

Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour of fast-food restaurant managers during the Covid-19 pandemic in the East-West Corridor, Trinidad

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Introduction

- The fast-food industry experienced an economic decline during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the protocols implemented to reduce transmission via social distancing. Phase one included no in-house dining and phase two limited the capacity of patrons dining to 50%.
- Additionally, establishments were required to execute sanitation practices to maintain safety.
- Currently, there is limited information on the extent of the knowledge, attitudes and practices of fast-food restaurants in Trinidad and Tobago.
- This information will contribute to the data collection concerning their response to the preventative and control measures implemented during the pandemic.

Objective

- To assess the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of fast-food managers on COVID-19 spread in the Trinidad food industry.
- To determine the efficacy of COVID-19 preventative measures by the fast-food restaurants managers.

Methodology

Study Design and population:

An observational cross-sectional study on fast-food restaurant managers

Ethical Approval:

Campus Ethics Committee, UWI, STA

Setting:

The East-Wes Corridor from Port-of-Spain to Arima

Data Analysis:

Data analyzed using SPSS (Statistical package for Social Sciences). Chi-squared, descriptive and statistical test were performed to examine associations between the knowledge, attitude and behaviours of the participants.

Study Sample:

153 fast-food restaurants calculated through finite population correction.

Data Collection:

Conducted via an online pre-structured questionnaire disseminated through e-mail or WhatsApp. Each restaurant establishment was contacted beforehand through mobile to supply them with voluntary access to the questionnaire.

