

IMPACT OF COVID - 19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN STREET VENDORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE IN COIMBATORE CITY

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ABSTRACT

In developing countries like India, the informal sector including street vending absorbs the majority of the urban unemployed growing labour force. It creates a wide employment opportunity; it is a means for income generation for the marginalized groups, and the urban poor especially for those who migrate from the rural area. However, despite its increasing importance in the total economy (especially for urban poor in the city), policies, regulations, services, infrastructure facilities and institutional support programme are not available for the street vending and the environment under which the vendor operate their business are not suitable for their health and wellbeing. In addition to this, there is no proper attention, which is given to street vending by policy makers, decision makers, and planners. Currently, there is even strong negative measures and view prevailing against street vending both by the local government and by the formal business operators. In addition, street vendors face many problems in the course of running their activities. It is therefore, the focus of this study is to assess the survival of street vendors During covid-19 in Coimbatore City.

INTRODUCTION:

Street vendors are an integral part of urban economies around the world, offering easy access to a wide range of goods and services in public spaces. Even though street vendors are considered as informal, they are the vital contributors to Urban economies. In this 21st century most of the people are street vendors. The Informal Economy Monitoring Study (IEMS) revealed, ways in which street vendors are strengthening their communities: Street vending plays a major role in employment creation, production, and income generation. Street vendors are facing many problems in the workplace from the public, police personnel, politicians and local rowdies. The study investigated their Problems and prospects within the

Visakhapatnam beach region. The government of India (Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation) passed the street vendors Bill 2013 in order to improve their standard of living. Street trade also adds vibrancy to urban life and in many places is considered a cornerstone of historical and cultural heritage. In this study, the researchers evaluated the problems faced by street vendors in their workplace and the prospects needed to get facilitated.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

In developing countries like India, the informal sector including street vending absorbs the majority of the urban unemployed growing labour force. It creates a wide employment opportunity; it is a means for income generation for the marginalized groups, and the urban poor especially for those who migrate from the rural area. However, despite its increasing importance in the total economy (especially for urban poor in the city), policies, regulations, services, infrastructure facilities and institutional support programme are not available for the street vending and the environment under which the vendor operate their business are not suitable for their health and wellbeing. In addition to this, there is no proper attention, which is given to street vending by policy makers, decision makers, and planners. Currently, there is even strong negative measures and view prevailing against street vending both by the local government and by the formal business operators. In addition, street vendors face many problems in the course of running their activities. It is therefore, the focus of this study is to assess the challenges and prospects of street vending in Tirupur

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Street vendors are an integral part of urban economies around the world, offering easy access to a wide range of goods and services in public spaces. The present study is an action research one with descriptive and empirical in nature. The registered and non-registered street vendors from urban area of coimbatore constitute the universe of this study. The sample size for the study was identified as 125. The sample frame clearly covers all subpopulation/categories of street vending community

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the factor affects the sales of products from street vendors.
- To study the problems faced by the street vendors in Coimbatore City.
- To analyses the data to understand the problems those are exceedingly impacting the street vending operations.

The results of the study may be helpful for the policy makers to frame the right kind of policies to protect the interests of the street vendors

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The scope of research methodology is wider than that of research methods, thus we talk of the research methodology, we use the context of our research study and explain why we are using a particular methods or technique any why we are not using others so that research results are capable of being evaluated either by the researcher himself or by others

Nature of Data Collection

Primary data

Primary data are collected by the researcher. The primary data are those which are collected for the first time and thus happens original in character. The required data for the present study was collected through questionnaires. Completed questionnaires are reviewed on the regular basis as the research basis as the research study progresses to ensure that the recorded response is clear, complete and legible.

Secondary data

A research for the secondary data generally follows the statement of objectives. Secondary information is any data originally generated for the same purpose other than the present research objectives. Secondary research finding sometimes provide sufficient insight point the problem at hand to eliminate the need for primary research.

Data analysis:

The collected data was analyzed using percentage, chi-square test and withed average method.

Population:

The study was conducted with a sample of 60 persons. The respondent was interviewed on the basis of a structured questionnaire.

Sampling area:

In the present study the sampling unit is chosen on the basis of the customer in Tirupur.

Methods of data collection:

Primary data collection method was made use for the study. The data was collected by issuing a structured questionnaire to the vendors.

The questionnaire consists of closed ended, multiple choice questions. There were around 22 questions, out of which 1 question where relates to opinion survey

STATISTICAL TOOLS USED:

- Percentage method
- Chi - square analysis
- Weighted average method

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

- Time taken for the study is very limited.
- The study is confined only vendors in Tirupur.
- Since survey is conducted only in Tirupur this means it doesn't reflect whole population in country.
- Sample size is limited to 60.
- The results of the analysis made in this study in fully based on the answers given by the respondents.

