

PROBLEMS 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 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 poverty alleviation without Government intervention. The main objective of the study is to identify the major constraints that are faced by the vendors while operating their business.

KEYWORDS

Informal sector, Poverty alleviation, Socio-economic status, Street vending

Introduction

Through informal sectors, our economy is in path growth of Informal sector provides the link between consumers and the subsectors of our formal economy by offering product and services that are not offered by formal economy. Hence, Informal sector is the important source of employment and poverty reduction. There is some wrong widespread of assumption that the informal economy has low productivity and hence it contributed low growth to the country's

economic development. But the informal economy contributes to growth especially in developing countries with large informal economies. Some of the informal works should need to be done an improvement for further more contribution to the economy. Certain other types of informal employment expanded during the upturns in the economy such as entrepreneurial small firms and sub-contracted and outsourced activities are linked to our global production system.

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. 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 provide a market for both home based manufacturing products and agricultural products, supporting small scale and home based workers as well as agricultural workers. Hence several sectors and different types of labour are linked with the street vendors. They support the urban rich by providing daily requirements right on their doorsteps. Urban youth prefer to buy clothes and accessories from street vendors because the products the vendors sell are typically cheaper than those found in formal retail outlets.

Problems faced by street vendors

Street vendors in Tamil Nadu, like many other states in India, face several challenges and problems that affect their livelihoods. Some of the common problems faced by street vendors in Tamil Nadu are:

Lack of proper infrastructure: Street vendors in Tamil Nadu often have to work in unhygienic and unsafe conditions. They lack basic facilities like clean water, toilets, and waste disposal facilities, which can affect their health and well-being.

Competition from unlicensed vendors: Street vendors in Tamil Nadu face competition from unlicensed vendors who operate without any legal restrictions or regulations. This not only affects the legitimate street vendors but also poses a risk to public health and safety.

Lack of access to credit: Many street vendors in Tamil Nadu lack access to credit and financial services, which makes it difficult for them to grow their businesses or invest in better infrastructure and equipment.

Limited marketing opportunities: Street vendors in Tamil Nadu often have limited marketing opportunities, which restricts their ability to reach new customers and expand their customer base.

Limited access to social security benefits: Street vendors in Tamil Nadu are not covered under any social security schemes, which make them vulnerable to economic shocks and crises.

Overall, the lack of proper legal recognition and infrastructure, combined with limited access to credit and marketing opportunities, make it difficult for street vendors in Tamil Nadu to earn a decent livelihood and grow their businesses.

Street vending is a common livelihood activity in Tamil Nadu, and it plays a significant role in the informal sector of the economy. The state government has recognized the importance of street vendors in the economy and has taken steps to protect their rights and ensure their welfare.

Status of street vendors in Tamilnadu

In 2016, the Tamil Nadu government passed the Tamil Nadu Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, which provides legal recognition and protection to street vendors. The act also establishes a Town Vending Committee (TVC) in every urban local body, which is responsible for implementing the act and regulating street vending.

However, despite the legal framework, street vendors in Tamil Nadu face various challenges such as eviction, and lack of basic amenities like water and sanitation facilities. The implementation of the act has been slow, and many street vendors still operate without proper licenses.

Overall, the status of street vendors in Tamil Nadu is a complex issue, and it requires continuous efforts from the government and civil society to ensure their welfare and protect their rights.

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.

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 formulae 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. By taking as a base of this formula and pilot study 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 serves.

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. In that simple random sampling method is used to derive the sample size. 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

JyothsnaThimmaiah (2021)¹ explains about the street vendors in Bangalore city. She says that the unorganized sector becomes synonymous with the display of unregulated, poorly skilled and low-paid workers. The unorganized sector is part of the workforce which has not been able to be organized for a common objective because of the constraints such as casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small size of institutions with low capital investment, per person employed, disseminated nature of establishments, superior strength of the employer etc.

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*VaishaliPatil et.al. (2019)*²explains that by accommodating and integrating street vendors into the built environment of Yeola central market Zone, formal and informal systems can complement each other and the streets will become encroachment free and wonderful.

