



## “What is Dementia Care?” – From the Voice of People with Dementia about their Needs in the Chinese Society

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### Abstract:

In Hong Kong, the medical gaze and the stigmatization of dementia have been thoroughly influenced by the region’s sociocultural environment, in which providing physical and tangible care to people with dementia is preferred over attending to their psychological needs. As a result, their subjective views on and feelings about their conditions and care have been neglected, which has only further silenced their voices. Regarding the concept of person-centred care, there is an urge to understand more about the experience and perception of people with dementia about their needs. To guide the research, interpretivism and thematic analysis were adopted as frameworks in applying participatory observations, in-depth interviews and other qualitative methods. Ten people with dementia—one man and nine women—living in residential care home in Hong Kong were interviewed. The findings revealed that residents with dementia did not perceive themselves as being ‘demented’ and were confused by that label. Summarizing the needs of people with dementia from their voice, the DEMENTIA CARE stands for D-Diet; E-Emotion; M-Medication; E-Environment; N-Network; T-Technology; I-Individualization; A-Active and C-Communication; A-Appreciation; R-Rehabilitation; E-Empowerment. How people with dementia perceive themselves may not be same as what and how the others perceive them. The professionals and frontline



practitioners should be reminded to listen the voice of people with dementia regarding the multiple needs in their daily livings. Such findings suggest a new standpoint from which to understand people with dementia and promote involvement of people with dementia in the research for designing truly holistic care.

### Biography:

Dr. Chui received his PhD in Social Welfare from Department of Social Work, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He also got his three master degrees in Dementia Studies from the University of Stirling, Scotland, in Clinical Gerontology from CUHK, and in Social Service Management from CUHK with over 15 years dementia care experience. Dr. Chui focuses on understanding the subjective perception of people with dementia and voice out their needs through qualitative researches. He was the 28th Outstanding Social Worker in Hong Kong and the Winner of Social Impact Award granted by Hong Kong British Council.

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