All the findings and observations related to service are purely based on respondents answer; the response may be due to personal factor

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

Michele Companion (2020) in his paper “Economic Marginalization : Trading Activities” has observed that street vending and petty trading activities form the essential core of informal economic sector in developing nations. Referring to the emergence of petty trading and street vending in Mozambique the author asserts that poverty has deepened as a result of displacement from the civil war, a stagnant internal labour market, the loss of staple crops resulting from the proliferation cassava brown streak disease and draught and a reduction in wage labour opportunities across the border in South Africa. This according to him is channeling men into petty trading activities in larger number. The author has further argued that some coping mechanisms and income generating strategies of female street vendors have been constrained while other opportunities have increased. This study by Michele Companion tries to identify the factors compelling male and female vendors entering the business in Mozambique. Hence the study has direct relevance to the present study in analyzing similar problems faced by street vendors in the study area.

Debdulal Saha (2019) in his article “Collective Bargaining for Street Vendors in Mumbai – Towards Promotion of Social Dialogue” has attempted to understand the role of the collective bargaining process in promoting social dialogue among the street vendors in Mumbai. The author has highlighted the deprivation of the street vendors in Mumbai caused by their low bargaining power. The study by the author has revealed that the rate of unionization among vendors in Mumbai is low and the heterogeneous nature of street vending activity further retards the unionization process. However the author has appreciated the work of certain organizations which are working actively toward the provision of social security for vendors in addition to the provision of formal credit through cooperative credit society. These organizations are most active in securing the vendors rights to public space utilization. The author has commended that the organizations are promoting the social dialogue process by mobilizing the vendors toward realizing their rights at work. This study is quite useful in a comparative analysis of the street vendors problems in the study area of Bijou.

John Walsh (2019) in his study “After the 1997 Financial Crisis in Bangkok – The Behaviour and Implications of a New Cohort of Street Vendors” has described position of the street vendors in Bangkok after the 1997 financial crisis. The author has found that in contrast to traditional street vendors who specialized in food items primarily catering for low income customers and focused on high volume the new generation street vendors also adopted more formal business practices. As against the hypothesis that the new vendors would be more organized advocates of vendors’ rights the author has found that they are

adaptive to location and business strategy and prefer a low profile in dealing with officialdom. The author has also found that traditional vendors remained more tied to particular spaces, are more likely to stand up for their rights to use public space and are more prone to conflicts with municipal authorities. The significance of this study has relevance in the context of vendors in our country facing the problem of inadequate infrastructure for their trade and business. The article highlights the ongoing discussion on the rights and needs of street vendors to access urban public spaces and the responsibilities of the authorities to meet and provide livelihoods to this informal sector.

Klaus Jaffe (2019) in his article “The Economic Limits of Trust” has studied the role of social capital among street vendors and their moneylenders in Caracas, an illegal business based solely on trust and social bonds. The author has analysed demand and supply of credit by informal street vendors and moneylenders exploring the relationship between street vendors' assets, income generated, financial and human and financial strategies and those of the moneylenders. The author has found that street vendors' main source of working capital were moneylenders despite charging the highest interest rate. The author concluded that the main constraint for increased productivity in the informal sector is not the cost of capital but the transaction costs involved in accessing credit and a lack of legal enforcements. The results of this study have a relevance for the present study in relation to the financial aspects of the vendors in Bijapur study area

Silva Londona, Diana Alejandra (2018) in their article “Street Vendors in Mexico City's Historic Center” have analysed the link between street vendors' association and government transparency that surrounds Mexico City. The authors hold that lack of the rules of the game governing this relationship of (in) formality. The authors have explored the issue with an analysis of the correlation of forces present in the removal of street vendors in 1993 and 2007.

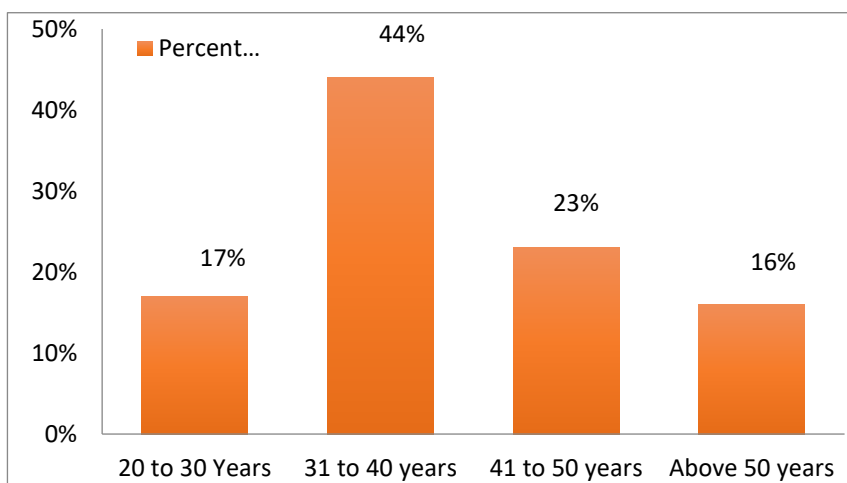
Michael Donovan (2014) in his article “Informal Cities and the Contestation of Public Space – The Case of Bogota's Street Vendors” has observed that the resurgence of informal street trading poses serious challenges for local officials responsible for the maintenance of public space. The author has examined the working conditions and occupational hazards faced by vendors both before and after relocation to government built markets. The study has revealed that the formalized vendors experienced declining income levels but improved working conditions.

