



PROBLEMS AND CONDITION OF STREET VENDORS

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Abstract:

Street vendors are those who are unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector because of low level of education. They are the main distributors for a large variety of products of daily consumption like fruits, vegetables, readymade garments, shoes, household gadgets, toys, stationery, newspapers, and magazines etc. If they were to be eliminated from the urban markets, it would lead to a severe crisis for fruit and vegetable farmers, as well as small scale industries which cannot afford to retail their products through expensive distribution networks in the formal sector. However, it is significant that it was through the existence of vendors that the concept of an informal sector was developed.

The present study is descriptive by nature. The universe of the study covers whole Surat city as its population. The sampling is selected by using convenient sampling and the sample size is confined as 150.

Index Terms - street Vendor, Utilities at vending area, Conflicts at vending area, Customer feedback, facilities for vendors

I) Introduction:

Street vending an important occupation for the urban poor in developing countries. It performs an important role in providing services to urban population, especially the poor. Their contributions are unfortunately hardly ever recognized by governments. Instead, the government are 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 main stay of economy. Instead of protecting this sector and ensuring that its workers get minimum dues, the government are indifferent to their existence. Street vendors are an important part of the informal sector not only because of their numbers but because of the crucial roles they play in preserving sector. The goods sold by street vendors are usually consumed by normal people as they are cheap. Moreover a significant amount of goods produced by small industrial units in the informal sector is marketed through them. In fact we have a situation where one section of the urban poor by providing them low priced goods and by marketing their products. Unfortunately, instead of recognizing their contributions to the economy

government view street vendors as encroachers . Vendors are thus not only a significant part of the informal sector but also an integral part of urban economy. It is stated that a very low skill and capital investment is required to enter this trade. In comparison other trades it is easier to enter this trade for the poor migrants as well as lower income groups living in the city for some time. With the increase of the urban population one can see the growth of urban poor, which constitutes the largest section of consumers for these street vendors, has led to an increase in the number in any given city. Many researchers have mentioned that the presence of the hawkers is useful for the urban poor as street vendors provide goods, including food, at low prices. Middle class groups also benefit from street vending because of the affordable price so offered Researchers have used different definitions to identify vendors in a given city or country. McGee (1977) made an attempt to define vendors elaborately. He includes trade and service activities while categorizing on the basis of type and operation. He defines vendors from an economic, cultural and legal position. This is done with difficulty as vendors in different countries have different characteristics. The different dimensions considered by McGee are the functional role the vendors play in the market distribution system, the scale of operation and the legal definitions prescribed in each city. He defines vendors as those people who offer goods or services for sale from public places, primarily streets and pavements. Thus, the bulk of migrant labour force is in urban informal sector, where the preponderance of self –employed or casual workers earns their livelihood either independently or with aid of family labour.

According to the National Policy, there are three categories of street vendors:

1. Those Street Vendors who carry out vending on a regular basis with a specific location,
2. Those Street Vendors who carry out vending not on a regular basis and without a specific location, for example, vendors who sell goods in weekly bazaars during holidays and festivals and so on,
3. The Mobile Street Vendors.

The national policy for street vendors 2009 classifies street vendors into 3 basic categories :-

- **Stationary** - such vendors are those who carry out vending on regular basis at a specific location be it pavement public space, private areas either open/covered.
- **Peripatetic** - Such vendor carries out vending on foot and sells their goods and services, thus includes people who carry baskets on their heads or on pushcarts. Often the peripatetic vendors become stationary vendors in the peak hours, which is evening time.
- **Mobile** - they move from place-to-place vending from mobile units on wheels. This category includes vendors selling on trains/ buses.

The street vendors are working more than 12 hours every day for their daily livelihood so that they are getting little rest or leisure period. Because of financial backwardness the street vendors were not capable to appoint more working staff to increase the profit. They are getting very less profit because of the public discriminations, quality of goods. So they don't have stability in their work profit. Environmental issues also affect them in certain way. Because the govt. had not made any proper facility for waste disposal, and also these people are not

much aware of the waste maintenance and its disposal. Large usage of plastic bags and their improper disposing may cause much kind of issues to them.

