



IJFANS

Volume 01, Issue 01, Oct-Dec 2012, www.ijfans.com

ISSN: 2319-1775

International Journal of Food And Nutritional Sciences



Official Journal of IIFANS

EDITORIAL BOARD

Board of experts in the field of Food Sciences and Clinical Nutrition

Editor-in- Chief

Dr. ASIM K. DUTTARROY

Department of Nutrition, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Norway

Managing Editor

Dr. P. NAZNI

Department of Food science and Nutrition, Periyar University, Tamilnadu, India

Associate Editor

Dr. RAVINDER SINGH

Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, India

Assistant Editors

Dr. CHARU KATARE

Department of Food & Nutrition
Govt.K.R.G.PG Autonomous College,
Gwalior, India

Dr. AVVARIJOTHI

Department of Home Science
Sri Padmavathi Mahila University, Tirupati, India

Dr. KAMAL G.NATH

Department of Food Science & Nutrition
UAS, GKVK, Bengaluru, India

Dr. S. ALAMELU MANGAI

PG & Research Dept. of Home science
Bharathidasan Govt. College for Women
Puducherry, India

ADVISORY EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. DEWAN S. ALAM

Chronic Non-communicable Disease
Unit Health System and Infectious
Diseases Division, ICDDR
Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dr. DILIP KUMAR JHA

Department of Aqua Culture,
Tribhuvan University, (IAAS)
Rampur Chitwan, Nepal

Dr. AFROZUL HAQ

Referral Services Section, Institute of
Laboratory Medicine, Sheikh Khalifa
Medical City, Managed by Cleveland
Clinic (USA), Abu Dhabi,
United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Prof. Dr. LGNATIUS ONIMAWO

Department of Human Nutrition
Michael Okpara university of
Agriculture, Umudike, Abja state, Nigeria

Dr. RUBINA AZIZ

Laboratory Manager
Baqai Institute of Diabetology &
Endocrinology, Pakistan

Dr. DHEER SINGH

Molecular Endocrinology Laboratory
National Dairy Research Institute
Karnal, India

Dr. PARMJIT S. PANESAR

Biotechnology Research Laboratory
Department of Food Engineering &
Technology, Sant Longowal Institute of
Engineering & Technology,
Longowal, Punjab, India

Dr. S. MUCHIMAPURA

Department of Physiology
Faculty of Medicine,
Khon Kaen University,
Thailand

Dr. M. A. HASSAN

Department of Community Medicine
Motilal Nehru Medical College
Allahabad, India

DR D. S. SOGI

Department of Food Science and
Technology
Guru Nanak Dev University
Amritsar, Punjab

DR. M. SHAFIUR RAHMAN

Department of Food Science and Nutrition
Sultan Qaboos University
Sultanate of Oman

Dr. KULDEEP KUMAR

University College of Medical Sciences and
GTB Hospital, New Delhi

Ms. VANDANA MISHRA

Centre of Food Technology
University of Allahabad,
Allahabad, India

Dr. JINTANAPORN WATTANATHORN

Department of Physiology
Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen
University, Thailand

**Dr. LATIFAH MOHAMMED
AL-OBOUDI**

Department of Nutrition and Food
Sciences, Princess Nora Bint Abdulrahman
University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Dr. ANBUPALAM THALAMUTHU

Genome Institute of Singapore
Singapore

RESEARCH PAPER

OPEN ACCESS

A MICROBIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ON MILK BASED SWEETS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO *Escherichia coli*

NEETU¹, MADHU KAUL², MADHU³Corresponding Author: NEETU¹**ABSTRACT**

The present study was undertaken to assess the microbial load of milk made sweets sold by twelve sweet shops of Chandigarh. Some commonly consumed sweets (Plain Burfi, Milk Cake, Kala Kand, Gulab Jamun, Chaina Murgi, Gajar Burfi, Khoya Burfi) were tested and E.coli were isolated from them. The total bacterial count and gram negative count ranged between 10.1×10^4 – 6.7×10^5 and 4.4×10^3 – 3.7×10^5 for Plain Burfi, 5.8×10^3 – 3.0×10^5 and 3.9×10^2 – 6.8×10^4 for Milk Cake, 4.5×10^4 – 8.9×10^6 and 4.1×10^3 – 9.1×10^5 for Kala Kand, 3.4×10^4 – 9.2×10^5 and 1.7×10^3 – 2.9×10^5 for Gulab Jamun, 3.0×10^3 – 2.9×10^5 and 1.7×10^2 – 8.9×10^4 for Chaina Murgi, 1.5×10^4 – 3.3×10^6 and 5.1×10^3 – 9.4×10^5 for Gajar Burfi and 1.5×10^3 – 5.1×10^4 and 2.1×10^2 – 17.7×10^3 for Khoya Burfi respectively. Khoya Burfi showed the lowest counts while Gajar Burfi samples exhibited the highest counts. E.coli was isolated in 89.3% of all the samples screened. The highest percent isolation of E.coli from sweet samples was in Plain Burfi (100%), Kala Kand (100%) Gulab Jamun (100%), Gajar Burfi (100%) and least in Khoya Burfi (66.7%). Salt aggregation test (SAT) for hydrophobicity revealed that 97.33% strains were hydrophobic, indicating a high level of hydrophobicity. Maximum antibiotic sensitivity was noticed towards Chloramphenicol (82.67%) and minimum towards Ampicillin (25.33%). Multidrug resistance was shown by 35 (46.67%) strains. This organism is significant from public health point of view as it has been associated with the onset of food poisoning in human beings. However a large volume of these products are produced in unorganized sector, unbranded, with little precautions of food safety and quality. This investigation is a factual documentation of such a finding and suggestions as to the methods needed to improve the safety and quality.

