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COLLEGE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES 2022/2023 PhD Thesis Abstract

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RT: Strengthening Food Quality and Safety Using Nurse-Led Training and Compliance Monitoring among Handlers and Pupils in Schools in Ogun State

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AB: Food quality and safety refer to the feature and characteristic of a food product that contributes to physical, emotional, and intellectual development of children. Studies showed that consumption of low-quality and unsafe food is associated with various health risks that may affect the body system or result in morbidity and mortality. However, as much as there have been various studies conducted on food safety and food quality, none of these has been known to combine Nurse-Led Training (NLT) and Quality and Safety Compliance Monitoring (QASCM) among pupils and food handlers in Ogun State. Therefore, this research is aimed at strengthening food quality and safety using NLT and QASCM among handlers and pupils in schools in Ogun State, Nigeria.

The study adopted a two-group pre- and post-test quasi-experimental research design. The total population of the study was 259,980 pupils and 7,500 food handlers in selected public and primary schools in Ogun State. The sample size of 484 for pupils and 16 for food handlers were determined using Cochran's formula. Multistage sampling technique was used in selecting Experimental Groups (EG) and a Control Group (CG). The EG's are NLT(EG1), QASCM (EG2), NLT & QASCM (EG3). A structured and validated questionnaire was used to gather data. Response rate for the questionnaire was 100%. The Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficients for the constructs ranged from 0.76 to 0.84. NLT and QASCM were two intervention packages developed and validated by Delphi approach. Descriptive (mean and standard deviation) and inferential (ANCOVA) statistics were used to analyse the study at 5% level of significance.

The findings revealed that the pre- and post-test mean scores for food safety were 48.7 ± 10.1 and 59.3 ± 3.7 for EG1, 51.2 ± 9.1 and 58.3 ± 6.5 for EG2, and were 55.6 ± 10.3 and 63.4 ± 9.4 for EG3 respectively. On another hand, the CG pre- and post-test mean scores for food safety were 50.5 ± 3.3 and 47.8 ± 7.1 respectively. Similarly, the findings showed that pre- and post-test mean scores for food quality among food handlers and pupils for EG1 were 44.0 ± 10.2 and 64.0 ± 5.7 , for EG2 were 48.5 ± 14.1 and 57.0 ± 11.5 , and for EG3 were 42.4 ± 14.9 and 67.1 ± 7.9 respectively. Furthermore, the CG pre- and post-test mean scores for food quality were 50.1 ± 5.9 and 45.7 ± 10.4 respectively.

The study concluded that the nurse-led training and compliance monitoring among food handlers and pupils in primary schools strengthened food quality and safety. It is recommended that this training should be incorporated into school health services.

Keywords: Compliance monitoring, Food handlers, Food quality, Food safety, Nurse-led training

Word Count: 428

Abbreviations: RFN: Researcher's Full Name, RD: Researcher's Department, RS: Researcher's School, RE: Researcher's Email, RAE: Researcher's Alternate Email, RP: Researcher's Phone Contact, RT: Registered Title, MS: Main Supervisor, ME: Main Supervisor's E-mail Address, SP: Main Supervisor's Phone Contact, CS: Co-Supervisor, CE: Co-Supervisor's E-mail Address, CP: Co-Supervisor's Phone Contact, AB: Abstract

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