

## An Assessment of Food Safety Knowledge, Attitude and Food Handling Practices Among Food Handlers in School Canteen at Bera District

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### ABSTRACT

This cross-sectional study is to assess the food safety knowledge, attitude and food handling practices among food handlers of school canteen in Bera district. It is a common scenario for students in Malaysia to have their meals in school canteen within the school area. It is highly critical to investigate thoroughly the hygienic level in the school canteen so that to totally understand the level of risk students are exposed to when having their meals in the canteen. To get such information is fundamental in means to ensure the level of hygiene in the school canteen is at least, acceptable for non-harmful effects to the students. This has motivated the design and execution of this study. In this study, all school canteen in Bera district were evaluated for their level of hygiene. There was a total of 100 food handlers altogether included in the investigation. The KAP level was assessed by giving out properly designed questionnaires to the food handlers. It is important for food handlers to fit themselves with knowledge on good food handling practices. Knowledge and law enforcement, the attitude of the food handlers also is another important factor that may influence the occurrence of foodborne disease. Basically, knowledge, attitude and education, are compulsory to achieve safe food handling practice. Therefore, all these three aspects were taken into consideration in details for this study. Based on the findings, correlations between these aspects were established. Besides, appropriate recommendations to overcome the problems revealed from this study are also provided.

**KEYWORDS:** bera, food safety, school canteen, food handlers, KAP

## An Assessment of Knowledge, Health Seeking Behaviour, and Risk Factors Among Orang Asli and Rural Community Regarding Pulmonary Tuberculosis in Bera District, Pahang

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### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Tuberculosis is still a major public health concern. Knowledge about disease is known to have significant impact on health seeking behavior among the disease sufferer. Currently, it is not known whether there is association of knowledge about tuberculosis and health seeking behavior among people living in rural community. Therefore, this study is conducted to determine tuberculosis knowledge, socio-demographic factors, and risk factors of tuberculosis among rural and orang asli community in Bera district. **METHODS:** This is cross sectional study and 126 samples were collected from 5 rural areas under operational areas of Klinik Kesihatan Purun which is comprised of FELDA locality and Orang Asli Village. Face-to-face interview by trained personnel using pretested structured questionnaire was used to obtain demographic, knowledge, and clinical data from respondents **RESULTS:** Out of 126 respondents, 107 (85%) had known about what tuberculosis is. 90 (72%) respondents know about correct knowledge about perceived cause of tuberculosis, correct knowledge about body parts could be infected by tuberculosis (n=69, 55%), mode of transmission of tuberculosis, (n=66, 53%), is it tuberculosis curable, (n=120, 96%), how tuberculosis is cured, (n=86, 69%), how tuberculosis is prevented (n=89, 71%), is it HIV/AIDS is related to tuberculosis? (n=64, 51%). Most of respondents shown appropriate health seeking behavior in response to tuberculosis symptoms (83%) **CONCLUSION:** Inadequate knowledge about tuberculosis among rural people should be tackled by health care workers. Health seeking behavior also needed to be addressed to improve early detection of tuberculosis.

**KEYWORDS:** Tuberculosis, Health Seeking Behavior, Knowledge, Rural, Orang Asli