ABSTRACT

Styrofoam was a kind of pack that classified in the plastic category. Generally, styrofoam colored white and looked clean, has a simple shape and light. Styrofoam was used to pack of food products, such as instant noodles, chicken porridge, meatballs, coffee, and yogurt. The inappropriate use of styrofoam with the kind of packaged food might cause migration or transfer of monomer from the pack into the food. The long term accumulation of monomer in the body might cause endocrine disrupter (EDC), central nerve system disorder, anemia, increases the risk of leukemia and lymphoma, causes cancer, and may contaminate the mother’s milk.

The purpose of this research was to find out the knowledge, attitudes, and practise of the owners of the street-food places about the use of styrofoam as the food pack in Kelurahan Padang Bulan Selayang I, Kecamatan Medan Selayang on 2010. This research is a descriptive survey. The populations are the owners of the street-food places that use styrofoam for food pack in Kelurahan Padang Bulan Selayang I Kecamatan Medan Selayang, amounted to 23 people. The sample in this research were taken by total sample way, so the sample is the whole amount of population, amounted to 23 people.

The results showed that the level of knowledge of respondents about the use of styrofoam as food pack in good category 21.7 %, medium category 47.8 %, and bad category 30.4 %. The attitudes of respondents in good category 65.2 %, medium category 26.1 %, and bad category 8.7 %. While the practise of respondents in the use of styrofoam as the food pack was still in medium category 56.5 %, and bad category 43.5 %.

The socializations are needed by Dinas Kesehatan Medan, Badan Pengawas Obat dan Makanan (BPOM) Medan or the related parties regarding to the use of styrofoam as food pack, including the hazards that may be generated and the efforts to reduce the hazards to increase the knowledge and understanding of the street-food owners about the styrofoam. For the owners of the street-food places are also advised to pay attention about the compatibility of the food pack and the kind of food that will be packaged to prevent the migration of monomer from food pack material into food.

Keywords : Knowledge, Attitude, Practise, Styrofoam pack