

Introduction

- Workplace clusters were identified as the key source of COVID-19 infection in Malaysia [1].
- The possibility of contracting the coronavirus is incredibly high in some occupations where workers are required to attend a workplace compared to those who work from home [2].
- Some workplaces that are not well ventilated or the employee infected with COVID-19 do not practice safe food handling may potentially pose a risk of transmitting COVID-19 [2].
- The food safety knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) score was significantly affected by type of occupation [3].
- Limited study on assessing the food safety KAP of working adults has been reported [4].

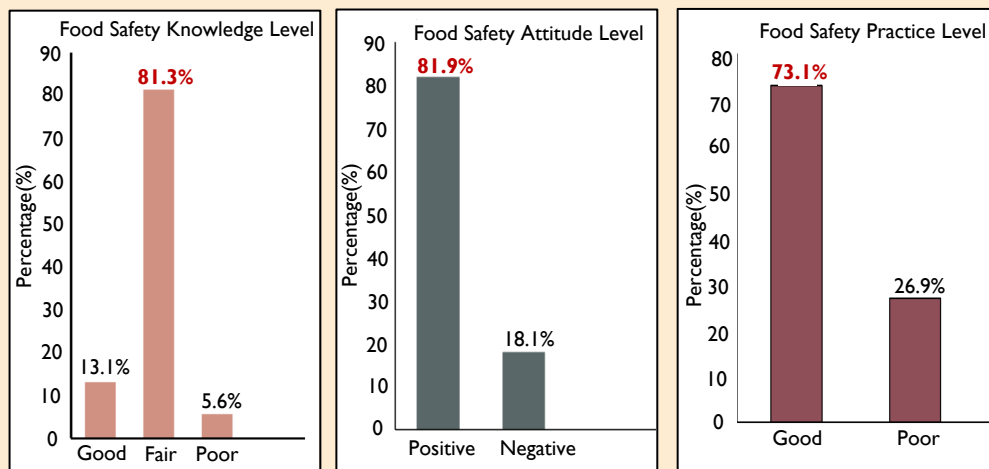
Objectives

- To determine the level of food safety KAP among working adults during NRP.
- To determine the association between KAP of food safety among working adults during NRP.
- To determine the difference between sociodemographic variables and food safety KAP score among working adults during NRP.

Methodology

- Study Design:
• Cross-sectional Study
- Subjects Recruitment:
• 160 working adults in Malaysia was recruited
- Inclusion criteria:
• Working adults aged 19 and above
- Sample Size:
• N=160
- Statistical Analysis:
• SPSS version 26
- Ethical Approval:
• Approved by UTAR Scientific and Ethical Review Committee
• Ethical Code (U/SERC/181/2021)

Results



	p-value		
	Knowledge	Attitude	Practice
Knowledge		0.104	0.002*
Attitude	0.104		0.000*
Practice	0.002*	0.000*	

Note: Chi-square analysis with significance set at $p < 0.05$
***) = $p < 0.001$

Sociodemographic	Score		
	Knowledge	Attitude	Practice
Gender			
Age			
Ethnicity			
Current Residence			✓
Education Level		✓	✓
Occupation		✓	✓
Organisation sector			
Monthly income	✓		✓

“ ✓ “ indicates significant difference at $p < 0.05$ (LSD test)

Discussion

- COVID-19 pandemic may change an individual's food safety knowledge and behaviour [5].
- When food handlers' knowledge of cross-contamination improves, their hand hygienic practices will improve as well [6].
- Studies found that knowledge was not transferred into attitudes or practices changes [7].
- Positive attitudes drive food handlers to take a more active role in food safety practices, and they are more influential than knowledge and practice [8].
- Lower levels of education have also been identified as a predictor of poor coronavirus prevention practices [9].
- Income is significantly correlated with knowledge; as higher wage is usually determined by one's educational background and/or professional experience [10, 11].

Conclusion

- Working adults in Malaysia have a fair level of food safety knowledge, positive food safety attitudes, and good food safety practices.
- Occupation had a significant impact on the food safety attitude, and practice score of working adults.
- Install more handwashing facilities in public, workplace and restaurants is recommended to encourage practice of hand hygiene among working adults

References

1. Hassan, H., 2021. Workplace clusters are key source of Covid-19 infections in Malaysia [Online]. Available at: <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/workplace-clusters-are-a-key-source-of-covid-19-infections-in-malaysia>.
2. World Health Organization (WHO), 2020. COVID-19 and food safety: guidance for food businesses. [online] Available at: https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331705/WHO-2019-nCoV-Food_Safety-2020.1-eng.pdf.
3. Sharif, L., Obaidat, M. and Al-Dalalah, M., 2013. Food Hygiene Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of the Food Handlers in the Military Hospitals. *Food and Nutrition Sciences*, 4, pp. 245- 251.
4. Kelley, E., 2017. Employees' food safety knowledge and practices in foodservice operations serving high risk populations [Online]. Available at: https://www.who.int/phi/news/phi_15_paez_food_safety_knowledge_en.pdf?ua=1.
5. Min, S., Xiang, C. and Zhang, X., 2020. Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on consumers' food safety knowledge and behavior in China. *ScienceDirect*, 19 (12), pp. 2926- 2936.
6. Tan, S., Bakar, F., Abdul Karim, M., Lee, H. and Mahyudin, N., 2013. Hand hygiene knowledge, attitudes and practices among food handlers at primary schools in Hulu Langat district, Selangor (Malaysia). *Food Control*, 34 (2), pp. 428- 435.
7. Zanin, L., da Cunha, D., de Rosso, V., Capriles, V. and Stedefeldt, E., 2017. Knowledge, attitudes and practices of food handlers in food safety: An integrative review. *Food Research International*, 100, pp. 53- 62.
8. Asmawi et al., 2018. An Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices in Food Safety Among Food Handlers Engaged in Food Courts. *Food and Nutrition Journal*, 6 (2), pp. 346-353.
9. Al-Hanawi, M.K. et al., 2020. Knowledge, attitude and practice toward COVID- 19 among the public in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: A cross-sectional study. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 8.
10. Osaili, T., Al-Nabulsi, A. and Allah Krasneh, H., 2018. Food safety knowledge among foodservice staff at the universities in Jordan. *Food Control*, 89, pp. 167-176.
11. Mihalache, O., Dumitrascu, L., Nicolau, A. and Borda, D., 2021. Food safety knowledge, food shopping attitude and safety kitchen practices among Romanian consumers: A structural modelling approach. *Food Control*, 120.