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Assessment of microbiological safety of street orange fresh fruit juice sold at Chidambaram, India

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Millions of people throughout the world consume fresh juices sold by street vendors as they are rich source of nutrients such as vitamins and minerals. They cause a great health problem in unhygienic conditions. The fresh juices sold by street vendors are preferred by consumers because of their taste, flavor, low price and availability at the right time. Fruit juices sold by the street vendors (as thirst quenching aid) are consumed regularly by the local population in most of the tropical countries. The present study was undertaken to evaluate the quality of orange fruit juices sold by street vendors alongside of roads in

Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, India. The three bacteria were identified after isolation in a specific culture medium and performing the biochemical tests, those bacteria are *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi* and *Staphylococcus aureus*. Our results demonstrate the non-hygienic quality of street vended orange fruit juices and ice used for cooling of juices suggesting the urgent need for Government participation in developing suitable intervention measures to improve microbial quality of orange juices.

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