

Received : January, 2011; Accepted : March, 2011

Detection of ill-effects of urea adulterated milk in Varanasi

ANITA SINGH, JUHI SHARMA AND SHUCHI RAI BHATT

ABSTRACT

Urea in adulterated milk is one of the major health concern, it is especially harmful to pregnant women, children, and the sick. A sophisticated and reliable detection system is needed to replace current diagnostic tools for the urea in the milk. Samples of urea adulterated milk were analysed and their effect is assayed through survey in different parts of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh). Children of age group 1-5 years consumes about 50-250 mg of milk daily, while of age group 6-18 years of children consumes about 250-1000 ml milk/day and children of age group 19-22 years consumes milk about 500-1000 ml/day. Addition of urea is on large scale creating huge problems of headache, eyesight and diarrhoea in children.

Singh, Anita, Sharma, Juhi and Bhatt, Shuchi Rai (2011). Detection of ill-effects of urea adulterated milk in Varanasi, *Food Sci. Res. J.*, 2 (1) : 46-49.

Key words : Urea adulterated milk, Health, Problems, Children

INTRODUCTION

Food adulteration is a crucial problem faced by human population today. Adulteration of food is commonly practiced by traders in India, it poses a major threat to human health. Food is the fuel of life. If the fuel is adulterated, there is no salvation for the consumer, whether, it is a human being, or a vehicle. Food adulteration, which is an act of intentionally debasing the quality of food offered for sale either by the admixture or substitution of inferior substances or by the removal of some valuable ingredient, it is something which has been rampant in our country. This is, despite of the existence of a stringent law against food adulteration. It might appear astonishing, but it has been prevalent from ancient times all over the world. Thousands of litres of adulterated milk mixed with chemicals with deadly health effects are making their way every day. Standard quality tests have proved inadequate for identifying such milk. Criminals running illegal but very profitable dairies and a host of individual milkmen extract fat (cream) from natural milk and then mix urea, caustic soda, detergents and formalin - which causes irreparable damage to body organs and can sometimes be life-threatening - before pushing the adulterated milk into the

market. The illegal milk suppliers have also taken to using fake packages of well-known brands of dairy products. This was discovered during the weekend raids. Where monitoring is not up to the mark, this becomes dangerous for the consumers."This daily intake is white poison for children and adults. The adulterants cause diseases of the stomach, intestine, head, skin and the kidneys. Drinking such milk over a long period could result in death,"

"A very small amount of urea can lead to vomiting, nausea and gastritis," said Dr M. P Sharma, Head of Internal Medicine at Rockland Hospital. More serious damage can be caused by formalin. While the immediate effect of drinking milk adulterated with urea, caustic soda and formalin is gastroenteritis, the long-term effects are far more serious. The health impact of drinking adulterated milk with these chemicals is worse for children. Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to the impact of these chemicals, which can also harm the foetus. The chemicals worsen the condition of those with pre-existing heart or kidney problems. Urea is particularly harmful for the kidneys, and caustic soda is a slow poison for people suffering from hypertension and heart ailments. Urea and caustic soda are very harmful to the heart and liver.