2) Review of Literature :

A.H.Subratty P.Beeharry, M.ChanSun (2004) A survey of hygiene practices among food vendors in rural areas in Mauritius. It was found that generally food vendors were quite aware of hygienic conditions. But majority of them were not implementing their knowledge into practice. They perceived that their products were of low risk to customers. It highlights the need for further health education of food vendors.

According to Geetam Tiwari (2000) bicycles, pedestrians and bus traffic attract street vendors. Often the side roads and pedestrian paths are occupied by people selling food, drinks and other articles which are in demand by road users. Vendors often locate themselves at places which are natural markets for them. A careful analysis of the location of vendors, their numbers at each location and the type of services provided clearly shows that they are needed since they work under completely „free market“ principles. If their services were not required at those locations, they would have no incentive to be there. Road and city authorities, however, view their existence as illegal.

Tamilarai and Angayarkanni, (2016); Wibisono and Catrayasa, (2018). This study examines the relationship between urban culture and street vending, since the literature on this topic is quite sparse (Scholarly research has focused on street vendors who choose their profession willingly for cultural reasons, and who have a spiritual motivation that gives them satisfaction, enabling them to provide high-quality services in the perception of their clients

Voiculescu, (2014); Tamilarai and Angayarkanni, (2016); Alvi and Mendoza, (2017); Wibisono and Catrayasa, (2018).

Understanding of this relationship between culture and street vending needs to be enriched, since research has yielded contradictory statistical results

Tamilarai and Angayarkanni, (2016). Few studies have taken account of the fact that low- income customers prefer to shop in neighboring streets at low prices and to spend only a short time doing so Therefore, when scholars consider low-income consumption as a dimension of urban culture, their statistical results are inconsistent.

Sharit Bhowmik (2005), in his investigation ‘Street Vendors in Asia: A Review’ inspected the road sellers in Asian nations in particular Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bangkok (Thailand), Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Hanoi, Cambodia, Seoul and India. The investigation dissected the greatness of road distributing in various nations. The appraisal found that the quantity of road sellers in the nations was on an expansion. The number expanded in view of contracting of occupations in formal part and with absence of work in provincial zones. This factor was regular in Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia. In the Asian Tigers, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Korea, there was quick increment in the quantity of road sellers after the money related emergency of 1998. The legislatures of every single Asian nation have pretty much declined perceive road distributing as a lawful action. Malaysia, Philippines and India have approaches for directing

and securing road merchants. The majority of the road sellers in Asia are not unionized. Just Korea and India have organizations or partnerships of road sellers and in India NASVI has been more effectively NarumolNirathron (2006)'s paper titled 'Fighting Poverty from the Street – A Survey on Street Food Vendors in Bangkok' was based on 744 street vendors and 385 buyers of street food from Klogtoey and Dindaeng districts in Bangkok Metropolis. The study revealed that about 88% of the vendors were migrants. Food vending was not the first occupation of most vendors. Many of them were previously engaged in other occupations like farming, manual labour and monthly wage work. About 56% were engaged in street vending as individual operators and 44% were family operators. About 48% got into food vending only because of need for more income.

Around 22% street vended with a desire for autonomy. Around 97% felt that earning opportunity was high in vending. About 80% earned adequate income. And 86% were satisfied with their occupation. The findings on consumers of street food revealed that about 33.2% purchased food more than once in a day. About 43.5% purchased cooked food. They purchased food because of proximity of food vendors near home (44.7%) and because it was cheap (39.2%). The advantages and disadvantages of food vending were also analysed. The main advantage found was convenience (70.1%) and main disadvantage was, it caused obstruction for pedestrians (53.5%). Harlan Dimas (2008), in his paper on 'Street Vendors: Urban Problem and Monetary Potential' talked about the foundations of road distributing marvel and proposed a few road distributing administration arrangements from best practices chased after the world. The paper uncovered that road merchants were a major test for urban administration. The city chiefs dispensed with them as they mutilated strategies toward road sellers with the arrangement of the police have been a counterproductive one. The paper proposed an adjustment in the mentality of urban choice producers. Detailing of a decent approach like applying "trickle down effect" in road distributing, apportioning alarm capital in the urban areas to mitigate destitution, miniaturized scale financing, enrolment procedure of private ventures, and so forth would influence road sellers to contribute profitably to the general public.

