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#### COMPLAINTS GIVING ATTITUDES OF MOTHERS ABOUT ADULTERATED FOOD IN INDIA

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The aim of the present research paper is to examine complaint giving attitudes of mothers towards food adulteration. This study highlighted the gaps of adulterated food materials and awareness in lodging of complaints to various authorities of shopkeeper, government officials and manufacturers. The survey was conducted randomly selected mothers (N=2,685) who had the primary responsibility for the complaints about food adulteration. The results shows that the mothers prefer to give complaint to the shopkeeper due to the limitations of time, money, energy and interest. Majority of the mothers are not ready to give proper complaints to the government regulatory machineries about unscrupulous traders, which is the right forum to prevent unfair trade practices. Awareness should be created among the mothers regarding evils of food adulteration, lodging of complaints to government authority and preventing methods of food adulteration.

#### **KEYWORDS**

food alteration, unscrupulous traders, unfair trade practices.

#### INTRODUCTION

he food safety knowledge and the right attitudeS of mothers prevent the child hood diseases and food borne diseases of family. Mothers attitudes and knowledge influence children's immunization uptake and the proper education programs given to mothers will restore in preventing childhood diseases (Impicciatore, P, et. al., 2000). The problem of adulteration of food stuffs is rampant in India; women did not seem to be too concerned about this (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW 2004). In India nearly 11% of all food stuffs being adulterated. The mothers' attitude towards food adulteration helps to create awareness about the adulterated food. Government should create awareness through frequent campaigns in the community. It is obvious that the mothers are not aware that any outlet or grocery needs to adhere to the regulations laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA, 2004). The mothers detect adulteration in different products usually while cooking or by tasting; some mothers recognise most adulterants by texture or appearance. The commonly stated instances of adulteration such as adulteration of milk with water, expensive oil with cheap oil, wood powder/artificial colour in red chilli powder, powdered tamarind seeds in coffee, papaya seed in pepper, pebbles in rice and pulses and semolina in sugar, onion and potato paste was used adulterate ginger and garlic paste. Mothers were not aware where and whom to complaint in case of adulteration. Most of the mothers said, they would return the product to the shop from where it was bought or they pick up a fight. They also added that they would never go back to the same vendor again to buy foodstuffs.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

#### SAMPLE SIZE

Quantitative data was collected from 2685 mothers randomly selected from the five districts of Tamil Nadu. Equal importance had given both urban and rural mothers. In the field, data were collected through the questionnaire in the personal interview mode in the residence of the respondents after obtaining informed consent from them.

#### RESEARCH DESIGN

The survey examines the impact of food safety knowledge and practices of mothers and food adulteration during the period of February 2010 to September 2011 as a part of Doctoral research work. A food safety and food adulteration questionnaire was designed, which consisted of demographic questions (age, education, income, marital status) and 39 questions covering issues related to food safety, and food adulteration. The second part of the study is presented in the paper. The questionnaire was divided into three sections (1) a demographic section, (2) food safety knowledge and awareness, and (3) food adulteration. The investigator and research assistants were trained in collecting data. The questionnaires were prepared in both English and Tamil. In rural areas, Tamil questionnaires were given to collect data. In addition, the research assistants explained the questions in detail. Each respondent took 25 to 30 minutes to complete a questionnaire. Each collected questionnaire was allotted a separate code number for cross references. The respondents were interviewed in person by well structured questionnaire through eight trained research assistants and the investigator. Approximately, 34% of the questionnaires were filled in by the respondents while 66% was guided in filling the questionnaire.

#### PILOT STUDY

The questionnaire was pre-tested by collecting data from 105 mothers both in urban and rural areas in the months of November and December 2010. This helped to confirm practical applicability, clarity and to avoid unnecessary questions. The questionnaire was revised and restructured based on the results of the pilot study. Some additional questions were added after evaluating the questionnaires in the pilot study.

