

Adulteration in Food Items is a Heinous Crime



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Abstract

Adulteration is a process in which any unwanted chemicals or substances are mixed in food items to gain unethical profit. These substances are colors, antioxidants, fillers, preservative, thickener, flavouring substances for increasing bulk, weight, texture, softening and appellent etc. These substances are not required by any animal or human body thus creates harmful effects on the body. They affect adversely our nervous system, liver, lungs, kidney, heart, and brain etc.

Adulterating a food item is heinous crime and it must be treated legally as attempting murder knowingly. There are reasons of adulteration and it is very urgent need to stop it at all levels. There are some flaws in our present adulteration preventing rules like corruption, very lengthy legal and court process, culprit escape by money power or by political power etc. In our society many people have unethical values and lack of nationhood. Otherwise adulteration would not have been so prevalent. Government should compel ethical and moral values on us. We all citizens have to understand our liability to stop adulteration at all levels. It is fact that we cannot earn money by making other unhealthy or by killing others. If all people start earning money like this then after some years nobody will remain alive here. Thus it has been proved that we and our children must understand that we cannot survive alone and without taking care of well being of others. It is ethical, moral, as well as social responsibility of each individual to be philanthropic and kind hearted in nature for others. Otherwise one day this hunger of earning money by hooks and crooks will destroy our all development, technology and humanity earned by us.

There are several rules against adulteration but problems are of their implementation. Most of the people are unaware about the hazardous effect of adulteration and most of the officers do not do their duties properly due to corruption. These two things are making situation very critical and life threatening for common people. There should be ZERO tolerance for any small or big adulteration cases in government adulteration prevention acts. There are many unethical and immoral business people and officers who are making the situation out of control and dangerous.

When somebody buys chili powder from market, he will get half chili powder and rest will be brick or wood powder. Something which is resembles with original product is added to it to increase the quantity to get more profit.

Keywords: Adulteration, Philanthropic, Preservative, Antioxidants, Softener, Flavored, Appellant, Adulterant, Fillers, Thickener, Oxytocin. Unethical, Immoral Values.

Introduction

India is called a land of Annapurna. Here we worship water, food, stone, river, tree, sun and moon as a god or goddess. But some people are so nonsense, unethical, immoral and ill minded that our whole social system is not being able to recuperate. It is a crime of white collar people since long time. Adulteration has damaged the quality of food items and sometime adulterants used are toxic chemicals. Thus our food becomes dangerous to health. Adulterated food products are presented in intricate manner to cheat the customers.

Many small vendors and businessmen are not stopping to cheat customers. Adulteration is rampant in maximum essential food items in high quantity. It is very absurdly true that most of the people are killing other people knowingly. But it is the nature of some people to earn money by hooks and crooks. No ethical or moral values remain in these people. It is very very dangerous situation. It is the duty of government to aware the

people. It is also duty of NGO and social workers to persuade the people to stop adulteration.

It is very alarming that adulteration is common in many daily use items like- fruits, bread, ice creams, milk, pulses, wheat, spices, mustard oil, coconut oils, fast foods, tea, coffee, sweets, vegetables etc.

The ministry of health and family welfare of Indian government has responsibility to ensure safe food for consumers. Indian government has passed prevention of Food Adulteration Act in 1954 to curb adulteration. The objective was to ensure pure and wholesome food to the consumers. It was amended thrice in 1964, 1976 and in 1986 to plugging the loopholes.

Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) was established by Indian government to create science based standards for food articles.

Food Item – Adulterants in Many Cases

1. Milk – Water, urea, detergents, oxytocin injection in buffalo, chalk powder, melamine
2. Ghee – Vanaspati ghee, potato, refined oil
3. Ice Cream - Washing Powder, inorganic colors, artificial sweetener, impure water
4. Chili Powder - Brick Powder
5. Coffee - Tamarind/Date Seed
6. Honey - Molasses Sugar and sugar syrup.
7. Sugar – sugar may contain Chalk Powder
8. Sweet- many sweets have synthetic/skimmed milk khoya, inorganic colors, paper in khoya, more vanaspati ghee.
9. Packed food- maximum packed foods have inorganic colors, saturated fats, unhealthy fillers, preservatives, antioxidants, thickener, fine flour, extra white flour.
10. Foods in hotels- In many cases unhygienic condition, substandard vegetables, substandard spices, substandard wheat flour, inorganic colors, unhealthy fillers, thickeners.
11. Vegetables-inorganic colors or synthetic colors spray like green color on lady finger, pea, purple color on brinjal, oxytocin injection in guard, toree, cucumber and pumpkin. Spray of pesticides and insecticides on all type of vegetables.

Review of Literature

Prevention of Food Adulteration Act was passed in the year 1954. This act was removed by the Food Safety and Standard Act passed in the 2006 by the parliament. Penalties and punishments in this act are based on the seriousness of the offense. In adulteration process, unwanted substances are added in the food for making profit. Adulteration is very rampant today in maximum food items. The most commonly adulterated food products are milk and milk products. Though, FSSAI in India has made several strict rules against adulteration but it is not under control. Annual Public Laboratory Testing Report for 2014-15 by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) show that out of 49,290 samples of food items which was tested 8,469 samples(about one-fifth) were tested adulterated.

A FSSAI report conducted in 2012 across 33 states found that milk is being adulterated with chalk powder, caustic soda, skimmed milk, diluted

water, detergent, urea, fat and melamine etc. Khoya is being adulterated with skimmed milk powder, paper and refined oil etc. Tea leaves are being adulterated with same colored leaves which are not even edible.

