

# The Death Literacy and Training for Foreign Health Care Assistant Working in Long-term Care Facilities in Taiwan

Hsiang-Chi Tan, Chun-Chun Chen, Jyh-Gang Hsieh, Ying-Wei Wang

Department of Palliative Medicine, Buddhist Tzu-Chi Hospital, Hualien, Taiwan  
Heart Lotus Palliative Ward, Department of Nursing, Buddhist Tzu-Chi Hospital, Hualien, Taiwan  
Center for Palliative Care. Buddhist Tzu-Chi Hospital, Hualien, Taiwan



# Backgrounds



- The demand of palliative care is getting higher in recent year. Almost 140 thousand frail and vulnerable elders live in nursing homes in Taiwan in 2020, and most of them are expected to end their journey in the nursing home.
- According to the record, there are 1078 long term care institutions in Taiwan until 2020. The major workforce are foreign health care assistants for many institutions.
- The majority of foreign health care assistants are Vietnamese among 15,795 foreign workers in April 2021, according to the statistic from Ministry of Labor of Taiwan.



Vietnam  
N=11665



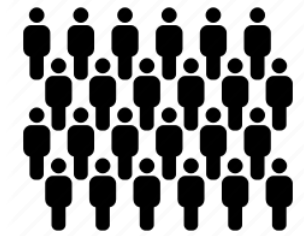
Indonesia  
N=2943



Philippines  
N=1149



Thailand  
N=38



Total :15795

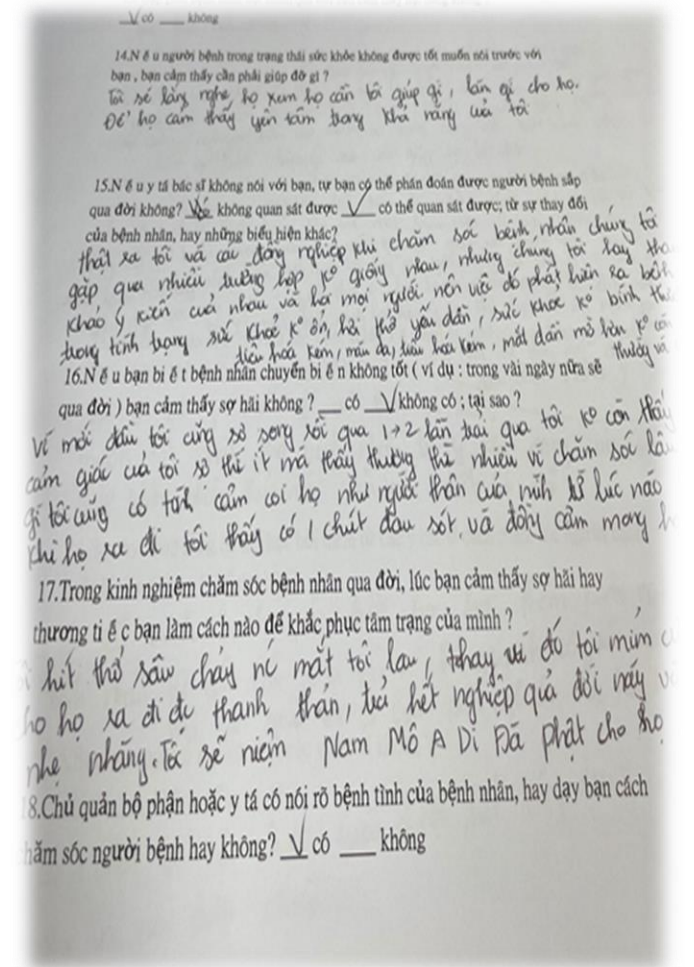
# Objectives

- To study the concept of End-of-Life care and the appropriate training program for foreign health care assistants working in long term care institution.
- Past practice: We design the training program by understanding from our site.
- Now: How we design the training program by understanding their core needs.



