

Community based Survey of Typhoid Fever in Fayoum, Egypt. Awareness, Assessment and Food Handlers' Appraisal

Background: Typhoid fever is considered as a public health problem in developing countries result in severe complications. Food handlers play an important role in ensuring food safety.

Objectives: To estimate knowledge concerned Typhoid fever among Fayoum community. Assess practice of food safety among food handlers and evaluation of the sanitary conditions of food establishments in Fayoum city.

Methods: A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted among (1441) community participants in two urban; two rural primary health care facilities, 72 food establishments and 113 food handlers. The sample was multistage cluster systematic random sample. Two structured questionnaire were used one for community members and another one for food handler with an observational checklist for the food establishment

Results: More than half of the community participants had good knowledge about typhoid disease. Poor knowledge was associated with being not working, and low education. The sanitary condition of the food establishments and the practice score of food handlers were lower in rural areas, and places that serving traditional and fast foods.

Conclusions: This study highlights the necessity for health education campaigns to the public focusing on the healthy behaviour. Also, the study implicated the need for regular supervision of the food establishments, as well as, periodic training of food handler to ensure the quality of food preparation especially in high risk areas.

Keywords: Typhoid fever, Knowledge, Practice, Food Handler, Food safety.