Coffee seeds are adulterated with the adulterants like tamarind seeds, mustard seeds and chicory which cause diarrhea.

Ergot (a fungus containing unhealthy substances) is being mixed with wheat.

Several colored vegetables are being further colored with matching dyes like malachite green (a carcinogenic substance).

Some adulterants in vegetables and fruits are calcium carbide and copper sulphate, oxytocin, saccharine and wax, etc. which are carcinogenic and disturb metabolism. Most of the sweet shop owners use aluminium vark in place of silver vark, because silver vark is very expensive.

Many sweets of khoya and cheese are being adulterated with starch. Starch can be tested with iodine solution in food items. Color of the solution will become blue.

Honey is adulterated with molasses sugar and sugar syrup.

Honeys also contain sufficient amounts of antibiotics to make it effective in cough disease. Thus honey in long time use develop resistance to antibiotics.

Arhar- pulse is being adulterated with metanil yellow. Metanil yellow is a non-permitted color in India and causes brain neurotoxicity. It is tested by few drops of HCl in a sample of pulse. If sample turns pink in color then it contain metanil yellow.

The adulterants of ice cream are ethylacetate, butraldehyde, emil acetate, nitrate, washing powder, pepper oil and gum etc. Gum is used in ice cream so that it can be sticky and slow melting. Gum is obtained by boiling animal parts like skin, udder, tail and nose etc. Pepper oil is added as pesticide. Ethyl acetate causes diseases of kidneys and heart.

Turmeric powder is adulterated with metanil yellow which is a carcinogenic substance. It is obtained from metanilic acid and diphenylamine. Black pepper is adulterated with Papaya seeds. It cause serious liver and stomach disorders.

Tomato sauces are made artificially from pumpkin paste, sugar, non-edible colors and flavors. Actually there is no any Tomato present in that sauce.

Mustard oil is being adulterated with Argemone seeds and Papaya seed. They lead epidemic dropsy and severe glaucoma.

The criteria of punishment in the Food Safety and Standard Act are as

1. If the purity falls below the prescribed standard. The penalty in this offence is a minimum imprisonment of six months and maximum imprisonment up to 3 years with a minimum fine of Rs 1000.
2. If any adulterant is injurious to health. The penalty in this offence is a minimum imprisonment of one year and maximum

imprisonment up to 6 years with minimum fine of Rs 2000.

3. If any adulterant is poisonous to health and can cause death or grievous bodily harm. The Penalty in this offence is minimum imprisonment of three years and maximum imprisonment up to life with minimum fine of Rs 5000.

Aim of Study

The aim of this study is to understand the hazardous effects of adulteration and to find out easy and effective solution of this problem. In European countries and America the adulteration is very less. Most of the people eat daily packed foods. They give very high importance to the society and nation.

We also give very high importance to society and nation but most of the people are not ethically and morally good. For money many people are damaging life of others. While other people are damaging the life of earlier. Thus most of the ill minded person is damaging life of society and nation. Indian government must start some initiatives to make aware to the people about adulteration. Related NGO and social groups should make programs to persuade people to stop adulteration

Methods and materials

One solution of this problem is that people of India must be taught the lesson of ethical and moral values toward the society and nation. Every person of each society must understand that he cannot survive alone without society. By money one can purchase food items but money cannot make your food and your health safe, If you are eating adulterated food daily. It is now last time to wake up and do something that ensures your children can complete their life peacefully. It is moral and natural responsibility of each parent to always do that work which makes life of their children safe. Otherwise this situation will destroy us because some people are destroying the future of your children. Two works have to be done now

First

Here must be a government initiatives to make aware to the people about dangerous situation of self killing nature of them. If people cannot live healthy and longer, what is the benefit of industrial growth and development. Government should start several programs to educate the people and make aware of the jeopardy of adulteration.

Second

People should be educated enough so that they can think and decide the welfare of the society and nation. A person must imbibe in mind that he cannot live alone. Their existence depends on the existence of others. If people are healthy and safe then only a person can be healthy and safe.

There is no dearth of ill minded greedy people. Good citizens should punish such ill minded person on social basis.

Kinds of Adulteration

Intentional Adulteration

When a person adds or removes substances to alter natural properties of food knowingly.

Unintentional Adulteration

Adulteration is usually attributed to carelessness, ignorance, lack of facilities. Like from insecticides, pesticides or pollution

Natural Adulteration

Some variety of plants and marine animals like fish are poisonous or injurious to health.

Results and Conclusion

We know that adulteration of food items is out of control at present. There are sufficient rules and government system to get rid of adulteration. There are officers, staffs, NGO and people who are working for social benefit here. We all want to stop adulteration. But actual result does not seem even positive. Due to Lack of knowledge, lack of awareness, lack of health education, lack of social responsibility, Lack of patriotism by many people, blindness of greedy people, many unethical people, many immoral people and many antisocial people, the situation of adulteration increasing day by day.

The people contaminate food items by following ways.

1. A substance is added which fall the quality below prescribed standard.
2. Cheaper substances which are harmful to health.
3. A valuable part of food is removed.
4. Artificial substance is added to the food which is poisonous or injurious to health.
5. Substandard or inedible substances in the form like colors, fillers, preservatives, antioxidants, thickeners etc are added to the food items.

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