

## ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to assess the sanitary conditions in the food outlets of Colombo Central Electorate. Information was lacking regarding the smaller outlets. One of the main objectives was to determine and record this information.

Food outlets were categorized into five grades according to size and other criteria in annexure 3. It was observed that there were 85% of food outlets in the smaller grades, and their hygienic conditions were comparatively poorer than the larger ones.

Water was not available in sufficient quantities in some food outlets, which used wells as an additional source. In over 70% of premises sampled, water in the wells was contaminated.

Water supplied from the city mains to food outlets in the sample was of good quality, with contamination in only 0.9% of the premises. Water for drinking was contaminated in over 20% of food outlets of the sample. Contamination appears likely with storage.

A medical examination conducted on food handlers to determine skin or general lesions likely to contaminate food, showed that there were general lesions in 6.9% and skin lesions

in 22.2% of food handlers. Stools examination revealed the presence of AOC in 32.8% of the sample of food handlers.

The KAP survey on a sample of food handlers showed evidence of good knowledge in food hygiene in most food handlers, but their attitudes and practices were unfavourable and poor.

The findings indicate that further studies are necessary to formulate effective intervention programs in the future.