



TITLE: Evaluation of Food Safety Knowledge and Hygienic Practices in restaurants in Muscat, Oman

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ABSTRACT:

Food safety is vital to human beings as well as in food industry. Therefore, Knowledge and hygiene practice of food safety among food handlers are very important. Evaluation of food safety knowledge and hygienic practices among 18 restaurants in three different regions in the Governorate of Muscat was performed. In order to determine the quality level of restaurants, grouping (i.e. Region 1, Region 2 and Region 3) was adopted from the regulations and assigned by the Municipality based on the number of complaints against the restaurants (e.g. Group I, Group II and Group III). To assess the knowledge of the food handlers in selected restaurants, a questionnaire was designed to evaluate hygiene, food poisoning, food handling, cooking, and their knowledge in Omani Municipality rules. The food handlers in Region 1 restaurants showed significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) overall knowledge (58.6%) in food safety as compared to Region 2 (52.1%) and Region 3 (53.2%). Overall knowledge of food handlers in Group I restaurants was significantly high ($p < 0.05$) (i.e. 64.4 %) as compared to Group II (i.e. 53.1%) and Group III (i.e. 48.1%). The hygiene practices in Group I restaurants were significantly higher ($p < 0.05$) than those in Groups II and III. A small but significant inverse association ($r^2 = -0.38$) between total knowledge scores and hygiene practices was found. Therefore, the correlation between knowledge scores and hygiene practices was established and new recommendations in the field were suggested to the Muscat Municipality to be enforced as new regulations/rules in the future.

Key words: restaurants, food hygiene, food safety practices, food poisoning, food Contamination

BIOGRAPHY

Maryam has completed her Master Degree at the age of 26 years from Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. she is the head of Microbiology lab at Al Joudah Food Tech Lab, Oman. she has over 4 publications that have been cited over 2000 times, she has been participated in many conference, journal and others workshop

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