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Street food consumption in a Ghanaian Metropolis: The concerns determining consumption and non-consumption

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- 2 and non-consumption

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4 1.0 Introduction,

- 5 Food choice and consumption is an intricate subject influenced by several factors (Costello,
- 6 Tarrega, & Bayarri, 2010; Guerrero, Colomer, Guardia, Xicola, Clotet, 2000) including food
- 7 hygiene and standards, food allergens, chemicals and pesticide residues, use of additives,
- 8 synthetic flavours and colours (Wilcock, Pun, Khanona & Aung, 2004; Kidd, 2000). The
- 9 decision on what to eat and where to eat would have been much easy if humankind had
- 10 continued in the hunter-gatherer ways of life which guaranteed at least food safety if not food
- security (Gupta, Dudeja, & Minhas, 2016). An important segment of food source for urban
- dwellers in developing countries is street food (Pang & Toh, 2008). Despite the importance of
- this food source, there are concerns over safety and the nutritional value of street foods. Most
- of the concerns have centred on the vendors and their knowledge of food safety and hygiene
- and ineffectiveness of food safety regulations and monitoring (Alimi, 2016; Cortese, Veiros,
- 16 Feldman, & Cavalli, 2016; Khairuzzaman, Chowdhury, Zaman, Al Mamun, & Bari, 2014;
- 17 Liu, Zhang, Zhang, 2014; FAO, 2010, 2012; Pang & Toh, 2008; Toh & Birchenough, 2000)
- and the infrastructure in place to support the vendors to ply their trade hygienically and
- 19 sanitarily.

20

- Vendor practices and environmental concerns are just one side of the problems confronting
- street food vending in most developing countries. Subratty, Beeharry and Chan (2004)
- proposed that there are constraints on the ability of most local authorities to ensure the safety
- of street food vending due to several factors prominent among which is the large small units
- of vendors involved with the trade making it difficult to license and regulate their activities.
- There is also the problem of underfunding and under-resourced staff making it difficult for
- local authorities to regulate the trade. The result is cutting corners and bribe-taking, which
- leads to entrenchment of food safety abuses (Apaassongo, Aidoo, & Ohene-Yenkyera, 2016;
- 29 Laryea, 2000)

30

- 31 Consumers in developed countries are more concerned about health issues related to the
- 32 intake of food (Smed & Jessen, 2005). Most consumers in developing countries on the other
- hand may have some awareness of food safety issues, which only becomes clear after major
- outbreaks of foodborne illnesses (Asiegbu, Lebelo, & Tabit, 2016) but are not too bothered

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