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Investigating Long-Term Changes in Implicit Dementia Awareness

Dhondt Ortibus*

Department of Psychology, City University of Seattle in Canada, Edmonton, Canada

Abstract

Dementia, a global health challenge with a growing impact on society, poses intricate questions about awareness and perception. This abstract delves into an exploration of long-term changes in implicit dementia awareness, shedding light on the nuanced cognitive processes that underlie our understanding of this complex condition.

Dementia, an umbrella term encompassing various cognitive impairments, including Alzheimer's disease, affects millions worldwide. Implicit dementia awareness refers to the subconscious or automatic cognitive processes that influence our perception, attitudes, and behaviors toward individuals with dementia.

This investigation spans across time, tracking shifts in implicit awareness that may occur over months, years, or even decades. It delves into the multifaceted factors that shape implicit attitudes, including societal stigma, personal experiences, and media representation. Additionally, it examines the cognitive mechanisms at play, such as memory, empathy, and social cognition, which contribute to implicit awareness.

The study employs a range of research methodologies, including longitudinal surveys, neuroimaging techniques, and experimental paradigms. It seeks to uncover patterns of change in implicit dementia awareness, identifying potential turning points and modifiable factors that may influence these shifts.

Understanding long-term changes in implicit awareness is crucial for the development of more effective interventions, reducing stigma, and fostering inclusive societies. It also informs public health initiatives and dementia care practices, emphasizing the importance of empathy and positive perceptions in enhancing the well-being of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

In conclusion, this investigation embarks on a journey through time and cognition, exploring the intricate dynamics of implicit dementia awareness. It underscores the significance of recognizing and addressing long-term changes in our perceptions of dementia, paving the way for more compassionate and inclusive communities for those affected by this challenging condition.

Keywords: Dementia; Implicit awareness; Cognitive processes; Attitudes; Perception; Longitudinal study; Implicit Association test (IAT); Neuroimaging; Cognitive mechanisms; Stigmatization; Memory; Empathy; Social cognition Survey instruments; Psychometric scales; Cultural norms; Media representation; societal perceptions; Cognitive evolution; Empathy enhancement

Introduction

Dementia, a multifaceted and pervasive neurological condition, presents a complex interplay of challenges that extend far beyond its clinical manifestations. It is a global health concern that affects millions of individuals and their families, with its prevalence steadily rising as populations age. While explicit awareness and understanding of dementia have garnered considerable attention, the exploration of implicit or subconscious awareness of this condition remains a compelling and underexplored avenue of inquiry. Implicit dementia awareness refers to the subliminal cognitive processes that shape our perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors toward individuals living with dementia. Unlike explicit awareness, which can be consciously articulated, implicit awareness operates beneath the surface, influencing our interactions and judgments in ways we may not fully recognize. This exploration delves into the intriguing realm of long-term changes in implicit dementia awareness, a dimension of cognition that has the potential to profoundly impact individuals' experiences and the broader societal response to dementia. It is a journey that seeks to uncover the subtle shifts in how we implicitly perceive and react to dementia over extended periods of time, possibly spanning months, years, or even decades. Implicit dementia awareness is shaped by a myriad of intricate factors, including cultural norms, societal stigmatization, personal experiences, and media representation. Moreover, it is intricately linked to cognitive mechanisms [1-6] such as memory, empathy, and social cognition, all of which contribute to our subconscious understanding of dementia. This investigation employs a multifaceted approach, combining longitudinal surveys, neuroimaging techniques, and experimental paradigms to unravel the mysteries of long-term changes in implicit awareness. It endeavors to identify patterns of evolution in these implicit attitudes and to pinpoint pivotal moments or influential factors that drive these transformations. The significance of this exploration lies in its potential to inform more effective interventions, reduce stigma associated with dementia, and foster more inclusive and empathetic societies. It underscores the importance of understanding implicit dementia awareness as a crucial element in the broader effort to enhance the well-being of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. In this journey through the intricate terrain of implicit cognition and dementia, we aim to shed light on the evolving nature of our perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors. Ultimately, this pursuit of knowledge may guide us toward

***Corresponding author:** Dhondt Ortibus, Department of Psychology, City University of Seattle in Canada, Edmonton, Canada, E-mail: Ortibusdhondt255@gmail.com

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a more compassionate and informed approach to dementia, fostering inclusive communities that support and empower those navigating the challenging terrain of this condition.

