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Factors Associated with Knowledge Among Malaysian Family Caregivers in Caring for Older People

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Abstract

Introduction: This study addressed the challenges of elderly care in Malaysia by examining the factors influencing family caregivers' knowledge. **Materials and Methods:** Cross-sectional research was carried out on 231 family caregivers of elderly individuals who were chosen from two Kelantan districts in Malaysia. Data were collected using a questionnaire that included sociodemographics and knowledge. The adoption of Pearson's correlations, independent t-tests, and one-way analysis of variance was undertaken to investigate the variables linked to knowledge. **Results:** The overall score indicated that the family caregivers had good knowledge, with a mean score of 9.66 ± 2.53. Factors that were significantly associated with knowledge were age (p < 0.01), underlying medical conditions (p = 0.002), support from others (p = 0.000), marital status (p = 0.005), number of children (p = 0.021), employment (p = 0.000), relationship with the elderly (p = 0.001), and years of caregiving (p = 0.000). **Conclusions:** When providing knowledge to help family caregivers adapt to their caregiving role, factors such as increasing age, presence of medical illness, support from others, being separated or divorced, having more children, being retired, being a son or daughter-in-law, and having 1–5 years of caregiving experience should be considered. This discovery equips nurses and other healthcare professionals with essential knowledge to increase nursing interventions and enhance the understanding of those who provide care for elderly individuals. This, in turn, can have a good influence on caregiving. © 2025 Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. All rights reserved.

Author keywords

Demographic variables; Family caregivers; Knowledge; Malaysia; Older people

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