#### DATA ANALYSIS

The responses from mothers were analyzed by using a statistical package. Scores for each test category were calculated by assigning correct responses. Correlation and regression technique was used to identify the inter relationship between the different food safety knowledge and practices of mothers and food adulteration. Mean responses with standard deviation and percentage analysis of each category were calculated and presented in the tabular form. Cross tabulations and chi-square tests 5% significance level was used to compare indicators across demographic characteristics (age, educational level, urban and rural background).

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS**

Table 1 shows the demographics of the 2685 mothers by age, education, income, occupation and place of living. Analyzable questionnaires were obtained from 1295 urban mothers and 1390 rural mothers. They were randomly from household in India in which they had the primary responsibility of food preparation at home. None of them were professional food handlers. These respondents were interviewed face-to-face by well structured questionnaire by eight trained research assistant and one investigator. Appropriately 63% of the questionnaires were filled in by the respondents, while 37 percent was guided in filling the questionnaires. The majority of the respondents (38.7%) were in the age group of 25-30 years. About 54.1% of the respondents were school level educated and more the one fourth were (28.7%) illiterate. Of all mothers interviewed, majority of the respondents (55.4%) were housewives.

**TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF RESPONDENTS** 

Demographic characteristics	Frequency	%
Age (n = 2685)		
< 25	237	8.8
25-30	771	28.7
31-36	1039	38.7
37-42	362	13.5
> 43	276	10.3
Education (n = 2685)		
Illiterate	770	28.7
School level	1453	54.1
College level	462	17.2
Occupation (n = 2685)		
Housewife	1488	55.4
Employed	624	23.2
Daily wages	484	18.0
Unemployed	89	3.3
Locality (n = 2685)		
Urban	1295	48.2
Rural	1390	51.8

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 2: LODGING OF COMPLAINTS TO THE DIFFERENT AUTHORITIES RELATING TO FOOD ADULTERATION

Authorities	dents	Percentage
Shopkeeper		55.95
Manufacturer	•	34.80
Government officials		9.24
Total		100
Total		100

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 provides information regarding complaints given to different intermediaries about the defective goods and adulteration. Majority of the mothers (55.95%) lodge complaints against food adulteration to the nearby shopkeeper, where she purchases, while 34.80% of the mothers lodge complaints to the manufacturer of the adulterated products and the remaining 9.24% of the mothers lodge complaints to government officials against the traders and manufacturers. Most of the mothers don't want to take risk in lodging complaints against the unscrupulous traders to the government authorities to take legal action.

TABLE 3: REASONS FOR NOT GIVING COMPLAINTS AGAINST UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES

Reasons	Respondents	Percentage
Accept as a common practice	406	53.21
Complaints ignore by Traders	204	26.74
Do not know whom to complaint	153	20.05
Total	763	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 shows the reasons for not giving complaints against food adulteration. Majority of the mothers (53.21%) not gave any complaints against food adulteration and defective goods. They accept it as a common practice. It is followed, 26.74% of the mothers who feel that the complaints are ignored by the traders and the remaining 20.05% of the mothers unaware to whom to give complaint regarding food adulteration. It is concluded that the mothers accepts the adulteration and defective goods as a common practice and adjust with such adulterated products.

