

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

A street vendor is a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanent structure but with a temporary static or mobile stall or it could be on head-load. Street vendors could occupy space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or could be mobile, and move from place to place carrying their business activity. Street vendors are often those who are unable to get regular jobs in formal sector as they have low level of education and skills. Their day-to-day needs are managed with very meagre amount of income which they get through vending. Street vending is one of the means of earning livelihood, as it requires less finance to start and run the business and also without much education and skills one can engage in this activity. They work very hard and are exposed to sun and rain on the streets. They are additionally exposed to fumes from vehicles each day. Street vending is the major core activities of informal sector.

Street vendors provide goods and services to the people at a reasonable price and many feel it convenient to get products from them as it is easily accessible. Street vendors give a helping hand to farmers, mainly fruits and vegetable farmers. They help sustain employment, income and provision of services to the urban economy to a great extent. In spite of their invaluable services, street vendors are ignored and marginalised and considered as nuisance, criminals and their living condition is very poor. They face lots of problems at the vending areas and they are seen as obstacles in the easy and smooth functioning of the society. They are denied of their right to livelihood, right to use public places, right to safety, right to trade and their right to life and dignity. They are always subject to threat from police and municipal authorities and most often their goods are confiscated leaving them penniless. Though laws have been passed by the Government to protect the rights of street vendors, nothing much has come to rescue them. They continue to be poor and downtrodden.

The working conditions of street vendors are very pathetic. They work for long hours till their goods are sold off and this coupled with hostile unhealthy and unsafe working environments results in poor health and associated ailments. They do not resort to immediate medical attention, but allows the sickness to take its own course, which may be fatal also. Though we boast much about the economic development and other related facts, this is one group which

needs attention by the authorities and effective steps need to be implemented at the earliest. It is the poor plight of the street vendors which made the investigator to take up a study on the general living conditions of the street vendors with the following objectives.

1. To understand the Socio-Economic conditions of select women street vendors in Coimbatore district and to identify the factors determining income of women vendors.
2. To study the working conditions of the selected sample and to identify the factors which discriminate the vendors into mobile and stationary vendors.
3. To assess the health status of women vendors and to identify the factors determining health problems, health expenditure or cost of treatment.
4. To study the job satisfaction of women vendors and constraints faced by the women in their business.

The current work made an indepth study on 445 street vendors who sold products in different areas of Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation. The respondents were from North, South, East, West and Central zone. A detailed interview schedule was administered to the sample respondents. Observations from surveying the locality and personal interviews too were administered. Considering the conducive and compulsive factors responsible for the respondent's entry to street vending and considering their socio-economic background, the following hypotheses were tested.

Hypothesis

The following hypothesis was framed:

- There is relationship between income and socio economic variables.
- There is association between level of education and health status of the selected women street vendors.
- There is association between taking medicines and earnings received.
- Constraints are not associated with socio – economic problems.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Socio – Economic Profile of the Respondents

- More the half of the respondents were above the age of 41 years. This clearly states that age does not matter in carrying out street vending.
- A meagre percentage of women vendors come below the age of 30 years.
- Majority of the respondents were Hindu (80.4 percentage), and those belonging to
- Schedule Caste/ Tribes were around 42.0 percentage
- Among the selected women vendors, majority of them (71.2 percentage) were married and the need for supporting the family made them take up this activity.
- The women street vendors seems to have a small family size. There were only 15 percent who have more than four members in their family. This shows the awareness among the women to restrict their families and limit their family size.
- The need to educate themselves are well realised by the women and this may be reason to observe that a good number of them are educated. Only 10.3 percent of the vendors were illiterate, but this did not prevent them from carrying on their business.
- Nuclear family seems to be the order of the day. Nearly 81 percentage of the selected samples were living in nuclear families.
- Though joint families have many merits people like to live separately as nuclear families give them more freedom and space for each individual.
- More than half of the respondents, that is, 41.1 percent of them were living in the tiled house in the study area and all the respondents had cement flooring and electricity was also available and all houses had electric connection.
- Majority (68.3 percent) of the respondents had separate space for cooking.
- Almost 81.6 percent of the respondents were using LPG as their mode of cooking.
- This is a great help for the women and it is mainly by the efforts taken by the state

government to supply free gas stoves and LPG connections to the poor people.

