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Improve Food Safety of Chinese Restaurants in Kansas through Multicultural Intervening Measures

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Key words: Food Safety, Chinese Restaurant, Kansas, Multicultural, Intervening Measures

Restaurants food safety for the health of people in the region is of great significance. Studies have shown that the numbers of food safety violations of independent ethnic restaurants operations are significantly higher than that of non-ethnic restaurants and chain restaurants. Chinese restaurants are an important part of ethnic restaurants, most of them operate independently, which its food safety issues have attracted the attention of food safety regulators.

According to the many years of experience of the state food safety inspectors, there are more problems in the operations of Chinese restaurants than in those others. The probability of repeating the same mistakes is also high in the review of the violation items in the inspection reports. Some of the inspectors believe that language barrier is one of the important reasons for this phenomenon. But there are some restaurant operators without language barrier still had many violations. They assume that cultural elements may contribute to building it. Due to the number of violating behaviors in Chinese restaurants, food safety inspectors have to do many follow-up inspections, and this causes much waste of human resources.

The purpose of this study was to enable Chinese restaurant practitioners to understand US health regulations, adjust and change their practices through multicultural interventions, improve behavior compliance and reduce the number of violations.

The specific objectives of the study are to determine, (1) whether independent operated Chinese restaurants in Kansas truly have more food safety problems as described by the inspectors. (2) To develop practical multicultural intervening measures to help restaurant practitioners improve food safety knowledge, awareness, and acting ability. Such as the production of bilingual leaflets, visual publicity materials, training classes, seminars and so on. (3) The numbers of the restaurant violations after the multicultural intervening measures should be examined with the numbers of before interventions and non-intervening restaurants to compare the effectiveness of the interventions; it also can be compared with other types of non-Chinese restaurants in Kansas to evaluate the actual effects of this study. The comparisons should also be made between those restaurants which implement different types and numbers of intervening measures to assess the pros and cons of the interventions and their cumulative effect.