¹ Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Home Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana – E-mail: neetumiglani83@gmail.com² Department of Foods and Nutrition, Govt Home Science College, Chandigarh ³ Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Home Science, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana., E-mail: madhu.17june@gmail.com

KEY WORDS:

***E.coli*, Total Bacterial Count, Gram Negative Count, Milk Made Sweets, Public Health**

INTRODUCTION

Food is a major source of hazards to human health and food-borne disease is globally the single most common illness. Deeply concerned by this, the Fifty-third World Health Assembly adopted a resolution calling upon the World Health Organization (WHO) and its Member States to recognize food safety as an essential public health function (WHO 2002). In India, it is estimated that 20% of deaths among children under five are caused by diarrheal disease (WHO 2006), 70% of these being associated with unsafe food or water (Unnevehr and Hirschhorn 2000). So, to combat these food borne disease, ensuring that food is microbiologically safe, is an essential element of public health.

Due to complex biochemical composition and high water activity milk serves as an excellent culture medium for the growth and multiplication of many kinds of microorganisms. Therefore in the processing of milk, some of them may produce undesirable effects and some micro-organisms produce food infections which can either carry the pathogens that will increase the likelihood of infection of the consumer's food (Soomro et al. 2002). Milk is supposed to constitute a complex ecosystem for various microorganisms including bacteria. Milk products like cheese and curd are widely consumed and market for them has existed in many parts of the world for many generations. There is an increase demand by the consumer

for high quality natural food, free from artificial preservatives, and contaminating microorganisms. Contamination of milk and milk products, with pathogenic bacteria is largely due to processing, handling, and unhygienic conditions (Singh and Prakash 2008).

The contamination of milk and milk products is largely due to human factor and unhygienic conditions. Usually milk is contaminated with different kinds of microorganisms at milk collecting places. Milk is a major part of human food and plays a prominent role in the Punjabi diet. Approximately 50 percent of the milk produced, is consumed as fresh or boiled, one sixth as yoghurt or curd and remaining is utilized for manufacturing of indigenous varieties of milk products and milk made sweets (Randhawa and Chahal 2008).

The manufacture of these products is based on traditional method without any regard to the quality of raw material used and/ or the hygienic quality of the products. Under such conditions many microorganisms can find access to the milk products. Among all micro-organisms *Escherichia coli* is frequently contaminating organism, and is reliable indicator of fecal pollution generally in insanitary conditions of water, food, milk and other dairy products (Soomro et al. 2002; Benkerroum et al. 2004). Presence of *E. coli* in milk products indicates the presence of enteropathogenic

microorganisms, which constitute a public health hazard. Enteropathogenic *E. coli* can cause severe diarrhoea and vomiting in infants, and young children (Singh and Prakash 2008). In 2011, Europe faced outbreak of food poisoning in which 18 people were killed and more than 2000 were infected with Enteropathogenic *E. coli* (Ropeik 2011). *E. coli* was isolated from milk products like Mawa/Khoa, Dahi, cheese and Gulabjaman (Soomro et al. 2002; Singh and Prakash 2008). So, keeping in mind the above facts the present study was designed to determine total bacteria count, gram negative bacteria count and to isolate the *E. coli* from milk made sweets sold under market conditions at Chandigarh.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

SELECTION OF SAMPLES

Twelve sweets shops were surveyed to determine the hygiene standards maintained in their shops. Samples of commonly consumed milk made sweets collected from sweet shops of Chandigarh, selected by random sampling method. All the samples were immediately brought to the laboratory in sterile tubes for further processing and analysis. Various milk made sweets sampled for analysis for were: Plain Burfi, Milk Cake, Kala Kand, Gulab Jamun, Chaina Murgi, Gajar Burfi, Khoya Burfi.

