

Work on dementia with the intellectually disabled
-Measures to support and care for people with intellectual disabilities and dementia (DAGBE) - an evaluation of a Fliedner-Stiftung project funded by the charitable foundation Wohlfahrtspflege NRW

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Summary: Thanks not least to medical progress, people with intellectual disabilities are reaching ever-greater ages, and are therefore becoming more likely than ever to develop dementia (cf. Strydom A. et al, 2013). Experience shows that lessons learned from general research into dementia cannot be transposed directly and without restriction onto people with an intellectual disability. In international literature, initial approaches and experiences can now be seen, but these are not transferable to the German support structure, and in addition, very few concepts have been systematically checked for their effectiveness.

Therefore, an adaptation or the development of concepts for needs-oriented support at all stages of the disease is urgently required. The aim is to develop and scientifically verify measures which serve to maintain the quality of life of the residents and of their co-residents without the disease, and to increase the quality of life and reduce the stress experienced by staff (Strydom, 2010). The object of investigation was the establishment of a dementia-sensitive environment and a daily structure, as well as special training courses for staff working at the relevant institutions, moulded into a Fliedner-Stiftung project funded by Wohlfahrtspflege charitable foundation. No similar projects are known nationwide (cf. Müller & Wolf, 2012; Wolf & Müller 2013).

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