

PREFACE

Since the food items including edible oils go into the making of standard of living of population, the study of the problem of food adulteration in general and of the problem of edible oils adulteration in particular deserves to be studied de novo. The present study in the form of an M.Phil. dissertation, aims at an inquiring into the causes of food adulteration in developing countries like ours and particularly of the causes of edible oils adulteration with reference to a particular regional district. The problem of food stuff adulteration in scarcity hit economies tends to become chronic and the chronic nature of the problem could be attributed to the growing demand-supply gap. The ramifications of this phenomenon like tendency on the part of traders/manufacturers to take advantage socially not justifiable have to be held in check to safeguard the interests of the society at large. The study of this problem in all its aspects at mass level is the most urgent need. However, the present attempt is rather at micro level, study with regard to groundnut edible oil adulteration. Though the Government has passed an enactment 'Prevention of Food Adulteration Act' the incidents of food adulteration are rampant over the planned economic development period.

It is therefore worth its while to undertake such kind of study though the area of the study is quite limited. Findings and framework of the study will provide guidelines for further in depth study of the problem at macro level, notwithstanding. Though originally our desire to study the problem comprehensively in all its ramifications, the constraints on the resources like funds, time and energy prevented us from undertaking the study at macro level and hence the present study has been confined to a particular edible product i.e. groundnut oil and its adulteration and becomes of adulteration and the remedial measures. Though the remedies seem to be of common sense knowledge, they are based on our factual study.

In the beginning of the study it was desired to shed light on certain aspects of adulteration of food stuffs and bring out the ill effects of practices of adulterating food items. Accordingly, we hope that we have succeeded in shedding light on causes and ill effects of ongoing food adulteration partially though not fully.

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