CHEMICALS AND MEDIA

Media used for cultivating microorganism and biochemical tests were bought from Hi-media laboratory in the dehydrated form which were

reconstituted as per given instructions.

MICROBIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

One gram of the sample was weighed under aseptic conditions near the flame, homogenized in a sterile pestle and mortar and added to 9 ml of the sterile normal saline blank. Various dilutions of these were used for determination of viable count by standard plate count method using nutrient agar for determination of total bacterial count and Mac Conkey's agar for the gram -negative count. The desired dilutions from samples in saline were poured in petri dishes and swirled with melted media. After solidification, the plates were incubated in an inverted position at 37°C for 36-48 hours. The numbers of colonies were counted & the final count or colony forming unit/ml (CFU/ml) was determined by multiplying the number of colonies in the plate by dilution factors.

ISOLATION OF E.COLI

The swabs, food samples and water samples were streaked on Mac Conkey's agar and the non mucoid lactose fermenting colonies were picked up and culture purified by the plate streak method on EMB agar.

IDENTIFICATION OF ISOLATE

The purified cultures were identified on the basis of colony morphology, gram staining and specific biochemical tests. Classification of bacteria was done based on Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology 8th edition (Orskov 1984).

BIOCHEMICAL TESTS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF E.COLI

INDOLE PRODUCTION

This test demonstrates the ability of bacteria to decompose the amino acid tryptophan to indole. The organisms were first grown in peptone acid water medium taken in small tubes, which were incubated at 37°C over night. To these tubes 0.5 ml of Kovac's reagent was added and the tubes shaken gently. A positive reaction was indicated by development of red after a minute (Dash et al. 2012).

METHYL RED TEST

The isolates were grown in tubes containing glucose phosphate peptone water. Few drops of methyl red indicator were added to each tube and the result read immediately after mixing. A positive while a yellow colour indicated a negative reaction (Dash et al. 2012).

VOGES-PROSKAUR TEST

The ability of organisms to produce acetyl methyl carbinol or its reduced product 2, 3 butylene glycol was tested by growing the organisms in glucose phosphate peptone water at 37°C for 24 hours. Then, 0.6 ml alpha naphthol solution was added to culture tubes followed by 0.2 ml of 40% aqueous KOH. The tubes were shaken and allowed to stand for a few minutes. A positive reaction was indicated by the development of a pink colour within 5 minutes, which later changed to crimson red after a lapse of 20 minutes (Dash et al. 2012).

CITRATE UTILIZATION TEST

The ability of organisms to utilize citrate as the sole carbon and energy source for growth was tested by using Kosser's liquid citrate medium. The medium prepared as slants in small tube was stabbed with the organism and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. A positive reaction was represented by a change in the colour of the medium from green to blue (Dash et al. 2012).

Surface hydrophobicity

Salt aggregation test (SAT) was used to assess the relative surface hydrophobicity of E.coli isolates. Bacterial cell suspensions were mixed with equal volumes of ammonium sulfate of various molarities (0.02–3.2 mol/l). The lowest concentration of ammonium sulfate that produced visible aggregation was scored as the SAT hydrophobicity value (Ljungh and Wadstrom 1982). The aggregation in saline solution used as a control was regarded as autoaggregation.

Antibiotic sensitivity profile of E.coli isolates

E. coli was assessed for their sensitivity against different antibiotics viz., Ampicillin (35 mcg), Gentamicine (30 mcg), Erythromycin (15 mcg), Chloramphenicol (30 mcg) and Nalidixic acid (30 mcg) as reported previously (Bauer et al. 1966).

A loopful of the test organism was transferred to 3 ml sterile peptone water tubes, which were incubated for 4 hours at 37°C. 0.1 ml of growth was spread on a nutrient agar plate. The antibiotic discs were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours. Distinct zones of inhibition of growth were observed around respective discs indicating the susceptibility of the organism to the same (Bauer et al. 1966).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present research findings pertain to the determination of total bacteria count, gram negative bacteria count and isolation of *E. coli* in commonly consumed seven milk made sweets sold under market conditions. A total of 84 samples, twelve samples of each sweet from different shops were collected randomly and analyzed microbiologically for bacterial count and isolation of *E. coli*.

