



## **Proper Implementation of the Safe Food Act is Required to Prevent Adulteration**

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Generally speaking, all people are consumers. Consumers are being utterly ruined by adulterating the food that people consume. Adulteration is now everywhere, fruits, fish, spices, spices, etc., which are necessary for the sustenance of human life, are adulterated and adulterated everywhere. Moreover, one of the major problems of the consumers is related to the quality of the product and the price of the product. Opportunity and excuse to increase the price of goods in the market of Bangladesh. So people on the one hand are affected by adulteration and on the other hand the market for daily necessities is not stable. Unscrupulous traders use color in various foods, including sweets, to enhance the beauty of food, which is harmful to health. Life-saving drugs are also not 100% free from adulteration. Fake and substandard medicines of various companies are often published in news magazines. Everyone knows one thing about hotel restaurants in our country. Many hotel pan oils are never knew just to be recycled.

According to experts, the color used in food can play a helpful role in the formation of cancer and the old oil used and adulterated is one of the causes of cancer. Reviewing the issue of adulteration in food, it is seen that the main reason is the greedy attitude of the people. The situation seems to have made it almost impossible to live an adulterated life or eat adulterated food despite trying with awareness and caution. There are many reasons for this; civic awareness is not the main issue here. Inferior people give birth to inferior offspring and, thus, propagate their inferiority. Cheating people by adulterating food has been mentioned as a

major sin in the holy religion of Islam. In verse 42 of Surah Al-Baqarah, Allah the Almighty has declared: Do not mix truth with falsehood and do not conceal the truth knowingly. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: He who cheats does not belong to my party. There are strict guidelines in the holy religion of Islam to lose weight. Warning of the destruction of those who are involved in the great crime of underweight, Allah the Almighty said, "Woe to those who are underweight or underweight. They measure perfectly from the people. But when people are measured, they give less than they deserve. Giving less than 1-3 verses of Surah Mutaffifin means to deprive people of their rights. If a person who is underweight does not forgive, then Allah does not forgive. This is the Islamic rule. So we have to be very careful about this.

It is true that it is not possible to prevent adulteration only through government initiatives. But the government has to take the main and strong role. Safe Food Act-2013 is effective in our country. With the enactment of this Act, the Pure Food Ordinance 1959 has been repealed under Section 90 of the Act. Although there are several laws related to food adulteration in Bangladesh, the main law was the Pure Food Ordinance 1959. Besides implementing the law, it is the responsibility of the civil society and the conscious civil society to build a social movement against adulteration through civic initiatives. In order to get rid of adulteration of daily necessities and food, bridging of public and private initiatives is necessary. It is the tendency of many traders in our country to sell rotten and old food, which may not be desirable even in a civilized country. It is also extremely shameful for the Muslim nation. Moreover, no religion indulges in adulteration. Religious values are a matter of pride and dignity for people regardless of their religion. The activities of BSTI Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution need to be further strengthened to prevent adulteration. It is important for the administration to take more drastic measures to prevent adulteration. Moreover, the National Consumer Rights Department should be made an effective institution and the fines should be tightened by strengthening the campaign under the Consumer Rights Protection Act including counterfeiting and adulteration.

According to a United Nations study, the chemicals in our daily use can cause a number of diseases, including hormonal cancer, diabetes, asthma, birth defects and mental disorders. It is often seen in the newspapers that DDT is being used extensively in making dry kiwi. But it is forbidden. Harmful formalin is used in fish, meat and fruits. Harmful fabric dyes are also

used to make colorful foods that can cause cancer. Urea for frying murdi, carbide for cooking bananas, dead chickens is supplied to chicken traders in many hotels. Such news is often published in newspapers. Semai, Chanachur and many other food items are made in the bakery in a very unhealthy environment. Adulteration is found in almost every food including oil, flour, spices and flour. Under the Safe Food Act, 23 types of offenses are punishable by one to five years imprisonment and a fine of Tk. 4 lakh to Tk. 20 lakh. In some countries of the world, such crimes are punishable by life imprisonment or even death.

