

## **A25 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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Caregivers of children with cerebral palsy (CP) often faced challenging problems involving communication and physical well-being of their children, especially with regards to mealtimes. It has been reported previously that these challenges not only affect the CP children's growth development but consequently their nutrition needs lead the child to the risk of malnutrition. Other than that, other factor such as socio-demographic status is well documented to be a significant factor that can affect the growth development of these children. Therefore, this study was conducted with the aim to identify the feeding challenges and to explore the primary caregiver's socio-demographic profiles that can overall impact the CP children's growth. A total of 61 primary caregivers of children with CP that lived in Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Terengganu were recruited in this online cross-sectional study. It was intended to find the effect of two different areas towards the ways the caregivers raised their CP children. Socio-demographic data and information on the primary caregiver's profile, CP children profile, anthropometric data of CP children were collected in a form, while the challenges on feeding during mealtimes were measured based on self-reported Parents Nutrition Screening Checklist (PNSC). Overall, primary caregivers in the current study showed stable backgrounds as most have income of higher than RM 4,000, have steady occupational and social support, and mostly lived around urban areas and the east coast. While for the feeding challenges, most primary caregivers showed a low level of concern and fewer challenges during mealtimes which was contradicted to the previous study. In conclusion, the findings showed no association of feeding challenges and sociodemographic status on a child's growth among caregivers of cerebral palsy children in Kuala Lumpur and Kuala Terengganu.