TOTAL BACTERIAL AND GRAM NEGATIVE BACTERIAL LOAD

As shown in Table 1, the total bacterial counts of Plain Burfi samples ranged between 10.1×10^4 - 6.7×10^5 CFU/gm and the gram negative counts ranged between 4.4×10^3 - 3.7×10^5 CFU/gm. The total bacterial counts of Milk Cake ranged between 5.8×10^3 - 3.0×10^5 CFU/gm and the gram negative counts ranged between 3.9×10^2 - 6.8×10^4 CFU/gm. The values for total counts in Kala kand were between 4.5×10^4 - 8.9×10^6 CFU/gm whereas the gram negative counts were between 4.1×10^3 - 8.9×10^5 CFU/gm. The total counts observed in Gulab Jamun ranged between 3.4×10^4 - 9.2×10^5 CFU/gm and the gram negative counts ranged between 1.7×10^3 - 2.9×10^5 CFU/gm. Total bacterial counts in Chaina Murgi ranged between 3.0×10^3 - 2.9×10^5 CFU/gm whereas the gram negative counts ranged between 1.7×10^2 - 8.9×10^4 CFU/gm. In Gajar Burfi, the total bacterial counts ranged between 1.5×10^4 - 3.3×10^6 CFU/gm and the gram negative counts ranged between 5.1×10^3 - 9.4×10^5 CFU/gm. The total bacterial counts in Khoya Burfi ranged between 1.5×10^3 - 5.1×10^4 CFU/gm whereas the gram negative

counts ranged between 2.1×10^2 - 17.7×10^3 CFU/gm. Similarly, Umoh et al. (1990) revealed that the mean *Staphylococcus* count for the fermented milk products collected ranged between 4.5×10^3 - 4.3×10^4 CFU/ml and the mean aerobic mesophilic plate count ranged between 5.6×10^5 to 2.7×10^6 CFU/ml. Standard plate count (SPC) for Kala Kand and Pedha samples were 450×10^6 /ml and 5.1×10^6 CFU/ml respectively (Bhatt 2001). Improper handling of milk by personnel in sweet shops and water used in these shops could be other contributing factors to the high bacterial load of milk sweets. High bacteria counts result due to the contaminating micro-organisms in fresh produce. With the start of human handling, further contamination begins and it continues till the product is being handed over to the consumer (Frazier and Westhoff 1988).

The comparison of the total and gram negative counts from various samples of sweets collected from different sweet shops is illustrated in Table 2. It was observed that range of total bacterial count and gram negative count was highest for Gajar Burfi i.e. 1.5×10^4 - 3.3×10^6 CFU/gm and 5.1×10^3 - 9.4×10^5 CFU/gm respectively whereas Khoya Burfi had lowest total and gram negative bacterial count i.e. 1.5×10^3 - 5.1×10^4 CFU/gm and 2.1×10^2 - 17.7×10^3 CFU/gm respectively. Coliform indicated the lowest count (7.5×10^3 CFU/g) and the highest (5.3×10^6 CFU/g) in burfi whereas 6.5×10^3 and 5.2×10^6 CFU/g in khoya for selected sample by Farzana et al. (2009). Similarly, Varga (2007) also found that approximately 14% of total collected dairy samples were failed to meet the legal requirements in terms of overall hygienic quality.

ISOLATION OF E. COLI

The percentage isolation of *E. coli* from various sweets is shown in Table 3. *E. coli* was isolated in 89.3% of all the samples screened. It was observed that the highest percent isolation of *E. coli* was shown by samples of Plain Burfi, Kala Kand, Gulab Jamun and Gajar Burfi (100%) where as the lowest was shown by samples of Khoya Burfi (66.7%). Similarly, Maity et al. (2010) isolated *E. coli* in 27.91% samples of Chhana based milk products. Recent studies in other countries indicate similar results in other dairy products. In Brazil high levels of faecal contamination (95.5%) was detected in cheese samples, and Enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC) was isolated from 21.1% of the samples (Araujo et al. 2002). Similar reports were found in Iraq where 40.5% of cheese samples were contaminated with EPEC strains (Abbar and Kaddar 1991). In 2011, total 142 cases of food poisoning have been reported in which 1 death case was recorded in India (Anonymous 2011). According to Microbial Food Safety Regulation of India, *E. coli* must be absent in 1g sample of Khoya/ Chhana/ Paneer as per the Prevention of food adulteration rules, 1956. . Poor personal hygiene, use of unhygienic water and unhygienic surroundings act as source of contamination (Chukuezi 2010; Mensah et al. 2002). So, presence of the *E. coli* may cause food poisoning and pose a threat to public health.

SURFACE HYDROPHOBICITY

Hydrophobicity is the chief compound to determine organism's pathogenicity. Cell-cell adhesion is of fundamental importance in a biological system. In our study, 97.33%

of *E. coli* showed positive hydrophobicity. A large number of *E. coli* isolates (53.33%) from sweets showed aggregation even at the minimum concentration (i.e. 0.02M) of ammonium sulphate, indicating high degree of pathogenicity (Table 4). There are various mechanisms by which cells can bind to each other. Marshal et al. (1994) and Ludwica et al. (1984) reported cell surface hydrophobicity to be a major event in the attachment of bacteria to host cells which explains the degree of pathogenicity of the strains isolated. Hydrophobicity allows the organism to approach the negatively charged surface of animal cells there by contributing to an infection (Diniz et al. 2000).

