

A study on personal hygiene of street food vendors of Raipur city

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Received: 29.07.2013; Revised: 22.09.2013; Accepted: 18.10.2013

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Street food popularly known as ready to eat food is ubiquitous these days. The foods are prepared bad, sold at vending places. The present study aimed to observe the personal and environmental hygiene of the vendors and its surrounding. A total of 200 street food vendors were selected from different areas of Raipur city. Demographic profile of selected vendors, their personal hygiene and environmental hygiene were recorded using pre-formatted questionnaire. All the results were statistically analyzed using SPSS software. The result revealed that, 76 per cent vendors were found neat and clean. Only 3.5 per cent vendors were observed using gloves, where as we didn't find any vendor using head gear (cap). 74.5 per cent stalls were close to open drainage line, in 84 per cent cases there were insects around the stalls. Only 54 per cent stalls had open dust bins. It can be concluded, that personal hygiene of vendors and environment of the surrounding was unsatisfactory. Awareness programmes at regular intervals are the need of recent times for healthy society and clean environment.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Street food, Spitting habit, Open garbage, Clear surrounding

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Joglekar, A. and Bhoi, S. (2013). A study on personal hygiene of street food vendors of Raipur city. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 8 (2): 586-589.

Street food is a food that is obtained from a street side vendor, often from a portable stall. These foods can be fast-food. Some street foods are regional and beyond their region. As per FAO, street foods are defined as ready to eat food sold by vendors and hawkers especially in the street and or other similar places (FAO, 1989).

Rapid urbanization and modernization opens the doors for people to work away from home and manages their life style accordingly. In last two decades, the family structure has been changed as most of the woman came out for work to share financial burden which resulted as rapid inclination towards street foods. This inclination increases the popularity of convenient type of foods among family .

The street food establishment have received a warm welcome as these foods not only provide in expensive and nutritious food for millions of people in the lower and mildly income group but also serve as a major outlet of income generation outlet (Bhat and Wahray, 2000 and Dumo,1985). In spite of importance of street food in modern life style,

they are frequently questionable because street food vendors does not follow safety and environmental hygiene. There is always a risk of microbial contamination followed by other health hazards and chemical contamination. The study related to street food and street food vendors are very few in India. Although studies related to most popular street food and availability of street food have been carried out by several researchers but no study was carried out in Raipur city. Keeping this view in mind the present study was planned to collect the personal hygiene and environmental hygiene of the surrounding among different popular areas of Raipur city.

■ RESEARCH METHODS

Selection of area:

Initially pilot survey was carried out to elicit the information on commonly consumed street food. Based on the results of pilot survey, 8 most commonly consumed street food which included Chat, Samosa, Bhajjiya and Moong-bade, Idli, Juices, Candies, Bhel and Golgappa, vendors were

randomly selected for the further study. City was distributed in 5 zones in E,W, N,S and central and from all zones 20 vendors were randomly selected who were vending on popular places of that area.

Data collection:

The study was conducted between April 2010-Sep.2011. The samples were homogeneous group from almost same occupation and economic status. The criteria for selecting samples for participating were willing to share their own experiences. Based on the preliminary discussion with the vendors, a structured interview schedule was developed. Participants provided written consent before starting interview. If participants agreed to take part in research; a schedule was filled with their help. The pre-tested interview schedule has 30 questions comprising open and closed ended questions. The 30 open and closed ended questions covered main themes *viz.*, demographic details, personal hygiene and environmental hygiene.

The demographic profile contains all the general information about vendors such as age, type of family, education, income and occupation.

Demographic profile of the vendors:

Demographic profile, like age education, income, type of family, work experience in this field, type of house was collected to get their socio- economic status.

Evaluation of the hygienic practices adapted by the vendors:

All the vendors were observed for the short period to find out the details on personal hygiene and environmental hygiene using pre-tested questionnaire.

Statistical analysis:

All the results were statistically analysed by using percentage, frequency and cumulative frequency (Shukla and Shahaya, 2000).

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

All the results were focused on main three themes that emerged from the data. Demographic details, Personal hygiene, Environmental hygiene.

Demographic profile:

Table 1 represents the demographic profile of vendors. It was observed that out of 200 street food vendors, 98 per cent were males and only 2 per cent were female. It can be stated that this profession is being dominated by males.

Out of 200 vendors 15 per cent were illiterate, 20 per cent had primary education, 32.5 per cent had their middle school education. 22.5 per cent had High School and only 10 per cent appeared in colleges, and the above result

Table 1 : Demographic profile of the street food vendors

Type	Category	Number	%
Sex	Male	196	98
	Female	4	2
Education	Illiterate	30	15
	Primary School	40	20
	Middle School	65	32.5
	Higher Secondary	45	22.5
Age	College	20	10
	< 25	38	19
	25-30	42	21
	31- 50	109	54.5
Income	>50	11	5.5
	< 3000 Rs. per month	35	17.5
	3100 -5000	70	35
	5100 – 10,000	62	31
	11000 – 20,000	29	18.5
	21000 – 50,000	4	2
Ownership	>50,000 per month	00	00
	Own	200	100
Type of unit	Rent	–	–
	Mobile	179	89.5
Working hours	Stationary	21	10.5
	< 5 hours	90	45
	>5 hours	110	55

indicated that the educational status was not enough to make them knowledgeable and aware about cleanliness and hygiene.

