The article entitled “Food safety in the 21st century”.

The authors of the article are F. Käferstein and M. Abdussalam. It was written by 1999.

The article comes up from Bulletin of the World Health Organization.

It is on the National Library of Medicine page at number 10327714: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2557642/>.

The article lies in to the field of medicine.

The main theme is that new methods need to be applied to monitor and evaluate the safety of additives. This should be done with reference to the law, but with more reliance on voluntary compliance.

The article tells how big the role of food additives is and what harm they cause.

At the beginning of the article the author states, that the global importance of food safety is not fully appreciated by many public health authorities. Epidemiological surveillance has demonstrated a constant increase in the prevalence of foodborne illness. Moreover, there have been some devastating outbreaks of salmonellosis, cholera, enterohaemorrhagic Escherichia coli infections, hepatitis A and other diseases in both developed and developing countries.

The author goes on to say that an association has been established between the prevalence of cholera and dysentery and the oceanic phenomenon known as El NinÄo. This underlines the need for accurate forecasts of this and other phenomena so that preventive measures can be taken against the diseases concerned. Toxic chemicals released into the environment by industrial processes and agricultural practices may enter the human food chain. When small quantities are present in food the effects on health are thought to be minimal. Nevertheless, there is concern in this area, one reason being that pesticides are known to suppress the immune system in experimental animals.

Further, the author points out that poverty and inequity are the principal factors contributing to poor health. With regard to food safety, the gap between privileged and unprivileged groups may seem less marked than in other areas because foodborne diseases are quite prevalent in rich societies as well as in poor ones. However, people in rich societies generally suffer from mild diseases that persist because of hazardous lifestyles (preference for raw foods, mishandling of foods, etc.), whereas in poor communities the serious, life-threatening diseases such as infant diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid fever and fluke infection are still quite prevalent and cause high levels of mortality.

Summing up, the author tells how government organizations should cooperate with each other in order to monitor food safety.

I find the article useful and interesting because, as they say, We Are What We Eat.

In my opinion, the proposed solution by the author will not work because it requires a lot of time to implement, and large investments.

The article is intended for a wide range of readers, these are students, supporters of a healthy lifestyle and others.