

The Plight of Street Vendors in Kovilpatti City

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Abstract:

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. This paper tries to bring out the plight of women street vendors pinpointing the challenges and expectations from the job. The researcher applied factor analysis and t test to interpret the result. The sample group is rural based, illiterates, low income group, doing variety of trading activities, well experienced but fairly satisfied with the work. The study reveals that Inadequate Finance, Infrastructure Inflexibility, Improper Marketing Strategies and Insecurity and Uncertainty are identified as the challenges of street vendors. It is further concluded that the expectation of the sample respondents mainly based on the basic infrastructure, Garbage disposal and Government support. Sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health and employment conditions of the street vendors. It is suggested that proper legal protection, basic amenities along with the welfare measures like social security and pension will brighten their live to raise their livelihood.

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I. Introduction

India contains the huge population of street sellers on the earth and this amount is very likely to expand as migration from rural to metropolitan areas has been growing in the wake of the agricultural industry's collapse. A street seller is a man who provides products or services for trade to the general public with a forever constructed structure but using a provisional static arrangement or mobile booth or head-load. They face difficulties of eviction, bribe payment, inability to get several government facilities, absence of amenities like toilet, lighting, etc., absence of social protection and other related problems. Street sellers are often those people who cannot find normal work in the remunerative formal industry due to the low degree of education and techniques. They attempt to address their livelihoods issues through their own meager

financial source. They're the primary distribution channel for a wide range of goods for everyday demand like fruits, vegetables, readymade garments, shoes, household gadgets, toys, stationery, newspapers and magazines and etc. When they were to be removed from the metropolitan markets, then it might lead to serious difficulty for fruit and vegetable farmers, in addition to small scale businesses which were unable to bear to sell their goods through costly supply networks in the {formal sector. Vending is a significant and regular wellspring of work for countless urban poor, people the same. It requires aptitudes that can be increased outside the formal instruction arrangement, is very adaptable and does not require overwhelming capital speculation and furthermore does not have critical passage boundaries. While strengthening, explicitly of ladies merchants, is significant, the other side is

the provocation and unfriendly working conditions that they face in their everyday working. Notwithstanding getting a comprehension of their plan of action, it was likewise seen that distributing occupations had upgraded the certainty level of these ladies and given them a state in family basic leadership. A survey has been conducted among 50 women street vendors in Kovilpatti city of Tamilnadu and the results thus obtained are analysed and summarized as below.

Research Methodology: The validity of any study relies on the systematic technique of information collection and evaluation of the information that were collected. The information was collected through primary data in addition to secondary data. Simple random methods are utilized to choose the respondent from the accessible database. Hence, the researcher has chosen 50 female respondents from the analysis area. The statistical tools employed are Percentage analysis, factor analysis and t test.

II. Review of Literature

Karthikeyan, R & R.Mangaleswarn, (2013) conducted the study of the Quality of Life among the Street Vendors in Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu. This paper attempts to study the socio-economic status and quality of life among the Street Vendors in Tiruchirappalli City. This study find out the physical health and their psychosocial health is no significant of their age.

Debdulalsana (2013) studied the street vendor's in terms of their decent work and emphasized the role of organization/ Union in providing the decent work culture. His study explores the street vendors mainly depend on money lenders for their economic and social security purposes. There is no safety for the street vendors in their work place. They have to face severe harassment from the local authorities.

Renu V.(2005), The women searching for an job were relocating from rural and semi-rural areas and their demographic, social and economic features for their migration and earnings are demonstrated in

same of the study works Analysis of these research works leads how these women are victimized by politicians, local authorities and police when they sell their products on the streets. The negative and lethargic attitude of the local authorities towards women street sellers in providing license is also highlighted in this study. Around 95% of the women street sellers are subject to continuous harassment through extortion or eviction

