

RESEARCH ARTICLE

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF VENDORS AND MANUFACTURING PRACTICES OF FRESH UNPASTEURIZED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICES IN KAMPALA, UGANDA.

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Abstract

..... Fresh juices as beverages are valued because they offer numerous health benefits to consumers. However, the manufacturing methods used in their preparation produce a great variation in terms of product quality. The aim of this study was to examine fresh juice production practices and determine the socio-demographic characteristics of vendors involved in the juice business in Kampala. A structured questionnaire was used to examine the practices of ninety juice vendors using the interview method. Findings from the study indicate that different blends of fresh juice were made with passion fruit as the main type of a single beverage. Poor manufacturing practices used in extraction of the juices were statistically significant (p<0.05). Women (74%) with low level of education dominated the production and vending of juices. Statistically significant (p <0.05) vending practices were observed for the following manufacturing practices namely; fruit vegetable and juice storage; sanitation of equipment, transportation of fresh produce and level of education within the food establishments. Great need in the use of good manufacturing practices by all juice vendors should be promoted and encouraged by the government and all concerned regulatory bodies in Kampala.

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Introduction: -

Codex Alimentarius defines juice as "unfermented ready to drink liquid, obtained from sound, mature ripe fruit or vegetables kept exclusively by physical means (FAO, 2005). Fresh fruit and vegetable juices which are credited for their health and nutritional benefits provide the human body with an abundant supply of vitamins, minerals and naturally occurring phytochemicals (Artes and Allende, 2012). The presence of these nutrients in fresh juices has led to their increased demand due to extensive consumer awareness particularly in dealing with chronic degenerative diseases (Buck, 2003). These juices which are usually nutrient dense beverages are often also consumed for their 'fresh flavor' attributes (Mahale *et al.*, 2008; Khan *et al.*, 2015). A range of flavors made by blending fruit and vegetable juices are now available on the market. Besides single fresh fruit or vegetable juices there is an increasing demand for juice blends due to their perceived improved quality attributes and nutritional quality (De Carvalho *et al.*, 2007; Koutchma *et al.*, 2016). Despite being a healthy choice for many consumers, fresh juices can often

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contribute to microbial foodborne illnesses which can be devastating particularly to the young, the elderly and immunocompromised due to their weakened immune systems (Oranusi and Wesley, 2012; Batool *et al.*, 2013). Just like most street vended foods in developing countries, fresh juices are often prepared under unsanitary conditions exposing them to risks of contamination by both pathogenic and spoilage microorganisms (Imathiu, 2017; Imathiu, 2018). This condition is compounded by the lack of process steps that would the microorganisms to safe level (Mahale *et al.*, 2008). Furthermore, the juices are contaminated when vendors fail to apply good manufacturing practices and personal hygiene along the processing line. For the juices that are prepared off-site, spoilage is increased when they are subjected to temperature abuse during transportation to food establishments and even when being served.

An alternative measure using pasteurization is available to eliminate the pathogens and reduce spoilage microorganisms. Pasteurization of juices could be an alternative but consumer preferences for fresh beverages emphasize that the products supplied in the market be unpasteurized which increases the demand for these products (Torres-Vitela *et al.*, 2013). Reports of several food borne illnesses caused by consumption of contaminated fresh juices have been made contributing to the global burden of morbidity and mortality (Braide *et al.*, 2012; Torres-Vitela *et al.*, 2013; Simforian *et al.*, 2015; Koutchma *et al.*, 2016).

Reports of morbidity and mortality arising from the consumption of juices prepared using unsatisfactory manufacturing practices have been cited (Torres-Vitela *et al.*, 2013). Use of unsatisfactory practices in the preparation of street foods in Uganda has been done however juices were only mentioned (Muyanja *et al.*, 2011). A gap exists in the knowledge of who is involved, and the practices used in the preparation and vending of juices. This study therefore was carried out to establish demographic characteristics of vendors and vending practices of fresh unpasteurized fruit and vegetable juices and their blends sold in Kampala, Uganda.