- It was noticed that 49.4 percent of the respondents were having drinking water facility, within their household.
- All respondents were having separate washing area, toilet facility and drainage facility in their houses.
- With regard to the food expenditure, 55.3 percent of them were spending less than Rs. 5000 per month on food and 55.5 percent of them were spending below Rs. 5000 per month on non – food items.
- Use of alcohol is so rampant among the poor household. Though they have limited income, money spent on this item is high. In the study area a whopping proportion spends around Rs.1000 per month on alcohol. There were nearly 7.0 percent who spends more than Rs. 2000/- on this along with tobacco and betel nut.
- Dietary pattern is noticed to be more or less similar among the vendors. Most of them were in the habit of having lunch and dinner.
- While some of the women skip breakfast, they all have tea at regular intervals.
- Savings is a virtue and 61.5 percent of the street vendors had the habit of saving and most of them saved less than Rs. 1500 per month.
- Borrowing is a regular practice which the vendors resort to, when money is inadequate.
- The study pointed out that 53 percent of women made a repayment of Rs.1000 – 5000/- and 39 percentage repaid an amount to a level of Rs. 5000- Rs. 10,000/-.
- Nearly 38 percentage women street vendor borrowed money to run their business.
- Most of them repaid it in time. But however 72 percent had a debt amount to the tune of Rs. 10,000/-.
- Through there are different sources of borrowing nearly 6.7 percent of the selected sample borrowed from money lenders and also nearly 37.9 percentage borrowed from friends.

- All the respondents made efforts to repay the amount and majority (53.5 percent) were paid debt amount between Rs. 1000 – 5000/- per month.

Employment pattern and working condition of the selected women vendors

- The vegetable vendors and flower vendors who had five to ten years of experience were around 52 percentage. Around 48 percentage of fruit vendors had more than 10 years of experiences while 35 percentage had 5 to 10 years of experience. Only around six percent of the entire sample size had experience of less than one year.
- Around 154 (34.6 percent) women vendors sought financial help from friends while from the relatives it was to the tune of 105 (23.5 percent).
- Nearly 98 (22 percent) women vendors received financial help from their own family members.
- The study pointed out that around 257 (58 percent) women sold their goods at lower price, when they had excess goods.
- Nearly 70 percent of the entire women vendors who were selected for the study work for more than 25 days a month.
- Around 19.5 percent work for 21 to 25 days and 10.8 percent work for less than 20 days.
- A majority (65 percentages) were observed to be working for less than eight hours and 28 percentage worked for 8 – 16 hours and a minority worked for more than 16 hours.
- Among the women vendors, 97 percentages of fruit vendors worked for less than eight hours and this was followed by flower vendors (84 percentages).
- Around 18 women food vendors were working for more than 16 hours and 47 women food vendors work for 8 – hours per day.
- Among the entire sample taken nearly 90 percentage of women vendors had permanent set up. Around 35 (7.8 percent) women vendors did mobile vending.
- Majority (278) women vendors occupied their own places while others had to give rent.
- Overall 167 respondents were paying rent and majority 278 respondents had free access for their vending places were paying rent.
- Majority (43.4 percent) of the respondents earned above Rs. 400/- daily income.
- Majority of women 204 (45.8 percentage) used to bring their produce from home to vending place by bus. Those using bus facilities are to the tune of 35 (38.5 percentage) fruit vendors, 49 (57.6 percentage) vegetable vendors, 53 (56.4 percentage) flower

vendor, and 32 (40 percentage) vendors who sold other items. Nearly 105 (23.2 percentage) vendors used their own two wheelers or four wheelers to transport their goods.