With the increase in the concentration of ammonium sulphate, the rates of hydrophobicity also increased from 53.33% at 0.02 M to 97.33% at 3.2 M concentration. At 3.2 M concentration, maximum aggregation (100%) was observed in isolates of Plain Burfi, Milk Cake, Kala Kand, Gulab Jamun and Chaina Murgi, where as minimum (87.5%) was seen in case of Khoya Burfi (Table 4). In the present study, high hydrophobicity was seen in 53.33% isolates. Thus, such high degree of hydrophobicity, as reported in this study are indicative of possible infections outbreaks due to high level of pathogenic strains. A study conducted by Bansal and Kaul (2004) also revealed similar results where 86% *E. coli* were found to give positive SAT test.

ANTIBIOTIC SENSITIVITY PROFILE OF E. COLI ISOLATES

Antibiotics are the chemical agents which interfere with the growth and activity of micro organisms. They are used to prevent

the transmission of disease and infection. In response to the wide spread use of antibiotics, pathogens have developed a high level of resistance to antibiotics. The extensive use of antibiotics has enabled the disease causing bacteria to develop several highly effective ways of resisting these drugs. (Ogbodo et al. 2011). The present study has investigated the sensitivity of E.coli strains towards five antibiotics. Without adequate knowledge of the sensitivity pattern of gram negative bacteria which are the most common infectious agents, any infective treatment would be impossible (Sharma 1998).

It was observed that antibiotic sensitivity of E.coli isolates was maximum for Chloramphenicol (82.67%) followed by Nalidixic acid (81.33%), Gentamycin (77.3%), Erythromycin (46.67%) and Ampicillin (25.33%) (Table 5). Resistance observed in large number of isolates may be attributed either to an increase in pool of transmissible genes (R-Plasmids) in the community (Johnston et al. 2005) or to widespread use of antibiotics which may provide selection pressure in favour of the resistant strains (Maillard 2005).

In this study, multi drug resistance was observed in 53.8% of isolates obtained from sweets (Table 6). Multiple drug resistance in pathogenic E.coli was also observed by Bass et al (2001). Possession of R-plasmid as a wide spread phenomenon in most of the Enterobacteriaceae is reported to be the major cause of multiple drug resistance (Wain and Kidgell 2004). Results showed a significant ($p \leq 0.05$) correlation between multi drug resistance and hydrophobic organisms (Table 7). This shows that those

two characters may be located on the same plasmid as all these properties are plasmid mediated.

CONCLUSION

The findings of the present study revealed that E. coli is frequently occurring organism in indigenous milk made sweets such as Plain Burfi, Kala Kand, Gulab Jamun and Gajar Burfi. The method of their manufacturing, handling, sale and transportation of these products are entirely based on the tradition. As observed during sample collection, the handling of sweets with bare hands, non-usage of aprons, and absence of hair covering and handling of money during serving might also contribute to poor hygienic conditions. Such system could pose favourable environment for bacterial contamination. Thus, more hygienic preventive measures are required to reduce the bacterial contamination, so as to increase the wholesomeness of these products.

REFERENCES

- ◆ Abbar F, Kaddar HK (1991) Bacteriological studies on Iraqi milk products. J Appl Bacteriol 71:497–500
- ◆ Anonymous (2011) Integrated Disease Surveillance Project report, National center for disease control. New Delhi. <http://idsp.nic.in/idsp/IDSP/rcntobrk.pdf>
- ◆ Araujo VS, Pagliarea VA, Queiroz ML, Freitas-Almeida AC (2002) Occurrence of Staphylococcus and enteropathogens in soft cheese commercialized in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. J Appl Microbiol 92:1172–1177
- ◆ Bansal N, Kaul M (2004) A Bacteriological Study Of The Hygiene Maintained In School Canteens

