

STUDY OF CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF FOOD SAFETY ACT 2006 WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JUVENILE CONSUME AT SEONI (M.P.)

Namita Awasthi¹ and Dr. Umesh Narayan Sharma²

1. Research Scholar Law Shri Krishna University Chhatarpur (M.P.)
2. Associate Professor Law Shri Krishna University Chhatarpur (M.P.)

ABSTRACT :- Food safety is crucial for progress and the economic growth of a country. With rapidly increasing urbanization, population and rising economy, India faces many challenges in its quest for food safety. Present study Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is examined critically in this study, with an emphasis on how well it protects young customers in Seoni, India. The study looks at how the Act complies with consumer, human, and child rights and assesses how it affects laws and practices pertaining to food safety. The study finds areas in which the Act needs to be improved in order to better protect juvenile consumers by drawing comparisons between worldwide norms and legal frameworks. The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is examined critically in this study using a thorough methodology, with a focus on young consumers in Seoni, India. The results emphasized how important it is that consumer rights and the legal framework mesh, especially when it comes to children's access to healthy meals. International frameworks provide direction, but national laws still have holes that need to be filled. The report also emphasized the need for harmonization by highlighting differences in consumer protection regulations between other nations. In summary, the study underscored the significance of reexamining and fortifying the legal structure to guarantee the security of food items for minors who purchase them in Seoni.

KEYWORDS:- Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Food Labeling at Seoni (M.P.).

INTRODUCTION:-

The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act) is a landmark legislation in India, designed to address critical issues related to food safety and standards in the country. In August 2011, the government of India has implemented the new Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 and the Regulations that are a part of it. This was done with the intention of regulating the food sector,

which includes the dairy business, as well as addressing issues of food safety and quality in a complete and holistic manner. In point of fact, it has been a lengthy road for the nation, and more especially for the domestic food business, to see this transformation in the national food laws. This transition features a much-deliberated shift in its focus from "prevention of food adulteration" to "ensuring food safety" in the benefit of all stakeholders.

Both a scientific risk-based approach to dealing with food safety and a logical approach to dealing with concerns of compliance by the food business are provided for under the new food regulations when it comes to dealing with food safety. The Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 and the Regulations that follow it deal with the dairy industry in a more comprehensive manner. This is due to the vast nature of the rules that are included in these Regulations that pertain to milk and milk products as well as dairy enterprises. The significance of milk and milk products as food, as well as the dominance of the dairy industry in the country, is brought into focus by this.

In order to accomplish the shared objective of ensuring the safety and quality of our food products, all of the relevant stakeholders, including regulators, industry, and other concerned agencies, needs to continue working together toward the development of an environment that is conducive to food safety regulation and the effective implementation of the same. It is imperative that the cooperative dairy industry use the opportunity presented by the newly established regulatory framework for food safety in order to further simplify its operations and continue to guarantee the quality and safety of its dairy products that are sold on the market. Nevertheless, the dairy sector must also take the initiative to highlight the legitimate challenges it is facing in order for the

authorities to work toward a genuine resolution of those challenges.

Objectives of the Act-

As stated in the preamble of the Act, the primary goals of the Act are as follows: a) to have a single law that pertains to food; b) to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India; c) to establish standards for articles of food that are based on scientific evidence; d) to effectively regulate the food processing industry; and e) to guarantee the availability of food that is both safe and wholesome for human consumption.

Scope of the Act-

All kinds of foods that are meant for human consumption are included in the scope of the Act. These include: a) primary foods; b) unprocessed, semi-processed, and processed foods; c) genetically altered foods; d) organic foods; e) substances and water used in the manufacture of food; f) packaged drinking water, and so on. Nevertheless, it does not include plant material that has been harvested, animal feeds, or live animals in its field of use. In addition, the requirements of the Act do not apply to any farmer, agricultural activities, crops, or animals, as well as supplies that are used or generated in farming, or products of crops that are produced by a farmer at the farm level.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:-

Related Work Shukla, S., et al (2014).The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), established under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006, is India's primary regulatory authority for food safety. FSSAI is responsible for ensuring that all food products in the country fulfil safety and quality standards. This regulatory body is critical in ensuring that the food that Indians consume fulfils the necessary quality and safety standards. The FSSAI establishes guidelines, regulations, and standards for various food products, such as manufacture, storage, distribution, and labelling. It monitors and enforces compliance with these regulations by inspecting, testing, and certifying food producers, ensuring that they adhere to the established safety standards.