TABLE 4: COMPLAINTS GIVEN BY MOTHERS IN DIFFERENT DISTRICTS

Districts		Authorities			
		Shopkeeper	Manufacturer	Government officials	
Tuticorin	Count	158	53	15	226
	% within District	69.9%	23.5%	6.6%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	23.5%	12.7%	13.5%	18.8%
Tirunelveli	Count	85	78	19	182
	% within District	46.7%	42.9%	10.4%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	12.6%	18.7%	17.1%	15.2%
Virudunagar	Count	71	69	19	159
	% within District	44.7%	43.4%	11.9%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	10.6%	16.5%	17.1%	13.2%
Ramnad	Count	144	130	27	301
	% within District	47.8%	43.2%	9.0%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	21.4%	31.1%	24.3%	25.1%
Kanniyakumari	Count	214	88	31	333
	% within District	64.3%	26.4%	9.3%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	31.8%	21.1%	27.9%	27.7%
Total	Count	672	418	111	1201
	% within District	56.0%	34.8%	9.2%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 indicates the complaints lodged to the different authorities by mothers in different districts of southern Tamil Nadu. Majority (27.7%) of the mothers are from Kanniyakumari district. In it, 64.3% of the mothers gave complaint to the shopkeeper, 26.4% gave to the manufactures and the remaining 9.3% of the mothers gave to the government officials. 25.1% of the mothers are from Ramnad district. Among them, 47.8% of the mothers gave complaints to the shopkeeper, 43.2% of mothers complained to the manufactures and the remaining 9% to the government officials. It is followed by 18.8% of the mothers in Tuticorin district. In which 69.9% of the mothers gave complaints to the shopkeeper, 23.5% mothers gave to the manufacturers and the remaining 6.6% lodged complaint to the Government officials. 15.2% of the mothers are contacted from Tirunelveli district. In it, 46.7% of the mothers gave complaints to shopkeeper, 42.9% gave complaints to the manufacturers and the remaining 10.4% complained to the Government officials. Further13.2% of the mothers are contacted from Virudunagar district. Among them, 44.7% of the mothers gave complaints to the shopkeeper, 43.4% lodged to the manufacturers and the remaining 11.9% gave complaints to the government officials. It is found that majority of the mothers from Kanniyakumari gave complaint to the authorities against food adulteration.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN COMPLAINTS GIVEN BY MOTHERS AND THEIR DIFFERENT DISTRICTS

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)		
Pearson Chi-Square	53.089 <sup>a</sup>	8	.000*		
Likelihood Ratio	53.796	8	.000		
Linear-by-Linear Association	.528	1	.467		
N of Valid Cases	1201				

\*Significant at five percent level

In this study, the 'P' value is less than 0.05 at 5% significance level. The null hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that there is an association between mothers in different districts and the complaints given to authorities against food adulteration. The complaint given to different authorities by mothers vary according to the districts.

Source: Primary Data

TABLE 5: COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST ADULTERATION BY RURAL AND URBAN MOTHERS

Locality		Authorities		Total	
		Shopkeeper	Manufacturer	Governmentofficials	
Urban	Count	413	233	67	713
	% within Locality	57.9%	32.7%	9.4%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	61.5%	55.7%	60.4%	59.4%
Rural	Count	259	185	44	488
	% within Locality	53.1%	37.9%	9.0%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	38.5%	44.3%	39.6%	40.6%
Total	Count	672	418	111	1201
	% within Locality	56.0%	34.8%	9.2%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data

Table 5 denotes the complaints lodged to the different authorities against food adulteration in urban and rural area. Majority of mothers in urban area gave more complaints (59.4%) against food adulteration. In it, 57.9% gave complaints to shopkeeper, 32.7% gave to the manufacturer and 9.4% gave complaints to the government authorities. Next in rural area 40.6% of the mothers lodged complaints against food adulteration. In it, 53.1% of rural mothers gave more complaints to the shopkeepers, 37.9% to the manufacturers and 9% to the government officials. It is concluded that both urban and rural mothers do not give importance to lodge complaint against government officials.

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LOCALITY OF MOTHERS AND THEIR COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST ADULTERATION

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	3.541 <sup>a</sup>	2	.170 <sup>*</sup>
Likelihood Ratio	3.529	2	.171
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.333	1	.248
N of Valid Cases	1201		

Source: Primary Data

<sup>\*</sup>Significant at five percent level

In this table, the 'P' value is greater than 0.05 at 5% significance level. The null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is no association with the locality of mothers and the complaints given to authorities against food adulteration.

