

A STUDY ON PROBLEM AND PROSPECTS OF WOMEN STREET VENDORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SALEM CITY

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ABSTRACT

Street vendors are some of informal sector business actors who are directly related to city government policy. Illegal street vendors as one type of street vendors often get ill-treatment from the city government. It is because in running the business, street vendors occupy public space, such as sidewalks and shoulders, so they are disciplined. Through this phenomena, this study aimed to analyse survival strategy done by street vendors and reasons by street vendors in using public space as a place to trade. Those objectives were further described by employing qualitative descriptive method with data collection technique through interviews and observations. Once the data have been collected, they were analysed qualitatively interactively. From the research results, it can be concluded. First, being a street vendor for low-level society is the only option and is the most viable way to sustain their lives. Some street vendors do survival strategy in order to meet the needs of everyday life. Second, street vendors use public spaces such as roadsides and sidewalks because there are limitations which make them impossible to occupy locations with obligations to pay, roads and sidewalks are strategic places to peddle merchandise; and lack of attention from government to the needs and welfare of street vendors.

1. INTRODUCTION

Street vendors are very important part of the informal sector in the country. It is estimated that around 80 percent of the population are engaged in street vending profession. Women form a large segment of street vending in almost every city. Street vending is not only a source of self-employment to the poor in cities and towns but also a means to provide “affordable” as well as “convenient” services to a majority of the population. A street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public at large without having a permanent built up structure from which to sell. Street vendors may be stationary in the sense that they occupy space on the pavements or other public/private spaces or, they may be mobile in the carts or in the baskets on their heads. The term street vendors include stationary as well as mobile vendors and it incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them. Street vendors carry their goods on overhead, pull or push carts, Bike, mini vans and Goods carriers the way how they carry their goods define type. Women Street vendors are often those who are unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector on account of their low level of education and skills. In order to choose the family financially women entered into this business. They try to solve their livelihoods problems through their own meager financial resource. They are the main distribution channel for a large variety of products of daily consumption like fruits, vegetables, readymade garments, shoes, household gadgets, toys, stationery, newspapers and magazines and so on. Street vending business has no entry and exit barriers so they can start at any time but the same time they have to face many challenges in the stress as well as the family. Women street vendors has many complaints relating to security, basic sanitation facilities, threat of eviction etc. So government should take immediate steps to protect our own traditional street vendors in the streets of Salem. Government and other NGO's can take steps to improve these women street vendors by giving them training development programmes. In general women working in the streets face these challenges they are as follows: economic pressure, socio cultural challenges, adverse political conditions and operational challenges. So we are in a need to identify the Problems and Prospectus faced by the women street vendors with special reference to Salem city.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To study the current status of women street vendors in the Salem city.
- To identify the problems faced by women street vendors in the society.
- To identify the major constraints that faced by the women street vendors while operating their business.
- To study the awareness level on current government schemes/programmes to uplift street vendors.
- To examine the health conditions of the Women street vendors.
- To provide suggestion to uplift the women street vendors in Salem city.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A research methodology is purely and simple basic framework or plan for the study basic framework or plan for a study that guides the collection of data analysis of the data. In consumer surveys, we adopted this descriptive research for collecting and analysis of the data. It is the systematic way to solve problems. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically.

SAMPLING METHOD

An integral component of a research design is the sampling plan. Specifically, it addressed three questions: whom to survey, how many to survey and how to select them. In this study the researcher has used convenient sampling method. In this method, the sampling units are chosen primarily in accordance with the investigator convenience.

SAMPLE SIZE

The total sample consists of 50 Respondents who are living in and around Salem city.

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION

Data collection is the process of gathering and measuring data, information or any variables of interest in a standardized and established manner that enables the collector to answer or test hypothesis and evaluate outcomes of the particular collection. Data collection methods can be divided into two categories: secondary methods of data collection and primary methods of data collection.

PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION:

Primary data is information collected directly from the first-hand experience. This is the information that you gather for the purpose of a particular research project. Primary data collection is a direct approach that is tailored to specific company needs. The primary data is collected through well structured questionnaire, which comprises of socio economic information and the information pertaining to the study.

SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

When the data are collected by someone else for a purpose other than the researcher's current project and has already undergone the statistical analysis is called as Secondary Data. The secondary data are readily available from the other sources and as such, there are no specific collection methods. Secondary data is collected through various books, journals, articles, magazines, newspapers and websites.

