



## A STUDY ON PROBLEMS FACED BY STREET VENDORS IN COIMBATORE CITY

Dr. M. Kalimuthu<sup>1</sup>, Ms. Sindu. S<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Commerce with Professional Accounting,  
Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College, Coimbatore

<sup>2</sup>181PA051, Department of Commerce with Professional Accounting,  
Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College, Coimbatore

### ABSTRACT

Street vendors have been in existence since ancient times. In all civilisations, ancient and medieval, one reads accounts of travelling merchants who not only sold their wares in the town by going from house to house but they also traded in neighbouring countries. Street vending is a global phenomenon and the most visible aspect of the informal sector. Like other informal sector, street vending is characterized by low level of income, easy of entry, self-employed and it involves large number of people. The study reveals that majority of the vendors face the fear of eviction. Despite a general belief that street vending will recede as economies develop and income rise, it is actually on increase in many places.

However, the advent of Street Vendors Act has enhanced the standard of living of vendors to an extent.

**KEYWORDS:** Vending, Global phenomenon, Street Vendors Act

### INTRODUCTION

Street vending is a global phenomenon and the most visible aspect of the informal sector. Like other informal sector, street vending is characterized by low level of income, easy of entry, self-employed and it involves large number of people. In cities and towns throughout the world, millions of people earn their living by selling wide range of goods and service on the street. Despite a general belief that street vending will recede as economies develop and income rise, it is actually on increase in many places.

Street vendors are very important part of the informal sector in the country. It is estimated that around 80 percent of the population are engaged in street vending profession. Women form a large segment of street vending in almost every city. Street vending is not only a source of self-employment to the poor in cities and towns but also a means to provide “affordable” as well as “convenient” services to a majority of the urban population.

Street vendors are often those who are unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector on account of their low level of education and skills. They try to solve their livelihoods problems through their own meagre financial resource. They are the main distribution channel for a large variety of products of daily consumption like fruits, vegetables, readymade garments, shoes, household gadgets, toys, stationery, newspapers, and magazines and so on. 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. The importance of this sector cannot be undermined, especially considering that the government does not have the capacity to provide jobs to the millions of unemployed and underemployed people in India. Even the corporate sector is able to absorb only a tiny proportion of our expanding work force. Overall employment in the formal sector is actually declining. This means most people in India have to fend for themselves. People in the informal sector ought to be encouraged to grow and prosper if the governments want to reduce unemployment and poverty in our country. They contribute significant role in local economic growth and development of the urban economies. Public authorities considered street vendors as a nuisance and as encroachers of sidewalks and pavements and do not appreciate the valuable services that street vendors provide to the general population of the world. 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.



**OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The following specific objectives are identified in line with the general objective of the study.

- To analyze the socio-economic conditions of the street vendors.
- To study the quality of work life of street vendors.
- To understand the problems faced by street vendors.
- To analyze the areas those are exceedingly impacting the street vending operations.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Dr. G. Jayanti, Baranipriya. A and Sreepadnan (2020)** in their study examined the socio economic condition and problems faced by the street vendors 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 street vendors.

**Prasad and Begari (2018)** in their study have inspected about the issues and challenges faced by street vendors in Telangana. The study examines the street vendors are not recognised and regulated by state, and therefore, they do not get any support from government to operate their activity. They face several problems like harassment and pressure by police department, municipality authorities, local leaders and market contractors or rent seekers.

**Kumar and Pillai (2017)** 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, Discrimination, Working instability, Deciduous implementation of Government policies and programs, Lack of awareness about legal rights etc. are the major issues faced by street vendors.

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

|                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Methods of data collection</b> | Both Primary and Secondary data |
| <b>Sampling design</b>            | Convenient sampling technique   |
| <b>Area of the study</b>          | Coimbatore District             |
| <b>Sampling size</b>              | 120 respondents                 |

**STATISTICAL TOOLS**

- Simple Percentage analysis
- Likert scale analysis

**LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

- The research area is limited to Coimbatore city only.
- Due to lack of time, the collection of data from vendors was restricted to 120.
- During the data collection, few of the vendors were hesitant and reluctant to respond.

**FINDINGS**

**SIMPLE PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS**

- Majority (58%) of the respondents are male.
- Majority (62%) of the respondents belong to the age group between 31 years to 50 years.
- Majority (76%) of the respondents are married.
- Majority (78%) of the respondents have a family size of 2 members to 5 members.
- Most (36%) of the respondents are without any formal education.
- Majority (39%) of the street vendors are sole earners in the family.

- Majority (86%) of the respondents are without any physical disability.
- Majority (52%) of the respondents are staying in rented premises.
- Majority (73%) of the respondents consider street vending as their primary occupation.
- Most (36%) of the respondents are engaged in the vending business for 5 years-10 years.
- Most (32%) of the vendors are engaged in the vending business because of the minimum investment requirements.
- Most (23%) of the vendors consider savings as their primary source of investment.
- Most (29%) of the vendors have food items as their vending product.
- Majority (53%) of the vendors work for 8 hours to 10 hours.
- Most (48%) of the vendors vend during the day.
- Majority (65%) of the vendors vend daily.
- Most (41%) of the vendors earn between Rs.500 to Rs.2000 per day.
- Most (48%) of the vendors spend less than Rs.1000 per day.
- Most (28%) of the vendors spend majorly on their children’s education.



