

**EFFECT OF MICROWAVING AND SELF-LIFE EVALUATION  
STUDY OF HEALTHY FLOUR AT AIR- CONDITION STORAGE.**

**BY**

**ARUMUGAM INTHUJA.**



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**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY**

**FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE**

**EASTERN UNIVERSITY**

**SRI LANKA**

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## ABSTRACT.

Wheat is most widely produced cereal grain in the world after maize and rice for human consumption. Healthy flour which include here are "Whole grain wheat flour" and "Chakki Atta". Whole wheat flour is increasingly popular as research continues reveal the benefits of whole grains and for industry offers more whole grain options for customers. The purpose of this review is to address self-life issues that are unique to whole grain flour. Self-life of whole grain flour is shorter compared to white flour due to the presence of lipid and lipid degrading enzyme. Lipolytic degradation leads to reduction in functionality, palatability and nutritional properties, strategies to stabilize whole grain flour have been focused on controlling lypolytic enzyme activity. Whole grains are a source of multiple nutrients and dietary fibre, recommended for children and adults in several daily servings containing variety of food that meet whole grain-rich criteria. "Chakki Atta" which is mostly used in rural areas. Chakki Atta is ground wheat without any addition or subtraction, and is thus in more neutral form.

The present study was conducted at Prima Ceylon Pvt Ltd, to evaluate the quality changes that could be occurred in the Healthy flour during the storage of 12 weeks and also to study the effect of microwaving in the quality of the flour; Two treatments were designed to each flour for the experiment which was conducted within air-conditioned room. Whole grain wheat flour (Micro waved & Non-Microwaved) & Chakki Atta flour (Micro waved & Non-Microwaved) were packed in polyethylene bags separately as Microwaved & Non-microwaved and evaluated for quality changes 12 weeks under air-conditioned storage temperature. The physicochemical properties analysis (Moisture, Protein Ash, Wet Gluten, Colour, Fat acidity, Crude Fat, Crude Fibre, sieve test and smell test), biological properties analysis (weevils count by sieve test 355µm) and

sensory evaluation were conducted in weekly interval and finally products (Healthy cake & Chapatti) were developed from each flour & sensory characteristics of end products were evaluated by using seven hedonic scale method at the end of each month. Results were analysed by statistical software (SAS) for analysis of variance.

The study showed that there was no any significant differences in the quality parameters of whole grain wheat flour such as moisture, protein, ash, smell, Crude fibre and crude fat whilst wet gluten colour and fat acidity had significant changes over twelve weeks. Microwaving have a distinct effect on moisture, colour and fat acidity whereas other parameters remains equally same. On the other hand, physiochemical properties of chakki atta such as colour, protein, crude fat and fat acidity have changed with the storage period and microwaving treatment prominently influenced on moisture, wet-gluten, colour, protein, ash and fat acidity. There was no any weevils infestation found for both flour. Sensory characteristics of end products also not affected by storage for both flours. It was found from this study that, it is so obvious that these flours can be best used for three months from the date of manufacture.

It can be recommended that the study period should be extended at least to 9 months to study the changes in the flour properties minutely because 3 months is fairly shorter. Furthermore, microbial test can be included to find out the extent of microbial contamination since microbial contamination is a fact of self-life and further analysis can be included other than sensory evaluation to evaluate minutely about texture (Chapatti and Cake) for the product developed from healthy flour. Ultimately it can be suggested that Nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) gas packaging can be practiced instead of microwaving thermal treatment.

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