

Prevalence of Microbial contamination of Indian currency notes (Rupee) in circulation – Implications on public health

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ABSTRACT

Many environmental materials serve as vehicles for transmission of bacterial agents to humans. Paper currencies are widely exchanged for goods and services worldwide and can act as vehicles for transmission of potential pathogens. The aim of the study is to determine the prevalence of bacterial contaminants in Indian paper currency notes which are in circulation in puducherry and associated risk factors. Currencies notes were processed for microbial isolation using the Nutrient agar, Macconkey agar, Blood agar and EMB agar. The conventional methods of swabbing and streaking were used. Pure colonies of isolates organisms were identified and characterized using standard microbiological technique. From this study it was concluded that the paper currency is commonly contaminated with microbes and this contamination may be playing a role in the transmission of potentially harmful organisms.