Materials and Methods: -

Study area

The study was conducted in Kampala city, Uganda (00°19'N, 32°35'E) from November 2014 to October 2015 Kampala hosts a population of about 30 million people distributed in five divisions within the city. Three out of the five divisions were selected because of the many retail outlets supplying fresh unpasteurized juices and the large populations supporting these outlets. The selected divisions included were: Kampala central, Kawempe and Nakawa.

Study design and participant selection

A cross sectional research design was used to obtain sociological data. A total of 90 juice vendors with 30 participants from each division were selected from food establishments within Kampala. Consent to carry out the study was obtained from Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA). Selection was based on participants' availability, willingness to take part in the study, and to give accurate information. A structured questionnaire comprising of closed and open ended questions was first pre-tested on 30 vendors in Nateete division. Information on the types of juices made, extraction methods, sites of production, sources of fruits and vegetables, storage facilities, sanitation of juice equipment and utensils; and demographic characteristics of vendors was obtained using the interview method.

Types of food establishments

Food establishments used in this study included those in the markets, take-aways and restaurants selling fresh unpasteurized juices. In the markets, the food establishments were partitioned into cubicles built of concrete but with open spaces at the top. Local foods were prepared on site and served with fresh juices or other beverages as the consumers requested. The take-aways were complete units with provision for sitting to eat and/or drink or carry away as consumers desired. Snacks and fast foods together with juice or other beverages were sold in these take-aways. Restaurants were also complete units with provision to sit and eat the foods that were prepared. Local foods prepared on site were served together with fresh juices and/or other beverages.

Data analysis

Data obtained during the study were reviewed during and after collection. Variables from the respondents were coded, classified and tabulated. Statistical package for social scientists (SPSS) version 21 was used to analyze the data. Categorical variables were analyzed using frequencies and the Shapiro Wilk test was used to assess whether scores were normally distributed. Relationships of variables between juice types and processing practices were

established using cross tabulations and the Chi-square test. Relationships of variables across the food establishments were established using the Kruskal Wallis test. The level of significance was set at 95%, with a P-value less than 0.05 considered significant.

Results: -

Sample characteristics

A Shapiro Wilk test (p < 0.05) and a visual inspection of their histograms, normal Q-Q plots and box plots showed that juice types, vending practices and demographic characteristics were skewed and kurtotic across the food establishments.

Survey of socio-demographic characteristics of juice vendors

Findings from the socio-demographic characteristics of juice vendors indicated that women (77%) were the main vendors of fresh unpasteurized juices with a minority of men (23%). However, non-significant differences (p>0.05) in gender were observed (Table 1). Significant differences (p=0.000) in vendors' education were observed within the food establishments. More than half (52%) of the vendors had low education which probably implies that knowledge of the use of good manufacturing practices was very poor.

Table 1:-Demographic characteristics of fresh juice vendors within the food establishments

Type of Food Establishment	Market (n=30)	Take-away	Restaurant	Total (n=90)	P-value
		(n=30)	(n=30)		
Demographic characteristics	of juice vendors				
Characteristic					
Gender of juice vendors					
Male	6 (20%)	9 (30%)	6 (20%)	21 (23.3%)	
Female	24 (80%)	21(70%)	24 (80%)	69 (76.7%)	0.575
Education levels of juice					
vendors					
No Education	9 (30%)	3 (10%)	13 (43.3%)	25 (27.8%)	
Primary	11 (36.7%)	2 (6.7%)	9 (30%)	22 (24.4%)	
O-Level	5 (16.7%)	0	2 (6.7%)	7 (7.8%)	
A-level	3 (10%)	11 (36.7%)	5 (16.7%)	19 (21.1%)	
Tertiary	1 (3.3%)	10 (33.3%)	1 (3.3%)	12 (13.3%)	
University	1(3.3%)	4 (13.3%)	0	5 (5.6%)	0.000*

