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EFFECT OF FUEL PUMP HIKE ON THE CONSUMPTION OF TRADITIONAL FOODS BY AN URBAN NIGERIAN POPULATION

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Abstract

Objectives: This study was designed to investigate the effect of fuel pump hike on consumption of traditional foods by urban dwellers in Nigerian. **Materials and Methods:** Three hundred and fifty respondents were selected using simple random sampling technique. Structured pre-tested questionnaires were used to collect information on socio economic characteristics, consumption pattern of traditional foods and fuel use. Anthropometric data such as weight, height, mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) and skinfold thickness were collected using standard procedures. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, 4 point likert scale and simple regression. **Result:** The age of the respondents ranged from 20-40 years with the mean age of 32.8years. A high percentage (71.4%) were females and more than half (57.8%) were married. Majority (71.4%) had tertiary education and an appreciable proportions (44.1%) were civil servants with as much as 39.3% earning more than ₦50,000.00 per month. Family contribution was more than 30% for 43.5% of the respondents. All respondents made use of fuel and almost half (49.5%) were aware of the hike in fuel pump price. Approximately half (45.7%) consumed traditional foods only while 54.3% consumes both traditional and western foods. Weekly frequency of consumption of traditional foods was 5 times for 35.9% of the respondents. Health was the main reason for consumption of traditional foods. Constraints encountered in consumption of traditional foods included limited time for preparation (23.8%), scarcity (23.2%) and cost (13.3%). Simple regression analysis showed that fuel pump hike had a significance effect on traditional foods consumption at 1% and 88.9% of the respondents agreed that fuel hike increases food prices. The mean (SD) of anthropometric indices were height 1.67 (11.5)m, weight 79.0 (11.73)kg, Bicep 18.85 (8.05)mm, Triceps 20.17 (6.36)mm; supra iliac 18.73 (5.97)mm MUAC 33.85(5.67). Only 1.3% of the respondents were underweight, 25.7% had normal BMI while 34.6% and 38.4% were overweight and obese respectively. **Conclusion:** Fuel pump hike had a significant effect on the price of traditional foods consumed and the number of respondents that consumes traditional foods only was less than those that consume other foods. Nutrition education, implementation of food price subsidies and adequately maintained rural feeder roads is advocated.

Key words: Fuel Pump hike, Traditional foods, consumption, urban dwellers.