

**GENDER DIFFERENCE ON KNOWLEDGE,
ATTITUDE AND PREVENTIVE PRACTICE OF
FOOD POISONING AMONG
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
IN SOUTH DAGON TOWNSHIP, YANGON**

**Thesis submitted to
the Postgraduate Academic Board of Studies,
University of Public Health, Yangon
as the partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the Degree of Master of Public Health (MPH)**

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B.Med.Tech (Medical Technology)**

2023

ABSTRACT

Food poisoning is a global public health concern that affects millions of people annually and is a problem in all countries. The study aimed to determine the gender difference on knowledge, attitude and preventive practice of food poisoning among high school students in South Dagon Township, Yangon. This cross-sectional study was conducted among 240 high school students attending Grade-10 to 12 in the two selected Basic Education High Schools in South Dagon Township by simple random sampling procedure using face-to-face interview with structured questionnaires. Bivariate and multivariable regression analysis was conducted using SPSS version 16.0. The ages of the study population ranged from 15 to 18 years and gender distribution was almost the same. More than half of the male (56.7%) and female (55.8%) participants had not received food poisoning related health information previously. And nearly one-fifth of male (23.3%) and female (19.2%) participants had the previous history of food poisoning illness. It was found that (88.8%) of the participants had low knowledge, (65.0%) had unfavorable attitude but (52.7%) had good preventive practice on food poisoning. By gender distribution, female had higher percentage of high knowledge, favorable attitude and good practice than male. The female participants were 2.38 times more likely to get high knowledge compared to male students [AOR=2.38; 95% CI= (1.01-5.64)]. The participants with a history of food poisoning were 2.52 times more likely to have a high knowledge than students without history of food poisoning illness [AOR=2.52; 95% CI=(1.05-6.04)]. Attitude was found significantly associated with knowledge level of the participants. High school students with high knowledge were 4.27 times more likely to be favorable attitude [AOR=4.27; 95% CI= (1.82-10.06)]. Moreover, it was found that attitude was associated significantly with preventive practice. The participants who had favorable attitude were 2 times more likely to have good preventive practice: [AOR=2.12; 95% CI= (1.22, 3.69)]. The participants having good practice might be due to collecting of data were their reported practice that were based on their knowledge but not on the actual practice among them. It was concluded that more food poisoning's information, education and communication to improve knowledge, attitude and practice. Therefore more effective health education strategies and health talks should be implemented among high school students especially among male.