Results

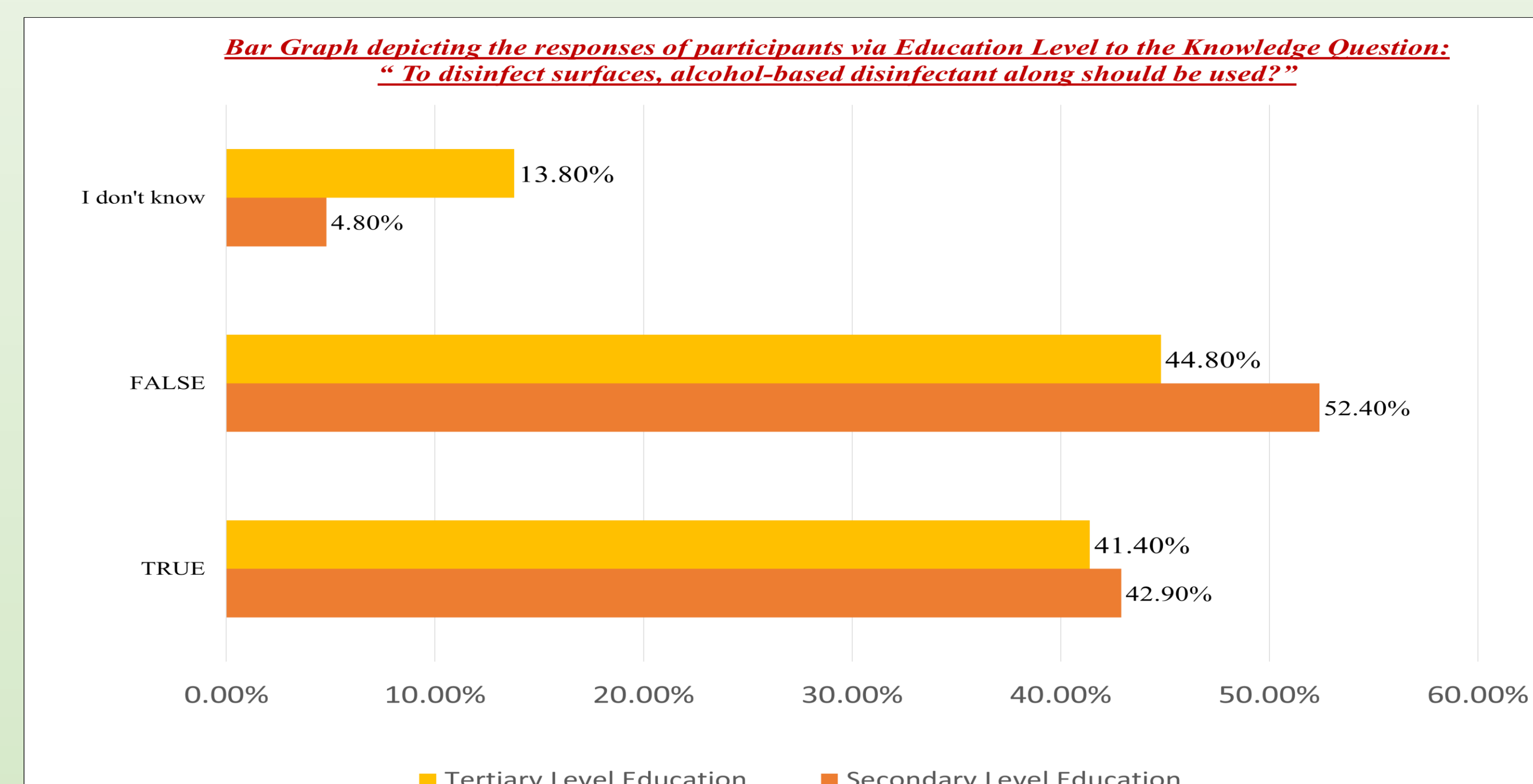


Figure 1: Knowledge

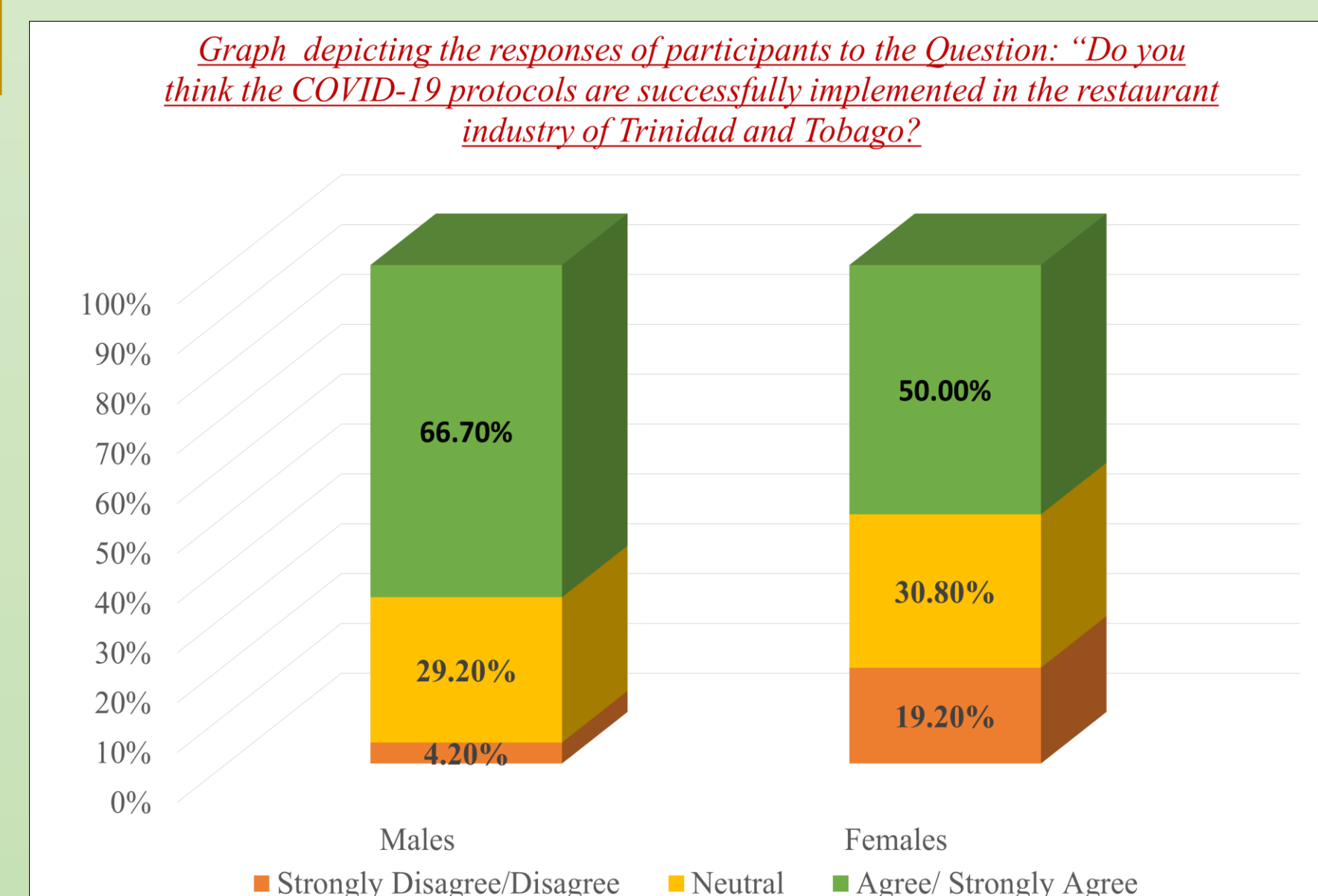


Figure 2: Attitude

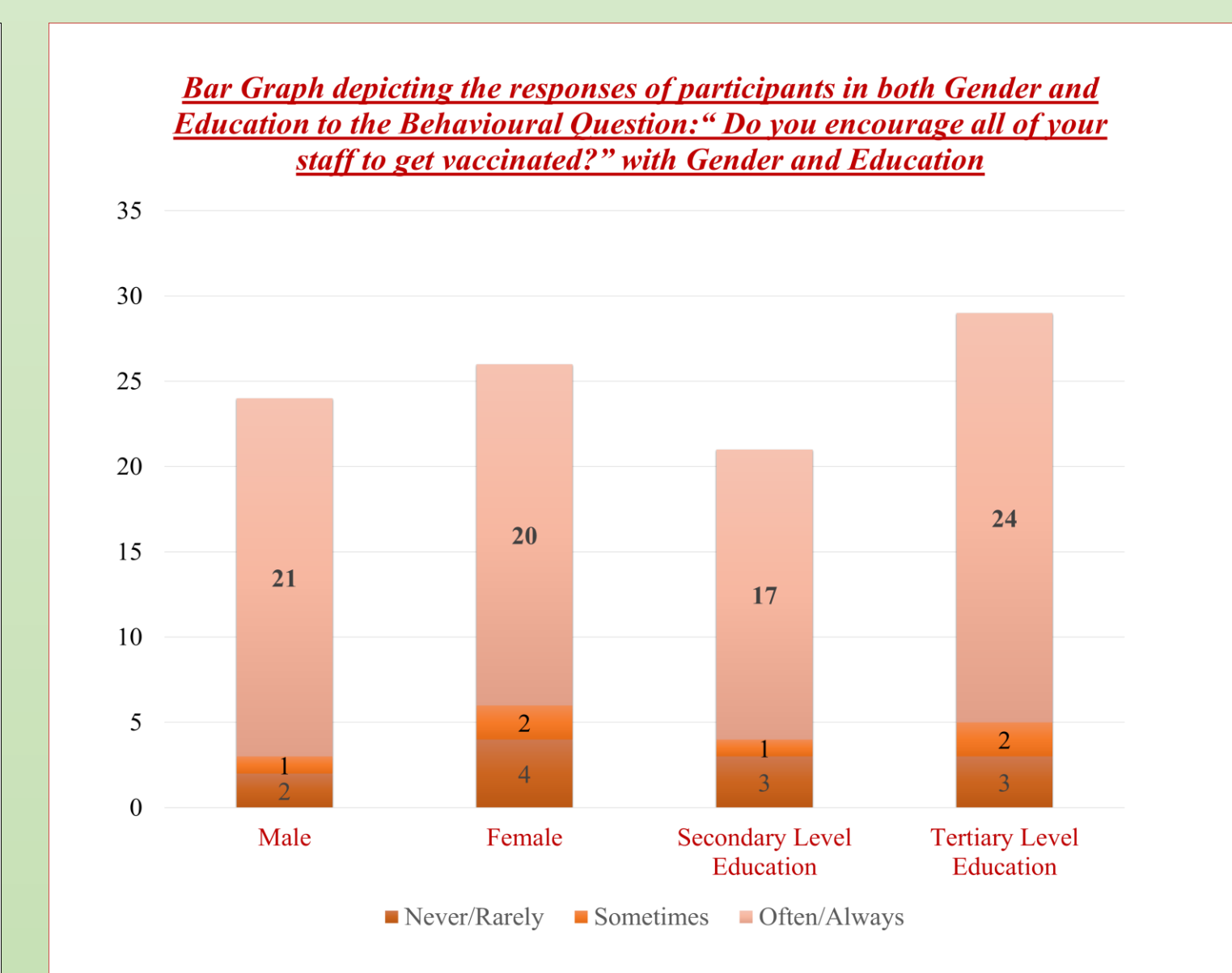


Figure 3: Behaviours

Bar chart depicting the responses of participants Education wise to the Question A3: "Do you think the COVID-19 vaccine will protect you from getting infected if a customer with signs and symptoms enters your establishment without complying to the genera