Now there are adulterants everywhere in Bangladesh. The issue now being discussed in Bangladesh is the campaign against food adulteration. The anti-counterfeiting drive is being conducted by the Department of Consumer Protection, District Administration, BSTI, Bangladesh Police and Rapid Action Battalion. More transparency in anti-adulteration campaigns is the need of the hour. Our food security depends on the officers in charge of the anti-adulteration campaign; the real success of the campaign depends.

Increased use of chemicals has become a threat to public health. The hope is that national and local journalists and writers are raising public awareness by publishing reports and articles in this regard. Consumers feel relieved as the anti-adulteration inspection team inspects the market from time to time. Now there is a difference in the type of adulteration. New technologies are being added. Toxic chromium is being added to rice. Shampoo and soap are used to make liquid milk. Tissue paper is being mixed with sugar, urea and yogurt. Chemicals and fabric dyes are used to make cakes, gels and sauces. Life-saving medicines were not left out of the unscrupulous traders. Although many steps have been taken to curb the spread of counterfeit and substandard drugs, the drug market has become infamous. The matter is worrying. Unscrupulous drug dealers market low-quality drugs in rural area. People will be deceived in many ways if strict action is not taken against them. A class of dishonest people wants to introduce low quality medicine with various gifts to the doctors. Strict measures need to be taken to curb their activities. Although there is no accurate estimate of how many people in the country have been affected by the adverse effects of the drug, there is no doubt that many families have had to go through it. Until now, any victim could only report adverse reactions to his or her medication to the concerned physicians. Now the situation has improved. Now, if there is any adverse reaction to the medicine, a complaint can be lodged with the Department of Drug Administration.

According to the World Food and Agriculture Organization, about 4.5 million people in Bangladesh suffer from food poisoning and other complex diseases every year. The treatment of complex diseases caused by eating adulterated food is also threatening the families concerned by spending a lot of money outside the country. There is no alternative to ensuring safe food. It is time to overcome the existing limitations and increase the manpower of the Department of Consumer Protection to coordinate the concerned institutions. Positive change is possible if the activities of the District Consumer Rights Protection Committee are further strengthened and the public awareness activities are increased through the officers in charge of the National Consumer Department in the district.

*The rights and responsibilities of consumers are as follows:*

### **Eight (08) Rights:**

1. The right to basic food, clothing, education, medical care and housing.
2. The right to safe products and services.
3. Right to know information about product production, usage rules, side effects etc.
4. Verification Selection The right to receive the right products and services at a fair price.
5. The right to complain and represent.
6. Compensation for loss of use of any product or service.
7. The buyer has the right to be educated about his rights and responsibilities as a consumer.
8. The right to work and live in a healthy environment.

### **Five (05) Responsibilities:**

1. Be aware and inquire about the quality and quality of the product or service.
2. Choose the right product by bargaining.
3. Be careful not to hurt other buyers with your behavior.
4. Be aware and proactive in maintaining the balance of the environment.
5. Be vocal and organized in defending your rights as a consumer.

A deadly disease called adulteration is about to engulf the entire nation. To get rid of this, people must unite to protect the rights recognized by the United Nations at any cost. We have

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in front of us. To achieve this, we need to ensure an environment of consumer confidence.

It is not possible to prevent adulteration of food only by law. For this, it is necessary to awaken people's sense of morality and accountability in the hereafter. A true Muslim, a true believer in the Hereafter cannot mix adulteration. Can't get sick by eating unhealthy food. I think an incident during the reign of Hazrat Omar (R) is quite significant here. Caliph Omar (R) went out in disguise at night to see the condition of the people with his own eyes. On the way, she heard a voice from a room asking her mother to mix water with milk, but she said that the caliph had declared it illegal to mix water with milk. Mother said she would not come to see the caliph so late at night. Hearing this, the girl said that even if the caliph does not see, Allah sees. Learning from this girl can also encourage us to refrain from abominable acts like adulteration of food for fear of the great Creator.

## BIOGRAPHY



Dr. Muhammad Abu Taher is a Law Officer and S.P.O, Pubali Bank Limited. He has been working for Legal Sector in the Bangladesh since 2009. Dr. Taher is engaged in research activities throughout his academic career more than 15 years and has published many research papers, participating international conferences. Dr. Taher is a Member of the Moulvibazar District Bar Association, Bangladesh.