

FOOD HYGIENE AMONG ROADSIDE FOOD VENDORS

BY

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DEGREE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

[MONTH, YEAR]

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "Food Hygiene Among Roadside Food Vendors" 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 food hygiene among roadside food vendors, 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 food; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with food and hygiene. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Technology Acceptance Model and the UTAUT. A sample size of 380 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 342 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 = 2.98). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ($r = 0.49$, $p < 0.05$) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 9.29, $p < 0.05$). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ($t = 1.28$, $p > 0.05$). 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 food.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The study of food hygiene among roadside food vendors 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.

Food, when examined in relation to hygiene, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with food. Evidence assembled by Famuyide and Olawale (2015) across twelve states underscored the heterogeneity of outcomes linked to food. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. An examination by Adigun and Aderemi (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding hygiene. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Food continues to command considerable attention among researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in public health. Public institutions at the federal, state, and local levels have developed programmes that seek to mainstream food into routine governance. Longitudinal research by Aderemi and Bamgbose (2016) revealed that sustained attention to food yields appreciable dividends over time. For practitioners, the practical significance of food cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with hygiene. The work of Eze and Ibrahim (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that hygiene reinforces the effects of food. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Food, when examined in relation to hygiene, reveals complex and often paradoxical dynamics. National policies and programmes have sought, with varying degrees of success, to respond to the realities of food and hygiene. Comparative work by Eze and Ibrahim (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking food with hygiene. The weight of evidence therefore points toward a renewed commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Obiora and Bello (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. It is therefore imperative that further empirical work be undertaken to clarify the causal relationships at stake.

Scholars have long recognised food as a critical determinant of outcomes in public health. In Nigeria, the intersection of food and hygiene is conditioned by unique socio-economic, cultural, and institutional factors that differ markedly from Western settings. The work of Eze and Bamgbose (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that hygiene reinforces the effects of food. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. Adeniyi and Osinachi (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of food are unevenly distributed across groups. For