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# Factors Associated with Food Safety Among Students of Politeknik Kuching Sarawak

Mohd Nor Fadli B Abu Kassim<sup>1</sup>, Nurul Azyla Bt Azmi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department, of Electrical Engineering, Politeknik Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia  
E-mail: m.fadli@poliku.edu.my.

<sup>2</sup> Food Safety and Quality Laboratory Sarawak, Sarawak State Health Department  
E-mail: nurulazyla@moh.gov.my

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## **Abstract**

The main purpose of this study was to determine the level of student's knowledge of food safety from the aspects of food poisoning, cross-contamination, and temperature control. In this study, a structured food safety questionnaire was employed for a cross-sectional study. A total of 526 students were involved and the questionnaires were distributed online using the Google Forms application via WhatsApp. The students generally have good knowledge ( $61.60 \pm 13.16$ ) and practice ( $65.86 \pm 11.03$ ) of food safety level which varies according to gender, race, department, and training related to food safety. The results showed a significant difference ( $p = 0.030$ ) in scores between genders in temperature control knowledge. There is also a statistically significant difference in scores between trained and untrained students for knowledge of food poisoning ( $p = 0.000$ ) and temperature control ( $p = 0.003$ ). In addition, female and trained students have higher scores in food safety knowledge. Meanwhile, male and Bidayuh students are better at food safety practices than others. Results suggest a need for continuous training to improve the food safety knowledge that can be translated into practice.

**Keywords:** Consumer; food safety knowledge; food safety practice; Sarawak; students

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