

Knowledge and attitudes of caregivers towards Aphasia within the government hospital settings in the Gampaha district: based on Life Participation of Aphasia Approach (LPAA)

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Aphasia is an acquired neurogenic language disorder that affect of language. Person with aphasia (PWA) will also get affected due to disruption of communication. Recognizing caregivers' attitudes and knowledge about Aphasia will increase the effectiveness of rehabilitation of aphasia patients. The current study identified the knowledge and attitudes of the caregivers based on 'Life Participation of Aphasia' approach (LPAA). This is a descriptive study done among 35 primary caregivers of the PWA. Participants were presented with an interviewer administrated questionnaire based on of subheadings of LPAA. Majority of the caregivers (22, 64.7%) knew the medical diagnosis. But (68.6%) caregivers never heard the term aphasia. Caregiver's attitudes in participation in life situation skills were given positive results in involvement in daily routines. Thirty-three (94.3%) caregivers think problem-solving skills are the most affected skill in patients. Considering the knowledge about language related impairment, (60%) had accurate knowledge about comprehension skills. Considering about communication and language environment was highlighted, caregivers had inadequate knowledge about the modes of communication. According to the knowledge and attitudes of caregivers about patient's personal identity, most of the caregivers presented inadequate knowledge (>50%) about personality. Study shows a difference in knowledge and attitudes about the LPAA model related information, as there was a discrepancy between actual status and caregivers views. Therefore, it shows the importance of proper education of caregivers when planning treatment for PWA.

Keywords: Aphasia, attitude, caregivers, knowledge and Life Participation Approach to Aphasia (LPAA)

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