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Social support and associated factors among family caregivers of older people in NorthEast Peninsular Malaysia

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Abstract

Background: The negative health results associated with the family caregivers of older people can be alleviated with social support, which is considered a valuable resource. Hence, the factors contributing to social support need to be understood. **Objective:** This study aimed to evaluate the social support associated with the family caregivers of older people. **Methods:** A cross-sectional study was conducted among 231 family caregivers of older people conveniently selected from two districts in Kelantan, a state in the North-East Region of Peninsular Malaysia. Data were gathered between June to December 2021 using a Multidimensional Scale of Perceived Social Support (MSPSS) questionnaire. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize the data in frequencies and percentages. Independent ttest and one-way analysis of variance were used to examine correlations among variables. **Results:** The mean scores of social support for family caregivers were significantly higher among their family (Mean SD; 5.44 0.969) and other important people (5.25 1.123) compared to their friends (4.84 1.094). Caregivers' gender and duration of caregiving were significant factors associated with social support (p [removed])


Author keywords

caregivers; demographic variables; Malaysia; nurses; older people; social support

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