



“A STUDY ON SUSTAINABILITY OF STREET VENDORS DURING COVID 19”

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ABSTRACT:

Covid 19 pandemic has affected the Global economy. The increase in cases of Covid 19 has led to lockdown, quarantine and some restrictions. It has resulted in tremendous loss of lives and world of work. The restrictions imposed by Government affected life of many people especially the daily earners. Lockdown has a severe impact on the street vendors and has become a burden for them and resulted in fall in their income. Without sufficient income during lockdown the street vendors were unable to feed themselves and their families. Despite of this situation, street vendors carry out their business to sustain their lives. They cannot afford to “STAY AT HOME” and depend on government or others for their survival and their families. This has resulted in spread of virus throughout city. The study has focused on the street vendors of Kalyan city. The objective is to understand different types of street vendors. The objective is also to become aware of how street vendors are affected and have sustained during Covid 19 pandemic.

Key words: Covid 19, Pandemic, Street Vendors

Covid 19- respiratory illness in humans caused by a corona virus

Pandemic- Outbreak of disease in whole world

Street Vendors- someone who sells food or other goods in the street

INTRODUCTION:

In India, Covid 19 first case was reported in the state of Kerala on 30th January 2020. Lockdown was then announced in Kerala on 23rd March and the rest of the country on 25th March 2020. The outbreak of Corona virus has affected almost all areas of life. It was a challenge for the whole world to handle this crisis. It has affected the street vendors to a greater extent. Before Covid 19, the street vendors have created market environment that avail them regular source of income for their livelihood. But the sudden outbreak of the virus have a negative impact on their lives and caused discontinuation of regular income. This has resulted in migration of street vendors to their hometown for their survival. It was not affordable for them to stay at home and this led to spread of the virus in the country. The street vendors contribute towards the urban economy, despite this they are considered as dirty, unhygienic and anti-social. They are frequently targeted by the government officials. The lack of knowledge about the rights and obligations of street vendors have encouraged local authorities to take undue advantage. The lack of literacy and access to sources have made them choose this profession. The National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) has decided to prepare street vendors by training them to take necessary measures while selling food. The training includes wearing gloves, cleaning the cart, opting for online payments, home deliveries, and a few other things. The training will be based on guidelines prepared by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) during the pandemic. Vendors will be taught about hand hygiene, social distancing, etc which are essential today. This paper aims to review the state of street vendors and understand the measures taken by the government for their benefit.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Daniel Chigudu (2021) conducted a research on “Street Entrepreneurship in the Wake of Covid-19: The Dilemma of Street Vending and Strategies for Endurance”. The study was conducted in Zimbabwe and focused on the tolerance and sustainability of street vendors during the covid 19 situation. It was found that the local authorities demolished the vending stalls to control the spread of Covid 19. The study has also recommended strategies to sustain and fight against the pandemic.

Jessica C Romero-Michel, et al (2021) has presented a research paper on “Health and economic measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemicEffect on street vendors”. The study was conducted on formal employees and street vendors to become aware how street vendors economy is affected during covid 19 in Mexican city. The study reveals that the street vendors earnings have reduced, whereas the formal employees have no change in their earnings. The reduction in earnings of street vendors made it impossible for them to stop working as they were not afraid of dying from corona virus. This resulted in the spread of the virus throughout the city.

Teresa Marchiori, et al (2021) have studied on the topic “The Impact of COVID-19 Laws on Street Vendors and Market Traders: Trends and Insights from Latin America”. The analysis focus on the laws and regulations in response to Covid 19. The adoption of laws and regulations have impacted informal vendors livelihood. The street vendors were also unable to cover the additional cost during the covid 19 crisis. The government took the measure by distributing goods on adoption of lockdown so that people do not suffer from starving. In some countries support was provided by reducing the cost on essential items and relief from tax.

Nitya Maniktal, et al (2021) carried out a research on “State of Street Vendors in India: Pre and Post COVID-19 Analysis”. The study found that lack of quality education and job opportunities made the Indian population choose this profession. The arrival of Covid 19 imposed lockdown, which has reduced the sales of the street vendors and have left them with less or no savings for their survival. They put their health at risk for earning their bread. The PM SVANidhi scheme was the attempt by the government to revive their livelihood.

Bhaskar Acharjya Deka (2020) conducted a research on “Withstanding covid 19 and its effects by street vendors: A study on their Livelihoods during post lockdown phase in guwahati city”. It was found that street vendors were adversely affected by the lockdown. Due to the decrease in the income, the street vendors were unable to cover the expenses of their family. The Financial support from the Government to help them to revive from the crisis. The efforts were taken by the street vendors to tackle and cope up with the lockdown phase. It was found that majority of the vendors have planned to start earning their livelihood by new profession post lockdown phase.

