

A35 Knowledge, attitudes and practices on food safety and personal hygiene practice among food court handlers in Kuala Terengganu

Nur Najihah G and Norhayati AH

Department of Nutrition & Dietetics, Faculty of Health Science, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin

Food handlers' roles are critical in preventing food contamination during preparation and maintaining the cleanliness of food premises. This is because a huge number of individuals eat outside the home and are potentially exposed to food-borne illnesses. Food handlers' knowledge, attitude, and practice in food safety and personal hygiene practice is a major public health problem. This cross-sectional study aimed to determine the level of KAP and the association between the sociodemographic data with the level of knowledge, attitudes and practices on food safety and personal hygiene practice among food court handlers in Kuala Terengganu. 308 food handlers from seven food courts in Kuala Terengganu district were involved in this study. The data were collected from the food handlers through the self-administered questionnaire and analysed using the SPSS version 22.0. The results showed that the food handlers have excellent knowledge and attitude, and good practices toward food safety and personal hygiene practice with 95.1%, 87% and 99.7% respectively. Respondents also showed that there was no significant association between sociodemographic data with the level of knowledge and practice. However, there was a significant difference between age, educational level and working experience with the level of attitudes ($p < 0.05$). Even though the respondents showed a positive result on the KAP level, there was no significant association between knowledge and attitudes, knowledge and practice and attitudes and practice among food court handlers ($p > 0.05$). Thus, this finding revealed that the food handlers' KAP levels are good but several aspects of food safety and hygiene procedures, such as refreezing food items, separating raw and cooked food, and not wearing jewellery or watches, should be highlighted.