- Of Chandigarh With Special Reference To E. Coli. The Ind J Nutr Dietet 41: 352-357
- ◆ Bass L, Liebert CA, Lee MD, Summers AO, White DG, Thayer SG (1999) Incidence and characterization of integrons, genetic elements mediating multiple-drug resistance, in avian *Escherichia coli* Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy. 43: 2925-9
 - ◆ Bauer AW, Kirby WMM, Sherris JC, Truck M (1966) Antibiotic susceptibility testing by a standardized single disc method. Am J Clin Pathol 145: 225-230
 - ◆ Benkerroum N, Bouhal Y, Attar A, Marhaben A (2004) Occurrence of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* 0157:H7 in selected dairy and meat products marketed in the city of Rabat Morocco. J Food Prot 6: 1234-1237
 - ◆ Bhat JV, Sethna K, Fernandes F(1948) Ind J Dairy Sci 49
 - ◆ Chukuezi CO (2010) Food Safety and Hygienic practice of street food vendors in owerri, Nigeria. Studies in sociology of science, 1: 50-57
 - ◆ Dash SK, Chakraborty SP, Mandal D, Roy S (2012) Isolation and characterization of multi drug resistant uropathogenic *E. coli* from urine sample of urinary tract infected patients. IJLPR 2:25-39
 - ◆ Diniz CG, Cara DC, Nicoli JR, Farias LDM, Carvalho MAR (2000) Effect of Metronidazole on the Pathogenicity of Resistant Bacteroides Strains in Gnotobiotic Mice. Antimicrob Agents Chemother 44: 2419-2423
 - ◆ Farzana K, Akhtar S and Jabeen F (2009) Prevalence and antibiotic resistance of bacteria in two ethnic milk based products. Pak J Bot 41: 935-943
 - ◆ Frazier WC, Westhoff DC (1988) Contamination, preservation and spoilage of vegetables and fruits. In: Frazier WC, Westhoff DC (ed), Food Microbiology, Singapore, McGraw-Hill, pp 196-217
 - ◆ Johnson TJ, Siek KE, Johnson SJ, Nolan LK (2005) DNA sequence and comparative genomics of pAPEC-O2-R, an avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* transmissible R plasmid. Antimicrob Chemother 49:4681-4688
 - ◆ Ljungh A, Wadström T (1984) Salt aggregation test for measuring cell surface hydrophobicity of urinary *Escherichia coli*. Eur J Clin Microbiol 1:388-393
 - ◆ Ludwicka A, Jansen B, Wadström T, Pulverer G (1984) Attachment of staphylococci to various synthetic polymers. Zentralbl Bakteriol Mikrobiol Hyg A 256: 479-489
 - ◆ Maillard JY (2005) Usage of antimicrobial biocides and products in the health care environment: efficacy, policies, management and perceived problems. Ther Clin Risk Manag 1: 340-370
 - ◆ Maity TK, Kumar R, Misra AK (2010) Prevalence of Enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* Isolated from Chhana Based Indian Sweets in Relation to Public Health. Indian J Microbiol 50: 463-467.
 - ◆ Marshall KCM, Pembrey R, Schneider RP (1994) The relevance of X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy for analysis of microbial cell surfaces: A critical review. Colloids Surf B Biointerfaces 2:371-376
 - ◆ Mensah P, Yeboah MD, Owusu DK, Ablordey A (2002) Street foods in Accra, Ghana: how safe are they? Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 80: 546- 554.
 - ◆ Ogbodo SO, Okeke AC, Ugwuoru CDC, Chukwurah EF (2011) Possible Alternatives to Reduce Antibiotic Resistance. Life Sci Med Res 24: 1-9
 - ◆ Ørskov I (1984) Genus *V. Klebsiella* Trevisan 1885, 105AL. In: Krieg NR, Holt JG (ed), Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology, Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, pp 461-465
 - ◆ Randhawa GS, Chahal SS (2008) Demand analysis of milk and milk products in rural

- Punjab. Agriculture Update 3: 389-394
- ◆ Ropeik D (2011) E. coli food-poisoning outbreak shows how fear can triumph over reality. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/.../e-coli-food-poisoning-outbreak>. Accessed 3 Jun 2011
 - ◆ Sharma S, Das D, Anand R, Das T, Kannabiran C (2002) Reliability of nested polymerase chain reaction in the diagnosis of bacterial endophthalmitis. *Am J Ophthalmol* 133: 142–144
 - ◆ Singh P, Prakash A (2008) Isolation of *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Listeria monocytogenes* from milk products sold under market conditions at Agra region. *Acta agriculturae Slovenica* 1: 83–88
 - ◆ Soomro AH, Arain MA, Khaskheli M, Bhutto B (2002) Isolation of *Escherichia Coli* from Raw Milk and Milk Products in Relation to Public Health Sold under Market Conditions at Tandojam. *Pak J Nutr* 1: 151-152
 - ◆ Umoh VJ, Adesiyun AA, Gomwalk NE (1990) The occurrence of *Staphylococcus aureus* in fermented milk products (Fura and Manshanu) in Nigeria. *Int J Food Microbiol* 10: 343–347
 - ◆ Unnevehr L, Hirschhorn N (2000) Food safety issues in the developing world. World Bank Technical Paper No. 469. The World Bank, Washington DC, pp 72
 - ◆ Varga L (2007) Microbiological quality of commercial dairy products. In: Méndez-Vilas A (ed), *Communicating Current Research and Educational Topics and Trends in Applied Microbiology*, Formatex (Badajoz), pp 487–497
 - ◆ Wain J, Kidgell C (2004) The emergence of multidrug resistance to antimicrobial agents for the treatment of typhoid fever. *Trans Roy Soc Trop Med Hyg* 98: 423–430
 - ◆ WHO (2002) WHO global strategy for food safety. 1-26. <http://www.who.int/fsf>
 - ◆ WHO (2006) Core Health Indicators. http://www.who.int/whosis/database/core/core_select.cfm