# Methods

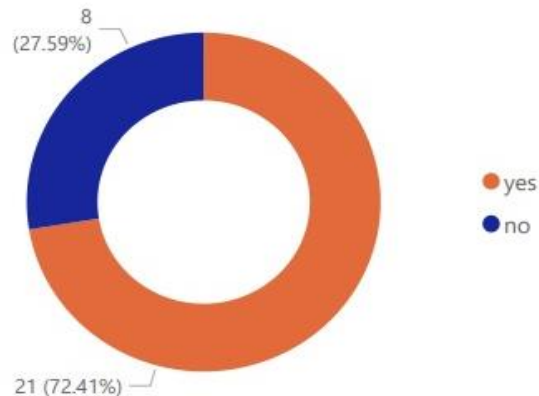
- Convenient samples of foreign health care assistants from 5 long term care institutions
- 29 Vietnamese foreign health assistants were interviewed by program researcher (assisted by translator)
- Information collection:
  - The concept of palliative care
  - Knowledge about symptom and sign at the terminal stage
  - Experience in caring of dying patient
  - Coping with bereavement
  - Demand for training
  - Preference for training method ...



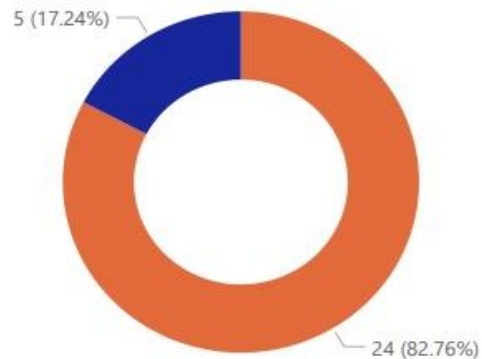
## Death Literacy in Foreign Health Care Assistant n=29

- 72.4% heard about palliative care
- 82.76% recognized the occurrence of dying sign
- 82.76% will not fear for caring of dying patient

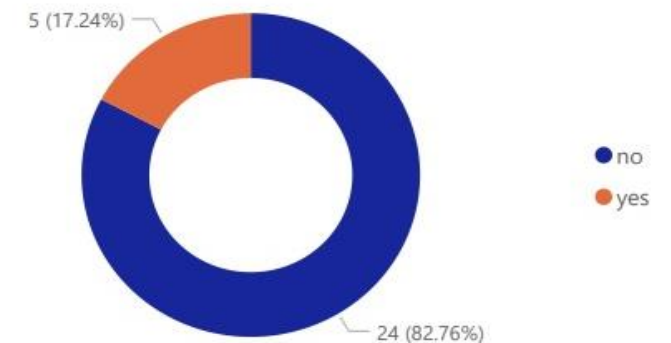
concept of palliative care



Identify of dying sign



fear of pre dying patient





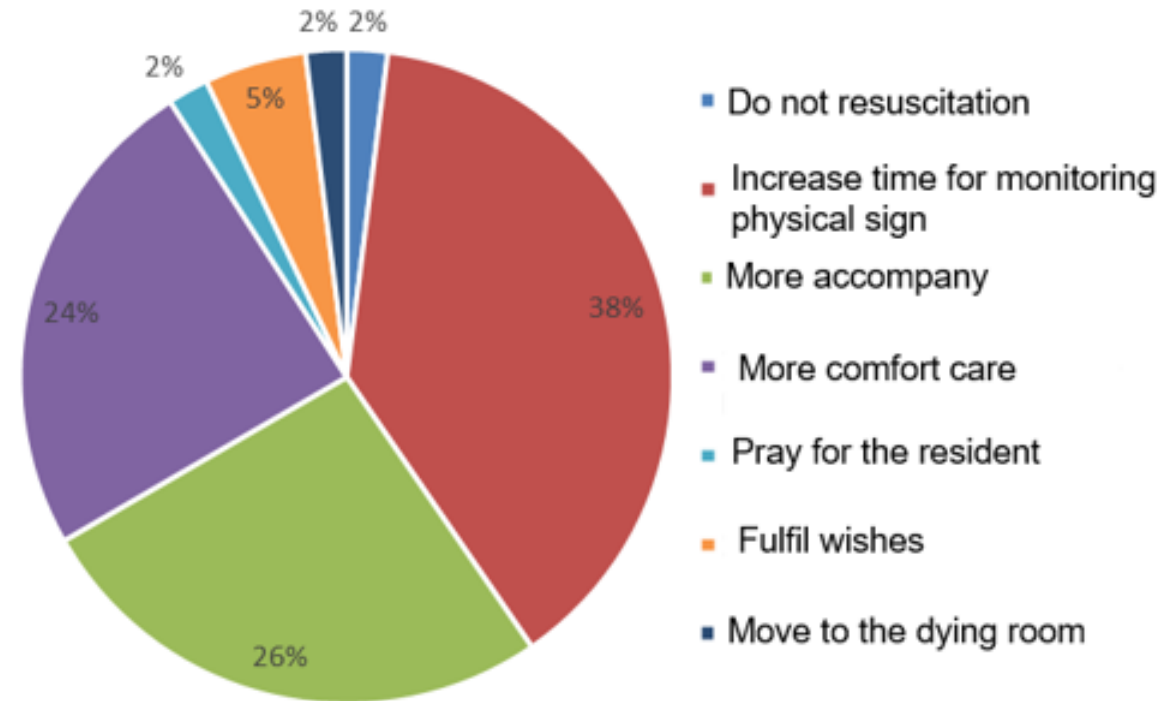
# The perception of palliative care by Foreign Health Care Assistant