Table 1 Demographic Profile of the Sample Respondents

Category	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative %
Residential Status			
Rural	27	54.0	54.0
Urban	23	46.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
Age			
20-30	14	28.0	28.0
30-40	13	26.0	54.0
40-50	18	36.0	90.0
Above 50	5	10.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
Educational qualification			
Illiterate	26	52.0	52.0
Upto SSLC	13	26.0	78.0
Upto HSC	11	22.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
Monthly Family Income			
Below 10000	32	64.0	64.0
10000 - 20000	12	24.0	88.0
20000 - 30000	6	12.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
No. of Family Members			
2-4	19	38.0	38.0
5-8	21	42.0	80.0
Above 8	10	20.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
Category of work			
Hawkers	11	22.0	22.0
Peddlers	18	36.0	58.0
Farmers	12	24.0	82.0
Others	9	18.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
Experience			
0-3	18	36.0	36.0
3-6	13	26.0	62.0
Above 6	19	38.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
Amount Sufficiency			
Fully	17	34.0	34.0
Partially	21	42.0	76.0
Not Enough	12	24.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	
Decision Maker			
Women	19	38.0	38.0
Men	15	30.0	68.0
All	16	32.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	

Source: Primary Survey

From the above table it is known that 54 percent of the respondents are in rural area, 28 percent of respondents are in the age group of 20-30,

in the category of 30-40 (26%), 40-50 (36%) and Above 50 (10%). With regards to the Educational qualification, majority of the respondents are illiterates (52%), SSLC completed (25%) and HSC completed (22%), 64 percent of respondents are having the amount less than 10000 as their monthly family income, between Rs. 10000 and Rs.20000 (24%) and between Rs. 20000 and Rs.30000 (12%), 52 percent of respondents are having 5-8 members in their family, 5-8 members in their family (42%) and above 8 members in their family (20%). Peddlers are the high percent of respondents from the selected sample (52%), Hawkers (22%), Farmers (24%) and other common vendors (18%), they have the experience of above 6 years in their field (38%), the maximum of 3 years (36%) and 3-6 years (26%). It was clear that most of the respondents (42%) are partially satisfied with their income, Fully satisfied (34%) and not satisfied (24%) 38 percent of respondents are the decision makers in their family and they are all women.

Table 2 Types of Vending

Category	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Food	3	6.0	6.0
Fruits	9	18.0	24.0
Vegetables	14	28.0	52.0
Flowers	7	14.0	66.0
Cloths & Accessories	5	10.0	76.0
Fish	6	12.0	88.0
Cosmetics & Decorative Items	4	8.0	96.0
Any other	2	4.0	100.0
Total	50	100.0	

Source: Primary Survey

Table 2 reveals that 28 percent of the respondents are selling vegetables, fruits vendors (18%), Flowers vendors (14%), Cloths & Accessories vendors (10%), Fish vendors (12%), Cosmetics & Decorative Items vendors (8%) and other common unspecified goods vendors (4%). Among the items sold, agriculture products are dominating to the extent of 78 percent.

Challenges Faced by the Street Vendors

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 meager 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. Majority of the street vendors are migrants from rural area where poverty as well as lack of opportunities for gainful employment has pushed them to look for better opportunities in the cities. Clearing streets, footpaths and transport terminals of vendors and hawkers, and confiscating their goods, is a daily municipal activity. For their part, the street vendors continue to claim their space in the cities to earn their living. At this juncture, this study takes into consideration 354 statements to evaluate the challenges faced by the street vendors.

Table 3: Reliability Statistics for the Challenges Faced by the Street Vendors

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.941	35

Source: Derived

Table 4 ANOVA for the Challenges Faced by the Street Vendors

ANOVA					
	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between People	964.737	49	19.689	4.678	.000
Within People					
Between Items	184.711	34	5.433		
Residual	1934.603	1666	1.161		
Total	2119.314	1700	1.247		
Total	3084.051	1749	1.763		
Grand Mean = 3.35					

Source: Derived

The reliability statistics for the Challenges Faced by the Street Vendors with 35 statements reveals that the value of Cronbach's Alpha is .941 indicating the well adequacy of reliability. The ANOVA test reveals that all the 35 statements are

significant as the p value (0.000) is less than 0.05, the F value (df: 49, 34) is 4.678. The Grand Mean for ANOVA test is 3.35. Hence it is concluded that the statements taken for study are significant as per reliability test and so further tests can be conducted.

