

**KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE ON FOOD SAFETY AMONG SCHOOL TEACHERS
IN BASIC EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOLS OF BAGO TOWNSHIP**

NI NI AYE

M.B., B.S

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ABSTRACT

A cross sectional study was conducted to determine the knowledge and attitude of food safety among 296 Basic Education High School teachers in Bago Township. Among them 150 teachers (50.7%) were from urban schools and 146 (49.3%) were from rural schools. Most of the school teachers could identify that all stakeholders were responsible for food safety. Majority of the respondents got food safety knowledge from health staff (87.5%). The school teachers could identify the majority of food borne diseases, diseases transmitted by flies, correct methods of food preparation, cooking, personal hygiene and environmental sanitation. However only 40.2% knew the Hepatitis A as food borne disease and only 10% answered that transmission could be caused by flies. Moreover 38% of school teachers knew that typhoid was transmitted by flies. Only 25% got correct answer of storage temperature of cooked food. Total knowledge scores of respondents ranged from 20-49 with mean score of 43 ± 3.1 upon 54. Attitude of teachers on personal hygiene and preparation of food were good but 31.4% had wrong attitude on wearing of jewelries during food preparation. Total attitude scores of respondents ranged from 8-15 with mean score of 14 ± 0.93 upon 15. Rural school teachers had better knowledge and attitude than urban ones. Moreover it was found out that knowledge of the teachers on food safety was associated with their attitude on it. Giving continuous and specific goal oriented programs of training and school curriculum to school teacher about food safety could be probably improved the knowledge and attitude of food safety of the school teachers, school children, their family and community.