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JUREEPORN SWANGJIT : THE MICROBIOLOGICAL QUALITY OF THE VENDOR STREET FOOD IN BANGKOK. THESIS ADVISOR : VICHI CHULAROJAMONTRI, M.P.H., ORASA SUTHTIENKUL, Ph.D., WONGDYAN PANDII, Dr.P.H., 109 p. ISBN 974-589-729-9

The study of microbiological quality in vendor street food (fast food, curry, fried food, salad and dessert) was carried out in 140 vendor street food shops in Bangkok between June - October 1997. The observed information of food sanitation conditions in vendor street food shops was included. Fast food, curry, fried food, salad and dessert samples were tested for microbiological indicators such as total plate count (TPC), coliforms, *Escherichia coli* and enteropathogens (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus cereus*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella* spp., *Vibrio cholerae* and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*).

This study shows that 96 of 140 samples (68.6%) of the vendor street food exceeded the microbiological standard level. TPC, coliforms, *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *B. cereus* and *V. parahaemolyticus* exceeded the microbiological standard level in 60.4%, 89.6%, 21.9%, 12.5%, 25% and 1.0% of samples respectively. The highest percent of bacterial contaminants were salad (yum) samples at 85.7 % followed by dessert, fast food, fried food and curry samples at 82.1%, 71.4%, 76.9% and 35.7% respectively. Number of food samples under the microbiological standard level was significantly associated with the type of food sample ($p<0.0001$). *Salmonella*, *Shigella* spp. and *V. cholerae* were not found in any of the tested samples. The geometric mean of TPC in salad, fast food, dessert and fried food samples was significantly higher than that in curry samples with the mean in salad samples being significantly higher than that in fried food samples ($p<0.0001$). Geometric mean of coliforms in fast food samples were significantly higher than that in dessert, fried food and curry samples, with the mean in salad samples being significantly higher than that in curry samples ($p<0.0001$). In addition, the geometric mean of TPC in unwarmed food samples was significantly higher than that in warmed food samples ($p<0.0001$).