



Role of Street Vendors in Poverty Eradication and Strengthening the Economy

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Abstract

The practice of street vending as a career has always existed in the capital city. Urban Street vending not only offers the cheapest commodities to the bulk of the urban poor but also serves as a source of income. Vendors are a vital component of the urban sector since they offer critical assistance, generate their own personal jobs, and support job growth. Because they offer benefits and commodities to the urban poor, street vendors play a crucial role in the economy. Moreover, informal economy encourages those who don't have many options to work in official jobs or famous companies, reducing the likelihood of interpersonal stigmatisation. For those who are marginalised, street vending is becoming a more viable source of income. While street vending is a significant source of income for the urban poor, urban authorities view it as an unlawful and worthless industry on the one hand. In recent years, numerous nations throughout the world have come to understand the value of street vending for urban economies, regarded it as a means of reducing poverty, and begun to perform studies to assess its effects on socioeconomic and environmental issues. Street selling serves three essential functions in the urban economic environment. First off, hawking is a significant fraction of the Indian population's primary source of work. Second, those with low and middle incomes and the poor, who are unable to purchase goods and services from other markets, can benefit from hawking by receiving them at a lower price. The urban poor participate in the informal economy due to low wages and income, job insecurity, a lack of adequate housing and sanitary amenities, the absence of formal regulation, and government policy support. In this situation, street vendors are essential to the survival of the urban poor. Last but not least, street vending creates jobs for people in other industries, such as those that produce the cheap commodities that street vendors sell.

Key Words: Poverty, Street Vendors, Economy and Urban.

1. Poverty

An individual or community is said to be in a state or condition of poverty if they lack the means of subsistence and other resources. When a person is considered to be in poverty, their amount of employment-based income is too low to cover their essential necessities. Insufficient shelter, access to clean water, wholesome food, and medical care may be experienced by families and individuals living in poverty. The cycle of poverty is challenging to reverse since it frequently affects successive generations. As inequality rises, elevated poverty is likely to exacerbate already existing tensions in society. In poor neighbourhoods, these problems frequently result in an increase in crime rates. Unemployment is one of the most frequent causes of

poverty, despite the fact that there are numerous economic elements that might contribute to it. With an estimated 1.1 billion unemployed individuals globally, largely living in the ten most populous nations, unemployment is a serious problem. Lack of money is the most straightforward explanation for how unemployment contributes to poverty. People who are unemployed struggle to make ends meet, and families are left without the most basic requirements. Humanity's enemy, poverty, degrades and stigmatises those who fall victim to it. It defines poverty as a state in which a particular organisation is in a complete absence of resources, meaning that it has insufficient or no resources to meet its needs. The various attempts at eradicating poverty were recognised and examined. The problem of poverty needed to be acknowledged, and challenges to reducing it had been highlighted. There were suggestions made to lessen the difficulties. In order to prevent an oncoming disastrous situation, the government should take urgent measures to solve India's poverty challenges.¹

2. Poverty Alleviation

The term "poverty alleviation" refers to all strategies used by the government, non-governmental organisations, or affluent people to lessen or end poverty in a community. The ideal strategy for reducing or eliminating poverty is to focus on expanding people's liberties or raising their skills. The implication of this development strategy is empowerment, which entails assisting those who are poor in obtaining the resources they require to meet their fundamental requirements as a long-term approach to poverty alleviation. The Basic Needs Theory can be broadly interpreted in four ways: (1) meeting people's minimal needs for housing, food, clothing, and sanitation; (2) allowing people to define their own wants rather than those of experts or professional bodies; (3) being able to argue against the rationale for government intervention in the areas of education, water and sanitation, and consumption guidance; and (4) freedom of the people to express themselves.²

3. Role of Street Vendors in Poverty eradication

The informal economy has always been a means of survival for the urban poor. Low skill levels and modest capital input are needed. After liberalisation in 1991, this situation worsened as a result of the reorganisation of many companies and businesses, which led to the layoff of thousands of people. Moreover, during the past ten years or so, the number of employment opportunities in the developed economies has dropped, making it difficult for even highly skilled individuals to seek employment. In recent years, numerous nations throughout the world have come to understand the value of street vending for urban economies, regarded it as a means of reducing poverty, and begun to perform studies to assess its effects on socioeconomic and environmental issues.³ Never undervalue the contribution hawkers make to the economy and to society. Jobs in the unorganised sector, such as street vending, are becoming more and more popular. An urban metropolis's population of street vendors is thought to be 2% of the total. A significant portion of the population has received both voluntary and involuntary employment and income from the informal economy. The expansion of the small business sector is facilitated by vendors. They support the continued existence of micro businesses, whose goods the vendors frequently market. Snacks, plastic products that have been moulded and household goods are only a few of the products that are produced by micro companies or home-based business units and distributed by street sellers. Due to their low operating capital and inability to adopt current technologies, these business units employ a high number of people. The incapacity of these units to independently market their goods is another problem. They are assisted in selling their goods to consumers by the street vendors. Even though the vendors are seen as "issues for a well-governed state," they are actually

¹ Oviasuyi, Patrick , Poverty And Poverty Alleviation ,(1). pages 221-229 (2020), available at https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340082494_POVERTY_AND_POVERTY_ALLEVIATION/citation/download. (Last visited Nov. 20 th, 2022).

² Local Government and Rural Development: A Bottom-Up Perspective, Lagos: Sylva Publications Limited.

