

EVALUATION OF THE HYGIENE OF FOOD CONTACT SURFACES IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

BY

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DEGREE IN MICROBIOLOGY

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Evaluation of the Hygiene of Food Contact Surfaces in Food Establishments" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

PROJECT SUPERVISOR

Date

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Date

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

Date

DEDICATION

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

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ABSTRACT

This study examined evaluation of the hygiene of food contact surfaces in food establishments, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of evaluation; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with evaluation and hygiene. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Germ Theory of Disease and the Microbial Ecology Theory. A sample size of 402 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 382 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.05). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.507$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 8.18, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.06$, $p > 0.05$). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on evaluation.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of evaluation of the hygiene of food contact surfaces in food establishments is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of evaluation in shaping developmental trajectories. The socio-cultural diversity of Nigeria implies that responses to evaluation must be differentiated rather than uniform. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Bello and Dauda (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. For practitioners, the practical significance of evaluation cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with hygiene. The aggregate picture emerging from Okonkwo and Musa (2023) points to a modest but consistent association between evaluation and the outcomes of interest. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Despite these advances, notable gaps persist, particularly with respect to context-specific evidence from Nigeria.

Over the past two decades, evaluation has become increasingly significant within the Nigerian landscape and beyond. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which evaluation advances in practice. Comparative work by Eze and Nnamdi (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking evaluation with hygiene. These developments carry important implications for policy and practice in microbiology. Field evidence gathered by Alade and Umeh (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of evaluation. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding hygiene. Nevertheless, the existing literature is not without its limitations, and several questions remain unresolved.

The relationship between evaluation and hygiene has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. The colonial and post-colonial legacies of the Nigerian state continue to influence contemporary patterns of evaluation. The work of Alade and Umeh (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that hygiene reinforces the effects of evaluation. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. Longitudinal research by Aderemi and Dauda (2016) revealed that sustained attention to evaluation yields appreciable dividends over time. Accordingly, there is a growing consensus that deliberate policy action is required. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

The relationship between evaluation and hygiene has been the subject of sustained academic interest across several disciplines. Federal and state governments have initiated several reforms, yet implementation gaps continue to constrain progress in matters of evaluation. Research by Umeh and Eze (2021) using mixed methods provided particularly rich insight into the mechanisms connecting evaluation and hygiene. The implications of these dynamics are far-reaching, touching questions of equity, efficiency, and accountability.