STATISTICAL TOOLS APPLIED

- Simple percentage method and graphical representation are made for easy understanding of the analysis.
- Chi-square test

SIMPLE PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

Percentage studies are used for analysis presented pictorially for better clarity.

FORMULA

$$\text{Simple percentage} = \frac{\text{No. of respondents}}{\text{Total No of respondents.}} \times 100$$

CHI-SQUARE TEST

It is one of the simplest and widely used non-parametric test in statistical work. The quantity chi-square describes the magnitude of the discrepancy between theory and observation. Which is defined as?

$$\text{Chi-Square} = \frac{(O_i - E_i)^2}{E_i}$$

O_i - Observed frequency, E_i - Expected frequency

In general, the expected frequency for any can be calculated from the following equations

$$E = \frac{RT \times CT}{N}$$

E = Expected frequency, CT = Column total,

RT = Row total, N = Total number of observation

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is attempted to address the “Problems and prospects of women street vendors in Salem city. The results of the study will provide a better understanding and awareness to policy makers, to design an effective and effective strategy for the improvement of the livelihood of the Women street vendors and the development of street vending. It will also serve as a stepping-stone and make the modest contribution for those who are interested to conduct research on street vending. The analysis is a comprehensive study of the socioeconomic life of the women street vendors in the study area. It addresses their difficulties and limitations relating to finance, infrastructure and the earnings and the personal difficulties, etc.

CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK OF THE STUDY

STREET VENDORS

Street vendor is a person who offers goods or service for sale to the public without having permanently built structure but with a temporary static structure or a mobile stall. Street vendors have been in existence since ancient times. In all civilizations, ancient and medieval, one reads accounts of travelling merchants who not only sold their wares in the town by going from house to house but they also traded in neighboring countries. Perhaps ancient and medieval civilizations were tolerant to these wandering traders and that is why they flourished. In modern times we find that street vendors are rarely treated with the same measure of dignity and tolerance. They are targeted by municipalities and police in the urban areas as illegal traders, the urban middle class complains constantly on how these vendors make urban life a living hell as they block pavements, create traffic problem and also engage in anti-social activities (though more often than not, the same representatives of middle class prefer to buy from street vendors as the goods they sell are cheaper though the quality is as good as those in the overpriced departmental stores and shopping malls).

A street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public at large without having a permanent built up structure from which to sell. Street vendors may be stationary in the sense that they occupy space on the pavements or other public/private spaces or, they may be mobile in the sense that move from place to place by carrying their wares on push carts or in baskets on their heads. In this essay, the term street vendor includes stationary as well as mobile vendors and it incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them. Street vendors carry their goods on overhead, Pull or push carts, Bike, Mini vans and Goods carriers the way how they carry their goods define their type.

INCOME AND LIFESYTL E OF STREET VENDORS

According to a recent study in Mumbai, the per capita income of 53% of street vendors is Rs 20 per day. The NCEUS report categorizes this income level as “poor and vulnerable”. The income level of the vendors has not increased over the years. Most of the street vendors face a huge debt burden. Low income coupled with the high cost of living often forces them to take loans at high interest rates. They have to shell out a significant percentage of their income as interest every month, leaving them with little to get by.

The basic problems of street vendors is insecurity and uncertainty as their profession is considered illegal, but according to government of India assessment done in 2004 shows around

2.5% of local poor urban population survive by working in this occupation.

- **Harassment by Police and Local government:**

Some of the police man is daily collecting money from the Street Vendors (Rs.10-20).

They buy goods from them for free of cost and then monthly once book in 2 nuisance cases.

Police man utters bad words against them.

- **Trading sites too small:**

The Street Vendors are occupied the small place and they are using some different equipments (transitory) for their business. When the government announces about tender notifications, they are not interested in participating in the tender

- **Problems with site allocation systems:**

They have no particular site for vending. So some of the vendors occupy their area in early morning and it leads to quarrel between the vendors. Sometimes these problems have been taken to the court.

- **Lack of facilities (e.g. shelters, storage):**

Hawkers are not having a permanent place. They move one place to another place, so they are not using cold storage and some safety equipments (umbrella, water and etc...).