Sharath A.M(2016) conducted 'An economic analysis of street food vendors with special reference to Durgigudi street, Shivamogga city' and observed that 56% of Street Food Vendors are having own house, 52% of Street Food Vendors earning annual income of 1Lakh to 2Lakhs and 36% of Street Food Vendors earning annual income of above 2Lakhs. 64% of Street Food Vendors have other properties. The basic required water problems (only 1 hour in a day) and timings (4 PM to 10 PM) are the main difficulties for the Street Food Vendors. The 80% of the Street Food Vendors have an average opinion about infrastructure facility. So it leads to attract only few customers to the shop. In the study area, the women participation in Food Street Vending is lower than male participation.

D.Saha(2011)'s study revealed that the vendors in Mumbai constitute one of the most vulnerable and miserable sections of the urban working poor. They earn their livelihood in hostile circumstances, and face daily impositions from all quarters: the civic authorities, the police, the citizens' groups, the local leaders, and the money-lenders. It is only through the joining of hands that they can exert themselves and realize their

demands. The low rate of active union membership outlines the fact that awareness among vendors of their rights and responsibilities is generally lacking. Intermediaries take advantage of the looseness of association among the vendors and exploit this to the maximum capacity.

3) Research Methodology:

The study is basically concerned with the broad understanding of the socio-economic profile of street vendors and how to integrate them in the process of urban development in Surat. It also looked into issues of street vendors in the light of existing policies and land use so that these policies could be used for better management of street vendors. The understanding of the existing situation of vendors is expected to give detailed practical solutions of the whole process of integrating of vendors in a fast growing city like Surat. The well-known locations of street vending were identified through personal visit. The detailed primary survey intended to identify the typology, characteristics, space used and space requirements, variation of street activity according to time and demands of street vendors as well as the conflicts arising due to vending activity. A local level strategy for the integration of vending is intended through local level planning

The study is based on the primary survey of the hawkers which was carried out in 4 locations known as high concentration of vendors with the help of a detailed questionnaire. With the help of the survey the socio-economic background, vending details, problems, issues, needs of vendors were collected. A separate brief schedule was used to collect the details of the locations and markets.

4) Significance of study

Surat city planning does not take into account the existence of the street vendors. The city planners need to accept that there are various uses of street Vending is one of them because it is very crucial and necessary component of an Indian style. Hence street vending act has been passed in the city, so now it will become compulsory for corporation and town vending committee to accommodate vending activities and also vendors into the master plan of the city. There will be a legal back up for the same and so there is need to look into details of how street vending activities can be managed. The study is aimed at gathering data about the problems and challenges faced by street vendors in Surat city.

5) Objectives :

- ❖ To study the present status of street vendors
- ❖ To identify problems and challenges for vending
- ❖ To analyze the existing concentration of informal shopping and street vendors
- ❖ To identify the major constraints that faces the vendors while operating their business

6) Variable under the study:

Source of credit,

Time spent on vending area Utilities at vending area Conflicts at vending area Customer feedback

Water, power, workspace facilities etc.

7) limitations of the study:

- The study gives emphasis on socioeconomic analysis of the vendors and identifies appropriate strategy to include street vending into city system. However given the complexity of street vending and diversity of individual circumstances suggesting any generalized solution to the existing problem for a large and growing city like Surat is quite difficult task.
- The geographical scope of this study is restricted to areas under the jurisdiction of the Surat Municipal Corporation and only to some 10 selected markets. Newly developed areas remained outside the purview of this study.

8) DATA ANALYSIS: 8.1) Types of Vendors :-

Types of Vendors	Percentage
Moving (mobile in nature)	33%
Non moving (stationary in nature)	57%
Both	10%

From above table. It can be interpreted that 57% street vendors are using non moving type of vending, 33% street vendors are using moving type of vending and 10% street vendors are using both moving and non moving type of vending. This question is basically ask to know about what type of street vending used by street vendors. Majority of hawking units 57% are stationary in nature while 33% units are mobile in nature. Other 10% units are neither mobile nor stationary; it means the vendors selling their goods by both ways.

8.2) Mode of Vending :

Mode of vending	Percentage
Lorry	36%
On ground	15%
Counter	49%

From the above table. It can be interpreted that 49% street vendors are using counter as a mode of vending, 36% street vendors are using lorry as a mode of vending, 15% street vendors are using ground as a mode of vending. This question is basically ask to know about what mode of vending are majorly used by street vendors. Majority of the vendors were selling their goods on a counter, handcart becomes second option. Lorry facilitates transport of goods, absence of any secure vending space and any storage space for those selling durable commodities make lorry's an important asset of the vendors. If formalization of vending creates such infrastructure, some might give up possessing a lorry. Third is on ground it is mostly prefer by those who have lack money.