Gaur, R. M., & Khan, A. (2022) The Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 (FSSAI), in particular, demonstrates a comprehensive regulatory framework for

ensuring the safety and quality of food items in India. As a result of this act, the FSSAI was established as India's primary regulatory organization for developing and enforcing food safety standards. One of the FSSAI's primary benefits is its role in unifying many food-related laws and regulations that existed prior to its establishment. These laws were combined into a single, coherent legal framework. This eliminated any uncertainty and made the food regulation landscape easier to understand.

Pardeshi, S. K. (2019).The Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006, also known as Act 34 of 2006, is a comprehensive piece of law in India that addresses numerous aspects of food safety and standards. This act provides legal standards to control and enforce food-related issues across the country. The establishment of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) as the primary regulatory agency in charge of formulating and implementing food safety standards is one of the FSSA's important legal requirements. The FSSAI establishes food product standards, regulates their manufacturing, transit, and sale, and ensures that they fulfil safety and quality requirements.

Malhotra Gaur, R., & Khan, A. (2022).An analysis of India's existing food laws, particularly the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006 (FSSAI), underscores the significant advancements made in the country's attempts to control food safety and quality. The FSSAI, as India's primary regulatory authority, has played a critical role in modernising and standardising the country's food laws. The FSSAI achieved uniformity by integrating multiple disparate food laws and regulations into a single, comprehensive legal framework. By establishing clarity and uniformity in food safety regulations, this harmonisation has made it easier for businesses and consumers to navigate the complex regulatory landscape. To promote food safety, the FSSAI has implemented severe restrictions.

Bhupathiraju, K., et al. (2019).The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which is governed by the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, regulates nutraceuticals, functional foods, and dietary supplements in India. The FSSAI has created specific regulations to govern the safety, quality, and labelling of these products because they occupy a unique space between food and

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pharmaceuticals. Nutraceuticals, which might be good for your health, have to meet strict quality and safety standards set by the FSSAI.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY-

H1: The existing legal framework for food safety is not aligned with consumer rights and children's human rights.

H2: The conceptual evolution of human rights, consumer rights, child rights, and their intersection with food safety and standards has significantly impacted the legal framework.

H3: The international legal framework pertaining to consumer rights, human rights, child rights, and food safety provides sufficient guidance for aligning national laws.

H4: There are significant differences in consumer protection laws among selected countries regarding child consumers and food safety.

H5: The national framework governing consumer protection, health, and food safety concerning children does not adequately address the issues

METHOD OF STUDY:-

As per topic of research we used non doctrinal method for our research. In India, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act) is critical for ensuring that all food items are safe and of high quality. This framework includes various rules and regulations aimed at protecting public health. However, in order to determine the impact of this Act, we must first determine how well it functions. This issue's research could include evaluating compliance and enforcement measures, understanding their impact on public health outcomes, and obtaining stakeholder perspectives. It is also critical to consider how well regulatory processes function and how knowledgeable customers are of food safety precautions. A comprehensive study of the FSS Act may also involve comparisons to other nations and an examination of potential new concerns. Present study Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is examined critically in this study, with an emphasis on how well it protects young customers in Seoni, India research intends to aid in the facilitation of evidence-based reforms in food safety.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:-

The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act) is a pivotal legislation in India that plays a fundamental role in ensuring the safety and quality of food products for its diverse and populous nation. This functional analysis provides an overview of the FSS Act's key aspects and its impact on food safety and standards in India. The Act also regulates food imports, promoting international harmonization of food standards.

Children in Seoni are especially susceptible to problems with food safety, which can have significant repercussions for their health and development but are very prevalent in this region. There are a number of common food safety issues that impact children in Seoni. These issues include the intake of polluted water and food, exposure to pesticides and chemical residues in fruits and vegetables, and the presence of adulterants in dairy products and sweets. The absence of severe enforcement of food safety rules, inadequate food storage facilities, and poor hygiene practices all contribute to the worsening of these problems. Additionally, due to the lack of hygiene in the production and handling of street food, which is popular among children, there are frequently severe health hazards associated with it. A high prevalence of foodborne illnesses among children is the result of the combination of these variables, which highlights the urgent need for improved food safety measures and public education campaigns in Seoni. Children are particularly susceptible to these infections.

