done on the aspects of Speech and Language Therapy service among the caregivers of dementia patients.

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