- Majority (75%) of the vendors are sometimes able to fulfil their family needs.
- Most (31%) of the vendors avail financial services through ATM.
- Most (34%) of the vendors have sore arms and legs.
- Majority (55%) of the vendors were partially affected due to the covid 19 pandemic.
- Majority (51%) of the vendors had sold their vending product to their neighbours during the lockdown.
- Most (48%) of the vendors consider government subsidies as their source of income during the lockdown.
- Majority (65%) of the vendors are getting support from their family.
- Majority (67%) of the vendors are members of some trade union.
- Majority (58%) of the vendors have access to clean drinking water.
- Majority (60%) of the vendors have clean toilet/bathroom facility at their work place and home.
- Majority (64%) of the vendors are able to consume food at regular intervals.
- Majority (57%) of the vendors are not able to take nutritious food.
- Majority (67%) of the vendors do not go for a regular health check-up.
- Majority (64%) of the vendors have faced some kind of abuse from anti-social elements.

#### LIKERT SCALE ANALYSIS

- Likert scale value is 3.88 which is greater than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents strongly agree that their family life is affected by stress and problems of work.
- Likert scale value is 3.88 which is greater than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents agree that they're able to support their children's education.
- Likert scale value is 3.36 which is lower than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents agree that they get support from nearby shop owners.
- Likert scale value is 3.44 which is lower than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents agree that they always vend at a space where there is high customer footfall.
- Likert scale value is 3.32 which is lower than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents agree that they're satisfied with the vending space available.
- Likert scale value is 3.19 which is lower than mid value (3). Hence majority of the

respondents agree that there is ease in taking breaks during work.

- Likert scale value is 3.83 which is greater than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents agree that their products are kept neat and clean.
- Likert scale value is 3.06 which is lower than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents are neutral about the impact of climatic changes on their vending business.
- Likert scale value is 3.12 which is lower than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents agree that their savings are not affected due to storage costs.
- Likert scale value is 3.76 which is greater than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents agree that they expect supporting government policies.
- Likert scale value is 3.41 which is lower than mid value (3). Hence majority of the respondents are neutral about the impact of bandhs/hartals/other strikes on their vending business.

#### SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ The respective government authorities should provide licence to the vendors so that they can be protected by harassment and eviction by local authorities.
- ✓ They should also be provided with permanent sheds and minimum facilities such as first aid, drinking water, toilet, garbage collection and solid waste disposal etc.
- ✓ Adequate financial support should be provided to the vendors by the authorities to overcome the adverse impact of the pandemic.
- ✓ Since financial instability is one of their major constraints, credit facilities and basic knowledge about financial activities to be made available to the vendors.
- ✓ Scheme like regular health check-up or health care and pension should also be extended to vendors.
- ✓ Vending committee of each district should effectively address the vending issues of the vendors falling under their jurisdiction.

#### CONCLUSION

Since nearly 81% of the Indian labour market is comprised of informal employment and street vending is one of the ways 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 street vending because of the low investment requirements and raised their capital for initial investment from individual savings. Major constraints in street



vending were fear of eviction by municipality officials, lack of hygienic storage facilities, lack of permanent space for vending, price fluctuation, finance, competition from other street vendors, organized retail sector and facing the adverse weather conditions and in the recent times it has been the impact of the covid 19 pandemic across the globe.

Hence there is a need to provide legal status to the street vendors to enable them to carry on their business without fear of eviction. This study on the problems faced by the street vendors would assist the concerned authorities or stakeholders to get an insight regarding the major problems faced by them.

## REFERENCES

### JOURNALS

1. Dr. G Jayanti, Baranipriya A, Sreeanadan (2020), *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.
2. Prasad, Begari (2018), *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.
3. Shubin 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.
4. Dr.V. Jaishankar, Mrs L.Sujatha (2016), *A study on problems faced by street vendors in Tiruchirapalli city*, *SSRG International Journal of Economics and Management Studies*, Volume 3, ISSN 2393-9125, pp 40-43, September 2016.
5. M. Selvakumar, V. Sathyalakshmi, K. Siva Murugan (2014), *Problems and Prospects of Street Vendors in Sivakasi*, *ARDS*, Volume 3, ISSN 2, July-December 2014.

### WEBSITES

1. <https://www.wiego.org/>
2. <https://www.india.gov.in/spotlight/pm-street-vendors-atmanirbhar-nidhi-pm-svanidhi>
3. <https://nasvinet.org/>
4. <https://ccmc.gov.in/ccmc/index.php/createpage/street-vendor-policy>
5. <https://blog.ipleaders.in/detailed-study-street-vendors-protection-livelihood-regulation-street-vending-act-2014/>