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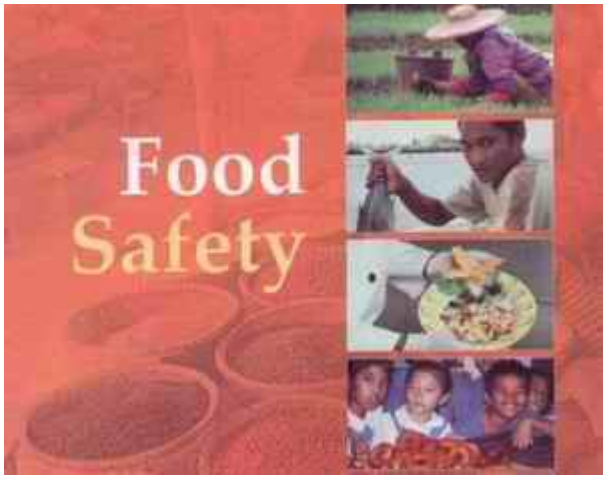
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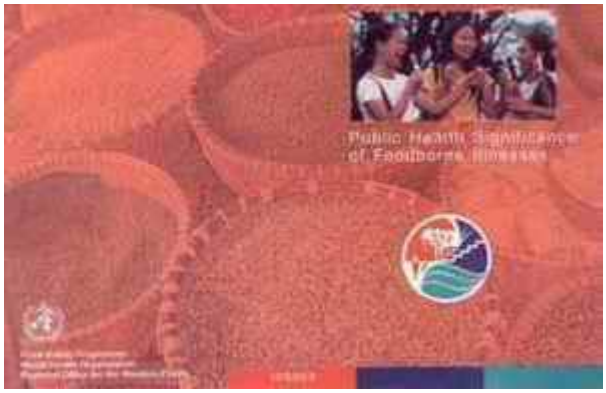
WELL ILLUSTRATED

Food Safety: Public Healthy Significance Of Food Borne Illnesses , Paperback, 8.0" x 12.0".
Food safety programme, World Health Organization, Regional office for the western pacific, 20 Avenue Appia, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, Publication Date 2003, 12 pages, ISBN 92-9061-028-X, NLM Classification: WA 701: Price - Not mentioned

WHO's Catalogue of Publications

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TThis twelve page booklet brought out by Regional office for the Western Pacific, World Health Organization in 2003 covers the pertinent topic of food safety with a focus on the western pacific region.

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It starts with a situational analysis of the food borne diseases and major outbreaks in the region from the 1980's to the late 1990's. It gives an exhaustive overview of both the existing and emerging biological and chemical agents which threaten food safety in the region. Although the year of publication is 2003, the data is provided only till 1998. the inclusion of more recent data could have made the booklet much more relevant to the present times.

The next section covers the factors responsible for food borne illnesses. It identifies the factors right from the point of production to the point of consumption of the food products. The factors have been listed in a lucid and concise manner. The use of yellow color for the heading and photographs decreases the visual appeal of this section.

...The booklet is well illustrated with appropriate and meaningful photographs and graphs. Being an important regional document on such a relevant topic it could also have included future research areas for food safety in the region to stimulate research...

The final section covers the national food safety programmes in the region. It has been aptly divided into two sections, the first listing the essential features of an effective national food safety programme and the second assessing the existing food safety programmes in the countries of the western pacific region. This assessment of the current state of affairs could prove useful for improvement of the programmes and the removal of existing lacunae.

The booklet is well illustrated with appropriate and meaningful photographs and graphs. Being an important regional document on such a relevant topic it could also have included future research areas for food safety in the region to stimulate research and also could have listed some successful and replicable models for food safety from other regions.

-Rahul Malhotra and Chetna Malhotra
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Dr. Rahul Malhotra is currently working as a Senior Resident in the Department of Community Medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. He did his graduation and post graduation in Community Medicine from the same institute. He has written a very exhaustive thesis on food hygiene, titled "Study of food handlers working in food service establishments within the premises of Maulana Azad Medical College, and associated hospitals". This thesis won him the prestigious gold medal for the best thesis. He can be contacted at drrahulmalhotra@yahoo.com

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