

**AWARENESS AND PRACTICE ON FOOD DYES  
AMONG FOOD SELLERS OF SCHOOL  
CANTEENS IN HPA-AN CITY**

**MG MG THIHA HTWE  
M.B.,B.S**

**Master of Public Health (MPH)  
University of Public Health, Yangon  
2017**

## ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted among food sellers of school canteens in Hpa-an city from September to December, 2017 with a general objective of assessing their awareness and practice on food dyes. In this study, the study respondents were (110) food sellers of all school canteens in Hpa-an city for quantitative study and selected five school headmasters for qualitative study. Data collection was done by using face to face interview based on pretested structured questionnaires for quantitative study while school headmasters were interviewed with key informant interview (KII) guidelines for qualitative study. The mean age of food sellers was 40.4 years while the eldest was 68 years of age and the youngest was 18 years. Most of them were female, had high education level and got monthly income between 100,000 and 500,000 kyats. Nearly (62%) of them sold prepackaged food and (60%) had duration of sale service of less than five years. About (65%) had high knowledge and (97.3%) had positive attitude, however, (46.4%) had good practice on food dyes. Knowledge on food dyes was associated with age group of food sellers ( $p=0.04$ ), education level of them ( $p=0.02$ ) and their duration of sale service ( $p=0.02$ ). Moreover, types of selling food was associated with knowledge ( $p=0.001$ ) and practice ( $p=0.03$ ) respectively. Significant association between gender and practice was also found ( $p=0.006$ ). Knowledge on food dyes was associated with practice of food sellers ( $p<0.001$ ). According to qualitative study with school headmasters, though they could control food sellers when selling was permitted in the school canteens, they did not supervise them daily. Since availability of non-permitted dyes free food in school canteens play a vital role in development of healthy students, different organizations of food safety should improve the awareness and practice of food sellers in school canteens rather than the present status