

Assessment of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Street Vendors in Mangaung Metro South Africa

Authors : Gaofetoge Lenetha, Malerato Moloi, Ntsoaki Malebo

Abstract : Microbial contamination of ready-to-eat foods and beverages sold by street vendors has become an important public health issue. In developing countries including South Africa, health risks related to such kinds of foods are thought to be common. Thus, this study assessed knowledge, attitude and practices of street food vendors. Street vendors in the city of Mangaung Metro were investigated in order to assess their knowledge, attitudes and handling practices. A semi-structured questionnaire and checklist were used in interviews to determine the status of the vending sites and associated food-handling practices. Data was collected by means of a face-to-face interview. The majority of respondents were black females. Hundred percent (100%) of the participants did not have any food safety training. However, street vendors showed a positive attitude towards food safety. Despite the positive attitude, vendors showed some non-compliance when it comes to handling food. During the survey, it was also observed that the vending stalls lack basic infrastructures like toilets and potable water that is currently a major problem. This study indicates a need for improvements in the environmental conditions at these sites to prevent foodborne diseases. Moreover, based on the results observed food safety and food hygiene training or workshops for street vendors are highly recommended.

Keywords : food hygiene, foodborne illnesses, food safety, Street foods

Conference Title : ICFSFHFS 2019 : International Conference on Food Safety and Food Hygiene in Food Science

Conference Location : London, United Kingdom

Conference Dates : November 18-19, 2019