

## PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF STREET VENDORS IN TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

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### Abstract

Street vendor means a person engaged in vending of articles, goods, food items, etc. of everyday use or offering services to the general public in a street lane, sidewalk, footpath pavements, and public parks or any other public place or private areas or from temporary built-up structure. 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 they move from place to place by carrying their wares or push carts or in baskets on their heads. The main objective of the study is to identify the prospects of street vendors. This study used questionnaire to collect primary data, the data were collected from street vendors in Tirunelveli District.

### Keywords

Entrepreneurs, informal sector, Problems and Prospects, savings, skills, Street vendors, Unemployment,

### Introduction

The informal sector plays a main role in economic development of all the countries especially in developing countries. In India almost one third of the national income comes from informal sectors. It reduces the problems of unemployment in our country. Entrepreneurs in this sector do their business for their livelihood and not for making profit. Some of the entrepreneurs involved in this informal sector may earn more than the formal sector employees. Some examples are: vegetable sellers, agents, hawkers etc. Not only rural areas, urban and city places also develop due to the informal sector like foot wear sellers and beauty parlor etc.

Street vendors play an important role in the economy of many countries around the world, especially in developing nations. They are small-scale entrepreneurs who operate businesses in public spaces, selling a variety of goods and services, such as food, clothing, electronics, and more.

The contribution of street vendors to the economy is significant. They provide affordable goods and services to consumers who may not have access to traditional markets or formal retail establishments. This helps to meet the needs of low-income and marginalized communities. Street vendors also contribute to local economies by creating employment opportunities, both for themselves and for others who may assist them in their business activities.

Street vending is often a vital source of income for individuals and families who may have limited educational or employment opportunities. It provides an opportunity for them to become self-employed and generate income to support themselves and their families. This, in turn, helps to reduce poverty and improve the standard of living in communities where street vending is prevalent.

Moreover, street vendors also pay taxes and other fees, which contribute to local government revenue. Their businesses also stimulate economic activity in the areas where they operate, generating income for other local businesses such as suppliers of goods and services. Street vendors make a valuable contribution to the economy by providing affordable goods and services, creating employment opportunities, and generating income and tax revenue for governments. They play an important role in meeting the needs of low-income and marginalized communities and can contribute to poverty reduction and economic development.

In Tamil Nadu, street vendors, also known as informal vendors or unorganized vendors, play an important role in the local economy by providing affordable goods and services to residents and visitors. However, their position has been a topic of debate and contention in recent years.