P. Moustier et al. (2014) in their study “Promotion of Public-Private Dialogue to Maintain Poor-friendly Fruit and Vegetable Street Vending in Hanoi” have observed that the marketing of fruits and vegetables is characterized by a diversity of distribution chains including formal markets, street vendors,

shops and super markets. The government is promoting expansion of super markets and was planning to eliminate all informal trade. The authors have drawn attention to the fact that in many other countries street vending has been successfully integrated into urban planning thanks to the organization of street vendors and dialogue with authorities.

ANALYSIS:

AGE GROUP OF THE RESPONDENCE :



MARITAL STATUS:

Marital status	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Married	50	62
Unmarried	30	38
Total	80	100

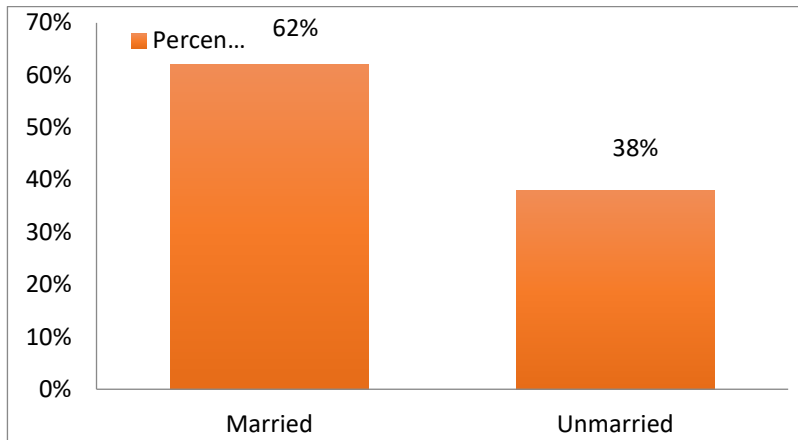
INTERPRETATION:

The above table reveals that 62% of the respondents are married and 32% of the respondents are Unmarried.

INFERENCE:

Majority 62% of the respondents marital status belongs to Married.

MARITAL STATUS:



EDUCATION QUALIFICATION OF THE RESPONDENCE :

Educational Qualification	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Up to 12th	23	29
Under graduate	32	40
Postal Graduate	20	25
Others	5	6
Total	80	100

INTERPRETATION

The above table reveals that 29% of the respondents Education qualification is school level is up to 12th, 40% of the respondents qualification is under graduate, 25% of the respondents qualification is post graduate and remaining 6% of the respondents qualification is others.

INFERENCE

Mostly 40% of the respondents education qualification is under graduate

PROBLEM FACED:

Problem faced	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
No income	28	35
No supply of products	18	23
Supply chain breakage	21	26
Others	13	15
Total	80	100

INTERPRETATION:

The above table reveals that 35% of the street vendors problem is no income, 23% of the respondents say no supply of products, 26% of the respondents say supply chain breakage and remaining 15% of the respondents say others.

INFERENCE:

Mostly 35% of the street vendors problem is no income

FINDINGS:

- Majority 60 % of the respondents belong to the Gender Male.
- Mostly 44% of the respondents age group is 31 to 40 years.
- Majority 62% of the respondents marital status belongs to Married.
- Mostly 40% of the respondents education qualification is under graduate.
- Majority 53% respondents occupational status is food cart merchandise.
- Here majority 54% of the respondents monthly income level is Rs:30001 to 50000.
- Majority 71% of the respondents family type is Nuclear.
- Majority 52% of the respondents family size is more than 5.
- Majority 62% of the respondents are self-employment enterprise.
- Majority 53% of the respondents say food vendors are essential street vendor.
- Mostly 35% of the street vendors problem is no income.
- Mostly 46% of the respondents say major customer are migrant workers.
- Majority 58% of the respondents say entertainment.
- Majority 65% of the respondents say poverty problem occurred in street vendor.
- Mostly 38% of the respondents say that they face problem in unsold goods at public place.

- Majority 62% respondents say that they have shortage of working capital.
- Mostly 49% of the respondents say marketing problem that they facing is competitive challenges.
- Majority 65% of the respondents say always for police harassment during covid 19.
- Mostly 53% of the respondents required help is by giving loan.

SUGGESTION:

There should be proper management in street vending also. There are good examples of street vending management in several cities in Indonesia. In these cities, the street vendors provided standardized carts. The size of their lots was also standardized. These create uniformity and order. The carts were then wheeled in and out at certain time. Roads were closed and reopened at certain times. During off operating period carts were neatly stored somewhere unobtrusive, thus the cities stay clean and the roads uncongested. Proper management working environment provide income, health and safety benefits to street vendors.

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 vendors 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.

The objective of this study 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. 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