

## CRITICAL ANALYSES OF LAWS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF FOOD SAFETY IN PAKISTAN AND WAY FORWARD

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### Abstract

Provision of safe food and food security are the most studied topics of current era. Assurance of food safety in developing countries i.e., India and Pakistan are always compromised due to lack of an appropriate structure and framework. Though there are a lot of legislations and laws in the Constitution of Pakistan, which ensure various aspects of food chain. But their focus is mainly food chain management and marketing. Due to poorly legislative framework, various food borne infectious diseases have been prevailed in Pakistani community. In 2011, a semi government authority was formed in biggest province of Pakistan, which focused on the provision of safe food, but that authority is still in legalization process. Overall, there is deficiency of a legal framework for food safety and food security for indigenous as well as overseas food trade.

Current study focuses on the root causes of lack of regulations and implementation of food safety laws in Pakistan, and glimpse on food safety issues including suggestions to solve this problem. A brief description of the pre-existing laws and regulations related to food safety and food quality management for variety of raw and processed foods have been criticized. Reasons for poor implementation of laws are discussed and possibilities to improve this legal framework are suggested. Furthermore, role of citizens and their awareness has been explored to maintain and develop a legal framework to ensure food safety throughout agri-food chain. As the main reason for lack of regulations is unawareness of public about the importance of food safety regulative framework, lack of demand and interest for safe food.

This review shows a brief overview of the existing national food safety laws and also it finds out some entry points where citizens can play their role in making these laws more effective. Moreover, role of Food Authority has been discussed and role WTO-SPS agreement for global trade with Pakistan is elaborated.

**Key words:** Agri-Food Chain, Punjab Food Authority, Constitution, Food Safety, Food Poisoning.