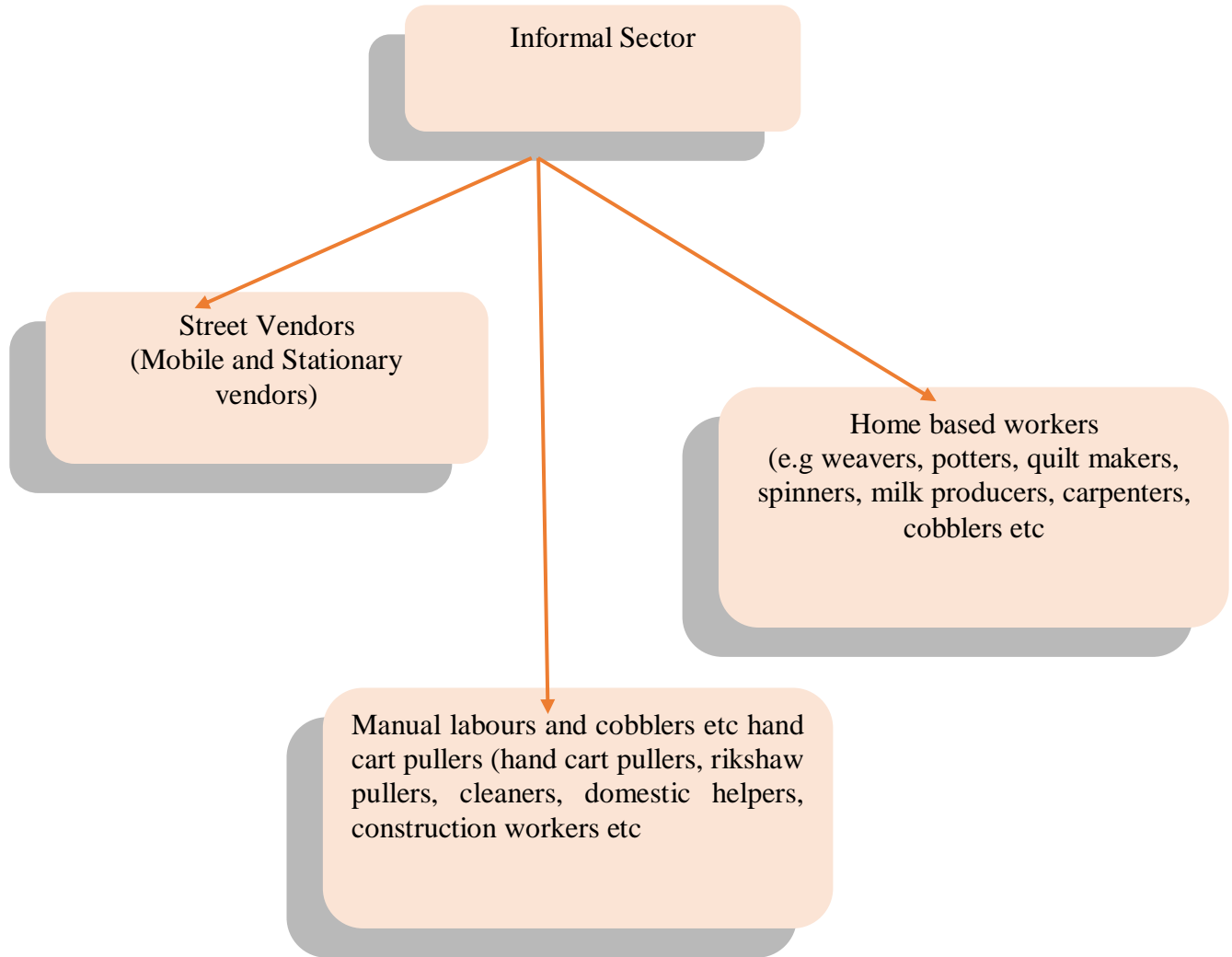
The Tamil Nadu Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2016 was enacted to protect the rights of street vendors and regulate street vending activities. According to the Act, a Town Vending Committee (TVC) is to be established

in every local authority to oversee the implementation of the Act and to regulate street vending activities. The Act recognizes the right of street vendors to carry out their trade without harassment or eviction and also provides for the allocation of vending spaces to registered vendors. However, the implementation of the Act has been slow and street vendors continue to face challenges such as harassment from law enforcement officials and eviction from their vending spaces.

In recent years, there have been efforts to organize street vendors and provide them with training and support to improve their businesses. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations have also played a role in advocating for the rights of street vendors and pushing for better implementation of the Act. Overall, while there are challenges facing street vendors in Tamil Nadu, there are also efforts to improve their position and protect their livelihoods.

Chart-1

Classification of Informal Sector



**IMPORTANCE OF INFORMAL SECTOR IN INDIAN ECONOMY**

Informal employment has become one of the main features of labour market scenario in India. The informal sectors' contribution is around half of the GDP of our country. Hence more than 90 percentage of the total workforce engaged in the informal economy. Our Indian economy is regulated by the existence of the majority work force of informal labour employment. A highest percentage of proportion is contributed to the development of our society from the informal economic activities. According to NSSO report, in rural areas the contribution of

informal sector workers in each type of segment is recorded more than 90 percentage and the highest share is contributed by the women employees with the share of 94.5 percentage. The highest level of growth depends upon women workers especially of the informal sector workers. There are some indicators of the developing inter-linkages between the economic activities and informal sectors. They are in terms of output, employment and earnings which help to faster inclusive growth. Sustaining these high levels of growth will address the needs of the sector in terms of credit, skills, technology, marketing and infrastructure.

A street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure from which to sell. Street vendors occupy space on the pavements or other public/private spaces or they may be mobile in the sense they move from place to place by carrying their wares or push carts or in baskets on their heads.

