KNOWLEDGE LEVEL STUDY OF FOOD ADDITIVE SAFETY IN PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS, NON PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS AND PUBLIC POPULATION TO INCREASE HEALTH AWARENESS

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ABSTRACT

Food additives are widely used including in commercial bread for several reasons. Some substances may require certain regulation even banned because of the possibility to endanger the human health. Potassium bromate is one of bread improvers that has been removed from the list of permitted additives by Indonesia’s Ministry of Health. However, community awareness about potassium bromate is still limited. The aim of this study is to determine the level of knowledge of food additive safety toward potassium bromate as a case study in some groups of society.

A total of 300 respondents consist of Pharmacy student in bachelor and pharmacist profession programs at School of Pharmacy (SF) Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), non-Pharmacy student, and public population were identified using structured-questionnaire. The age of respondent was in a range of 16-41 years old. Questionnaire were previously clarified and validated through selected respondents. Data were analyzed statistically and associations between groups and other parameters were performed with chi-square test.

86 percent of Pharmacy students have education background from high school and 14 percent as bachelor, whereas non Pharmacy students are 74 and 26 percent, respectively. Public population revealed 67 percent of respondent has finished their high school, 29 percent bachelor and 4 percent from junior high school. The bread consumption of respondents showed that by Pharmacy student, non Pharmacy students and public population more than 1 time a week were 57, 49, 51; 1 time a week 13, 18 and 49; and less than a week 28, 21, 51 percent, respectively.
The result showed that student of SF ITB has the highest degree of knowledge toward prohibited food additives (61%), followed by public society (54%) and other non-Pharmacy student (40%) respectively. Pharmacy student also performs higher level awareness about potassium bromate (16%) as well as its function (15%) compare with other groups (≤10%). According to this study, background in Pharmacy suggests to affect the level of knowledge in food additives. Moreover, it is advised to improve education relating to food additives especially potassium bromate in bread to the wide community.

Keyword: food additive, safety, questionnaire, potassium bromate