All the vendors, were classified according to their age and out of 200 only 19 per cent were below the age 25 years, where as 21 per cent belonged to age 25-30 years, 35 per cent age 30- 40 yrs and only 5.5 per cent belonged to age more than 50 per cent yrs.

About 35 per cent of the respondents belonged to lower middle class group (income Rs. 3000 – 5000 per month), 17.5 per cent belonged to lower income (Rs.< 3000 per month), 49.5 per cent were high income group. Studies conducted in India by Nagalaxmi (1999).

All the stalls were owned by vendors. Similarly 89.5 per cent vendors had mobile stalls where as only 10.5 per cent had fixed stall. While asking about the working hours, most of the vendors replied that they spent more than 5 hours in vending. Most of the vendors expressed that vending was concentrated in busy and popular places as school, college, market and garden. Similar results were observed by Nagalaxmi (1999) and Usha Chandra *et al.* (2003).

Hygienic practices followed by street food vendors:

Personal hygiene:

Table 2 shows the personal hygiene of the street food vendors. In the present study only 76 per cent (152) vendors had a neat and clean appearance. Any vendor was not found wearing (cap) head gear. Only 3.5 per cent (7) vendors were

habitual of hand gloves. Majority of the vendors (93.3%) were not using hand gloves at cooking or serving the food. 100 per cent vendors had a habit of spitting intermittently and they sweat profusely during work. and 76.6 per cent vendors kept the napkin in their pocket and used to wipe their hands and sometimes face. while ill the selected vendors seems to ignore the ill effects of the their illness to others and keep on working hence it can be said that environmental sanitation in around the selected vending stalls were unhygienic.

Table 2 : Personal hygiene of the street food vendors

Sr.No.	Particular	Number	%
1.	Neat and clean appearance	152	76
2.	Nails cut and clean	180	90
3.	Head gear present	-	-
4.	Gloves	07	3.5
5.	Hair healthy combed	200	100
6.	Cover wound	136	68
7.	Apron	-	-
8.	Washing hands before serving	80	40
9.	Vaccinated against any disease	200	100
10.	Taking precautions during cough and cold	182	91
11.	Separate towel used for sweat	40	20
12.	Spitting habit	200	100
13.	Chewing tobacco, gutakhas, pan etc.	200	100
14.	Use of separate napkin for wiping hands	200	100
15.	Napkin kept in the pocket	152	76
16.	Takes leaves if sick	80	40

It was noticed that the none of the vendors procured the license for this business. They were not registered under Nagar Nigam and Town vending committee. We did not find such committees under Municipal Corporation. It was noticed that hygienic conditions around the stall was unsatisfactory and showed a very bad picture. Similar results were observed by Dawson (1993) and Bryax *et al.* (1988) . While observing all the vendors exhibited unhygienic practices like spitting around, chewing Gutakha and picking the nose with hand.

Table 3 depicts the environmental hygiene of vending unit. In general all the street food selected had access to environmental contamination as 74.5 per cent (149) stalls were found close to open drain. 84.5 per cent (169) vendors did not cover the foods, so the overall picture of the surrounding was looking bad due to presence of flies and insects. Only 54 per cent (108) stalls had open dustbins for the disposal of leftover food. The size of dustbin was not according to actual requirement. In 81 per cent (162) stalls we found stray animals in the area and 61 per cent (122)

vendors threw all the waste around the shop which enhances off pour, The present study depicts that due to unhygienic condition stray, animals and insects were present near the units.

Table 3 : The overall environmental conditions nearby vending area

Type	Number	%
Open drain near the stall	149	74.5
Presence of fly and insect	169	84.5
Proper dust bins	108	54.00
Stray animals	162	81.0
Dust bin close to stall waste thrown in and around the stall	140	70
Off odor	122	61
Cleaning after finishing work vending	-	-

Summary and conclusion:

The present study was conducted at Raipur city to elicit the consumption pattern of street food and its associated health and hygiene issues. Eight most popular street foods were selected and on the basis of this food, 200 street food vendors from different places of Raipur city were selected for the study.

The study revealed the presence of microbes and use of non-permitted colours. Personal hygiene of the vendors was unsatisfactory and at the same time hygienic practices adopted by vendors were unsatisfactory. It can be concluded that the science of hygiene and cleanliness was shockingly. This might be due to low educational status, unawareness about the importance of good hygiene and cleanliness and last lack of commitment of healthy society. The present study strongly recommends the educational programmes' on all aspects related to street foods.

Acknowledgement:

Authors are thankful to UGC, CRO, Bhopal for the funding of minor research project and convey high gratitude to Dr., Aruna Palta (Principal, Govt. Naveen Kanya College, Raipur) for her kind guidance, motivation and unconditional support for this work.

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