Street vendors sell different kinds of goods such as clothes and hosiery, leather made items, molded plastic goods and various household necessities which are manufactured in small scale or home based industries where large numbers of workers are employed. Apart from non-agricultural products, street vendors also sell vegetables and fruits.

Street vendors play an important role in many communities around the world.

Here are a few reasons why they are important:

**Accessibility:** Street vendors often provide affordable and convenient access to a variety of goods and services, including food, clothing, and other essentials. They can be found in busy urban areas and in more remote locations, making it easier for people to access what they need without having to travel far.

**Job creation:** Many street vendors are small business owners who create jobs for themselves and others. By selling goods and services on the street, they are able to provide for themselves and their families, and in some cases, even create employment opportunities for others.

**Cultural significance:** Street vendors are often a part of the local culture and contribute to the character of a community. They may sell unique and traditional foods or crafts that reflect the cultural heritage of the area.

**Informal economy:** Street vending is a part of the informal economy, which is often an important source of income for many people, especially in developing countries. By participating in the informal economy, people can earn a living even if they don't have access to formal employment opportunities.

**Entrepreneurship:** Street vending can be a starting point for entrepreneurship, allowing individuals to gain experience in running a business and develop skills that can be applied to other ventures in the future.

Overall, street vendors play an important role in providing access to goods and services, creating jobs, contributing to the local culture, and supporting the informal economy.

### **Significance of the study**

Street vendors constitute an important segment of the urban population. Street vendors are those who are unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector on account of the low level of education and skills. Street vending provides a source of self-employment, and thus acts as a measure of urban poverty alleviation without Government intervention. Their major problems relate to credit and infrastructure inadequacies, lack of proper space for displaying their goods, harassment by municipal and police officials, sudden eviction from their place of trade, non-recognition by the government of their business, unhygienic environment for the vendors particularly women vendors, etc. These are the major problems and some other problems are faced by these small traders which contribute significantly towards the income generation and for cost effective services to the poor and middle class people.

The **prospects of street vendors** can vary depending on various factors, such as the location, competition, and the economic conditions of the region they operate in. However, here are some general points to consider:

Pros:

Street vending can provide a source of income for individuals who may not have access to traditional employment opportunities.

Street vending can be a flexible and low-cost way to start a business or supplement income.

Street vendors can offer unique products and services that are not available in traditional retail stores, attracting customers who are looking for something different or specific.

In some cities, street vending has become a popular and culturally significant aspect of the local economy, attracting tourists and contributing to the city's character and identity.

Cons:

Street vendors often face legal and regulatory challenges, as many cities have laws that restrict or prohibit street vending. This can lead to fines, confiscation of goods, or even arrest.

Street vending can be a risky and unstable business, as vendors are subject to changing weather conditions, safety concerns, and fluctuations in demand.

Street vendors may face competition from other vendors or traditional retail stores, making it difficult to sustain a profitable business.

Street vendors may not have access to the same resources, such as marketing, financing, or business support, as traditional businesses.

Overall, the prospects of street vendors can be mixed, but with the right approach and support, street vending can provide a viable and rewarding business opportunity for many individuals.

## METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

**Sampling design:** There are large numbers of street vendors dealing in various commodities in Tirunelveli District. They represent varied types of vendors such as hawkers, peddlers, road side

dealers, small retailers, etc. and sell varied types of goods for daily use, fresh eatables, etc. As such the researcher confined the scope of study to Tirunelveli District only. Due to the unavailability of data, the researcher used the Non-Random Sampling technique. Under non-random sampling technique, convenience sampling technique was used by the researcher to collect the primary data from the respondents.

Sample size is calculated by using the following Cochran's formula which is universally accepted for non-random sampling method.

$$\begin{aligned}n_o &= \frac{z^2 pq}{e^2} \\ &= (1.96)^2 \times .5(.5) / (.05)^2 \\ &= 384.16 \text{ respondents}\end{aligned}$$

Based on this formula, the results shows that 384.16 respondents are needed to do the research work. Hence 384 persons should be selected as minimum sample size to carry out the research work. The researcher fixed the sample size as 384. The Questionnaire was distributed to 400 respondents for collecting the primary data. From the collected raw data, some of the questionnaires are not filled out completely. So those questionnaires are neglected by the researcher for purpose of analysis. Finally 384 questionnaires were taken up for the survey.