Analysis of the legal response and its effectiveness in protecting juvenile consumers-

An effort that was coordinated by various different metropolitan and state entities was expected to give a lawful response to the pestilence of foodborne illness in Seoni. Immediately in the wake of getting reports of widespread illness among youngsters, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was told of the situation. An immediate investigation was initiated in order to determine the origin of the pollution and to reduce the likelihood of any subsequent dangers. Because of this delay, the outbreak was able to spread further and affect a greater number of children than it would have been able to if a more quick response had been taken. In addition, the incident brought to light systemic problems, such as the absence of routine and stringent inspections of facilities

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that involve the manufacture of food. As a result of this regulatory loophole, the dairy farm's inadequate practices were not brought to light until the outbreak took place.

In addition, the outbreak brought to light a lack of understanding among the general people regarding the safety of food. On the other hand, it was discovered that the processes for making enforcement decisions lacked both proactivity and rigour. It became clear as a result of the occurrence that there is a requirement for more stringent regulatory methods, such as regular inspections, stringent cleanliness standards, and strong public awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the risks associated with food safety.

Lessons learned and recommendations for improvement- Several important lessons were learned as a result of the outbreak of foodborne disease in Seoni. These lessons are necessary for preventing incidents of a similar nature in the future and assuring the safety of consumers at the juvenile age. Based on the findings of the investigation into the outbreak and the aftermath of it, the following are some important conclusions and recommendations:

- ❖ **Importance of Regular Inspections-** During the outbreak that occurred in Seoni, it became clear that there is an urgent requirement for food manufacturing and distribution facilities to undergo regular and comprehensive inspections.
- ❖ **Strengthening Legal Frameworks-** During the Seoni outbreak, it became abundantly clear that there was a pressing need to enhance the local enforcement procedures.
- ❖ **Public Awareness Campaigns-** The prevention of foodborne infections requires that the general people be made more aware of the importance of food safety.
- ❖ **Rapid Response Systems-** The Seoni event brought to light the importance of having response systems that are both more effective and more speedy in order to deal with outbreaks of foodborne illnesses.
- ❖ **Support for Affected Families-** In order to minimise the negative effects on health, it is essential to provide timely medical aid and support to families who have been impacted by foodborne infections.

Consumer Awareness Program-

A comprehensive consumer awareness programme was initiated in Seoni as a response to the epidemic of foodborne illness. The program's goal was to educate the local public about the importance of food precautions. With the help of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the local health department launched a programme with the intention of raising awareness about the significance of maintaining good cleanliness and following appropriate procedures when handling food. It targeted local markets, community centres, and schools in order to ensure that it reached a large number of people. Among the activities that were carried out were demonstrations of safe food handling methods, instructional speeches, interactive workshops, and the distribution of instructive booklets. In order to teach children in schools fundamental ideas of food safety in a way that is both interesting and easy to comprehend, special sessions specifically designed for children were organised.

Evaluation of its impact on children's understanding of food safety- Significant changes in both information and conduct were found to have happened as a result of the evaluation of the impact that the consumer awareness program had on children's understanding of food safety. There was a discernible rise in the level of awareness regarding food safety concepts among schoolchildren and their parents, as indicated by surveys that were carried out both before and after the programme. Prior to the implementation of the programme, a significant number of youngsters lacked fundamental knowledge, such as the significance of washing their hands before meals, the ability to recognise bad food, and the dangers of consuming food that was contaminated. The children, on the other hand, displayed a profound comprehension of these ideas after taking part in the programme. The individuals had an enhanced understanding of hygienic standards, shown the ability to recognise symptoms of food rotting, and comprehended the value of storing food in an appropriate manner. Teachers and parents have also noticed favourable changes in the behaviour of children with regard to the safety of food consumed. It was noted that children were more aware of the need of hygiene habits both at home and at school. These activities included washing their hands before meals and keeping food in the appropriate manner. It is clear from this that the programme had a significant and long-lasting effect on the children's comprehension of food safety, which in turn had a favourable influence on their behaviour.

