Knowledge assessment and practices related to food safety and hygiene of street food consumers

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ABSTRACT
Risk communication and consumer education to promote safer handling of food can be the best way of managing the risk of food borne illness at the consumer end of the food chain. The present study aimed to determine consumers’ awareness, their preferences, knowledge and the practices for food safety while they were eating out in street food units. A sample size of 300 street food consumers from different food service providers were interviewed using a descriptive survey design of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Majority of the consumers had knowledge about food borne diseases, adulteration, sanitation and microorganisms but while selecting a street food unit, consumers generally prefer taste and ignore other aspects of food safety and hygiene. Consumers ranked the restaurants very satisfactory in terms of quick service, hygiene, sanitation, food quality, taste, cost, convenience, etc. and usually prefer to dine out only on the weekends for a change or as a temporary arrangement. Consumers shouldn’t eat at those SFU’s which are unhygienic and poorly maintained, not compromising on food safety aspects, which will compel the SFU’s to improve on their food quality safety and hygiene aspects.

KEYWORDS: Food safety, Food hygiene, Sanitary practices, Personal hygiene, Street food unit.

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