

A KAP STUDY ON FOOD SAFETY & HYGIENE AMONG PRIVATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN NOIDA, UP

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Abstract—In India, food safety and hygiene is a growing concern with emerging incidents of food contaminants which if remains unnoticed can lead to various health hazards, illness, outbreaks and even death.

OBJECTIVE-To study knowledge, attitude and practice towards food safety and hygiene in a private university campus catering food to students.

METHOD-A Cross-Sectional study design using self-administered pre-validated questionnaire containing three sections and a total of 30 items was conducted in a private university campus, among 500 students, Noida. Information was collected from various disciplines through self-administered survey forms. For assessing the knowledge, a score of 1 and 0 was given to every correct and incorrect answers respectively. For assessing attitude and practice each correct answer was awarded a score of 2, for neutral response a score of 1 and for incorrect response a score of 0 was awarded. Quartiles were generated for each component. Based on quartiles, knowledge, attitude and practice were divided into adequate and inadequate. Descriptive analyses were done with frequencies and summary statistics. Chi-square statistics were computed to determine significant relationships and p-value was set at 0.05 significant level.

RESULT-The study participants included 31.6% males and 68.4% females. 29% participants belonged to PG course and 71.1% from UG course. Regarding food safety & hygiene, 74.8% participants had adequate knowledge, 53% had adequate attitude and 46% had adequate practices. Postgraduate students had better knowledge, attitude and practices about food safety and hygiene than undergraduate students and it was statistically significantly. ($p < 0.000$)

CONCLUSION- Continuous education is necessary to increase the awareness among young adults in the near future; they will be the ones directly handling foods and play an important role to help maintain a hygienic and clean environment.