- The study pointed out that 329 (73.9 percentage) women got help from husband and children. The vegetable and flower vendors were the maximum who received help from husband and children while for the others only of half them got help from the above source.
- The study found that many of the vendors did not have proper drinking water. Vendors of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and food expressed that there is poor toilet facility in the work spot. More than 20 women vendors among the above stated group strongly disagreed on the toilet facility that is available.
- Only seven fruit vendors and eight vegetables vendors reported that they have good storing area to keep their products. Over 54 vendors who sold other items strongly disagreed on the availability of shed and further for other problems like space, poor sanitation and waste disposal, and street lighting.
- Around 42 food vendors strongly agreed that they spoiled the area by throwing the materials used for packing foods while 13 of them strongly disagreed.
- All the vendors considered for the study expressed that the working area is congested and during peak hours people throng to buy things.

Health status of the vendors

- Among the women vendors 64 (14.3 percent) had leg pain and hand pain.
- There were 48 women who had joint pains.
- Constant and continuous work coupled with poor nutrition makes them fall sick or get any such complaints. There were other ailments like common fever, diarrhoea, hand pain, back pain and such issues which affect the women vendors. Poor income, lack of leisure, poor working condition, lack of adequate food and exposure to all kinds of weather conditions make them sick.
- Around 259 (58.9 percentage) vendors out of 445 chose medical treatment from Government Hospital, while 150 respondents (33.7 percent) went to private hospital for medical aid and 20 respondents (4.5 percent) chose trust hospital and 16 respondents (3.6 percent) sought treatment from other clinics and self – medication.

- Nearly 54 respondents of the vendors spent Rs. 301 – 500/- year and 24 respondents spent in Rs.501 – 1000 per year towards treatment. Only nine percentage reported spending above Rs.1000/-. And there were five flower vendors and four vendors who were spending this amount.

Job Satisfaction Level of the Respondents

The job satisfaction is classified as highly satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dis-satisfied, and Highly dis – satisfied and from each group of women we received their response and among food vendors nearly one third were dissatisfied and in food vendors nearly one third were dissatisfied and it was and it was 12.7 percent among flower vendors.

Recommendation

1. Local government policy should recognize the importance of street vending as a livelihood option for the urban poor, especially the vulnerable poor, eg: women (particularly older women).
2. Policy should identify all 'natural markets' throughout the city, based on protect vending in this should be the prime role of the Town Vending Committee (TVC) established to implement the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors in Coimbatore District.
3. Street vending should be permitted provided that it does not cause problems for public safety.
4. Urban infrastructure and 'beautification' schemes should protect street vendors' livelihoods, and where vending spaces are affected, should redesign public space to accommodate vendors.
5. Where this is not possible, alternative viable trading sites should be sought. Summary evictions should never take place.
6. Inexpensive alternatives to the larry should be explored to create smaller mobile vending platforms that allow for efficient use of space.
7. A study needs to be done on the kinds of cooperatives that are suitable to address the needs of female street vendors.
8. The concerned agencies and participation of women street vendors must be encouraged in job creation policy.
9. The government should focus on this sector as many people are involved with this business and they are facing various types of problem.

10. National urban planning should be integrated with street vending businesses' needs and regulations. Participatory approaches can be potentially useful in the successful empowerment of the street vendors of informal sector. Moreover, we have to accept the right to vend as a part of civil right. Furthermore, the government agencies must protect the usual natural markets where vendors and customers have interacted for a long time. The Province of Coimbatore city needs to implement a national law on street trade which would clearly uphold the rights of the vendors.
11. Further research is needed in terms of the type of training available to women street vendors and ensure that the idea of cooperatives gets included in these training programs.

Policy Implication

- Government must ensure the equal treatment for unorganized workers on par with organized workers.
- Nationalized banks should give priority in giving loans to the street vendors at a nominal interest rate.
- Educating the women would be a great step to make every street vendors a great entrepreneur.
- A more effective policy for the betterment of women street vendors should be executed.
- Safety measures need to be enhanced for women vendors
- Harassment by the police and local officials should be put an end to.
- Institutions can be started to improve the marketing skills of the women street vendors.
- There must be equality of opportunity for the women vendors.