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A Knowledge, Attitude and Practice Study of Chemical Hazards on Household Poisoning in Pulau Pinang: Pilot Phase

Indahayu Ab Rahman¹, Mohd Hafidz Jaafar³, Mohamad Shahrudin Samsurijan², Norhaniza Amil³, Nur Azzalia¹

1. Pusat Racun Negara, Universiti Sains Malaysia

2. School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia

3. School of Industrial Technology, University Sains Malaysia

OBJECTIVE: Accidental or intentional poisoning by ingestion, injection or inhalation of household chemical products are the most common cases reported and received by the National Poison Centre. The main objective of this pilot study is to evaluate the developed knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP) framework on household poisoning due to chemical hazards in Pulau Pinang.

METHOD: A KAP framework was developed through a cross-sectional study. A quantitative approach using a set of questionnaire comprises of 4 sections (demographic, knowledge, attitude, and practice). In this pilot phase, fifty respondents participated voluntarily at the selected hypermarket in South-West of Pulau Pinang. The data analysis process was completed by using IBM SPSS Statistic, Version 24.0 in order to measure the descriptive statistics and to test the reliability of the questionnaire that had been constructed.

RESULT: The overall mean values obtained for the components of knowledge (K), attitude (A), and practice (P) are 3.67, 3.98 and 3.81 which can be classified as the level of awareness is at the level of moderate. The norm/familiarity practices obtained the lowest mean value of 3.25 in the knowledge component that indicates most of the respondents are living with improper practices and dangerous poisons lurking in their home. For the attitude component, the mean value is significantly higher for perception and willingness to change (4.28). It shows that the respondents are willing to change their practices in the future to more safer practices. In the practice component, respondents strongly agreed that the endorsement (44.0%) and ingredient of the household chemical products (58.0%) are the main concerns before purchasing household chemical products.

CONCLUSION: The level of awareness of the household chemical product poisoning can be measured based on the defined components of KAP's framework and through preventive strategies such as enforcement of safe manufacturing practices and public education programmes.