### **Sampling method**

Sampling helps to make the research work as an easiest one. In this research work, the researcher adopted the random sampling technique as sampling method. This study is restricted to the street vendors of Tirunelveli District. Hence samples are collected on the basis of taluks. There are eight taluks in Tirunelveli District and from those eight taluks 5% of street vendors from each taluk are selected.

### **Review of literature**



**Dr. M. Kalimuthu and Ms. Sindu. S (2021)<sup>1</sup>** says that street vendors provide valuable services to the urban masses while making out a living through their own enterprise, limited resources and labour. Street vendors have been demanding protection from civic agencies and the state government so they can earn their livelihood without fear. They suggested that Scheme like regular health check-up or healthcare and pension should also be extended to vendors. They also suggested that vending committee of each district should effectively address the vending issues of the vendors falling under their jurisdiction.

**Ibadasuklin Kharshandi (2021)<sup>2</sup>** contented that the formal and informal sector are categorized as Organized and Unorganized sector. Organized sector includes that of formal sector characteristics (legally registered, restrict to entry, availability of statistical data, budget document reports, annual reports, tax payment and etc.) and the Unorganized sector refers to an enterprise owned by individuals or self-employed workers who are engaged in the production or sale of goods or providing services of any kind for the society at large ex., Agriculturist, Construction labors, etc.

**Dr. G. Jayanti, Baranipriya. A and Sreeanadan (2020)<sup>3</sup>** in their study examined the socio economic condition and problems faced by the streetvenders in Coimbatore city. The result reveals that, female's contribution in this sector is lesser than the male respondents and they were facing problems like health issues, wastage of unsold goods, and insecurity in employment. Therefore, the government should take some corrective measures to improve their socio-economic and living conditions of streetvenders. They concluded that since nearly 81% of the Indian labour market is comprised of informal employment and streetvending is one of the ways

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<sup>1</sup>Dr. M. Kalimuthu, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce with Professional Accounting, Ms. Sindu. S, 2181PA051, Department of Commerce with Professional Accounting, Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, "A STUDY ON PROBLEMS FACED BY STREETVENDORS IN COIMBATORE CITY" ISSN (Online): 2455-3662 EPRA International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (IJMR) - Peer Reviewed Journal Volume: 7 | Issue: 8 | August 2021 || Journal DOI: 10.36713/epra2013 || SJIF Impact Factor 2021: 8.047 || ISI Value: 1.188

<sup>2</sup>IBADASUKLINKHARSHANDI, Ph.D thesis titled "Assessing job quality and its implication on security of street vendors in Shillong" thesis submitted to Department of adult and continuing education, School of education, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, March 2021.

<sup>3</sup>Dr. G Jayanti, Baranipriya A, Sreeanadan, A Study on Socio-economic conditions and problems of Street Vendors in Coimbatore city, Indian Journal of Research, Volume 9, ISSN 2250-1991, pp 22-23, February 2020.

of self-employment, providing the required support to the street vendors is essential to sustain their business and also to reduce unemployment in the economy. Majority of the respondents are engaged in the business of streetvending because of the low investment requirements and have raised their capital for initial investment from individual savings.

*Hariyatno et.al. (2020)*<sup>4</sup>explains that the informal sector plays a very important role in the economy. Self-employment in the informal sector is often the only option for many people with limited access to formal education and formal sector employment in developing countries including Indonesia. Informality was related to the economic situation of a nation. Economic informality is deemed to have irritant effects on the economic performance of a country by leading to low levels of productivity and stifling formal business growth. They recommended that residents take advantage of the employment opportunities available by participating in business activities in the market in their local environment as this would increase income for the welfare of the family without having to travel a distance to make a living.

*Ramalakshmi (2020)*<sup>5</sup>elucidate that low levels of education and poor skill among the unorganized sector workers have resulted in their inability to access the opportunities offered by merging markets. This underscores the criticality of skills up-gradation for better livelihoods opportunities in urban areas. Most of the poor are involved in informal sector activities where there is a constant threat of eviction, removal, confiscation of goods and almost non-existent of social security cover.

