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Spring 5-1-2021

## **Exploring Caregivers' Experiences on Performing Activities of Daily Living for Comatose Clients at Home Following Acquired Brain Injury: A Qualitative Study**

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## **Abstract**

Acquired brain injury (ABI) is one of the major public health problems seen in all age groups. In India there are over 1.6 million people with sustained acquired brain injury and who look out for hospital care services and caregiver of a client with acquired brain injury have been found to face many challenges in the caregiving role. Thus, this qualitative study aimed to explore caregivers' experiences through a phenomenological approach on performing activities of daily living for clients in a state of coma at home following acquired brain injury. Convenience sampling techniques were used to recruit seven caregivers of a client in a state of coma. Data was collected using in-depth telephonic interview applying semi-structured guide that was developed for the study. The data was then collected and analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings of the study are described through two themes: Challenges of caregiving and felt needs of the caregivers'. These suggest that there are challenges faced by the caregivers due to change in routine and financial crisis but caregivers were resilient and learnt to cope and adapt by finding new strategies over time. This study concludes that there is the need for caregiver training in performing daily activities for comatose clients during discharge and address various issues related to caregivers' roles and routines.

**Keywords:** caregivers, experiences, acquired brain injury, coma, home, activities of daily living, occupational therapy and India