*M.Mahadevan (2018)*³ says that vendors are regularly subjected to mental and physical pressures by city officials. At times this has led to riotous situations, loss of property, or monetary loss. A major problem is that master plans prepared for the cities do not allocate space to vendors/hawkers, as planners blindly imitate the western concept of marketing, ignoring Indian traditions. No wonder, weekly markets struggle to survive and natural markets are ignored. The policy statements of the Regional Development Authorities talk of making provision for trading and commercial activities, which unfortunately is interpreted as making provision for rich traders and big business. He concluded that street vendors face the risks of perishing their marketing goods as they do not have proper storage place, the risk of their regular income due today to day fluctuation in the price of the marketing goods and they risk their health due to defecating in open places, lifting and pulling heavy loads and open exposure to sunlight heat. They have not accessed to any social protection as they have not registered with any organization and they are yet to access any business services provided by the government.

*Prasad and Begari (2018)*⁴in their study have inspected about the issues and challenges faced by street vendors in Telangana. Major constraints in street vending were fear of eviction by municipality officials, lack of hygienic storage facilities, and lack of permanent space for vending, price fluctuation, finance, and competition from other street vendors, organized retail sector.

Results and Discussion

²Ar. VaishaliPatil. S.Y.M.Arch.(General), Prof. Ar. Jayashree C. GogteHOD, Architecture, Prof. Ar.KishorTalnkarB.Arch. M.C.P. M.G.M.'S Jawaharlal Nehru Engineering College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India, "Study of Informal Sector (Street Vendors) in Central Market Area of Yeola, Maharashtra (India) and their Integration in Market Architecture", International Journal of Applied Engineering Research ISSN 0973-4562 Volume 14, Number 13 (2019) pp. 3022-3027 © Research India Publications. <http://www.ripublication.com>

³M. Mahadevan, Ph.D thesis titled "Managing the vending conditions and vending risks among the street vendors in the city of Madurai – A study" thesis submitted to Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed to be University, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, March 2018

⁴Prasad, Begari, Issues and Challenges of the Weekly Market Street Vendors in Telangana: A Special Reference to Hyderabad, Volume 63, ISSN 0976-4666, pp 45-51, March 2018.

Table 1

Chi-square for association between Monthly Savings and Types of Family

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association between monthly savings and type of family

Monthly Savings	Type of Family		Total	Chi-square value	P value
	Nuclear	Joint			
Below 500	64.0%	36.0%	100.0%	11.19	0.011 (significant)
500 – 1000	47.4%	52.6%	100.0%		
1001 – 1500	57.8%	42.2%	100.0%		
Above 1500	40.9%	59.1%	100.0%		

Source: Derived

The above table shows the association between monthly savings and types of family. 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 monthly savings and type of family. It is highlighted that the nuclear family members are able to save an amount of Rs500 – Rs1500 which is based upon their income. Joint family members are able to save above Rs1500. Hence, it is concluded that joint family members save more than the nuclear family members because in joint family, more than one person is an earning member. This benefit is not in most of the nuclear family.

Table 2

Chi-square for association between Working Time and Monthly Income

Null Hypothesis: There is no significant association between working time and monthly income.

Working Time	Monthly Income				Total	Chi-square value	P value
	1500 – 3000	3001 – 4500	4501 – 6000	Above 6000			
Day	29.5%	37.9%	27.4%	5.3%	100.0%	23.263	0.026 (significant)
Night	25.9%	37.0%	22.2%	14.8%	100.0%		
Day+night	28.1%	25.0%	15.6%	31.3%	100.0%		

Season time	13.3%	36.0%	44.0%	6.7%	100.0%		
Week end	31.7%	28.7%	28.7%	10.9%	100.0%		

Source: derived

The above chi-square table shows the association between working time and monthly income of street vendors. Based upon the chi-square value and p value (0.026) it is clear that there is an association between the working time and monthly savings of street vendors. Street vendors working only in day time or only in night time earn an income of Rs3001-Rs4500 per month. Vendors those are working both day and night time earn an income of above Rs6000 per month. Seasonal time vendors earn an income of Rs4500-Rs6000 and week end vendors earn Rs1500-Rs3000 as their monthly income. Hence it is concluded that monthly income may vary due to the working time of street vendors. If the street vendors are working more time, they shall earn more as their monthly earnings and if they are not working as much time, then they are getting a fewer amount as their monthly earnings when compared to other type of street vendors' working time.