TABLE 6: DIFFERENT AGE GROUP OF MOTHERS AND THEIR ATTITUDES IN LODGING OF COMPLAINTS

	Age * Complaints given to Authorities					
Age		Complaints g	Complaints given to Authorities			
		Shopkeeper	Manufacturer	Governmentofficials		
Below 25	Count	54	22	16	92	
	% within Age	58.7%	23.9%	17.4%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	8.0%	5.3%	14.4%	7.7%	
25-30	Count	160	124	39	323	
	% within Age	49.5%	38.4%	12.1%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	23.8%	29.7%	35.1%	26.9%	
31-36	Count	324	200	36	560	
	% within Age	57.9%	35.7%	6.4%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	48.2%	47.8%	32.4%	46.6%	
37-42	Count	98	51	14	163	
	% within Age	60.1%	31.3%	8.6%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	14.6%	12.2%	12.6%	13.6%	
Above 43	Count	36	21	6	63	
	% within Age	57.1%	33.3%	9.5%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	5.4%	5.0%	5.4%	5.2%	
Total	Count	672	418	111	1201	
	% within Age	56.0%	34.8%	9.2%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Primary Data

Table 6 indicates the complaints given to the authorities in different age groups of mothers. Out of 1201 respondents, (46.6%) of the mothers are in the age group of 31-36 years. In it 57.9% of the mothers give complaint to the shopkeepers, 35.7% give to manufacturers and the remaining 6.4% of the mothers are give complaints to government officials. It is followed by (26.9%) mothers in the age group of 25-30 years. Among them, 49.5% of mothers give complaints to shopkeepers, 38.4% give to manufactures and the remaining 12.1% give to government officials. Further, 13.6% of the mothers are in the age group of 37-42 years. In which 60.1% of mothers give complaints to shopkeepers, 31.3% give to the manufacturers and the remaining 8.6% give to government officials. Further, 7.7% of the mothers are below 25 years of age. In it, 58.7% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper, 23.9% give to the manufacturers and the remaining 17.4% of the mothers give complaints to government officials. Further, 5.2% mothers are above 43 years of age. In which, 57.1% of mothers give complaints to shopkeepers, 33.3% to manufacturers and the remaining 9.5% to the government officials. It is found that majority of the mothers in the age group of 31-36 years give more complaint to the different authorities.

#### ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT AGE GROUP OF MOTHERS AND THEIR ATTITUDES IN LODGING OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST FOOD ADULTERATION

Chi-Square Tests					
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)		
Pearson Chi-Square	22.757 <sup>a</sup>	8	.004*		
Likelihood Ratio	22.163	8	.005		
Linear-by-Linear association	5.150	1	.023		
N of Valid Cases	1201				

Source: Primary Data

In this table, the 'P' value is less than 0.05 at 5% significance level. The null hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that there is a significant association in between age of the mothers and their complaint giving attitude to authorities against food adulteration.

TABLE 7: MOTHERS EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND ITS IMPACT IN LODGING OF COMPLAINTS

<b>Educational Qualification</b>		Authorities	Authorities		
		Shopkeeper	Manufacturer	Government officials	
Illiterate	Count	141	101	29	271
	% within Educational Qualification	52.0%	37.3%	10.7%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	21.0%	24.2%	26.1%	22.6%
School level	Count	403	206	38	647
	% within Educational Qualification	62.3%	31.8%	5.9%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	60.0%	49.3%	34.2%	53.9%
College level	Count	128	111	44	283
	% within Educational Qualification	45.2%	39.2%	15.5%	100.0%
70.4	% within Complaints given to Authorities	19.0%	26.6%	39.6%	23.6%
Total	Count	672	418	111	1201
	% within Educational Qualification	56.0%	34.8%	9.2%	100.0%
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Primary Data

Table 7 indicates the complaints given to different authorities by the mothers of different educational qualification. Out of 1201 respondents, 53.9% of mothers completed their school level education. Among them, 62.3% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper, 31.8% give complaints to manufacturer and 5.9% give complaints to government officials. Further, 23.6% of mothers completed college level education. In it, 45.2% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper, 39.2% give complaints to manufacturer and 15.5% give complaints to government officials. It is followed by 22.6% of illiterate mothers. Among them, 52% give complaints to shopkeeper, 37.3% give complaints to manufacturer and 10.7% give complaints to government officials. It is concluded that majority of mothers with school level education give complaints to shop keeper and manufacturer. Mothers with college level education give complaints to government officials.

