

ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to determine knowledge, attitudes and practices of street food vendors on food hygiene and food borne diseases. It was a descriptive cross sectional field survey. All 130 street food vendors who were engaged in the business during the study period within the MOH area Mawanella were studied. The response rate was 100%. The study instrument was a interviewer administered questionnaire and a checklist for observation. The interviews and observations were carried out by the researcher her self.

Of the 130 street food vendors surveyed knowledge on food borne diseases, food storage procedures and food preparation was significantly higher among those with a higher level of education. There was no significant association in knowledge with duration in the business. A poor knowledge was reported with two of the common food borne diseases like hepatitis and typhoid fever.

A positive attitude towards food borne disease prevention and control as reported by a large majority. The high knowledge and attitudes on prevention of food borne diseases did not correlate with their observed practices, as most of them used unhygienic practices. It was alarming to note that almost 1/5th of the street food vendors had cuts, sores, eczemas on their hands. 2/3rd of street food vendors had unclean nails. It is recommended that provision of continuous education on food hygiene be carried out irrespective of their duration of service. It is also recommended that basic water and waste management utilities be provided to diminish the gap between knowledge attitude and practice on safe street food vending.