Table 3

Weighted average method of level of satisfaction

S.No	Factors	HS	S	N	DS	HDS	Weightage	Rank
1	Place of work	275	264	267	196	76	1078	7
2	Time of work	510	192	258	184	56	1200	5
3	Income	230	220	270	198	94	1012	9
4	Safety and security	245	324	303	138	84	1094	6
5	Health	320	336	468	100	30	1254	4
6	Products	450	324	291	178	27	1270	3
7	Price	220	256	276	170	99	1021	8
8	Peace of mind	125	276	294	216	84	995	10
9	Work life balance	475	592	270	60	21	1418	1
10	Overall job satisfaction	495	376	294	118	34	1317	2

Source: Computed

This weighted average table shows that which factor provides highest satisfaction and which factor provides lowest level of satisfaction to the street vendors towards their job. Based upon the analysis it is revealed that the factor of work life balance provides the highest level of satisfaction to street vendors with the weightage of 1418 is overall job satisfaction is the second highest factor with the weightage of 1317. Variety of products sold by street vendor is the third highest factor with the weightage of 1270. Health is the next highest factor of providing satisfaction to street vendors with the weightage of 1254 and ranked as four. Time of work having a weightage of 1200 and is ranked five. Safety and security has weightage of 1094 and is ranked as six. The factor place of work is the seventh highest satisfaction with the weightage of 1078. Next to this factor price is the eighth highest factor with the weightage of 1021. Income and peace of mind are the least factors in level of satisfaction with the weightage of 1012 and 995 respectively with the rank of 9 and 10. Hence, it is concluded that work life balance is the factor which provides high level of satisfaction towards the working life of street vendors.

Table 4
General problems faced by women street vendors

PROBLEMS	Components			
	Societal problems	General problems	Marketing problems	Health problems
Immobility due to traffic	.831			
local rowdies	.800			
Not protected by government	.796			
Unfavorable working condition	.790			
Harassment and exploitation	.787			
Lack of organizational strength and voice	.785			
Lack of business management skills	.717			
Political and local parties interference	.687			

Insecurity of mobile women vendor	.547			
Time Consuming		.868		
Public utilities		.810		
Competition from new entrants		.788		
Problematic co workers		.784		
Lack of regular substantial income		.699		
Low income		.687		
Financial illiteracy		.643		
Hostile customers		.617		
Lack of space			.707	
No registration			.643	
Competition			.606	
Lack of proper selling techniques			.594	
Environmental Hazards			.523	
Wastage of unsold goods			.484	
Lack of storage facility			.456	
Hyper tension				.790
Respiratory problems				.712
Skin Problems				.662
Social insecurity				.575
Body pain/dizziness				.533
Other health issues				-.513
% of Variance	21.75	18.68	12.55	12.20
Cumulative % of Variance	21.75	40.42	52.97	65.17
Total	33.37	28.66	19.26	18.71
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.				
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.				

Source: Derived

Societal Problems : The Nine components filtered under this factor are Immobility due to traffic (.831), local rowdies (.800), Not protected by government (.796), Unfavorable working condition (.790), Harassment and exploitation (.787), Lack of organizational strength and voice (.785), Lack of business management skills (.717), Political and local parties interference (.687), Insecurity of mobile women vendor (.547). . This factor has a variance of 21.75 percent and form 33.37 percent out of total.

General Problems: The Eight components filtered under this factor are Time Consuming (.868), Public utilities (.810), Competition from new entrants (.788), Problematic coworkers (.784), Lack of regular substantial income (.699), Low income (.687), Financial Illiteracy (.643), Hostile customers (.617), This factor has a variance of 18.68 percent and form 28.66 percent out of total.

Marketing Problems: The Seven components filtered under this factor are Lack of space (.707), No registration (.643), Competition (.606), Lack of proper selling techniques (.594), Environmental Hazards (.523), Wastage of unsold goods (.484), Lack of storage facility (.456), This factor has a variance of 12.55 percent and form 19.26 percent out of total.

Health Problems: The six components are filtered under this factor are Hyper tensions (.790), Respiratory problems (.712), Skin Problems (.662), Social insecurity (.575), Body pain/dizziness (.533), Other health issues (.513). This factor has a variance of 12.20 percent and form 18.71 percent out of total.