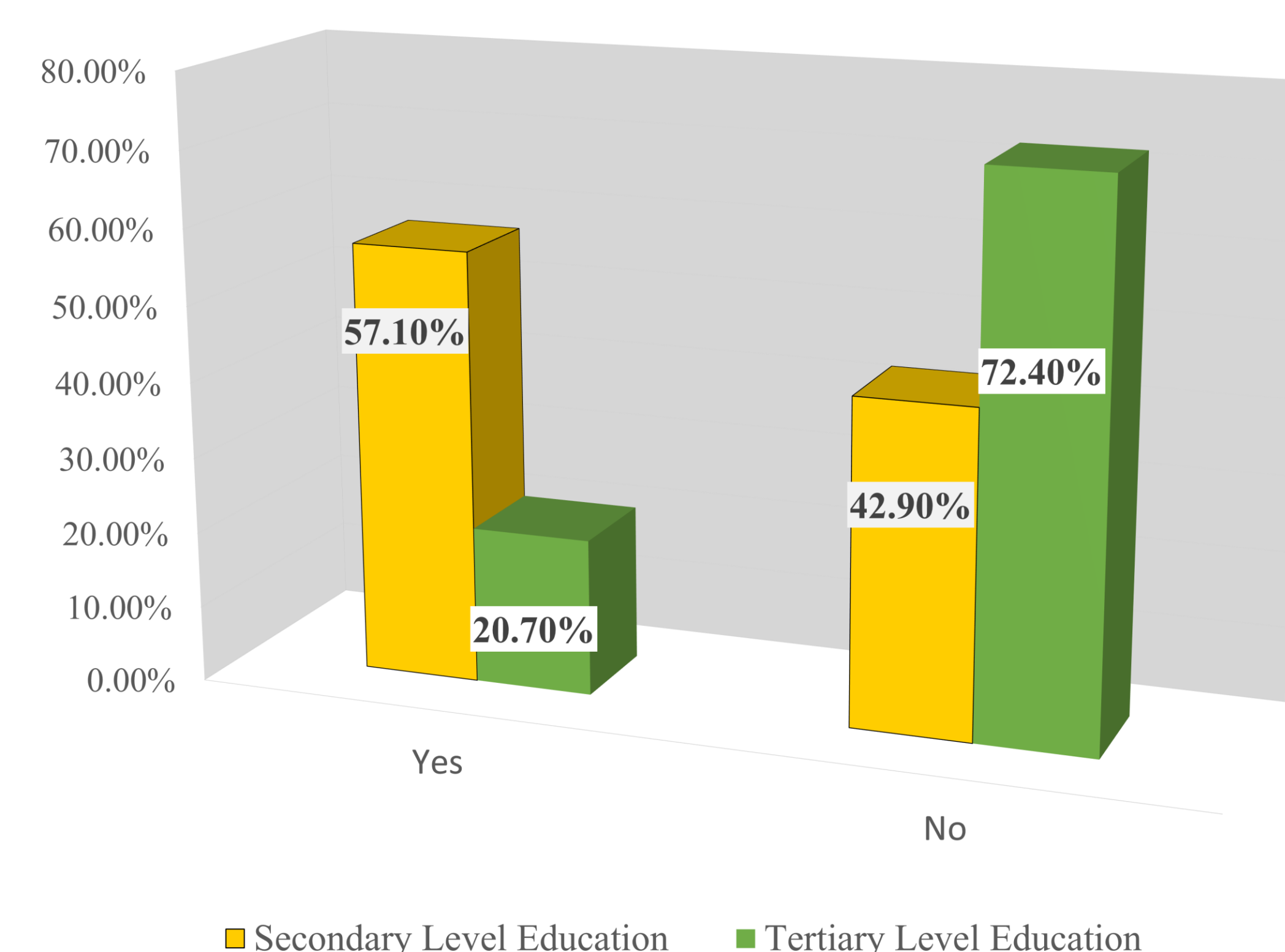


Figure 4: Attitude

n:50

Discussion

- Overall, Secondary graduates responded to the knowledge questions more accurately compared to their tertiary counterparts. A possible explanation being that tertiary educated individuals may not have less knowledge but were more sceptical of the information provided to them during the pandemic.
- To solidify this, a chi-squared test was performed on the question in Figure 4 where a p value = 0.013 < 0.05 was found indicating that education level had an impact on participants' responses.
- Tertiary-educated individuals also found it more difficult than their secondary counterparts to adhere to protocols. This suggests that secondary-educated individuals were less compliant than those who were tertiary educated, as the latter group was observed to be more stringent in ensuring that daily health checks and temperature screening were done compared to their secondary counterparts.
- Gender also influenced vaccine acceptance with males having a higher willingness to vaccinate and encourage vaccination amongst staff than their female counterparts.
- Lower levels of education and health literacy were associated with increased levels of belief in misinformation but increased recommendation to vaccinate whereas higher levels of education were more sceptical to encourage staff vaccinations.

Conclusion

- This study showed that the East-West Corridor's fast-food restaurant managers with secondary and tertiary education have appropriate awareness of the COVID-19 guidelines.
- Secondary graduates promoted staff vaccination and had little to no trouble enforcing procedures, in contrast to those who had received their higher education, who showed vaccine skepticism and found it difficult to maintain them.

References

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