

Assessment Of Feeding Challenges And Sociodemographic Status On Child's Growth Among Caregivers Of Cerebral Palsy Children In Kuala Lumpur And Kuala Terengganu

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Introduction

Background of study



- One of the physical disabilities that affect 4 in 1,000 children in the world is cerebral palsy (CP), which is a type of neurological impairment that affects the brain and nerve that is found throughout the body and spinal cord.
- Parenting techniques applied among the caregiver of CP children goes beyond "ordinary level" as they need to cope with demands related to their child's specific needs.
- Sociodemographic status of the caregivers affect the way they are providing necessities for CP children.
- It was also reported that about 90% CP children face challenge during mealtimes or feeding time which led to high risk of malnutrition that affects level of functioning, health and well-being of them.

Objectives

To assess the sociodemographic of caregivers in Kuala Lumpur & Kuala Terengganu



To identify the feeding challenges face among caregivers in raising CP children that can affect on child's growth in Kuala Lumpur & Kuala Terengganu



To identify the relationship between feeding challenges and sociodemographic status on child's growth among caregivers of CP children in Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Terengganu.

Methodology

- This study was an **online** observational study constructed on community based and using a cross-sectional study method where they are caregivers of cerebral palsy attending rehabilitation center in Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Terengganu.
- Final sample size: **61 respondents.**

Criteria



Caregivers to CP children



Malaysians' citizens



Literate in both Malay & English



Have access to Internet



Lived at Kuala Lumpur & Kuala Terengganu

Data Collection

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC STATUS

Part A: contains sociodemographic data such as age, sex, gender, level of education, occupational, race, marital status and area of living.

CHALLENGE

Part C: contains questions related to Parent Nutrition Screening Checklist Questionnaire with Special Needs, which consists 18 questions. The questions consists of YES or NO section & level of concerns from 0-2. There are 3 section: Health & Special Diet, Oral Feeding & Intake.

GROWTH

Part B: contains questions related to anthropometry data such as estimated weight & estimated height, of the child for at least a month ago or 6 months ago.

Results & Discussion

1. Frequency Level of Challenge for Each Section (n=61)

Section	Frequency (%)		M (SD)
	Less Challenge	Challenge	
Health & Special Diet	49(80.3)	12(19.7)	1.20(0.401)
Oral Feeding	54(88.5)	7(11.5)	1.11(0.321)
Intake	40(65.6)	21(34.4)	1.43(0.479)

- From the findings, it shows a contrary to previous studies which have suggested that majority of children with CP have trouble during mealtimes, as majority caregivers respond they have less feeding difficulty and less concerns regarding their children eating patterns, as Malaysia may have enough training and better medical service.

2. Factors associated with BMI among CP children in Kuala Terengganu and Kuala Lumpur (n=61), using Simple Logistic Regression

Variables	Regression Coefficient (B)	Crude Odds Ratio (95%CI)	Wald Statistics	P-Value
Caregivers Sex				
Male	0	1		
Female	-1.792	0.17 (0.02,1.48)	2.59	0.108
Race				
Malay	0	1		
Chinese	0.584	1.79 (0.3,10.61)	0.41	0.52
Residing State				
Kuala Lumpur (West Coast)	0	1		
Kuala Terengganu (East Coast)	-0.527	0.59 (0.21,1.66)	1.00	0.32
Area of Living				
Urban	0	1		
Rural	0.105	1.11 (0.40,3.07)	0.04	0.84
Level of Education				
Secondary School	0	3		
Diploma	1.012	2.750 (0.67,11.23)	1.98	0.159
Degree	0.128	1.14 (0.32,4.02)	0.04	0.84
PhD/Master	0.916	2.5 (0.36,17.32)	0.86	0.35
Marital Status				
Married	0	1		
Divorce	-0.511	0.6 (0.12,2.94)	0.39	0.53
Occupational				
Government	0	2		
Private	0.303	1.35 (0.27,6.76)	0.14	0.71
Not Working	-0.208	0.81 (0.28,2.40)	0.14	0.70
Family Monthly Incomes				
Less Than RM 2,000	0	2		
RM 2,000-RM 3,999	-0.511	0.6 (0.09,3.89)	0.29	0.59
RM 4,000 And More	-1.034	0.36 (0.06,2.09)	1.307	0.253

- From the findings, it conclude that all caregivers sociodemographic profile give no affect towards the children with CP' growth, as most caregivers have better education background, stable occupational, have spouse support and majority lived at urban area. The results also show that the variables were not representative of all populations but only on individuals. The smaller sample size obtained also indicates the reasons for the data to be not significant.

Conclusion

- In conclude, there is no association relationship between sociodemographic profile and feeding challenge faced by caregivers with Cerebral Palsy children growth ($p>0.25$).
- The results of this study indicate that maybe after such a long times living with CWD, they have become norms with their situation and habits. It also because majority of the CP children in this study has less severity and mostly have "normal" BMI.

References

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