Statistically Significant at P< 0.05 Or 0.001

Type of juice	Passion fruit	Blends (n=48)	Total (n=90)	p-value
	(11-42)			
Characteristic				
Manual extraction				
Yes	34 (81%)	22 (45.8%)	56 (62.2%)	
No	8 (19%)	26 (54.2%)	34 (37.8%)	0.001*
Mechanical extraction				
Yes	8 (19%)	26 (54.2%)	34 (37.8%)	
No	34 (81%)	22 (45.8%)	56 (62.2%)	0.001*
Site of juice processing				
Produced at food establishment				
Yes	32 (76.2%)	36 (75%)	68 (75.6%)	
No	10 (23.8%)	12 (25%)	22 (24.4%)	1.000
Produced at home				
Yes	10 (23.8%)	12 (25%)	22 (24.4%)	
No	32 (76.2%)	36 (75%)	68 (75.6%)	1.000
Addition of ice to the juice				

Yes	7 (16.7%)	7 (14.6%)	14 (15.6%)	
No	35(83.3%)	41(85.4%)	76 (84.4%)	1.000

Table 2:- Methods and sites of preparation of Passion fruit juice and blends

From the survey, passion fruit was the most common single juice consumed in Kampala. However, more than half of the juices encountered in the study were passion fruit blends (Table 2). Non significant differences (p>0.05) in types of juice prepared within the food establishments were observed.

Results indicated that over 60% of the juices were extracted using the manual method while 37.8% were prepared mechanically (Table 2). Significant differences (p=0.001) in method of extraction were observed in the establishments visited. Approximately 76% of the juices were made at the food establishments where the juice was sold. A smaller percentage (24%) of the juices were prepared at a different location and then brought to the food establishment (Table 2). Non significant differences (p>0.05) in type of juices made were observed between the sites of juice preparation. Eighty-four percent of the vendors did not add ice to the fresh juices they served while 16% carried out this practice. The practice of addition of ice cubes to the juices was not significantly different (p>0.05) for the two types of juice products.

Quantity of glasses of juice sold	Group 1 10-49	Group II 50-89	Group III 90-	Total (n=90)	p-
per day	(n=47)	(n=42)	129 (n=1)		value
Type of juice					
Passion fruit juice	23 (48.9%)	18 (42.9%)	0	41 (45.6%)	
Passion fruit juice blends	24 (51.1%)	24 (57.1%)	1 (100%)	48 (53.3%)	0.48
Type of establishment					
Market	20 (42.6%)	10 (23.8%)	0	30 (33.3%)	
Take-away	16 (34%)	14 (33.3%)	0	30 (33.3%)	
Restaurant	11 (23.4%)	18 (42.8%)	1(100%)	30 (33.3%)	0.04*

Table 3:-Quantities of juice sold vs types of juices and establishments

* Statistically significant at p<0.05

Fifty-three percent (n=90) of the juices sold in the food establishments were blends while 46% were made of passion fruit juice only (Table 3). Juices in the markets and restaurants were mainly sold in the morning or at lunchtime when food was served. For the fast food establishments juices were sold with the snacks throughout the day. Non-significant differences (p>0.05) in types of juices sold within the food establishments were observed. Quantities of juice sold within the food establishments was significantly different (p<0.05) possibly because of consumer preferences within the city.

Majority (83.3%) (n=90) of the fruits and vegetables obtained for juice preparation were from the open market with only a small portion from middlemen. Non-significant differences (p>0.05) in sources of fruits and vegetables purchased for juice preparation were observed within the different establishments (Table 4). Fruits and vegetables were mainly transported by bicycles and wooden carts to the food establishments. Significant differences (p=0.01) in transport used for transfer of fruits or vegetables from markets to food establishments were observed.