Table 5 Factor Analysis for Challenges Faced by the Street Vendors

Rotated Component Matrix				
Statements	Components			
	Inadequate Finance	Infrastructure inflexibility	Improper Marketing strategies	Insecurity and Uncertainty
Wastage of unsold goods	.891	.114	.038	.027
Online Shopping an adverse impact	.891	.114	.038	.027
Increased traffic affect free mobility	.891	.114	.038	.027
Low access of capital	.617	.295	.077	.190
Low income	.571	.363	.146	-.026
Pollution	.545	.277	.367	.045
Seasonal	.543	.137	.304	.239
Sanitation	.511	.144	.093	.272
Fear of Bargaining	.412	.128	.273	.313
Environmental Hazards	.375	.372	-.098	.276
Drinking water	.124	.847	.281	.071
Electricity	.124	.847	.281	.071
Feeling insecure	.112	.636	.197	.189
Imprisonment	.293	.612	.320	.263
Penalties	.213	.595	.355	.234
Price fluctuations	.327	.518	-.086	.175
Eviction	.085	.492	.383	-.035
Charged Heavily for permit	.270	.486	.187	.252
Fear of customer's misbehaving	.283	.418	-.084	.403
Uncertainty and insecurity	-.018	.150	.850	.095
Problems in Devising Marketing strategies	-.018	.150	.850	.095
Irregular Employment	.307	.221	.642	.259
Inadequate shade	.307	.221	.642	.259
Heavy Competition between vendors	.458	.297	.535	.221
Bribes	.518	.006	.534	.056
Harassment from local authorities or from policemen during vending	-.014	.033	.525	.396
Climate change	.389	.350	.423	.284
Road widening	.030	.140	.323	.129
lack of washroom and drinking water	.059	.139	.289	.905
Health problems	.059	.139	.289	.905
Social security	.059	.139	.289	.905
No recreation	.162	.150	.148	.523
Local rowdies	.406	.401	-.106	.448
Difficult to get vending license	.282	.241	.356	.382
Fear of municipal and higher authorities	.104	.338	.063	.348
% of Variance	16.589	13.734	13.671	12.668
Cumulative Variance	16.589	30.324	43.994	56.662
% to total	29.28	24.24	24.13	22.36
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.				
Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.				
a. Rotation converged in 8 iterations.				
Source: Primary Survey				

Inadequate Finance: This factor consist of ten statements such as Wastage of unsold goods (.891), Online Shopping an adverse impact (.891), Increased traffic affect free mobility (.891), Low access of capital (.617), Low income (.571), Pollution (.545), Seasonal (.543), Sanitation (.511), Fear of Bargaining (.412) and Environmental Hazards (.375). The percentage of variance under this factor is 16.59 and it forms 29.28 percent out of total.

Infrastructure Inflexibility: This factor consist of nine statements such as Drinking water (.847), Electricity (.847), Feeling insecure (.636), Imprisonment (.612), Penalties (.595), Price fluctuations (.518), Eviction (.492), Charged Heavily for permit (.486) and Fear of customer's misbehaving (.418). The percentage of variance under this factor is 13.73 and it forms 24.24 percent out of total.

Improper Marketing Strategies: This factor consist of nine statements such as Uncertainty and insecurity (.850), Problems in Devising Marketing strategies (.850), Irregular Employment (.642), Inadequate shade (.642), Heavy Competition between vendors (.535), Bribes (.534), Harassment from local authorities or from policemen during vending (.525), Climate change (.423) and Road widening (.323). The percentage of variance under this factor is 13.67 and it forms 24.13 percent out of total.

Insecurity and Uncertainty: This factor consist of seven statements such as lack of washroom and drinking water (.905), Health problems (.905), Social security (.905), No recreation (.523), Local rowdies (.448), Difficult to get vending license (.382) and Fear of municipal and higher authorities (.348). The percentage of variance under this factor is 12.67 and it forms 22.36 percent out of total.

Expectation of Street Vendors

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. It is also acts as investment to provide affordable as well as convenient services to a majority of urban population. Out of their vulnerability on the streets, they expect some sort of relief from the Government, society and well wishers, their wishes are being examined and narrated in the following tables.