Table 1. Total bacterial and gram negative bacterial load found in milk made sweets collected from various sweets shops

| Sweet Shops | Total bacterial count (CFU/gm) | | | | | | | Gram Negative Bacterial Count (CFU/gm) | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|--|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Gram negative bacterial count (CFU/gm) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Plain Burfi | Milk Cake | Kala Kand | Gulab Jamun | Chaina Murgi | Gajar Burfi | Khoya Burfi | Plain Burfi | Milk Cake | Kala Kand | Gulab Jamun | Chaina Murgi | Gajar Burfi | Khoya Burfi |
| 1 | 11.6 x104 | 5.7x 104 | 4.8x 105 | 1.70 x105 | 3.0 x 104 | 1.20 x106 | 14.0 x103 | 7.4x 103 | 4.4x 103 | 25.8 x103 | 12.8x 104 | 6.7 x102 | 9.4 x105 | 8.1 x102 |
| 2 | 7.1 x105 | 5.9x104 | 8.5 x105 | 4.8 x105 | 2.9 x105 | 3.0 x105 | 5.1 x104 | 3.7x105 | 4.1x103 | 7.8x104 | 3.4 x104 | 1.1 x104 | 6.2 x104 | 3.1 x103 |
| 3 | 4.2 x105 | 6.5x104 | 1.66 x106 | 1.35 x105 | 1.1 x105 | 11.5 x104 | 1.41 x104 | 23.5 x104 | 5.8x103 | 11 x104 | 5.8 x104 | 2.8 x103 | 11.3 x104 | 3.4 x103 |
| 4 | 3.7 x105 | 3.0x105 | 8.9 x105 | 3.1 x105 | 3.0 x103 | 5.3 x105 | 2.85 x104 | 5.5x104 | 6.8x104 | 9.1 x104 | 2.91 x105 | 1.7 x102 | 5.6 x104 | 3.6 x103 |
| 5 | 5.5 x105 | 6.4x104 | 1.1 x106 | 18.8 x104 | 12.1 x104 | 8.8 x105 | 3.2 x104 | 29x104 | 4.2x103 | 9.0 x105 | 1.70 x103 | 2.3 x103 | 7.2 x104 | 2.9 x103 |
| 6 | 3.1 x105 | 5.8x103 | 4.2 x105 | 1.76 x105 | 4.2 x104 | 1.21 x106 | 3.3 x104 | 7.4x103 | 4.2x102 | 22.7 x104 | 12.1 x104 | 7.2 x103 | 9.6 x105 | 17.7 x103 |
| 7 | 6.7 x105 | 6.2x104 | 9.9 x105 | 3.1 x105 | 2.76 x105 | 3.3 x105 | 1.52 x104 | 29.1x 104 | 3.3x103 | 8.2 x104 | 13.3 x104 | 1.1 x104 | 6.6 x104 | 3.2 x103 |
| 8 | 3.2 x105 | 14.0x 104 | 8.9 x105 | 9.2 x105 | 1.46 x105 | 1.4 x106 | 4.2 x104 | 5.5x104 | 7.2x103 | 7.5 x105 | 3.4 x104 | 7.8 x104 | 2.95 x105 | 14.2 x103 |
| 9 | 3.3 x105 | 1.49x 105 | 1.10 x106 | 1.53 x105 | 1.63 x105 | 1.13 x106 | 3.2 x104 | 4.2x104 | 9.9x103 | 4.9 x105 | 7.7 x104 | 8.9 x104 | 2.21 x105 | 2.1 x103 |
| 10 | 6.3 x105 | 1.12x 105 | 4.5 x104 | 4.5 x105 | 1.2 x104 | 3.3 x106 | 1.5 x103 | 5.1x104 | 4.2x103 | 4.1 x103 | 5.1 x104 | 2.1 x103 | 2.1 x105 | 2.1 x102 |
| 11 | 10.1 x104 | 5.8x103 | 4.2 x105 | 3.4 x104 | 3.1 x104 | 5.3 x105 | 3.3 x104 | 4.4x103 | 3.9x102 | 22 x104 | 3.1 x103 | 1.3 x103 | 5.1 x103 | 3.1 x103 |
| 12 | 5.7 x105 | 6.3x104 | 1.12 x106 | 6.6 x105 | 2.1 x105 | 2.1 x105 | 2.8 x104 | 7.7x103 | 3.3x103 | 9.0 x105 | 4.6 x104 | 3.4 x104 | 5.6 x104 | 2.9 x103 |