Nearly half (49%) of the fruits and vegetables used for juice preparation were stored in baskets with 27% of the produce placed on shelves. Furthermore, storage of fresh produce in baskets and shelves provided limited shelf life and exposure to vermin. Significant differences (p=0.000) in fresh produce storage was observed across the food establishments.

Findings indicated that over half of the vendors used refrigerators to store the juice while a minority used dispensing equipment (Table 4). Significant differences (p=0.000) in juice storage were observed across the food establishments with dispensers mainly used in the take-aways and refrigerators in the markets and restaurants.

Findings from the study indicate that 87% (n=90) of vendors cleaned their utensils once a day while a very small percentage washed them right after use. However non significant differences (p>0.05) in sanitation of utensils was observed across all food establishments.

Type of food	Market	Take-away	Restaurant	Total (n=90)	p-value		
establishment	(n=30)	(n=30)	(n=30)				
Sources, transportation and storage of fruits							
Sources of fruits and							
vegetables							
Open market	29 (96.7%)	23 (76.7%)	23 (76.7%)	75 (83.3%)			
Farmers	0	0	7 (23.3%)	7 (7.8%)			
Middlemen	1 (3.3%)	7 (23.3%)	0	8 (8.9%)			
Home garden	0	0	0	0	0.059		
Transportation of							
fruits/vegetables							
Bicycle	5(16.7%)	8 (26.7%)	14 (46.7%)	27 (30%)			
Cart	0	0	11(36.7%)	11(12.2%)			
Motorcycle	19 (63.3%)	5 (16.7%)	5 (16.7%)	29 (32.2%)			
Vehicle	6 (20%)	16 (53.3%)	0	22 (24.4%)			
Carried by vendor	0	1 (3.3%)	0	1(1.1%)	0.011*		
Storage of fruits/vegetables							
Basket	16 (53.3%)	2 (16.7%)	24(80%)	42 (46.7%)			
Floor	2 (6.7%)	4 (13.3%)	0	6 (6.7%)			
Shelf	9 (30%)	11(36.7%)	6 (20%)	26 (28.9%)	0.000*		
Refrigerator	3 (10%)	13 (43.3%)	0	16 (17.8%)			
Storage of juices							
Plastic buckets	2 (6.7%)	0	7 (23.3%)	9 (10%)			
Plastic jerry cans	8 (26.7%)	0	3 (10%)	11 (12.2%)			
Refrigerators	17 (56.7%)	7 (23.3%)	16 (53.3%)	40 (44.4%)			
Dispensers	3 (10%)	23 (76.7%)	4(3.3%)	30 (33.3%)	0.000*		
Sanitation of juice processing	g equipment						
Cleaning of utensils							
Right after use	5 (16.7%)	4 (13.3%)	3 (10%)	12 (13.3%)			
Once per day	25 (83.3%)	26 (86.7%)	27 (90%)	78 (86.7%)			
Cleaning of dispenser							
Right after use	2 (6.7%)	0	0	2 (2.2%)			
Once per day	0	14 (46.7%)	4 (13.3%)	18 (20%)			
Not used	28 (93.3%)	16 (53.3%)	26 (86.7%)	70 (77.8%)	0.001*		

Table 4:-Fres	h iuice	manufacturing	practices	within	the	food	establishments

* statistically significant at p< 0.05 or 0.001

Discussion: -

The higher percentage of female juice vendors obtained in this study could possibly be due to their desire to supplement the family's income (Table 1). These results are in agreement with earlier findings obtained in Kampala, Jinja and Masaka (Muyanja *et al.*, 2011). Studies conducted in different parts of the world have also cited women as the main stakeholders of street vended foods (Mitullah, 2003; Worku, 2011; Gabriel, 2014). However, juice vending in Dar es Salaam city, Tanzania and major cities in India is mainly done by men (54%) (Bhowmik, 2012; Simforian *et al.*, 2015).

