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Empowering Care: Uncovering the Learning Needs of Personal Support Workers in Dementia Care

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Empowering Care: Uncovering the Learning Needs of Personal Support Workers in Dementia Care.

A dementia diagnosis occurs every three seconds. Most individuals living with dementia will rely on long-term care services, often provided by personal support workers (PSWs). Unfortunately, when compared to other healthcare workers, such as nurses, PSWs receive the least comprehensive formal and continuous education opportunities and the lowest self-perceived confidence in providing optimal dementia care. Furthermore, their learning needs and perspectives on dementia care have been overlooked and neglected in research. My research aims to bridge this gap by exploring PSW experiences, challenges, and their needs for additional educational support for dementia care. The outcomes of this study will serve as a foundation for designing future training programs and resources tailored to meet the needs of PSWs. By simply identifying their needs, we can empower PSWs, enhance their confidence and representation within the academic literature, and ultimately improve the quality of dementia care in long-term care.

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