

How technology influence older adults' participation in nursing homes – an ethnographic study

Ida Adolfsson, PhD-student

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND WELFARE, Jönköping University, Sweden

Caroline Fischl

School of health and welfare, Jönköping University, Sweden

Lena Rosenberg

Department of Rehabilitation, School of health and welfare, Jönköping University

Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Division of Occupational Therapy, Karliniska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden



Objectives

- Digital participation may be difficult for older adults due the rapid technological development, varying access and levels of knowledge
- Digital technology is increasingly essential for participation in everyday life
- The number of people living with dementia is increasing worldwide, and individuals with cognitive impairment often face greater challenges when using technology.
- Many older adults moving to nursing homes today are accustomed to using technology, at the same time, nursing homes residents are often not recognized as technology users



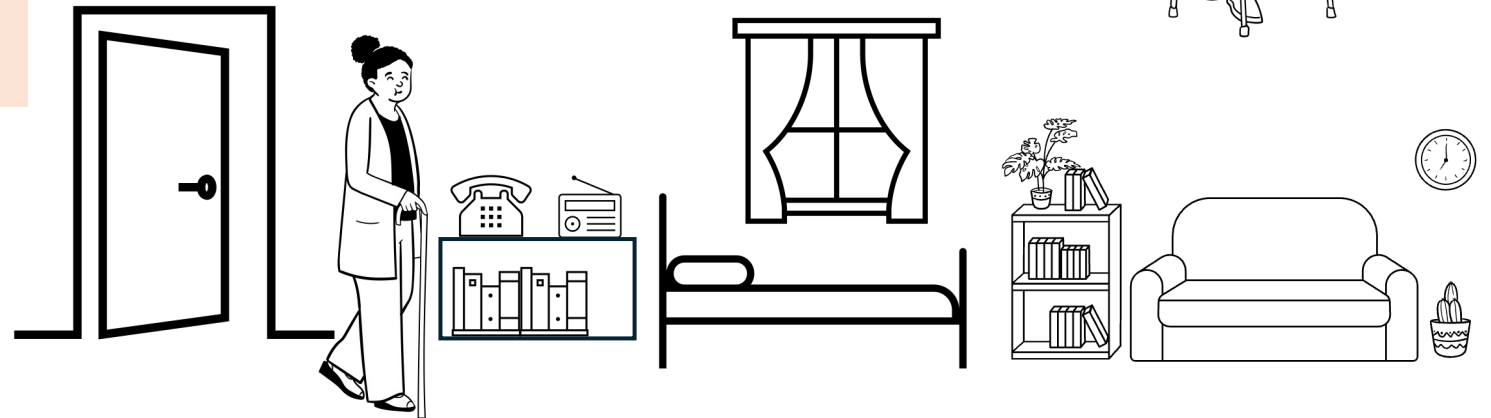
Nursing homes in Sweden



Need-based accommodation for persons with comprehensive care needs

Access to staff 24/7

Private, shared and public spaces



Aim

This study aims to generate knowledge on how digital technology influences participation in activities among nursing home residents



Method

- Three nursing homes in Sweden
- Explored as technological habitat
 - *everyday technology*
 - *welfare-technology*
- Ethnographic approach
 - *Participant observations*
 - *Walkalong-interviews*
- Analyzed using an interpretative qualitative method

