

Why measure togetherness in dementia care, and is it an assignment for caregivers?

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English abstract

A continuous development of dementia care requires evaluation of psychosocial methods – and the development of new ones. The focus of the article is on how a caregiver evaluates the process of using measures and assessment in dementia care. The starting point is the tool MiDAS developed to assess changes in wellbeing of a person with dementia participating in music therapy. The scales include proxy assessment, i.e., where a caregiver, who knows the person well, based on observations rates the responses of the person. The question is whether we can expect caregivers to conduct assessment of psychosocial methods, and how to prioritize such a task? It is concluded that assessment depends on a number of factors at an instrumental and individual level, but also at an organizational and societal level in order to create a framework that allows for development, observation and evaluation, and for reconciling our expectations for professional competence.