8.3 Reasons for choosing vending :

Resources	Percentage
Lack of employment opportunity	61%
Absence of earning members in family	63%
Need less skills	82%
Need less investment	38%

It can be interpreted that 61% of street vendors are doing street vending because of lack of employment opportunity, 63% of street vendors are doing street vendings because of absence of earning members in family, 82% of street vendors are doing street vending because of it needless skills, 38% of street vendors are doing street vending because of it need less investment. This question is ask to know about the reasons behind selecting the street vending. A large number of vendors are engaged in this occupation because of either need a less skills or having absence of earning member in their family. Considerable amount of vendors responded that they are carrying this business due to the fact that it requires less investment and skills.

8.4) Availability of utilities at vending areas :

Utilities	Percentage
Electricity	52%
Availability of water	67%
Waste water disposal	43%
Public toilet	63%
Solid waste disposal	81%
Parking facility	40%

2% of street vendors having electricity utilities at their vending area. 67% of street vendors having availability of water utility at their vending area. 43% of street vendors having waste water disposal utility at their vending area. 63% of street vendors having public toilet utility at their vending area. 81% of street vendors having solid waste disposal utility at their vending areas. 40% of street vendors having parking facilities at their vending areas. Utilities are utmost important at vending place as vendors have long working hours. Access to basic

services in the street markets studied was poor. Vendors responded fair solid waste disposal and drainage facilities at vending place. The proportion of vendors having access to water supply is high. SMC have made pay and use toilets but are away from the vending areas. Parking is another major problem at vending places.

8.5) Conflicts at vending area:-

Conflicts at vending area	Percentage
Municipality	79%
Police	45%
Market manager	16%
Formal shop	57%
Neighbors	70%

From the above chart and table. It can be interpreted that 79% of street vendors facing conflicts related to municipality. 45% of street vendors facing conflicts related to police. Etc.

Conflicts were commonly reported with the police or municipality officials. In fact, the municipal officials and the police both come together. Some of them also reported conflicts with the formal shop owners and neighbors in terms of space consumption. Payments appear to be made in form of rent to the owner of space, direct payments or giving goods to the police or SMC officials.

8.6) facing financial and economic problems

Particulars	Yes -Percentage
Shortage of daily capital	47%
Credit problem	48%
High price	57%
Non-profit of business	77%

It can be interpreted that 47% of street vendors are facing problems related to shortage of daily capital and 53% are not facing problem related to shortage of daily capital. 48% of street vendors are facing problem related to credit and 52% of vendors are not facing problem related to credit. 57% of street vendors are facing problem related to high price and 43% of vendors are not facing problem regarding high price. 77% of street vendors are facing problem related to non-profit of their business and other 23% are not facing problem related to non profit of business.

8.7) Facing problem of marketing

Particulars	Percentage
Competition	100%
Lack of support of customer	41%
Lack of travel and facility	40%
Lack of publicity	64%
Wrong information about market change	38%

From the above table. It can be interpreted that 100% of street vendors are facing problems related to competition in market. 41% of street vendors are facing problem related to lack of customer support and 59% of vendors are not facing problem related to lack of customer support. 40% of street vendors are facing problem related to lack of travel and facility and 60% of vendors are not facing problem regarding travel and facility. 64% of street vendors are facing problem related to lack of publicity and other 36% street vendors are not facing problem related to lack of publicity. 38% of street vendors are facing problem related to wrong information about market change and 62% of vendors are not facing problem related to wrong information about market change.

Majority of street vendors are facing problem related to competition in the market. Lack of customer support, lack of travel and facility, lack of publicity are less problematic for street vendors.

8.8) Facing environmental problems

Particulars	Percentage
Lack of work space	41%
Lack of market	51%
High competition	89%
Non-availability of workers	25%

From the above table. It can be interpreted that 41% of street vendors are facing problems related to lack of work space and 59% of street vendors are not facing problems related to lack of work space. 81% of street vendors are facing problem related to lack of market and 19% of vendors are not facing problem related to lack of market. 89% of street vendors are facing problem related to high competition and 11% of vendors are not

facing problem regarding high competition.

