The value of using photography and storytelling with people with dementia

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- VUK (School for adult education and communication)
  - Compensatory special education for adults
  - Lifelong learning

- People with early-stage dementia
  - Training and stimulation
  - Music and art therapy
  - Woodcraft

VUK, Aalborg Municipality, Denmark
Photography and Storytelling Project

- **Aim:** To explore the student’s experiences of being a student at VUK

- **10 students**
  - (5 M/5 F – Aged 67-83)

- **Given a camera with instructions**

- **Four weekly sessions**
  - (2 groups)
Session Plans

- Group Poem
  - Being a student
  - Arriving at VUK
  - Other students
  - Teachers
  - Breaks and Activities

- Storyboard of a ‘typical’ day at VUK

- Home and family life

- Celebration and review
Taking & Talking about the Images

- Taking the photos
  - Support and help

- The sessions
  - Open questions
  - Focus on feelings rather than memory

- The student’s engagement
  - Recall of pictures
  - Sparked memories
  - Enhanced the discussion
Attending VUK – How did they experience it

- Look forward to what the day brings
- Meeting new ‘challenges’
- Succeeding in tasks
- ‘Positive learning’
- Friendships

‘It is about being together and new experiences. The unique thing is that you are fed with things that you have forgotten.’
Final thoughts
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