

**Relation between Food Safety Awareness and Disease Incidence:
A Study of Home Food Preparers in Punjab****Sonika Sharma and Jasvinder Kaur Sangha***Department of Food and Nutrition, College of Home Science, Punjab Agricultural University,
Ludhiana 141 004, Punjab, India
Telephone: 081461-22277, E-mail: drsonika@pau.edu***KEYWORDS** Awareness. Correlation. Food Borne Diseases. Food Safety. Incidence

ABSTRACT A random selection of 240 home food preparers was done from rural and urban areas of the Ludhiana District in Punjab and then enquired about food safety awareness and incidence of food borne diseases. The results revealed that mean awareness score of all the respondents came out to be 9.25 out of a maximum of 15, indicating that the respondents were considerably aware about the food safety issues. There was a significant difference in the mean awareness score of the various categories made on the basis of their background. Respondents belonging to the Urban High Income category had the highest awareness score of 10.88 followed by the respondents belonging to Urban Medium Income category (10.52), while the lowest score of 7.82 was observed of the respondents belonging to Rural High Income category. The respondents from the rural areas had a relatively lower mean awareness scores. A significant negative correlation was found between food safety awareness with the incidence of food borne diseases. The paper emphasizes the need to increase the food safety awareness especially in the rural areas.