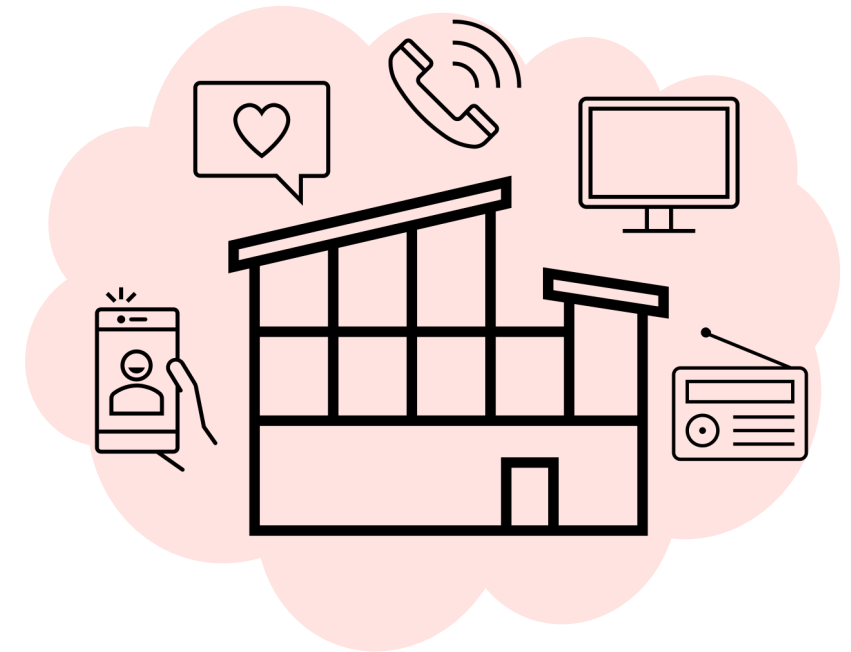


Results

Conflict of values where security and control outweigh resident's participation

Technology creates a barrier between residents and nursing home staff

Technology as a bridge to the world outside

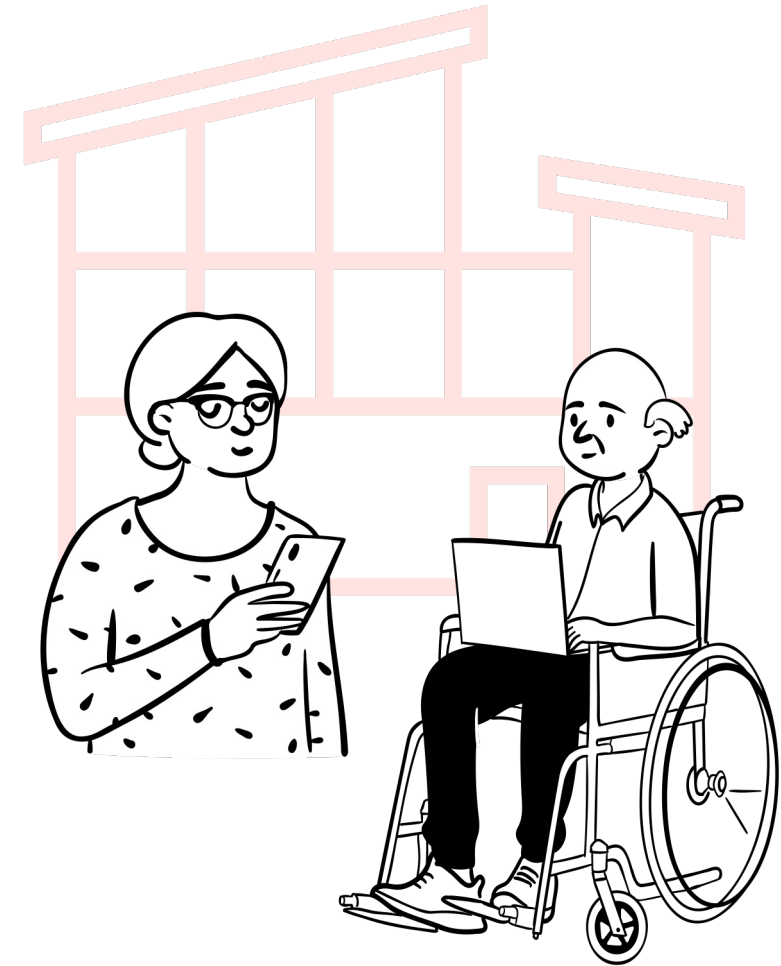


Conclusion

- The findings highlight:
 - the digital technology's challenges and opportunities in nursing home settings
 - the need of structured support to facilitate the use of digital technology to enhancing participation among residents

Contribution to the occupational therapy profession

- Occupational therapist have a vital role in planning and implementing technology to promote participation in nursing home settings





JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY