Bacteriological water quality at street food vendors. (14 March 2016 - 21 March 2016)

Aim:
To determine the health of the drinking water provided by the street vendor based on bacteriological analysis.

Description:
“Pani-puri”, a well-known street food, preferred by most of the people in the valley. The food vendor selected in the study were the “Pani-puri” sellers available in areas with high movement of people like bus and tempo stands, street markets or near colleges of Kathmandu.

A total 103 “ready-to-drink” water samples were collected from food vendors for bacteriological quality testing (Total coliform and Escherichia coli) at ENPHO laboratory. The areas like Newroad, Jamal, Ratnapark, Bhotebahal, Bhrikutimandap, Bagbazaar, Old Buspark, Lainchaur, Chhetrapati, Gongabu, Samakhushi, Tilganga, Samkhusi and Baneswor area were included in the study.

Key findings:
- Jar water, tap water, tanker and other sources of the water were the sources of main source of 103 samples.
- Of the total samples tested, majority of samples (97%) were contaminated with total coliform, while, 92% of samples were contaminated with E. Coli. These indicates the high health risks possessed by the drinking water provided by the street food vendors.
- 71% of the samples were at very high risk category (>100 CFU/100 ml) in all of the sources in terms of total coliform.
- In terms of E. coli, 82% samples were found to be contaminated with more than 1 or 100 CFU/100 ml.