*Kumar and Pillai (2017)*<sup>6</sup>in their study on “Problems of street vendors in Kollam district” probed into various issues faced by street vendors. According to their study, Economic instability, Social insecurity, Weather fluctuations, Barriers towards credit facility, health issues,

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<sup>4</sup>Hariyatno, AdhiBawonob, Isanawikramac, Edwin Joyo Hutomod, Bina Nusantara University, “Informal Entrepreneur: A study of the Street Vendors in Indonesia”, International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change. www.ijicc.net Volume 12, Issue 8, 2020

<sup>5</sup>Ramalakshmi.R. Ph.D thesis titled “Urban informal workers in Tamil Nadu: A study of street vendors in Kanyakumari District”, thesis submitted to Department of Economics, ManonmaniamSundaranar University, January 2020.

<sup>6</sup>Shibin Kumar S, Nisanth M Pillai (2017), Problems of Street Vendors in Kollam District, International Journal of Informative and Futuristic Research, Volume 4, ISSN 2347-1697, pp 7377-7391, May 2017.

Discrimination, Working instability, lack of stringent Government policies and programs, Lack of awareness about legal rights etc. are the major issues faced by street vendors.

Transport workers, Self-employed, service based workers such as housekeepers, cobblers, painters, sewage workers are all categorized under unorganized sector - who basically do not possess job security, structured income, formal education, medical insurance and even old age financial support. It was concluded that development programme need to be boosted in the rural and remote areas to promote overall development of the unorganized sector.

**Results and Discussion**

**Table 1**

**Chi-square for association between Monthly Income and Monthly Savings**

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association between monthly income and monthly savings

Monthly Income	Monthly Savings				Total	Chi-square value	P value
	Below 500	500 – 1000	1001 – 1500	Above 1500			
1500 – 3000	42.3%	28.2%	12.8%	16.7%	100.0%	<b>20.03</b>	<b>0.018 (significant)</b>
3001 – 4500	21.9%	35.6%	22.5%	20.0%	100.0%		
4501 – 6000	23.1%	23.8%	37.7%	15.4%	100.0%		
Above 6000	18.8%	27.5%	6.3%	47.5%	100.0%		

*Source: Derived*

The above table shows the association between the variables of monthly income and monthly savings. The p value is less than the significant level, hence the null hypothesis is rejected and alternative hypothesis is accepted. So it is proved that there is an association between the monthly income earned by the respondents and the monthly savings of the respondents. It is seen

that Rs1500 – Rs3000 monthly income earners were able to save below Rs500 with the percentage of 42.3. The income group earners of Rs3001 – Rs4500 earning save Rs500 – Rs1000 per month from their income with the percentage of 35.6. The income earners of Rs4501 - Rs6000 save Rs1001 – Rs1500 and the persons those who are earning above Rs6000 save above Rs1500 per month. Hence, it is concluded that, an increase in income is accompanied by an increase in savings.

**Table 2**

**Chi-square for association between Monthly Savings and Mode of Investment**

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association between monthly savings and mode of investment

Monthly Savings	Mode of Savings				Total	Chi-square value	P value
	Bank	Post office	Insurance	Others			
Below 500	21.9%	38.5%	17.7%	21.9%	100.0%	<b>22.418</b>	<b>0.008</b> <b>(significant)</b>
500 – 1000	28.9%	28.2%	17.6%	25.4%	100.0%		
1001 – 1500	34.6%	29.6%	14.8%	21.0%	100.0%		
Above 1500	27.7%	20.0%	38.5%	13.8%	100.0%		

*Source: derived*

This chi-square table shows the any association between the monthly savings and mode of investment among the selected respondents. Based upon the chi-square value and p value it is known that there is an association between the monthly savings and the mode of investment. Persons who are able to save below Rs500 as monthly savings invest their savings in post office schemes. Persons who are able to save an amount of Rs500 – Rs1500 invest their savings in bank account. Insurance is the choice of investment by the persons

who are having a monthly savings of above Rs1500. Hence, it is concluded that investment avenues may vary among the respondents depending upon their amount of savings. Other mode of investments such as shares and investment in gold are not highly preferred by the selected street vendors.

