

## Perception of Institutional Caregivers on Dental Health Plan for People with Intellectual Disabilities

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### Abstract

**Objective** Recently, Taiwan began to pay much attention to dental health of people with disabilities under the dental care plan promoted by Taiwan Dental Association. Especially for people with intellectual disabilities, due to limited intellectual development and adaptation, their dental health is poorer than general people, and adaptability to hospitalization is difficult and attendants are normally deficient in common sense of dental care, therefore dental care of people with intellectual disabilities is hardly achieved on the whole. This paper aims to analyze the perception of institutional caregivers on dental health plan for people with disabilities for future reference to help attendants solve dental care problems. **Methods** Main subjects of the plan include 235 occupants and 65 caregivers totally in the Private Happy Christian Homes of Changhua County, and they worked together to promote the dental health and trainings for people with intellectual disabilities. Data were mainly collected from 65 caregivers working at the institute as research subjects in the means of structured questionnaire before and after the plan to observe their perception of the plan. Totally 55 pre-test and 50 post-test questionnaires were collected. **Results** Occupants' cleanliness increased from 38% to 80% and their incidence of dental health problems (bleeding when brushing teeth) decreased from 74% to 44% when caregivers had good knowledge of correct teeth brushing method after teaching activities held by the institute; those with good performance rose from 11% to 50%; those with bad performance dropped from 15% to 6%; specialized resources for dental care increased from 31% to 66% in the institute, and the difficulty that caregivers help teeth brushing from pre-activities 33% to post-activities 24% as well as the demand of dental care knowledge from pre-activities 63% to post-activities 53%. **Conclusions** The plan resulted in the improvement of caregivers on professional skills of dental health, decreasing the attendance difficulty, so the institute should keep sustainable promotion of dental care business to enhance the dental health of people with disabilities.

**Keywords:** Caregivers, dental health promotion, people with intellectual disabilities, perception analysis