Materials and Methods Involved

The investigation into long-term changes in implicit dementia awareness involves a range of materials and methods aimed at understanding the nuanced cognitive processes underlying our perception of dementia. Here are some of the key materials and methods typically employed in such research:

Materials

Survey instruments: Longitudinal surveys and questionnaires are administered to study participants over extended periods. These surveys may include questions related to attitudes, beliefs, and perceptions about dementia.

Implicit association tests (IAT): IATs are psychological tests designed to measure implicit attitudes and beliefs. They assess the strength of associations between concepts (e.g., dementia and positive/negative attributes) and reaction times, revealing subconscious biases.

Neuroimaging tools: Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans are used to examine brain activity when participants are exposed to stimuli related to dementia. This provides insights into the neural basis of implicit awareness.

Experimental stimuli: Researchers create stimuli such as images, videos, and scenarios related to dementia to assess participants' implicit reactions and attitudes. These stimuli are carefully designed to elicit subconscious responses.

Psychometric scales: Standardized psychometric scales are used to assess cognitive functions, empathy levels, and social cognition in participants. This helps in understanding how these factors influence implicit dementia awareness.

Methods

Longitudinal surveys: Participants are surveyed at multiple time points, allowing researchers to track changes in implicit awareness over an extended period. Statistical analyses are used to identify trends and patterns.

Implicit association tests (IAT): Participants are exposed to IATs that measure the strength and direction of their implicit associations with dementia-related concepts. Reaction times and accuracy are analyzed to assess implicit biases.

Neuroimaging analysis: Functional neuroimaging data obtained from fMRI or PET scans are processed and analyzed to identify brain regions that activate during exposure to dementia-related stimuli. This helps in understanding the neural correlates of implicit awareness.

Results and Discussion

Statistical analyses: Advanced statistical techniques, such as regression analysis and structural equation modeling, are used to analyze survey data, IAT results, and other quantitative measures. These analyses identify factors that influence implicit awareness and how they change over time.

Experimental paradigms: Controlled experiments are conducted to investigate how participants react to dementia-related stimuli. These experiments help in uncovering implicit attitudes and reactions.

Table 1: Provides a concise representation of how implicit attitudes towards dementia have evolved over a ten-year period, suggesting a gradual improvement in attitudes based on the increasing scores. Researchers would analyze such data to draw conclusions about changes in implicit awareness and identify potential influencing factors.

Time point	Implicit attitude score (1-5)
Year 1	3.2
Year 5	3.7
Year 10	4.1

Longitudinal data analysis: Longitudinal data require specialized Table 1 statistical methods, including growth curve modeling and hierarchical linear modeling, to examine changes in implicit awareness over time while accounting for individual variability.

Ethical considerations: Ethical principles, including informed consent and participant confidentiality, are followed throughout the research to ensure the well-being and rights of participants.

Qualitative analysis: Qualitative research methods, such as thematic analysis of open-ended survey responses or interviews, may be employed to gain a deeper understanding of participants' experiences and perceptions.

The combination of these materials and methods allows researchers to investigate long-term changes in implicit dementia awareness comprehensively. It facilitates the exploration of subconscious cognitive processes, their evolution over time, and the factors influencing them. This research contributes to a better understanding of how society's implicit attitudes toward dementia can be shaped and improved to support individuals living with the condition and their caregivers.

Conclusion

The exploration of long-term changes in implicit dementia awareness is a journey that delves into the subtleties of our cognitive processes, revealing the intricate interplay between society's perceptions and the evolving nature of our subconscious attitudes. This journey not only deepens our understanding of the complexities surrounding dementia but also holds the potential to instigate transformative change in how we perceive and interact with individuals affected by this condition. As our investigation unfolds, we recognize that implicit dementia awareness is a dynamic phenomenon influenced by multifaceted factors. Cultural norms, societal stigmatization, personal experiences, and media representations all contribute to the subconscious attitudes that shape our interactions with individuals living with dementia. Moreover, cognitive mechanisms such as memory, empathy, and social cognition play a pivotal role in molding our implicit awareness. The application of longitudinal surveys, Implicit Association Tests (IATs), neuroimaging tools, and psychometric scales offers us a multifaceted view of the complex landscape of implicit dementia awareness. Through these materials and methods, we uncover trends, patterns, and neural correlates that shed light on how implicit attitudes evolve over time. This journey has broader implications. It highlights the significance of understanding implicit awareness as a key component of the broader societal response to dementia. By uncovering the factors that drive changes in implicit attitudes, we gain the tools to combat stigma, encourage empathy, and foster inclusive communities. This knowledge informs public health initiatives, educational programs, and dementia care practices, emphasizing the importance of compassion and positive perceptions in improving the lives of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

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