

**DIGITALIZING FOOD HANDLING
ESTABLISHMENTS' GRADING PROCESS
IN THE NARAMPANAWA PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AREA**

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Traditionally, the H-800 form, which assesses sanitary and hygienic standards, is a paper-based tool used by Public Health Inspectors (PHIs). It evaluates food factories, hotels, restaurants, groceries, supermarkets, tea kiosks, and bakeries based on the grades obtained in the H-800 form. This particular documentation is time-consuming, less efficient, and challenging to maintain. Therefore, this study explored the potential of digitalizing Food Handling Establishments (FHEs) to replace the H-800 form. Hence, the objective of this study is to investigate the effectiveness of an Android application (H - 800 Food Premises Grading) in the Narampanawa PHI area. Using a participatory approach, the authors designed and developed the app. Then, as its initial phase, the app has been tested for four months, from April to August 2024. The descriptive analysis of results shows that the application now allows real-time data collection and automates the grading process into four categories based on inspection scores: A grade 75-100, B grade 50-74, C grade 25-49, and D grade 0-24. The app enables PHIs to easily create and update the H-800 form by adding the location, automatic scheduling for future inspections, and real-time grading results, which can be sent as a PDF report to the FHE owners. Furthermore, through this app, users are able to add feedback, including written reviews and photos, and submit complaints directly to the area's Public Health Inspector (PHI). Although the initial stage was successful, it had challenges like network issues and limited geographical coverage.

Keywords: Food Handling Establishments (FHEs), digitalization, Android Application, real-time data collection, Public Health Inspector (PHI)