OBJECTIVES:

- To study the impact of Covid 19 on Street Vendors
- To study the sustainability of street vendors during pre and post lockdown
- To study the migration rate of street vendors in Kalyan city
- To study the initiative taken by the government during covid 19

HYPOTHESIS:

HO: Covid 19 has not effected the street vendors

H1: Covid 19 has effected the street vendors

HO: Street vendors were unable to sustain during lockdown.

H2: Street vendors were able to sustain during lockdown

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The study is limited to the street vendors of kalyan city. It is limited to the perception of respondents on the basis of marital status, family size and profession.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

- The study is conducted to find out the impact of covid 19 on street vendors and their sustainability during pre and post lockdown phase. The study will focus on the measures taken by the Government to revive the street holders from the crisis. The study will also give insight about the concern of street vendors post lockdown phase. The area covered for the study is Kalyan City.
- Primary Data are collected with the help of a structured questionnaire. Secondary Data are collected through various material published online viz., websites, journals, articles, etc.
- The sample size of the study is 50 street vendors who have experienced the lockdown phase.
- This study is based on Descriptive research. Simple Random sampling technique is used for this research study.
- The statistical tool used in analyzing the data are Chi square test, Table, Percentage, Diagrams and Charts.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

The researcher has attempted to analyze the effect of covid 19 on street vendors and their ability to sustain during lockdown.

1. Covid 19 and effects

	Test static / X ²	Df	P-Value	Level of significance
Covid 19 and effects	25.06	3	7.851	0.05

Interpretation:

From the above analysis, it is inferred that p-value of 7.851 is less than x² (calculated value). Hence, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. This means that Covid 19 has effected the street vendors to a greater extent, which has resulted in a continuous loss of income, an increase in debt, shortage of food and shut down of business.

2. Lockdown and sustainability

	Test static / X2	Df	P-Value	Level of significance
Lockdown and sustainability	48.59	3	7.851	0.05

Interpretation:

From the above analysis, it is inferred that p-value of 7.851 is less than x2 (calculated value). Hence, we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternate hypothesis. This means that street vendors were able to sustain during the lockdown because of their past saving, loans, free ration from PDS, essential items and financial assistance from government and non- government institutions.

FINDINGS:

- It was found that 42 respondents were married and remaining 8 respondents were unmarried.
- Out of 50, 28 respondents have a household size of 2 to 4 members, 18 respondents have a size of 5 to 7 members and 4 respondents have a size of 8 to 10 members.
- About 26 respondents have children below 14 years, 18 respondents have elderly above 60 years, 5 respondents have both children below 14 years & elderly above 60 years and 1 respondent have disabled as their dependant in the household.
- It was found that 18 respondents sell food items, 12 respondents sell vegetables, 17 respondents sell fruits and 3 respondents sell other items.
- It was also found that all the respondents have a extreme impact of Covid 19 on income.
- Nearly 18 out of 50 respondents migrated to their hometown during lockdown
- It was found that Covid 19 has effected the street vendors to a greater extent. They have experienced a huge loss of income, which has resulted in the shutdown of business, increase in debt and shortage of food.
- All the respondents have agreed that their volume of transactions as compared to earlier have decreased.
- About 62% respondents think their customers were satisfied with their services during covid 19 and 38% are not sure about the satisfaction of the customers.
- Nearly 82% of street vendors states that online transaction sales have affected their business.
- It was observed that street vendors have sustained during lockdown by taking a loan and using personal savings. Some Street vendors even received free ration from Government through PDS and financial assistance from various sources.

- Major concern of street vendors after lockdown was paying back accrued loan (42%), Continuous loss of income (30%) and returning back to the city (18%).
- It was also found that 58% of street vendors have planned to continue their profession with existing product line, 30% of street vendors have planned to continue their profession with a new product line and 12% of street vendors have planned to start a new profession to earn for their livelihood after lockdown

SUGGESTIONS & CONCLUSION:

- Restrictions by the Government should be minimized to bring back the street vendors in the market.
- Financial assistance should be provided to street vendors by various sources (Government and non-government) during such crisis.
- The street vendors have undergone various changes, yet they decided to continue their profession with the same product line.
- It would have been difficult for the new street vendors to sustain during this crisis due to the continuous loss of income.
- Despite of all such situations street vendors have sustained in the market and adjusting towards new normal.

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