

A "cane" for thinking: an optimistic self-care methodology for dementia

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Abstract: Issues related to dementia are usually discussed in rather pessimistic ways from other people's points of view such as that of families, medical or health care workers. In this talk, we give a first-person perspective to the issues and try to understand them as a continuous change of one's physical condition particularly the shrinking of the scope of perception and the memories of one's brain. The most important symptom is the loss of 'orientation' which breaks down one's thinking activity. To prevent the break down, we propose to introduce a "knowledge home" based on a kind of life log prior to suffering from dementia and try not to move from it. In the knowledge home, any universal design approach is useless and the information security of the data in it is quite important. We propose a proper encoding and a security policy of the data for the purpose. We also discuss about that the viewpoint is essentially related to the field of "natural computing" and we envision a rather optimistic future about dementia care.