Vendors in the permanent food establishments in particular the take-aways were more educated than those in the markets and restaurants. The differences in education could possibly be due to location of these take-aways near universities and in the centre of the city attracting more educated clientele. Furthermore, the operation of some equipment in the take-aways required vendors with skills which possibly led to hire of more educated labourers. They probably observed better hygienic practices and attracted more clientele.

High consumption and preparation of passion fruit juice may possibly be due to its aroma, taste and availability all year round (Nyanzi *et al.*, 2005). Consumer preference for blends could be due to the better flavor and nutritional quality. In Dar es salaam city, production of juice blends has been cited (Simforian *et al.*, 2015). Juice blending is believed to increase the nutritional value of the product because of increased enzymes, nutrients and bioactive components (Carvalho *et al.*, 2007; Lima *et al.*, 2009).

Manual extraction was the most frequent method used possibly due to the types of juices prepared in the establishments. Most of the juices did not require equipment for preparation. The mechanical method was mainly used when two or more fruit or vegetables required blending. Manual and mechanical methods of juice extraction have been reported as processing methods in juice production (Simforian *et al.*, 2015).

Quantities of juice sold depended on consumer preferences, cost of juice per glass, types of juices sold and general sanitation of the food establishment. Similar types of juices were available within the food establishments.

The transportation of juices from the site of preparation to the food establishment without the use of any cold chain brought out the concern for temperature fluctuations in the juice products. The use of inappropriate temperature and long distance between preparation and serving of food products is cited as a possible source of contamination for juice products (Hoseinzedah *et al.*, 2012).

Purchase of fruits and vegetables from the open market could possibly be due to the delivery of fresh produce to the open markets, from where retailers and middlemen bought the produce to sell in other markets, shops or food establishments (USAID-KCHP, 2014). Secondly the open market allowed for bargaining or haggling of prices before purchase while middlemen had fixed prices for their produce. Similar reports of purchase of fruits and vegetables from the open market have been observed (Ketema *et al.*, 2008).

Use of bicycles and wooden carts within the markets was probably due to the fact that produce needed only to be moved from one point to another, while for the take-aways and bigger restaurants more sustainable means of transportation like motorcycles and vehicles was required because they were located at greater distances.

Within the markets, food establishments that dealt in juice products possibly had easy access to fresh produce and could purchase the fruits and vegetables whenever need arose. Take-aways and some of the restaurants which were at greater distances than the markets possibly required better storage of the fruits and vegetables to save time and money thus the use of refrigerators. Storage of fruits and vegetables in refrigerators was used by vendors in the more permanent establishments. The reverse for fresh produce storage on shelves 50% and 22.2% in baskets has been reported (Ketema *et al.*, 2008).

Preference for use of refrigerators for storage could possibly be attached to the cost of purchasing the dispenser and yet the refrigerator was used to store other food products as well as the juices. Storage of juices in plastic buckets or jerry cans allowed for temperature fluctuations during transportation to the food establishment.

Cleaning of utensils and equipment once a day could possibly be due to vendors' efforts to save water and money hence the use of the same type of rinsing water throughout the day (Muyanja *et al.*, 2011). The use of the same type of rinse water could possibly give opportunity for cross contamination to occur from the utensils to the finished product. For the food establishments that used dispensers, majority cleaned them once a day possibly when the juice was finished.

Conclusion: -

From the findings, passion fruit was the most common single juice made; with a variety of blends of different fruits or vegetables. Women with poor manufacturing practices and low education dominated the fresh juice vending business in Kampala. Fruits and vegetables used for juice preparation were purchased by the vendors from the open markets and stored in baskets and on shelves. Storage of fresh produce in baskets limited their shelf life and exposed fruits and vegetables to vermin, a likely source of contamination for the juice products. From the findings, fresh juices sold in Kampala were most often stored in refrigerators while dispensers were found only in the city centre. There is therefore need for training and increased awareness of the stakeholders in the fresh beverage value chain in

the use of good manufacturing practices. In addition, food laws should be enforced as well as routine monitoring and evaluation of the beverages sold within the city in particular fresh juices.

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