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PRECHA SUSANTUD: THE KNOWLEDGE, THE OPINIONS AND THE OPERATION OF THE STREET FOOD VENDORS IN THE RESTRICTED AREA TO FOOD SANITATION AND LEGAL MEASURES IN THE BANGKOK METROPOLITAN ADMINISTRATION. THESIS ADVISORS: VAJIRA SINGHAKAJEN, M.A. (DEMOGRAPHY), DECHA DEJAKAISAYA, M.P.H., UDOM KOMPAYAK, M.P.H. 135 p., ISBN 974-662-319-2

The objective of this research is to study the knowledge, the opinions and the operation of the street vendors in the restricted area concerning food sanitation and legal measures in the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

Data for this study were collected by interviewing and observing the sample group of 507 street food vendors in 100 of the 285 restricted areas in Bangkok during September and October 1998.

The result of this study shows that most of the street food vendors are female (71.2%), aged between 30-39 years old (31.4%). Their highest education is primary level (68.3%), the approximate time that they have operated in the area is 7.6 years. Most of the vending stalls are pushcart (72.2%), and 49.7% of all street food vendors sell food ready to eat. Vending is forbidden on Wednesday, but only 35,7% of the street food vendors obey this, 47.9% of the street food vendors have never been trained about hygiene food handling practices. The knowledge about 10 steps code of practice for street food vending: 14.2% of the street food vendors did not know anything about it, 8.5% know about the drinking water, 12.6% know about the seasonings and ingredients, 13.6% know about material use for utensils, 35.3% know about personal hygiene such as wearing clean white apron and hair cover. Vendor have general knowledge of regulations concerning aspects including orderliness and cleanliness (28.8%). This means most of the street food vendors' knowledge about Public Health Act and Food Act are not satisfactory. The opinions to food sanitation and legal measures: 51.9% of Street food vendors disagreed, the operation of street food vending to 10 steps code of practice shows that 35.6% can perform item 6 (cleaning the utensils should be made in 3 steps of washing in suitable sinks), 52.7% can perform item 4 (ice for human consumption and drinking water should be clean and safe eat), 56.1% can perform item 7 (spoons, forks or chopsticks should be stored handles up), 20.5% can perform 10 steps code of practice for street food vending.

The suggestion from the study is that the street food vendors should be trained continuously about hygienic food handling practice and inspections should be carried out especially about the 10 steps code of practice.