<sup>\*</sup>Significant at five percent level

#### ASSOCIATION BETWEEN MOTHERS EDUCATIONAL LEVEL AND ITS IMPACT IN LODGING OF COMPLAINTS

Chi-Square Tests				
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	
Pearson Chi-Square	35.640 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000*	
Likelihood Ratio	34.949	4	.000	
Linear-by-Linear Association	4.697	1	.030	
N of Valid Cases	1201			

Source: Primary Data

The value of 'P' in this table is less than 0.05. Null hypothesis is rejected at 5% significance level. It is concluded that there is a significant association between educational qualification of mothers and their complaints given attitudes to different authorities. It is inferred that highly educated mothers give complaints to government officials whereas others give complaints to shopkeeper and manufacturer.

TABLE 8: OCCUPATION OF MOTHERS AND THEIR ATTITUDES IN LODGING COMPLAINTS

Occ	cupation * Complaints given to Authorities					
Occupation		Complaints given to Authorities			Total	
		Shopkeeper	Manufacturer	Government officials		
Housewife	Count	310	185	55	550	
	% within Occupation	56.4%	33.6%	10.0%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	46.1%	44.3%	49.5%	45.8%	
Employed	Count	158	181	41	380	
	% within Occupation	41.6%	47.6%	10.8%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	23.5%	43.3%	36.9%	31.6%	
Daily wager	Count	181	38	11	230	
	% within Occupation	78.7%	16.5%	4.8%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	26.9%	9.1%	9.9%	19.2%	
Unemployed	Count	23	14	4	41	
	% within Occupation	56.1%	34.1%	9.8%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	3.4%	3.3%	3.6%	3.4%	
Total	Count	672	418	111	1201	
	% within Occupation	56.0%	34.8%	9.2%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Primary Data

Table 8 indicates the complaints given to authorities and occupation of mothers. Out of 1201 respondents, 45.8% are housewives. Among them, 56.4% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper, 33.6% give complaints to manufacturer and 10% give complaints to government officials. It is followed by 31.6% of employed mothers. In it, 41.6% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper, 47.6% give complaints to manufacturer and 10.8% give complaints to government officials. Further 19.2% of mothers get daily wager. Among them, 78.7% give complaints to shopkeeper, 16.5% give complaints to manufacturer and 4.8% give complaints to government officials. It is followed by 3.4% of unemployed mothers. In it, 56.1% give complaints to shopkeeper, 34.1% give complaints to manufacturer and 9.8% give complaints to government officials. Majority of the housewives give complaint to shopkeeper, manufacturer and government officials.

#### ASSOCIATION BETWEEN OCCUPATION OF MOTHERS AND THEIR ATTITUDES IN LODGING COMPLAINTS

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	81.871 <sup>a</sup>	6	.000*
Likelihood Ratio	85.375	6	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	10.577	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	1201		

Source: Primary Data

The value of 'P' in this table is less than 0.05. Null hypothesis is rejected at 5% significance level. It is concluded that there is a significant association between occupation of mothers and complaints given to authorities. It is inferred that housewives give more complaints, than others.

TABLE 9: IMPACT OF MONTHLY INCOME OF MOTHERS IN LODGING COMPLAINTS AGAINST FOOD ADULTERATION

Monthly Income		Authorities				
		Shopkeeper Manufacturer		Governmentofficials		
Below Rs.5000	Count	381	209	42	632	
	% within Monthly Income	60.3%	33.1%	6.6%	100.0%	
700	% within Complaints given to Authorities	56.7%	50.0%	37.8%	52.6%	
Rs.5000-Rs.15000	Count	213	163	44	420	
	% within Monthly Income	50.7%	38.8%	10.5%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	31.7%	39.0%	39.6%	35.0%	
Above Rs.15000	Count	78	46	25	149	
	% within Monthly Income	52.3%	30.9%	16.8%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	11.6%	11.0%	22.5%	12.4%	
Total	Count	672	418	111	1201	
	% within Monthly Income	56.0%	34.8%	9.2%	100.0%	
	% within Complaints given to Authorities	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Source: Primary Data

