

# Exploring Culture in Dementia Care

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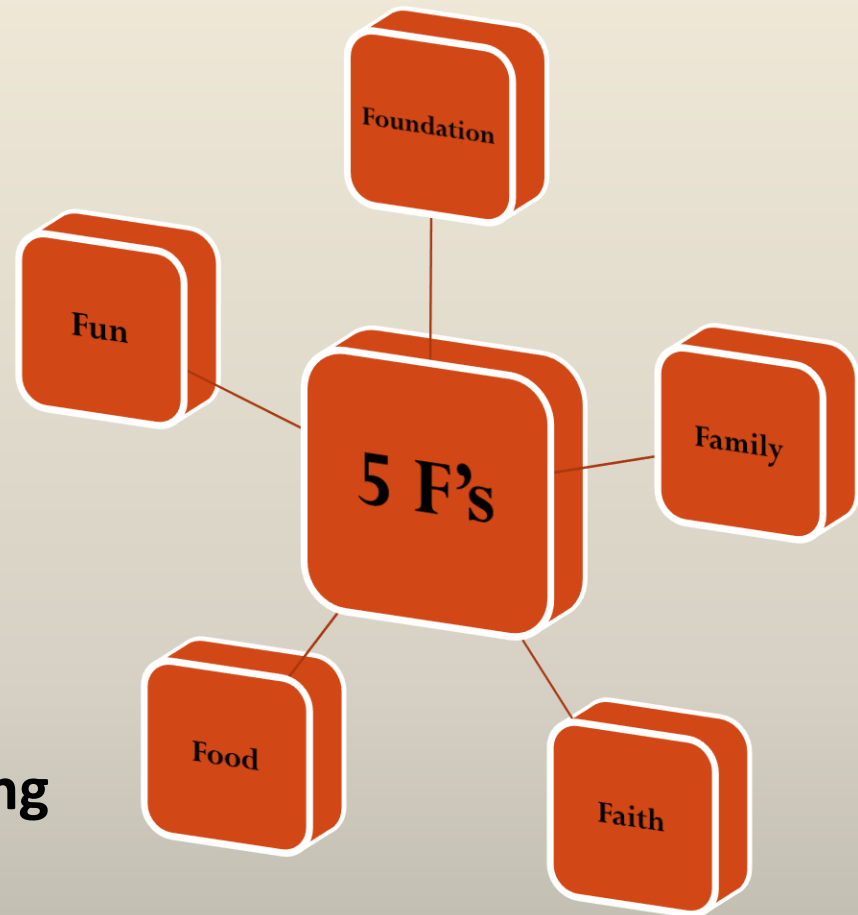


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# Dynamics of Dementia Care

- Should/do we focus on the diagnosis or the person?
- If we focus on the person does the diagnosis matter?
- Is culture more important than the diagnosis?
- Should we focus on the person or their culture?
- Who should decide?





**What is dementia care?  
What is our primary goal  
when working with people living  
with dementia?**

**Aims and Objectives of this session:**

**Exploration of culture in dementia care**

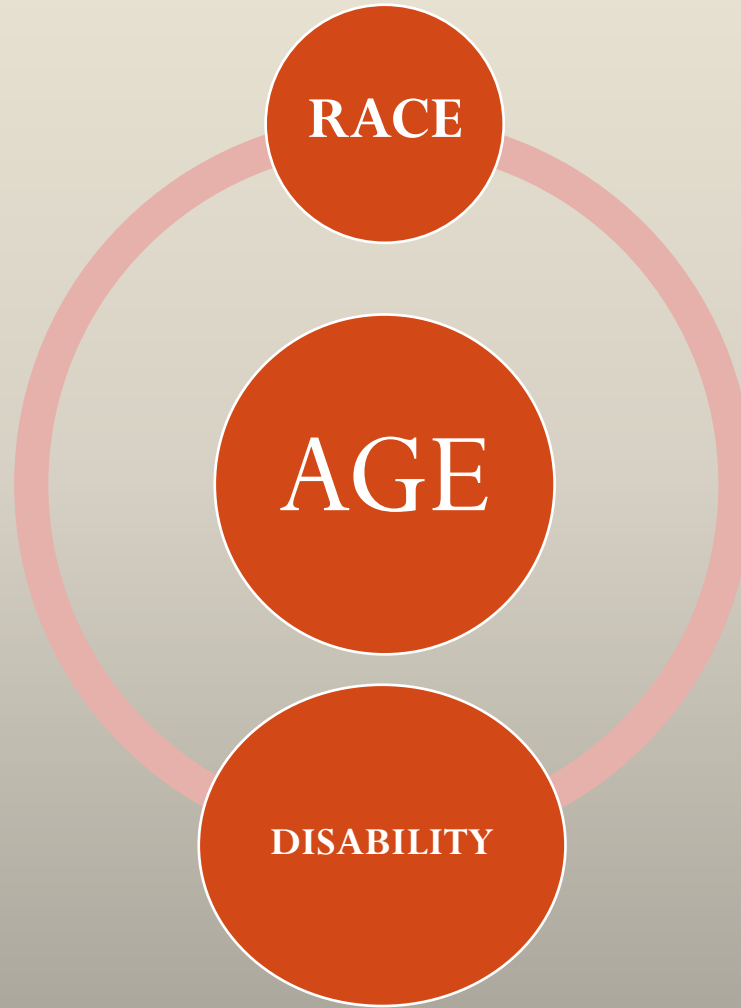
**Merits of person centred care and anti-racist practice**