Table 2. Comparison of the total bacterial and gram negative bacterial counts of various sweets

| Sweets | Range of Total Bacterial Counts | Range of Gram Negative Counts |
|-------------|--|---|
| Plain Burfi | 10.1x10 ⁴ -6.7x10 ⁵ | 4.4x10 ³ -3.7x10 ⁵ |
| Milk Cake | 5.8x10 ³ -3.0x10 ⁵ | 3.9x10 ² -6.8x10 ⁴ |
| Kala Kand | 4.5 x10 ⁴ -8.9x10 ⁶ | 4.1x10 ³ -9.1x10 ⁵ |
| Gulab Jamun | 3.4 x10 ⁴ -9.2x10 ⁵ | 1.7x10 ³ -2.91x10 ⁵ |
| Chaina Murg | 3.0 x10 ³ -2.9x10 ⁵ | 1.7x10 ² -8.9x10 ⁴ |
| Gajar Burfi | 11.5 x10 ⁴ -3.3x10 ⁶ | 5.1x10 ³ -3.3x10 ⁵ |
| Khoya Burfi | 1.5 x10 ³ -5.17x10 ⁴ | 2.1x10 ² -17.7x10 ³ |

Table 3. Percent isolation of E. coli from various sweets collected from sweet shops

| Sweets | Number of Samples | No. of E. coli Isolated | Percentage |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Plain Burfi | 12 | 12 | 100 |
| Milk Cake | 12 | 10 | 83.3 |
| Kala Kand | 12 | 12 | 100 |
| Gulab Jamun | 12 | 12 | 100 |
| Chaina Murg | 12 | 09 | 75 |
| Gajar Burfi | 12 | 12 | 100 |
| Khoya Burfi | 12 | 08 | 66.7 |
| Total | 84 | 75 | 89.3 |

Table 4. Surface hydrophobicity of E. coli isolates at varying concentrations of (NH₄)₂SO₄

| Sample | No. of E. coli isolates | No. of E. coli isolates showing aggregation of different concentration of (NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄ | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | 0.02M | 0.2M | 1.8M | 3.2M |
| | tested upon | | | | |
| Plain Burfi | 12 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 12 |
| Milk Cake | 10 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Kala Kand | 12 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 12 |
| Gulab Jamun | 12 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 12 |
| Chaina Murg | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Gajar Burfi | 12 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 11 |
| Khoya Burif | 8 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Total | 75 | 40 | 55 | 65 | 73 |
| Percentage | | 53.33% | 73.3% | 86.67% | 97.33% |

Table 5. Sensitivity of E. coli isolated from sweet samples towards different antibiotics.

| Sample | No. of E. coli isolates tested upon | Sensitivity towards | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | | Erythro-mycin (30 mcg) | Ampicillin (35 mcg) | Chloram-phenicol (30 mcg) | Gentamy-cin (30 mcg) | Naidixic acid (30 mcg) |
| Plain Burfi | 12 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 10 |
| Milk Cake | 10 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| Kala Kand | 12 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 11 |
| Gulab Jamun | 12 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 10 | 8 |
| Chaina Murgı | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| Gajar Burfi | 12 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Khoya Burif | 8 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Total | 75 | 35 | 19 | 62 | 58 | 61 |
| Percentage | | 46.67% | 25.33% | 82.67% | 77.33% | 81.33% |

Table 6. Distribution of E. coli isolates according to their multi - drug resistance to antibiotics

| Sample | No. of E. coli isolates tested upon | No. of antibiotics to which isolates were resistant | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | None | One | Two | Three | Four | Five |
| Plain Burfi | 12 | 2 | -- | 4 | -- | -- | -- |
| Milk Cake | 10 | -- | 6 | -- | 1 | -- | -- |
| Kala Kand | 12 | -- | 6 | 6 | 2 | -- | -- |
| Gulab Jamun | 12 | -- | 8 | 5 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Chaina Murgı | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | -- | -- | -- |
| Gajar Burfi | 12 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Khoya Burif | 8 | -- | -- | 4 | 2 | -- | -- |
| Total | 75 | 8 | 32 | 28 | 7 | -- | -- |

Table 7. Correlation of multi-drug resistance with cell surface hydrophobicity.

| Total no. of stains | No. of multi drug resistant strains | Cell surface Hyrophobicity | | Chi-square value | Evaluation |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------|------------------|--------------|
| | | Positive | Negative | | |
| 75 | 35 | 73 | 2 | 9.67 | Significant* |