**Table 3**  
**Reason for choosing street vending**

Statements	T	p value	Mean	SD	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower	Upper
Poverty	106.517	.000	4.11	.756	4.03	4.18
No support from family	68.582	.000	3.81	1.089	3.70	3.92
Husband is job-less or insufficient income	83.676	.000	3.64	.853	3.56	3.73
Traditional Profession	66.930	.000	3.67	1.075	3.56	3.78
Lack of skill to adopt other jobs	65.693	.000	3.51	1.047	3.41	3.62
Illiteracy	68.093	.000	3.85	1.108	3.74	3.96

Source: Derived

As per t test, it is noted that Poverty was the foremost reason for choosing street vending with the t value of (106.517) which is followed by Husband job less or insufficient income (83.676), No support from family ( 68.582), Illiteracy (68.093), Traditional profession (66.693) and Lack of skill to adopt other jobs. All the statements are statistically significant as the p values are less than 0.05. Hence it is concluded that the reasons for choosing street vending are Poverty and jobless husband or insufficient income.

**Table 4**  
**Factor analysis for prospects of street vendors**

Prospects	Components		
	Economic prospects	Prospects of authority	Working prospects
Reasonable profit	.735		

Cost efficiency	.699		
No payment of rent	.677		
Expanded economic opportunity	.674		
Elimination of poverty	.630		
Minimum capital requirement	.575		
No tax involved	.478		
Easy decision making		.859	
Decision maker		.731	
Increased self confidence		.657	
Status of employer		.651	
Unleashes the possibility of upward mobility		.567	
Availability of variety of products			.829
Flexibility as to the time of work			.751
Fewer formalities			.741
No union			.645
Creates employment opportunities			.587
Manageable work life balance			.568
Availability of Holidays			.411
% of Variance	22.05	16.80	15.28
Cumulative % of Variance	22.05	38.85	54.13
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.73</b>	<b>31.04</b>	<b>28.23</b>
<b>Extraction Method:</b> Principal Component Analysis.			
<b>Rotation Method:</b> Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.			

*Source: derived*

**Economic prospects:** Seven prospects filtered under this component are Reasonable Profits (.735), Cost efficiency (.699), No payment of rent (.677), Expanded economic opportunity (.674), Elimination of poverty (.630), Minimum Capital Requirement (.575), No tax involved (.478). This factor has a variance of 22.05 percent and form 40.73 percent out of total.

**Prospects of Authority:** Five prospects filtered under this component are Easy decision making (.959), Decision maker (.731), increased self-confidence (.657), Status of employer (.651), unleashes the possibility of upward mobility (.567). This factor has a variance of 16.80 percent and form 31.04 percent out of total.

**Working prospects:** Seven filtered under this component are Availability of variety of products (.829), Flexibility as to the time of work (.751), Fewer formalities (.741), No union (.645), Creates employment opportunities (.587), and Manageable work life balance (.568), Availability of Holidays (.411). This factor has a variance of 15.28 percent and form 28.23 percent out of total.

19 variables related to prospects of street vendors are used for factor reduction. From that total variable are divided into three factors such as economic prospect, prospect of authority and working prospect. Variables such as reasonable profits, cost efficiency, no payment of rent, expand economic opportunity, elimination of poverty; minimum capital requirement and no tax involved are related to monetary terms. Hence, it is termed as economic prospects. In second segment of factor, variables such as easy decision making, decision maker, increase self-confidence, worked as an employer and unleashes the possibility of upward mobility are related to authoritative situation of street vendors. Hence, it is termed as prospect of authority. In third segment of factor, variables such as availability of variety of products, flexibility as to the time of work, fewer formality, no union, creates employment opportunities, manageable work life balance and holiday availability are related to working environment of street vendors. Hence, it is termed as working prospects.

**Table 5**

**Mann Whitney U test for gender with various factors of problems**

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant mean difference between gender and various factors of problems of Street Vendors

Factors of Problems	Gender		Z value	P value
	Male	Female		
Societal problems	179.12	206.30	2.423	0.015

General problems	282.68	254.99	2.113	0.035
Marketing problems	165.10	146.03	2.070	0.038
Health problems	179.92	205.48	2.302	0.021

Source: derived

From the above Mann Whitney test, it is revealed that all the factors of problems are significant because p value which is less than 0.05. Hence, it is noted that there is a mean difference between gender and various factors of problems of street vendors. Based upon the mean rank value it is revealed that female street vendors face higher societal and health problems than male street vendors. With regard to general problems and marketing problems, male street vendors face higher problems than female street vendors. Hence, it is concluded that male street vendors are adversely affected by marketing and general problems and female street vendors are affected more due to societal and health problems.

