

Thesis Title Knowledge and Practices of Food Vendors in Rajchataewee
Bangkok Metropolis toward Health Hazards of Food Additives

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Date of Graduation 28 July B.E. 2540 (1997)

ABSTRACT

Consumption of food containing food additives is one of the environmental problems facing urban consumers in their daily lives. At present, due to the limited time for cooking of their food, the majority of urban consumers depend on fast food on the street. As the food vendors' knowledge and practices might be related to the quality of food that they sell, this study aimed to investigate the knowledge and the practices of food vendors toward health hazards of food additives, by taking Rajchataewee Bangkok Metropolis as a case study.

In carrying out the study, questionnaires were constructed, pretested, and administered. The target population were all the food vendors in Rajchataewee, totally 1,295 persons. A simple random technique was employed to randomly selected 305 subjects for the analysis. Upon completion of data collection, data were edited, coded and analysed by the computer (SPSS program). The analytical statistics employed were two-way analysis of variances and multiple classification analysis.

Analysis of data showed that the majority of the food vendors had low level of knowledge on food additives, especially knowledge related to hazards of food additives. The food vendors who attended higher level of education tended to have more knowledge of food additives than the low educated. The knowledge of food additives among the

food vendors was positively related to the information they received. However, analysis of data further showed that the studied variables, including ages, sexes, income levels, marital status, place of birth, duration of living in Bangkok, number of years for food selling, and types of foods were not related to the food vendors' knowledge of food additives.

Data also showed that the food vendors had correct practices about food additives at the moderate level, with an average score of 33.51 out of 50 points. The variables that showed disparities of their practice were level of education, sexes, information receiving and duration of living in Bangkok, but age, marital status, income, place of birth, number of years for food selling and type of food did not make any differences in their practices. There was moderate level of positive correlation among the food vendors' knowledge and practices of food additives.

On the basis of the above findings, it is recommended that in order to protect the urban consumers from food additive problems, a series of public relations programs should be launched to educate and to communicate to the food vendors not to use hazardous food additives.