**Consider which model of practice creates better outcomes for an individual**

# Faith Based Approach to Dementia Care Case Study



# Dementia and Intersectionality



# Creating Safe Spaces for Healing & Cultural Expression



# Developing Culturally Specific Activities



**N** Reminiscence In Action  
Nubian Oracle • Nubian Poetry • Songs From Life  
NUBIAN LIFE

*Storytelling*  
*Singing*  
*Poetry*  
*Music*

A culturally specific therapeutic arts activity platform developed for older people to improve their cognitive wellbeing, particularly those living with dementia.

Visit: [www.nubianlife.org.uk/remembrance](http://www.nubianlife.org.uk/remembrance)

# Reflective Practice & Learning

## Person Centered Care

### Cultural Competency



Effective communication that is sensitive to cross cultural differences and the ability to adapt to other cultural environments

### Anti-Racist Practice



The system works for me, it listens to me, understands and knows me; it can meet my needs irrespective of my background and location



# Merits of Person Centred Care Models

## Cultural Competency

- Experience and knowledge of different cultural practices that allows for appropriate adaptation
- Adoption of a cross cultural attitude to implement strategies that will help to develop and enhance the ability to adapt to other cultural environments
- A level of understanding another person's pattern of thinking, feeling, reactions and problem solving:
  - Language
  - Style of communication
  - Customs
  - Views on roles and relationships
- The acquisition and maintenance of culture-specific skills for very practical reasons (Wilson, Ward & Fischer, 2013)
- Williams (2001) defined cultural competency as 'the ability of individuals and systems to work or respond effectively across cultures in a way that acknowledges and respects the culture of the person or organisation being served

## Anti-Racist Practice

- Partnership working across professional and community organisations
- Acknowledging and dispelling unconscious bias
- Dismantling the tendency to stereotype
- Building a workforce that is reflective of the community and environment of operation (positive action)
- Education and training from external professionals
- Going beyond the legal requirement, meaningful listening sessions for staff and beneficiaries with actionable strategies
- Assessing the make up of decision makers, are they representative of the people benefitting from the service or product?
- Embed anti-racist practice in to operational delivery
- Transparency in operational delivery, evaluation and appropriate actions through external scrutiny
- Calliste and Dei define it as: "action-oriented, educational and/or political strategy for systemic and political change that addresses issues of racism and interlocking systems of social oppression

# Round Table

**Consider which model of practice creates better outcomes for an individual  
(each group to discuss and feedback as a round table activity)**

- Are both models of practice mutually exclusive?
- Reflective learning and practical delivery in reality – What happens? What do you do?
- Do we integrate the concept of Intersectionality in to our assessments?
- Crenshaw provided the following definition of intersectionality: "Intersectionality is a metaphor for understanding the ways that multiple forms of inequality or disadvantage sometimes compound themselves and create obstacles that are not often understood among conventional ways of thinking."
- E.g. think of the earlier case study where the person was Black, female, over 65+ and disabled so may face layers of discriminatory practice that puts them at further disadvantage due to the number of protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010)

**What do we think culture in dementia care is currently?**

**What do we think culture in dementia care could be?**

**What practical steps can we take to employ equitable practice?**

# REFLECTIONS

Thank you!