Table 1: Consumer Protection Laws with Special Reference to Juvenile Consumers

Aspect	United States	European Union	Australia	India	Seoni, India
Regulatory Framework	Federal and state laws; FDA, CPSC oversight	EU directives and regulations; EFSA oversight	National and state laws	FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India)	Local implementation of national laws
Specific Child Consumer Protections	CPSIA (Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act)	EU Food Law and Child Safety Directives	Australian Consumer Law (ACL)	Consumer Protection Act 2019, FSSAI regulations	Focus on national standards and local enforcement
Education and Awareness Programs	Extensive public education campaigns; school programs	EU-wide awareness campaigns; school programs	National campaigns; focus on schools and parents	Limited national campaigns; NGO involvement	Local NGO and government initiatives
Legal Recourse and Compensation	Strong legal recourse; class action lawsuits	EU consumer protection laws allow for legal recourse; collective redress mechanisms	Compensation through ACL; ombudsman services	Limited compensation mechanisms; consumer courts	Consumer courts and local dispute resolution
Implementation and Enforcement	Strict enforcement; regular inspections and penalties	Harmonized implementation across member states; strict penalties	Strong enforcement by ACCC (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission)	Moderate enforcement; issues with consistency across states	Variable enforcement, challenges in rural areas
Case Studies of Food Safety Incidents	Numerous high-profile cases; significant media coverage	Several notable cases; strong regulatory response	Documented cases with effective responses	Several cases with varied responses	Local foodborne illness incidents, varying response effectiveness
Best Practices Identified	Effective public awareness and strict enforcement	Harmonized regulations and strong consumer rights	Comprehensive legal framework and strong enforcement	Strong regulatory framework, but need for better enforcement and awareness	Need for localized education and stronger enforcement
Challenges Identified	Complex regulatory environment; need for better coordination among agencies	Variation in implementation across member states	Balancing national and state responsibilities	Inconsistent enforcement, lack of awareness, limited compensation	Resource constraints, awareness, and enforcement issues
Recommendations for Seoni	Implement school-based education programs; strengthen local enforcement	Adopt harmonized standards; improve local awareness programs	Enhance local enforcement mechanisms; engage community in safety practices	Increase awareness campaigns; strengthen enforcement and compensation	Tailored education programs; improved enforcement and local support

CONCLUSION:-

Mahatma Gandhi had once said, 'It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver'. This rings true as safe and nutritious food is the foundation of good health. Food affects us all in myriad ways. Food, in its varied forms, is not just a means of sustenance - it is a central, defining aspect of cultures across the world. Apart from nutrition and taste, a less glamorous but perhaps more important part of food is the safety standards that people adhere to while preparing, selling, serving and eating food. Unsafe food is being perceived as a growing global threat today. To guarantee that the effect of organizations on common freedoms can be controlled, consumer regulation is respected to be a significant device. One of the main factors that might significantly affect the manner in which corporations work is that consumer's decision. It is essential to take note of that responsible and moral consumerism is a more complete notion than green consumerism, which demands consumers to know about the comprehensive impact that the production interaction has on common freedoms, the environment, society, and creatures. Besides the fact that it works to should defend and advance the rights of children, however it ought to likewise attempt to forestall the encroachment of those rights. Food safety, nutrition, and food security are naturally entwined; nevertheless, the meaning of food safety in this relationship is once in a while ignored.

Future Work:-

In of food safety and regulations, future work holds significant promise in addressing the evolving challenges of our globalized and technologically advanced food supply chain. It is critical to continue reviewing regulatory frameworks and improving them so that they not only satisfy current requirements but also evolve to meet new risks and opportunities. This demands a multidimensional strategy that involves proactively monitoring risks, educating customers, incorporating technological improvements, and promoting global harmony. Sustainability, which emphasizes the need for safe and environmentally friendly ways to grow food, is another factor that is increasingly significant. Future research and regulatory advances will be critical in preserving public health, fostering business growth, and promoting responsible and sustainable food systems as dietary trends shift and

digitization transforms the way we track and monitor food items.

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