Table 6

T Test for the expectations of street vendors from government

Statements	t	p value	Mean	SD	95% Confidence Interval	
					Lower	Upper
Government support	53.408	.000	3.78	1.386	3.64	3.92
Legal protection	73.361	.000	3.78	1.009	3.68	3.88
Adherence of labour laws	70.306	.000	3.58	.998	3.48	3.68
Availability of financial assistance	64.627	.000	3.62	1.097	3.51	3.73
Market amenities such as water etc.,	69.651	.000	3.65	1.026	3.55	3.75
Sanitation and work place security	78.637	.000	3.73	.929	3.63	3.82
Storage facilities	75.562	.000	3.83	.993	3.73	3.93
Waste disposal	62.675	.000	3.77	1.177	3.65	3.88
Safety Equipment	51.972	.000	3.51	1.323	3.38	3.64
License issue and renewal	81.193	.000	4.04	.974	3.94	4.13



Training to vendors	87.969	.000	3.87	.861	3.78	3.95
Skill training	77.057	.000	3.90	.993	3.80	4.00
Credit facilities	52.447	.000	3.26	1.217	3.14	3.38
Regular health check up	49.687	.000	3.22	1.270	3.09	3.35
Permanent sheds	62.674	.000	3.63	1.133	3.51	3.74
Garbage collection	65.570	.000	3.60	1.075	3.49	3.70
Solid waste disposal	57.796	.000	3.58	1.215	3.46	3.71
Basic infrastructure	56.419	.000	3.68	1.278	3.55	3.81
Trade union	68.132	.000	4.07	1.170	3.95	4.19
Health care and pension	68.478	.000	3.60	1.030	3.50	3.70

*Source: Derived*

As per t test, as to the expectations among street vendors from government the foremost is Training to vendors with the t value of ( 87.969), license issue and renewal ( 81.193), Sanitation and work place security ( 78.637), Skill training (77.057), Storage facilities ( 75.562), Legal protection (73.361), Adherence of labor laws (70.306), Market amenities such as water etc., (69.651), Health care and pension (68.478), Trade union ( 68.132), Garbage collection (65.570), Availability of financial assistance (64.627), Waste disposal (62.675), Permanent sheds (62.674), Solid waste disposal (57.796), Basic infrastructure (56.419), Government support (53.408), Credit facilities (52.447), Safety equipment (51.972), Regular health checkup (49.687). All the statements are statistically significant as the p values are less than 0.05. Hence it is concluded that the higher expectations of street vendors from government are training to vendors and license issue and renewal.

### 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 article has identified the causes behind street vending, challenges faced by street vendors, highlighted the importance of street vendors, what measures are expected from the Government to prevent the problems 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 implementation of the regulations of street vendors for the government itself.

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. Street vendors help in generating income with minimized investments of capital and without requiring large human capital.

Street vending is an important source of livelihood for many people in Tamil Nadu, and the government has recognized this by implementing policies that support and regulate street vending. The Tamil Nadu Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2016, provides a legal framework for street vendors to operate without fear of eviction or harassment, and also establishes Town Vending Committees (TVCs) to regulate and manage street vending activities.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on street vendors, who have faced challenges due to reduced foot traffic and strict lockdown measures. Many have had to find alternative ways to sell their goods, such as online platforms or home deliveries. The pandemic has also highlighted the need for street vendors to adopt digital payment systems, as cash transactions have become less common due to hygiene concerns.

Looking to the future, the rise of e-commerce and online shopping could potentially pose a threat to traditional street vendors. However, street vendors can also adapt and leverage

technology to their advantage, by embracing digital payment systems and online platforms to expand their reach and customer base. In addition, the government's support for street vending and the establishment of TVCs could help to ensure that street vendors are able to continue their livelihoods in a regulated and sustainable manner.

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