Table 6 t test for the Expectation of Street Vendors

No	Statements	t	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean	Std. Deviation	95% Confidence Interval	
						Lower	Upper
1	Storage or shades	33.75	0.00	3.82	0.8	3.59	4.05
2	Garbage disposal	33.75	0.00	3.82	0.8	3.59	4.05
3	Government support	30.57	0.00	4.24	0.98	3.96	4.52
4	Permanent sheds	28.93	0.00	3.96	0.97	3.68	4.24
5	Training to vendors	28.52	0.00	3.48	0.86	3.23	3.73
6	Skill training	28.52	0.00	3.48	0.86	3.23	3.73
7	Market amenities such as water and toilet	28.36	0.00	3.80	0.95	3.53	4.07
8	Legal protection	27.63	0.00	3.46	0.89	3.21	3.71
9	Provide license	26.57	0.00	3.98	1.06	3.68	4.28
10	Sanitation and work place security	26.29	0.00	3.54	0.95	3.27	3.81
11	Health care and pension	26.29	0.00	3.54	0.95	3.27	3.81
12	Adherence of labour laws	21.57	0.00	3.44	1.13	3.12	3.76
13	Trade union	21.30	0.00	3.88	1.29	3.51	4.25
14	Basic infrastructure (water, toilet etc)	20.84	0.00	3.86	1.31	3.49	4.23
15	Availability of financial assistance	20.43	0.00	3.08	1.07	2.78	3.38
16	Waste disposal	18.85	0.00	3.54	1.33	3.16	3.92
17	Credit facilities	17.64	0.00	2.88	1.15	2.55	3.21
18	Solid waste disposal	16.69	0.00	3.10	1.31	2.73	3.47
19	Safety Equipments	14.47	0.00	2.76	1.35	2.38	3.14
20	Regular health check up	14.47	0.00	2.76	1.35	2.38	3.14

Source: Primary Survey

As per t test, it is noted that Storage or shades to keep their goods and Garbage collection are the foremost expectation to carry on the business with the t value of 33.75 which is followed by Government support (30.57), Permanent sheds (28.93), Training to vendors (28.52), Skill training (28.52), Market amenities such as water and toilet (28.36), Legal protection (27.63), Provide license (27.57), Sanitation and work place security (26.29), Health care and pension (26.29), Adherence of labour laws (21.57), Trade union (21.30), Basic infrastructure (water, toilet etc) (20.84), Availability of financial assistance (20.43), Waste disposal (18.85), Credit facilities (17.64), Solid waste disposal (16.69), Safety Equipments (14.47) and Regular health checkup (14.47). The mean value is high for the statement Government support (4.24) and is low for Safety Equipments and Regular health checkup (2.76). All the statements are statistically significant as the p values are less than 0.05. Hence it is concluded that the expectation of the sample

respondents mainly based on the basic infrastructure, Garbage disposal and Government support.

III. Conclusion

Street vending is an ancient phenomenon. Their activity varies in scale, timing, location and remuneration. Creation of vending zones with needed facilities would reduce their problems pertaining to street vending. The street vendors were ready to move to vending zones. The needs of food, clothing, shelter, education and alternate employment opportunities are not accomplished by the vast majority of the street vendors. The blanket approach is not giving to solve the problems of the street vendors. The sample group is rural based, illiterates, low income group, doing variety of trading activities, well experienced but fairly satisfied with the work. The study reveals that Inadequate Finance, Infrastructure Inflexibility, Improper Marketing Strategies and Insecurity and Uncertainty are identified as the challenges of street vendors. It is further concluded that the expectation of the sample respondents mainly based on the basic infrastructure, Garbage disposal and Government support. Sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health and employment conditions of the street vendors. The government can create a separate ministry or a special cell under the Ministry of Labour to look after the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector under which the street vending falls. There is a considerable increase in the income of the street vendors after entering in to vending activity. In midst of all these challenges, most of the street vendors have emerged to be very successful in their activity. Therefore the government would formulate tailor made programmes to suit and address the specific needs of the street vendors.

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