

Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice Among Malaysian Adults During The COVID-19 Pandemic.

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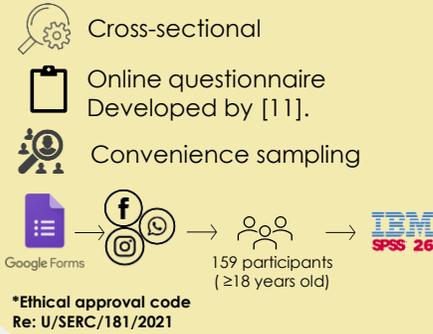


Undergraduate

INTRODUCTION

- The current COVID-19 pandemic had **increased** the trend in **meal preparation** at home.
- The possible **transmission of SARS-CoV-2** through **contaminated food packaging** raised concern on the food safety among the public [4].
- This study aimed to determine the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) of food safety among Malaysian adults during COVID-19.

METHODOLOGY



RESULTS

Figure 1: Socio-demographic information



Table 2: Difference between sociodemographic variables and food safety KAP

Sociodemographic variables	Food safety knowledge (Mean ± SD)	Food safety attitude (Mean ± SD)	Food safety practice (Mean ± SD)
Gender*			
Male	6.69 ± 1.24	39.69 ± 4.79	38.72 ± 5.76
Female	6.13 ± 1.26	40.50 ± 4.26	38.36 ± 4.76
	<i>p</i> < 0.05	<i>p</i> > 0.05	<i>p</i> > 0.05
Age*			
18-25	6.36 ± 1.17 ^a	39.66 ± 4.47 ^a	37.71 ± 5.08 ^a
26-35	6.21 ± 1.5 ^a	39.68 ± 5.19 ^a	38.89 ± 5.94 ^a
36-45	7.00 ± 1.41 ^a	44.11 ± 1.69^b	42.44 ± 2.35^b
46-55	5.50 ± 1.65 ^a	43.10 ± 2.51 ^a	42.00 ± 3.80 ^a
56 and above	6.25 ± 1.39 ^a	41.38 ± 2.88 ^a	39.63 ± 3.29 ^a
Marital status*			
Married	6.19 ± 1.62 ^a	42.67 ± 3.09 ^a	41.52 ± 3.57 ^a
Single	6.37 ± 1.19 ^a	39.65 ± 4.55^b	37.73 ± 5.12^b
Divorced	5.75 ± 1.71 ^a	42.00 ± 3.46 ^a	42.00 ± 5.35 ^a

Table 1: Food safety KAP level

Item	Level	n (%)	Average score (Mean ± SD)
Food safety knowledge	Poor (0-5 marks)	45 (28.3)	6.3 ± 1.3
	Fair (6-7marks)	86 (54.1)	
	Good (8-9marks)	28 (17.6)	
Food safety attitude	Negative (0-35 marks)	30 (18.9)	40.2 ± 4.5
	Positive (36-45 marks)	129 (81.1)	
Food safety practice	Poor (0-35 marks)	45 (28.3)	38.5 ± 5.1
	Good (36-45 marks)	114 (71.7)	

* t-test with significance at *p* < 0.05.

^a Mean values in the same column with different letters are significantly different, by the Tukey test at *p* < 0.05

DISCUSSION

Table 1

- Respondents had **fair level** of **food safety knowledge** during the pandemic, which in line with previous study [7].
- The invention of COVID-19 vaccination may alter the food safety knowledge, attitude, and practice of the respondents [6].
- Positive attitudes towards food safety** were shown in the cross-contamination prevention and reducing social contact, our finding was similar with previous study [8].
- Respondents reported **good food safety practice**, consistent with previous study [11].

Table 2

- The **male** respondents were significantly **more knowledgeable** than female (*p* < 0.05), they acknowledged more safety precautions when going out as they were allowed to purchase the daily necessities during the pandemic [1].
- Generation Z** gave significantly **lesser accurate answers regarding food safety attitude and practice** than the middle-aged respondents (36-45 years old). The findings were consistent with previous study [2].
- Married respondents** scored **higher food safety attitude and practice** than single respondents, this finding was in contrast with [5].
- Most **generation Z** recruited are pursuing tertiary education level. They tend to **stay at home** and had their meals with family members due to the **online learning mode**, and their **parents** are the one who take the responsibility for **grocery shopping and meal preparation** [10].

CONCLUSION

- In summary, the Malaysian adults demonstrated positive attitude and good level of practice towards food safety but the knowledge on food safety was not satisfactory.
- The intervention such as creating online infographics related to food safety and COVID-19 would be useful to further spread the information to the public using social media.

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