

Research Paper :

## Consumption pattern and food handling practices of street foods

A.R. KHARWADE, V.M.NALWADE AND T.N.KHAN

Accepted : July, 2009

### ABSTRACT

A total of 250 students and 50 vendors were selected from different areas of Parbhani city for studying consumption pattern and food handling practices of street foods. The various street foods stated to be consumed by the selected college going student were kulfi, bhel, kharmure, pop-corn, pani-puri, pav-bhaji, ice-cream, mirchi-bhaji, fruit juice, samosa, wada-pav, watana and kachori. Maximum student preferred consumption of street food once in a week and spent less than Rs. 40/week on purchase of street food. More street foods were preferred due to its variety and taste. Street foods vended in selected places of Parbhani city were found to be prepared by the street vendors under insanitary conditions. Observations for catering operation and food material handling practices revealed lacunae in accessories, water supply, pre-preparation, use of holding, dish washing and personal hygiene practices may pose a serious health risk.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

**A.R. KHARWADE**  
Department of Food and  
Nutrition, College of Home  
Science, Marathwada  
Agricultural University  
PARBHANI (M.S.) INDIA

**Key words :** Street food, Vendors, Fast food

Urbanization is the inevitable and consequential result of socio-economic development and industrialization. This increasing growth of urban population has stimulated a rise in the number of street vendors in many cities throughout the world. Migration from rural area to urban centres has created a daily need among many working people to eat outside the home. In many countries, workers as well as students have their first meal of the day from street food vendors (FAO, 1986). Street foods have been defined as ready-to-eat foods and beverages prepared or sold by vendors and hawkers especially in streets and other similar public places (FAO, 2000). The wholesomeness of this food in terms of sanitation is also questionable. As Langere and Bleaker point out "food service operators and food handlers have control over the stomachs of millions of people. It is largely their responsibility whatever the food they serve to the public is wholesome. Improving the sanitations and hygienic aspects of these units is a crucial and arduous task. Also street foods are preferred due to its convenience, taste, variety and low cost. Day by day people are becoming habituated in regard to consumption of street foods specially the students. Therefore, the study was undertaken to know the consumption pattern of street foods among students of Parbhani city and to evaluate the personal hygiene, health caring practices of street food vendors and environmental hygiene of stalls.

### METHODOLOGY

A total number of 250 students between the age of 16 and 25 yrs. were randomly selected from five different

educational institutions of Parbhani city namely, Marathwada Agricultural University, Dyanopasak Shikshan Mandal College, Industrial Technical Institute, Shri Shivaji College and Law College. The information regarding frequency of consumption of street foods, total money spent on street foods, reasons for preferring street foods etc. was obtained by personal survey schedule. Fifty vendors were selected from different areas of Parbhani city, where people congregate in large amount and where a large number of street food vendors were present. The selected locations were Station road, Basmat Road, Jintur Road and Rajgopalacharya Park. From each location, ten vendors were selected, preference was given to those vendors, who have mobile units and not having permanent seating arrangements.

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Information about street food items commonly consumed by the selected students is presented in Table 1. The various street foods stated to be consumed by the selected college going students were *kulfi* (225), *bhel* (222), *kharmure* (219), pop corn (217), *pani puri* (209), *pav bhaji* (203), ice-cream (201), *mirchi bhaji* (185), juice (175), *samosa* (173), *wada-pav* (173), *watana* (173) and *kachori* (164). Result indicated that the most preferred street foods were *kulfi*, *bhel*, *kharmure*, pop-corn and *pani puri* while the least preferred street foods were *kachori*, *samosa* and *watana*. On the whole, the habit of consuming street foods were more common among college students. These findings are in line with that of Reddy *et al.* (2001) who had reported that *pani puri*,