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The Influence of Family Involvement on Domiciliary Dementia Care Outcomes: Insights from Kwikfix Care, Oxford

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Abstract: ***In our view, this article sheds light on the influence of relatives' presence and participation on the quality of home-based dementia care. Conducted by Kwikfix Care Services in Oxford, the study employs surveys from caregivers, clients, and family members to explore how emotional support, routine assistance, and health coordination provided by relative's impact patient cooperation and adherence to care plans. Quantitative data revealed that regular family visits were associated with improved cooperation scores and mood stability, while thematic analysis emphasized cultural familiarity, trust-building, and caregiving identity. That said, challenges such as geographic distance, conflict, and emotional burnout were noted. This suggests that integrating structured family involvement in care models can improve client well-being and promote sustainable domiciliary care. Data analysed using various statistical tools such as Median and Interquartile Range (IQR) for descriptive statistics was and percentages for categorical data were used to calculate emotional reassurance (92%), assistance (48 %), and scheduling (36 %)". Inferential Statistics was used in analysis comparison of means (with p-value). Significantly higher cooperation scores (mean 4.3 ± 0.6 vs 3.1 ± 0.8, p < 0.01) Qualitative data was analysed using thematic findings to IQR 2–6, predominantly providing emotional reassurance (92 %), assistance with personal routines (48 %), and scheduling of health appointments (36 %),72% of professional carers reported noticeable improvements in client mood, and 68 % of relatives believed their presence reduced loneliness and confusion. Thematic findings indicated that family engagement fosters trust, cultural familiarity, and a shared caregiving identity, while barriers included geographical distance, intra-family conflict, and burnout.***

Keywords: Dementia care, family involvement, home care, caregiver collaboration, emotional well-being

1. Introduction

The prevalence of dementia is increasing globally, necessitating a deeper understanding of supportive care dynamics. In domiciliary settings, where individuals remain in their homes, the role of family becomes crucial (Jebet & Kimweno, 2025). The forecasted prevalence of dementia attributable to the three dementia risk factors included in the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study (GBD) 2019 (high body-mass index, high fasting plasma glucose, and smoking) from 2019 to 2050, using relative risks and forecasted risk factor prevalence to predict GBD risk-attributable prevalence in 2050 globally and by world region and country (Jebet, & Kimweno,2025). As of 2021, approximately 57 million people worldwide were living with dementia. Nearly 10 million new cases of dementia are diagnosed each year global. The number of people living with dementia is expected to increase to 152.8 million by 2050, driven by population growth and aging (Pedroza, et al., 2022). Over 60% of people with dementia reside in low- and middle-income countries, a proportion projected to rise to 71% by 2050. (Cohen et al., 2014). In 2019, the global female-to-male ratio of dementia prevalence was estimated at 1.69, indicating a higher prevalence among women. Dementia is a leading cause of disability and dependency among older adults and ranks as the seventh leading cause of death globally (Nichols, et al., 2022). As of 2024, approximately 982,000 people in the UK are living with dementia. This number is expected to rise to 1.4 million by 2040, driven by an ageing population. In England, the dementia diagnosis rate was 65.2% as of July 2024, slightly below the national target of 66.7% The economic burden of dementia in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs) Catala-Lopez & GBD 2019 Dementia Forecasting Collaborators (2022).

2. Purpose Statement

This study aims to examine the impact of relatives' presence and involvement on emotional well-being, routine adherence, and overall domiciliary care outcomes for individuals living with dementia. Over 70,000 people in the UK are living with young-onset dementia, where symptoms develop before the age of 65. Dementia costs the UK economy £42 billion per year, projected to rise to £90 billion by 2040(Dementia, UK 2021).

Dementia Prevalence in Oxfordshire: By December 2024, there were 483,000 people aged 65 and over with a formal diagnosis of dementia in England. The prevalence rate of diagnosed dementia in people aged 65 and over in England was 4.2% in 2024 (Wittenberg, et al., 2020). To better inform care models and policy frameworks, this study underscores the critical role that consistent familial engagement plays in enhancing both psychosocial outcomes and operational efficiency within domiciliary dementia care.

3. Methodology

A structured survey was administered to 50 families and 30 caregivers affiliated with the Oxford branch. Questions focused on frequency of visits, types of involvement

(emotional, logistical, financial), perceived impact on client well-being, and collaboration with professional care staff. Quantitative findings were further contextualized using qualitative insights.

4. Results

Relatives visited a median of four times per week (IQR 2–6), predominantly providing emotional reassurance (92 %), assistance with personal routines (48 %), and scheduling of health appointments (36 %). Compared with clients whose relatives visited infrequently, those receiving regular visits showed significantly higher cooperation scores (mean 4.3 ± 0.6 vs 3.1 ± 0.8, $p < 0.01$) and a 35 % greater adherence to prescribed care plans. Seventy-two per cent of professional carers reported noticeable improvements in client mood, and 68 % of relatives believed their presence reduced loneliness and confusion. Thematic findings indicated that family engagement fosters trust, cultural familiarity, and a shared caregiving identity, while barriers included geographical distance, intra-family conflict, and burnout.

5. Discussion

The findings highlight the importance of integrating families into care planning and daily routines. Family members provide continuity, emotional reassurance, and culturally appropriate interactions that complement professional services. However, disparities in involvement due to geographic, economic, or relational factors may limit this potential. Barriers such as caregiver burnout, family conflict, or logistical difficulties can impede effective involvement. The study identifies the need for support systems, such as caregiver training and family-inclusive care models, to maximize the benefits of familial participation. Dementia care strategies have evolved to include a holistic approach that emphasizes psychosocial well-being. Kwikfix Care, Oxford Branch, serving a diverse demographic, has observed varying degrees of familial involvement. This variability highlights the need to assess how family involvement influences care outcomes.

6. Recommendation

Develop structured family engagement plans within domiciliary care packages. Offer workshops to educate families about dementia progression and care techniques. Establish communication protocols to ensure seamless collaboration between families and professional staff.

7. Conclusion

This survey underscores the positive impact of relatives' presence and involvement in the care of people living with dementia. The Oxford branch of Kwikfix Care Services advocates for a collaborative care model that leverages familial bonds to enhance domiciliary care quality and client well-being. Consistent, meaningful family involvement correlates with enhanced emotional stability, better routine adherence, and smoother professional–client interactions in domiciliary dementia care. Integrating structured family-engagement initiatives—such as educational workshops, scheduled joint care reviews, and robust communication protocols—into home-care packages can magnify these benefits. Policymakers and providers should prioritise flexible visitation policies and respite resources to accommodate relatives, thereby helping meet the escalating global dementia burden with person-centred, collaborative care.

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