- **Lack of access to credit:**

The vendors are not able to invest a lot of money (capital) for their business, because they do not have sufficient income. It is very difficult for their savings in future

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Table 4.2: Health issues by being a street vendor

HEALTH ISSUES BY BEING A STREET VENDOR	NO. OF RESPONSES	% OF RESPONSES
Headache	42	46.70%
Heat Problems	27	30%
Pollution	18	20%
Diabetics	3	0.30%

Sources: Primary data

Tools: Percentage analysis

Inference:

Out of 90 respondents 46.7% of respondents of street vendors suffers from headache. 9% of respondents of street vendors suffers from heart problems. 6% of respondents of street vendors suffers from pollution. 1% of respondents of street vendors suffer.

CHART 4.2

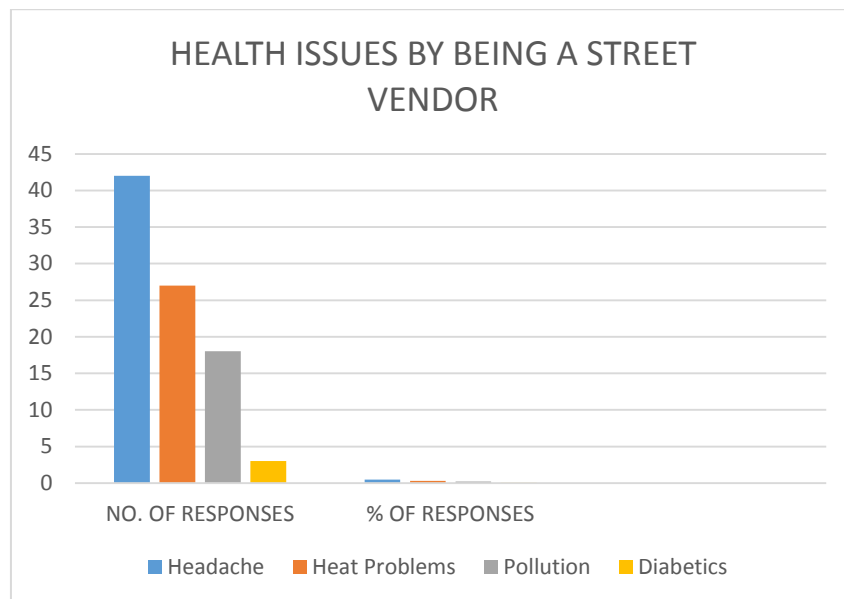


Table 4.3: The problems faced as a women street vendors

Problems Faced As A Women Street Vendors	No. Of Responses	% Of Responses
Sanitary facility	21	23.30%
Sexual harassment	9	10%
Insecure	42	46.70%
Uncertainty	18	20%

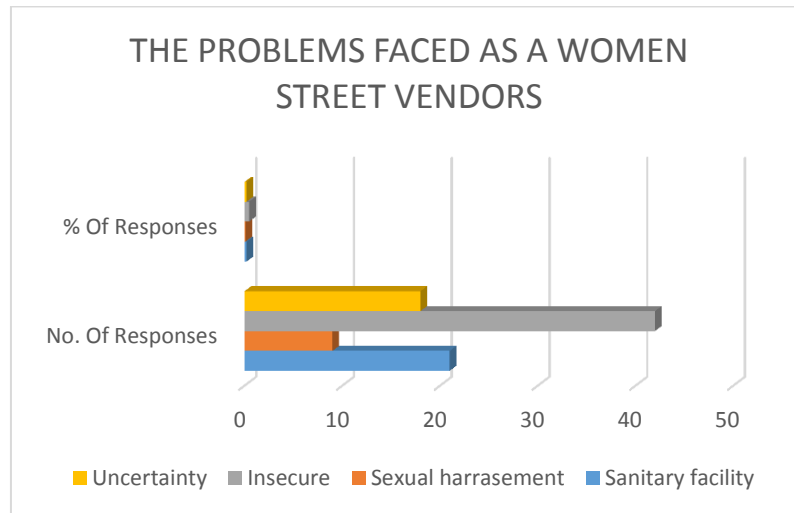
Sources: Primary data

Tools: Percentage analysis

Inference:

Out of 90 respondents 23.3% of respondents of street vendors suffers from sanitary facility. 10% of respondents of street vendors suffers from sexual harassment. 46.7% of respondents of street vendors suffers from insecure. 20% of respondents of street vendors suffers from uncertainty.

CHART 4.3



RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EDUCATION AND PROBLEMS FACED BY WOMEN'S VENDOR

SOURCES: Primary data

NULL HYPOTHESIS

H₀: There is no significance relationship between education and problems faced by women's vendor.

ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS

H₁: There is significance relationship between education and problems faced by women's vendor.

Table4.12: Chi Square Test

PARTICULAR	OBSERVED FREQUENCY	EXPECTED FREQUENCY	(O-E) ²	$\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
R ₁ C ₁	12	12	0	0
R ₁ C ₂	6	8	4	0.5
R ₁ C ₃	9	7	4	0.57
R ₁ C ₄	3	3	0	0
R ₂ C ₁	6	4.8	1.44	0.3
R ₂ C ₂	3	3.2	0.04	0.01
R ₂ C ₃	3	2.8	0.04	0.01
R ₂ C ₄	0	1.2	1.44	1.2
R ₃ C ₁	9	9.6	0.36	0.03
R ₃ C ₂	6	6.4	0.16	0.02
R ₃ C ₃	6	5.6	0.16	0.03
R ₃ C ₄	3	2.4	0.36	0.15
R ₄ C ₁	9	9.6	0.36	0.03
R ₄ C ₂	9	6.4	6.76	1.05
R ₄ C ₃	3	5.6	6.76	1.21
R ₄ C ₄	3	2.4	0.36	0.15
Calculated Value				4.21

Degree of freedom : (r-1) (c-1)
: (4-1) (4-1)
: 9

Level of significance : 5%

Table Value : 16.919

Calculated value : 4.21

RESULT

Since the calculated value is less than the table value. So, we accept the null hypothesis. There is no relationship between using the education and problems faced by women's vendor.

5. FINDING, SUGGESTIONS

FINDING

- Majority 34% of the respondents are 31-35 age group.
- Majority 47% of the respondents of street vendors suffers from headaches.
- Majority 47% of the respondents of street vendors suffers from insecure.
- Majority 36% of the respondents of street vendors working 8PM-6AM.
- Majority 28% of the respondents of street vendors suffers from institutional presence.
- Majority 34% of the respondents of street vendor operate fast food stall.
- Majority 38% of the respondents of street vendors doing temporary.
- Majority 34% of the respondents of street vendors earn 500-1000 per day.
- Majority 40% of the respondents of street vendors are married.
- Majority 53% of the respondents of street vendors are complete primary education.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Street vendors are our own street entrepreneur who does his/her business in pavements. Women street vendors can be given training to improve their lifestyle
- Demarcation of Area for Vending Activity through sign boards and ground marking.
- Change is the need of the hour. Specialized training can be given to street vendors to withstand in today's competition.
- Skill based training such as operating mobile banking; usage of paytm can be given to our own traditional vendor.
- Working conditions of the street vendors can be improved by providing proper sanitation facilities. Provision of urinal and water tap
- Barricading of footpath with limited Entry and Exit.
- Registration of vendors. Establishment of revenue collection committee or SHGs
- Arrangement of electricity and lights.

6. CONCLUSION

Street vendors are an important part of the informal sector not only because of their numbers but because of crucial roles they play in preserving their sector. Moreover, a significant amount of goods produced by small industrial units in the informal sector is marketed through them. The street vendor's contributions are unfortunately hardly ever recognized by the government. Instead the government is more often than not hostile to them. This is a result of a broader issue concerning the informal sector as a whole. In most Asian countries the informal sector is very large and it constitutes the mainstay of the economy.

The objective of this paper is to identify the causes behind street vending, challenges faced by street vendors, highlight the importance of street vendors, what measures are taken by the Government to prevent the harassment of street vendors by various authorities, improvement in the working conditions, social protection and life skill development to improve the level of profitability. Government provides street vending policies for street vendors; however, the street vendors are not aware of such policies. This study reveals that the best way for the planners to address this issue is to formalize the street vendors by issuing licenses. This will go a long way in giving these workers a space within the legal framework, as well as easing the regulation of street vendors for the government itself.

Street vendors provide more services to the society, among the population most of the women were selling fruits, vegetables and fish. These street vendors also faced challenges related to the inadequacy of space, sanitation and work place security. However these respondents also stated that they receive some form of help from the government. Government can take initiative to improve the life of our own traditional street vendor.

In conclusion it can be said that though India has witnessed an increased in street vendors, the government is indifferent to specific needs of this sector. Street vendors perform an important role in providing services to the urban population especially the poor. Street vending and petty trading activities form the essential core of informal economic sectors in developing nations help in generating income with minimized investments of financial capital and without requiring large human capital.

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