Majority of the street vendors are facing problems regarding lack of market and high competition. And most of the street vendors are not facing problems regarding lack of work space and non availability of workers.

8.9) facing social security problems

Particulars	Percentage
Harassment by shop keepers	56%
Problems of theft	30%
Lack of freedom	40%
Lack of self control	32%

This question is basically ask to know about what kind of social security problems can be faced by the street vendors at vending areas. Some street vendors are facing problems related to harassment by shopkeepers. But majority of them are facing less problems related to problems of theft, lack of freedom, lack of self control.

8.10 facing people related problems

Particulars	Percentage
Bribes to authorities	17%
Beggars	28%
Local residents	78%

From the above chart and table. It can be interpreted that 17% of street vendors are facing problems related to bribes to authority and 83% of street vendors are not facing problems related to bribes to authority. 28% of street vendors are facing problem related to beggars and 72% of vendors are not facing problem related to beggars . 78% of street vendors are facing problem related to local residents and 22% of vendors are not facing problem regarding local residents.

8.11 facing problems related to government

Particulars	Percentage
Reasonable government policies	71%
Provided working capital	70%
Loan expand	58%
Free distribution of required equipment / materials	39%

From the above chart and table. It can be interpreted that 71% of street vendors are facing problems related to reasonable government policies and 29% of street vendors are not facing problems related to reasonable government policies. 70% of street vendors are facing problem related to provided working capital and 30% of vendors are not facing problem related to provided working capital. 58% of street vendors are facing problem related to loan expand and 42% of vendors are not facing problem regarding loan expand. 39% of street vendors are facing problem related to free distribution of required equipment/ material and 61% of vendors are not facing problem regarding free distribution of required equipment/ material. Majority of vendors are facing problem related to reasonable government policies and provided working capital. Some of vendors are not facing problem related to free distribution of required equipment/ material.

8.12) facing problems related to customer

Particulars	Percentage
Respect the workers	81%
Sharing expectation	44%
Customer feedback	50%
Bigger purchase	56%
Willingness to comeback for next visit	66%

From the above table, It can be interpreted that 81% of street vendors are facing problems related to respect the workers and 19% of street vendors are not facing problems related to respect the workers. 44% of street vendors are facing problem related to sharing expectation and 56% of vendors are not facing problem related to sharing expectation. 50% of street vendors are facing problem related to customer feedback and 50% of vendors are not facing problem regarding customer feedback. 56% of street vendors are facing problem related to bigger purchase and 44% of vendors are not facing problem regarding bigger purchase. 66% of street vendors are facing problem related to willingness to comeback for next visit and 34% of vendors are not facing problem regarding willingness to comeback for next visit.

8.13) facing problem related to facilities needed to get supported

Particulars	Respondents	Percentage
Water facility	39	39%
Power facility	39	39%
Work space	42	42%
Equipment of mobile vendor unit	37	37%

It can be interpreted that 39% of street vendors are facing problems related to water facility and 61% of street vendors are not facing problems related to water facility. 39% of street vendors are facing problem related to

power facility and 61% of vendors are not facing problem related to power facility. 42% of street vendors are facing problem related to work space and 58% of vendors are not facing problem regarding work space.

9) Conclusion

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.

The study examined condition of street vendors and their related activities in Surat city. Study based on survey of street vendors and their activities revealed that they face several problems like eviction, harassment, lack of basic civic facilities, lack of formal space, license or certificate of vending etc, 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.

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.

10) Suggestions

Timely Assessment of no vending zones and restricted vending zones need to be carried out in order to know the impact and impart necessary actions. Regulatory and monitoring mechanisms need to be equally focused in order to regulate street vending activities in an effective manner.

Proper management working environment provide income, health and safety benefits to street vendors. license should be provided to the vendors by Authorities so that they can be protected by harassment and eviction by local authorities. Some street vendors are food vendors, they have not received formal training as they are less educated while selling ready food. Local authorities should have to provide training to those vendors. credit facilities could be available to the vendors. In town there must be an organized vending committee they should take care of vending issues. Authorities should provide permanent sheds for vendors and minimum facilities such as first aid, drinking water, toilet, garbage collection and solid waste disposal etc.

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