By the use of above factor analysis, it is revealed that thirty variables which are related to problems faced by street vendors are divided in to four components. In first component nine factors like Immobility due to traffic, local rowdies, Not protected by government, Unfavorable working condition, Harassment and exploitation, Lack of organizational strength and voice, Lack of business management skills, Political and local parties interference and Insecurity of mobile women vendor are related to society, hence it is termed as societal problems. In second component eight factors like Time Consuming, Public utilities, Competition from new entrants, Problematic coworkers, Lack of regular substantial income, Low income, Lack of financial literacy and Hostile customers are the common problems, hence it is termed as general problems. In third component seven factors like Lack of space, No registration, Marketing

Competition, Lack of proper selling techniques, Environmental Hazards, Wastage of unsold goods and Lack of storage facility are the sales related hindrances hence it is termed as marketing problems. In fourth component six factors like Hyper tensions, Respiratory problems, Skin Problems, Social in security, Body pain/dizziness and Other health issues are related to health hence it is termed as health problems.

Table 5

Mann Whitney U test for type of family and various factors of problems

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

Factors of Problems	Type of family		Z value	P value
	Nuclear family	Joint family		
Societal problems	180.77	204.60	2.109	.035
General problems	204.00	181.36	2.019	.044
Marketing problems	249.43	276.07	2.041	.041
Health problems	276.75	248.78	2.144	.032

Source: derived

From the above Mann Whitney test, it is revealed that all the factors of problem are significant because p value which is less than 0.05. Hence, it is noted that there is a mean difference between type of family and various factors of problems of street vendors. Based upon the mean rank value it is revealed that street vendors of joint family are highly affected due to societal and marketing problems. Street vendors from nuclear family are highly affected due to general and health problems. Hence, it is concluded that whatever the types of vendors' family they are affected due to the problems related to their work.

Suggestions

To overcome the problems faced by street vendors in Tamil Nadu, the following suggestions can be implemented:

Legal recognition and protection: Street vendors should be given legal recognition and protection, which includes providing them with identity cards and legalizing their presence on the streets.

Infrastructure development: Basic infrastructure such as water supply, sanitation, waste management, and electricity should be provided to street vendors to ensure their health and hygiene. Provision of public toilets, garbage collection points, and clean drinking water will go a long way in making their working conditions more comfortable.

Access to credit and finance: Street vendors should be given access to credit and financial services at reasonable rates. This will help them invest in their businesses, improve their infrastructure and expand their operations.

Training and capacity building: Street vendors should be provided with training and capacity building programs to help them improve their skills and knowledge in marketing, bookkeeping, and other essential business functions.

Promotion of formalization: There should be a concerted effort to promote formalization of the informal street vending sector. This could be achieved by providing incentives for formalization such as access to government schemes, tax breaks, and better market access.

Empowerment of street vendor associations: Street vendor associations should be empowered to represent the interests of the street vendors and negotiate with the government on their behalf. This will help in better policy-making and implementation.

Overall, the above measures will help in creating a more conducive environment for the street vending sector in Tamil Nadu, which will in turn lead to better livelihoods and economic growth for street vendors.

CONCLUSION

Street vendors form a very important segment of informal sector. Street vendors offer goods and services for sale without having a permanent built up structure to satisfy the demands of urban poor's and urban youth. They ensure the distribution of benefits in favor of the disadvantaged group.

The development of big malls and supermarkets are in the increasing level but the preference to buy a product from street vendors is still in trend. The street vending business is providing food and other items at a reasonable price. Street vendors are providing goods at the doorsteps to all classes of people like middle and lower-middle classes. By this service, buyers' time was saved to go to the market for the purchase. Street vendors are creating an advantage by providing goods at affordable price and also in small quantities. Hence, to facilitate the street vendors the government may regulate their work by providing license to them which keep a tab for setting a new stall than street vending.

The informal sector plays a vital role in rural and urban are as providing employment and income security. The street vendor is one of the important parts of the informal sectors. This study examines the issues and challenges faced by street vendors to operate their activity. The study found that they do not have adequate infrastructure facilities at their working place. The government supports to encourage their activity and does not treat this occupation as an illegal activity. The social security programs of the government do not reach them properly and they were not aware of those programmes. The Vending activity are not recognized or recorded by any law and they have not yet been issued vending license or identity cards. Therefore, they were not getting any formal credit and are depending upon the informal credit with exorbitant interest rate. The government should legalize and organize the vending activity. Then, they will be given a formal credit, social security and dignity of work.

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