When taking care of terminal residents ...

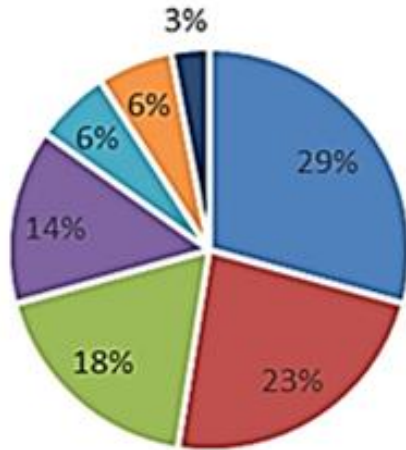
n=29

- 38% increase time on monitoring physical sign
- 26% more time accompany
- 24% more time for comfort care
- 5% Fulfil the final wishes of the resident

The perception of hospice palliative care  
by foreign health care assistant n=29



## The emotional response towards dying resident in Foreign Health Care Assistant n=29

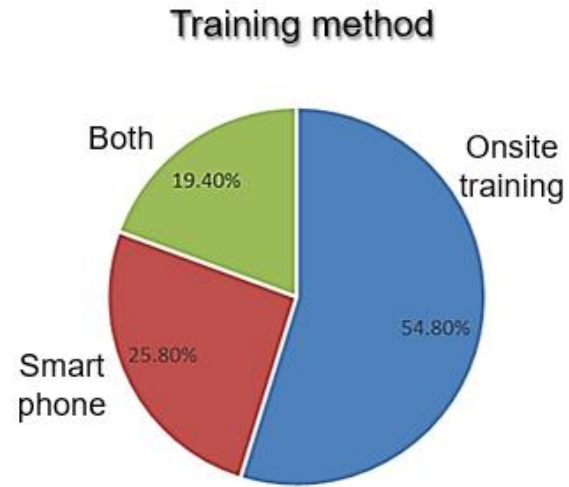


- Subpress emotion
- Praying
- Relief from suffering
- Death is unavoidable
- Accustom without any feeling
- Crying
- Self affirmation : I have done my best.

- 29% will subpress their emotion ◦
- 23% relies on their own religion (praying / Recite Buddhist scriptures
- 18% think at a positive view (the resident finally relieve from his suffering ) ◦
- 14% think that it is a natural life course ( death is unavoidable)



# The preference of training method by foreign health care assistant



- 54.8% onsite training
- 25.8% using smart phone for learning
- 19.4% Both



## 1. Onsite training

- ✓ *“I like to interact with the speaker”*
- ✓ *“We can ask them directly”*

## 2. Digital teaching materials with their own language

- ✓ *“I hope the teaching material will have different language subtitle”*
- ✓ *“We can study repeatedly”*
- ✓ *“We can study at leisure time”*





# Training needs for foreign health care assistant

- Physical care

- Comfort care (oral care)
- Wound care
- Massage skill
- Feeding in the terminal stage

- Psychosocial care

- Relaxation skill (patient/self)
- Accompany skill

*"I want to learn more about massage and wound dressing ..."*

*"I was impressed by the master as she taught us how to accompany with the resident"*

*"He is so pity, I'm worry about the patient will dying for starving. I hope I can feed him more. I always secretly feed him more milk ..."*



# Conclusion

- The understanding of “death” has gradually improved with the increasing experiences of caring for terminally ill patients. More support is needed in the future to protect the wellbeing and appropriate self-care of long-term care workers to cope with patients’ death.
- Foreign health care assistants are primarily focused on addressing their patients’ physical health needs when compared to psychological and spiritual health needs. It is important to be aware of the cultural differences in the aging care and provide further training as necessary.