Table 9 indicates the monthly income of mothers and their complaint giving attitudes to authorities. Out of 1201 respondents, 52.6% earn monthly income less than Rs 5000. Among them, 60.3% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper, 33.1% give complaints to manufacturer and 6.6% give complaints to government officials. It is followed by 35% of the mothers' whose monthly income is between Rs 5000 – Rs 15000. In it, 50.7% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper,

<sup>\*</sup>Significant at five percent level

<sup>\*</sup>Significant at five percent level

38.8% of mothers give complaints to manufacturer and 10.5% give complaints to government officials. Further 12.4% of mothers earn monthly income of above Rs15000. Among them, 52.3% of mothers give complaints to shopkeeper, 30.9% give complaints to manufacturer and 16.8% give complaints to government officials. It is concluded that majority of mothers whose monthly income is less than Rs 5000 give complaints to shopkeeper and manufacturer, and mothers earning monthly income of Rs.5000 – Rs.15000 give complaints to government officials.

# ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE INCOME OF MOTHERS AND THEIR COMPLAINTS GIVEN TO AUTHORITIES RESULTS OF CHI-SQUARE ANALYSIS

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	22.128 <sup>a</sup>	4	.000*
Likelihood Ratio	20.794	4	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	14.315	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	1201		

Source: Primary Data

The value of 'P' in this table is less than 0.05. Null hypothesis is rejected at 5% significance level. It is concluded that there is significant association with monthly income of mothers and complaints given attitudes to different authorities. Mothers earning low income give more complaints to various authorities.

#### CONCLUSION

This study highlighted some gaps in adulterated food materials and the awareness in lodging of complaints in various authorities of shop keeper, government officials and manufacturers. Majority of the mothers had no confidence in the safe keeping and safe preparation of food items in the shop. The majority of the respondents were in the age group of 25-30 years and housewives. Majority of the respondents lodged complaints regarding adulterated food materials. In all districts, most of the consumers approached and complained about the adulteration to the shopkeepers. It is concluded that mothers in Tuticorin district do not give complaints against food adulteration and they consider it as a common practice and their complaints are ignored by traders and some of them do not know to whom to complain. It is concluded that there is significant association with the different districts and complaints given to authorities. A considerable percentage of respondents did not know whom to lodge complaints against the supply of adulterated food items. More than half of the respondents accepted that the adulteration is a common practice in India, the complaint given against the trader is waste. There is significant association with educational qualification of mothers and complaints given to authorities. It is inferred that highly educated mothers give complaints to government officials whereas others give complaints to shopkeeper and manufacturer. Majority of the housewives give complaint to shopkeeper, followed by in the manufacturer and government officials.

This study has analysed five different districts which have different characteristic features. The complaint given attitudes against the adulterated food differs one district to another. Some mothers were not lodged any complaints against the food adulteration. They gave different reasons, but majority of the mothers stated that the adulteration and unfair trade practices are common in India. Taking steps against this are waste of energy, time and money. Education plays vital role in lodging complaints against adulteration and unfair trade practices. The educated consumers can easy to move with government officials, manufacturers and traders to made complaints against unfair trade practices. How for the mothers level of education influence the consumers in lodging complaints against unfair trade practices (Table 7). The respondent's different levels of education, school level, college level and illiterate were asked about their complaint loading attitudes against the adulterated food items. Majority of the respondents in school level education (53.9%) lodged more complaints than others. This is followed by illiterate (22.6%), college level educated respondents (23.6%) who steps against the adulterated food. Least of the illiterate respondent's complaints against the unfair trade practices.

This study revealed that the attitudes of complaint based on the level of education. The illiterate respondents have low complaint given attitudes than the educated respondents. The occupation also one of the main factors influencing the complaint lodging attitudes of respondents against the unfair trade practices. This study revealed that the occupation of the mothers plays important role in lodging complaint against the adulterated food items. The house wives have more knowledge and attitudes in lodging complaints followed by employed, daily wages and unemployed. The present results indicate that there is a need to improve mother's knowledge in food adulteration and provide training in handling complaints against the adulteration and unfair trade practices of traders.

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<sup>\*</sup>Significant at five percent level

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