



**Preliminary Study on assessing factors
influencing learning problem among students
of PROTIM class in Kota Kinabalu**

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Preliminary Study on assessing factors influencing learning problem among students of PROTIM class in Kota Kinabalu

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ABSTRACT

Learning problems can be due to so many factors that may have impact on the child. PROTIM is a remedial programme designed to ensure students of year 4, 5 and 6 to acquire basic literacy (Bahasa Malaysia) and numeracy skills. Student populations in primary school consist of students having different level of intelligence and vary accordingly in their level of performance in reading, writing and arithmetic. We chose 7 primary schools from Kota Kinabalu area to find out factors influencing learning problems in students of PROTIM class. Information regarding parents back-ground and student's development history were collected by questionnaires, written in Malaysian language, were distributed before medical examination were carried out on the students participated in the study. We expected to find a lot of factors that can influence the learning problems in students of PROTIM class in Kota Kinabalu. Only hypertension in pregnancy, neonatal jaundice treatment and parent's education were correlated with the intellectual of students. 22.7 % of students of PROTIM gave history of hearing loss. Out of those, 64.5% had normal, 16.1% and 19.4% had one-sided and both-sided abnormal tympanogram respectively. But there were no significant correlation with abnormal tympanogram and learning problem. Further research covering a wider area is needed to look for factors relating to problems of learning in these children.

Keywords: PROTIM, Learning problems, Literacy skills, Numeracy skills, Early detection

INTRODUCTION

The essence of the Malaysian National Philosophy of Education (NPE), established in 1988, is to develop the potential of individuals in a holistic and integrated manner, so as to produce citizens who are intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically balanced and harmonious based on a firm belief in and devotion to God. The NPE is regarded as a statement of vision for the Ministry of Education in the pursuit of education excellence¹. Education for children with learning disabilities in Malaysia began in 1988. Learning disability is a general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems. There is no cure for learning disabilities. However a child with learning disabilities can achieve success with the right help². School aged children with learning disabilities can receive special education and services to assist in excelling. For some children, medication may be appropriate as a complimentary treatment.

Program Pemulihan 3M (PROTIM) is a program designed to address the problem of mastering the basic skills of writing, reading and numeracy among primary school students in the year 4, 5 and 6. PROTIM started in 2008. Unlike special school for children with learning disabilities, PROTIM is a remedial class in normal school aim to help those children who do not achieve basic literacy and numeracy skills after 3 years of primary education. According to Malaysian National Data, number of year 4 students who have not reached target numeracy standards in 2008 is 24%³. (Ref: KIA2M for literacy rates and PROTIM for numeracy rates)

There are many different reasons for slow learning. It may have stem from development during pregnancy, early neonatal and childhood diseases, injuries, sometimes their