

**FOOD SAFETY KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE
AND PRACTICES AMONG
FOOD HANDLERS AT
NIGHT MARKET**

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ABSTRACT

Food-borne illness has been a growing concern during the past few decades. It is known that improper food handling is one of the main causes of food-borne illness. Thus, food handlers have a major role in the prevention of food poisoning during food production and distribution. This study was carried out to assess the level of knowledge, attitude and practices towards food safety among food handlers at night market, to compare between demographic characteristic with knowledge, attitude and practice and determine the correlation between knowledge, attitude and practices towards food safety. Questionnaires were used to assess the level of knowledge, attitude and practices towards food safety among food handlers at night market. A total of 85 food handlers at night market, aged between 16 to 62 years participated in this study. The collected data was analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 17.0. The result revealed that majority of the respondents (68.2%) had mediocre knowledge level. The overall mean score for knowledge, attitude and practices were $58.0\% \pm 18.0$, 32.3 ± 3.6 and 19.3 ± 5.5 , respectively. Younger aged respondents have higher knowledge level towards food safety. The respondents with higher education level had higher knowledge level towards food safety. The respondents with lesser years of employment had better knowledge level. There were no significant differences detected between attitudes towards food safety with age groups, and also with their education level. This study found out that individual with higher education level will have better or positive food handling practices. There was a moderate, positive correlation found between knowledge and attitude of respondents towards food safety ($r_s = 0.493$, $p = 0.000$). Knowledge towards food safety was found not significantly correlated with practices used for prevention of food poisoning ($r_s = -0.052$, $p = 0.638$). There was a weak, negative correlation found between attitude towards food safety and practices used for prevention of food poisoning ($r_s = -0.281$, $p = 0.009$). As the ethnicities distribution of this study was imbalanced, and the sample size was not large enough, future work should be carried out at few night markets to increase sample size in order to get a more significant result.

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