³ Adhikari. D. B., Income generation in informal sector: A case study of the street vendors WIEGO for the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities, Kathmandu Metropolitan City. *Economic Journal of Development Issues*, 1-14, (2011) available at <https://doi.org/10.3126/ejdi.v13i0.7193>. (Last visited on 20th Nov.2022).

“panacea for many problems.”⁴ Not only do unregistered street vendors and small companies constitute the vast majority of the informal sector in Asia and other emerging markets, the informal economy also plays a significant role in the overall economy due to the sheer volume of jobs it generates, which is another reason why firms and policymakers need to step up their efforts to integrate this sector into the mainstream. There are already several Asian nations where the judiciary and the government are coming up with strategies for integrating the informal sector into society and formalising its presence by enacting laws and regulations that incorporate it into the formal economy. The marginalised community has used it as a coping mechanism against poverty and low income. According to the evidence from these researches,⁵ all nations should support policies that aim to raise the standard of this sector and gradually aid in its formalisation. Besides enabling a substantial portion of India’s urban population a means of subsistence while delivering the people with necessary daily services. Such vendors have contributed significantly to India’s urban economies ever since the reforms of the 1990s. These workers have close ties to the established economy. Many of the clients hold official positions. Many vendors make an effort to keep the streets safe and tidy for their patrons while also giving them warm, attentive service. Unorganized vendors generate employment not just for themselves but also for porters, security guards, transporters, storage providers, and other professionals. Payments for licences and permits, fees and fines, and specific taxes are just a few ways that communities make money. Saudi Arabia began the process of integrating the Precariat class,⁶ or unorganised workers, into the mainstream in recent months, while India has already taken moves to interact with the unorganised sector. There is a need for a greater engagement with the informal sector to guarantee that it contributes to the mainstream given the fact that many enterprises that operate in the informal economy lack incentives to be a part of the mainstream. Additionally, there is the issue of questionable individuals and groups using the informal economy’s convertibility to their advantage and endangering the state’s ability to exist. Urban informal sector can be used as a potent force to alleviate urban poverty and become the fulcrum of an improved urban economy. If the government prioritises bringing the informal sector into the mainstream, it should be able to not only generate more employment opportunities and higher productivity of the workforce, but also help the poor out of poverty. The current landscape of the informal economy is replete with constraints that do not allow the sector to play this role. Governments must strategise on strengthening it to empower the informal workforce. The growth of the unorganised sector is mostly attributable to the costs of government restrictions that drove small-scale business owners towards unofficial activity rather than just labour market fundamentals (i.e., excess labour). According to this viewpoint, the informal sector serves as a voluntary cost-saving measure for small business owners attempting to avoid heavy government regulation rather than an enforced replacement for inadequate employment generation.⁷

Although the Street Vending Act calls for planning laws to take into account street vending needs and link state planning laws with those needs, nothing has actually been done to accomplish this. Street vending could increase a city’s productivity if it is planned well. Without hindering pedestrians, moving cars, or any other municipal activities, vendors should be positioned where they can readily reach customers. Therefore, it is necessary for urban planning and operating regulations to include street vending as a planned activity. There needs to be more space set aside for vending areas along the roadways that surround public transportation hubs, medical facilities, and offices of the government, commercial districts, and other locations where a lot of people arrive and exit. Once the position of vending is elevated to a planned activity, the enormous battle cities face to balance vending, pedestrian and vehicular mobility, and hygiene will be lessened. The creation of suitable equipment that hawkers can use to exhibit their wares and safely transport them back to storage at the end of the

⁴ Sumitra R.(2019).*Street Vendor: A Dark Horse In Strengthening India's Informal Economy*, XII (10) SME World|.

⁵ Bahadur Adhikari. Dipak. (2020) Informal Economy and Poverty Dynamics: A Review. *Quest Journal of Management and Social Sciences*, Volume(2), Pages 168-180.

⁶ The Precariat and Class Struggle,(2015). *RCCS Annual* , October , available at <http://journals.openedition.org/rccsar/585> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/rccsar.585>(Last visited June25th,2022).

⁷ Berhanu, Elias, Street Vending: Means of Livelihood For The Urban Poor And Challenge For The City Administration In Ethiopia, (10) *Journal of Public Administration, Finance and Law*, .(2021) Pages 101-120.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/351581746_STREET_VENDING_MEANS_OF_LIVELIHOOD_FOR_THE_URBAN_POOR_AND_CHALLENGE_FOR_THE_CITY_ADMINISTRATION_IN_ETHIOPIA/citation/download (Last visited on 20th , 2022).

day is an issue that still needs some work. One idea is to unify the technology between cities and modify it based on vending items. This will improve the street-vending businesses aesthetics and help them shed their “eyesore” tag.⁸ Additionally, it must be considered whether some selling locations may be considered versatile, facilitating for the operation of several vendors during various time periods. Eight-hour sessions could be an additional workable way to help more vendors earn a livelihood. Moreover, vending can thrive in neglected areas. For example, parking spaces that go unused on vacations can be made available for vending. These can be referred to as weekend or seasonal marketplaces. As the Mumbai Development Plan (DP) 2034 has done, the idea of multi-utility land must be incorporated into urban planning regulations.⁹

Street vendors must be given better working circumstances Vendors should have access to amenities including clean restrooms, safe drinking water, electricity, and storage spaces. These facilities will improve vendor production while also preserving the neighbourhood’s hygienic environment. The distribution of land will be vital to trying to improve urban planning. In turn, this could address the difficulties of urban poverty and create more options for those living there. In order to successfully adopt updated street vending designs while resolving the current difficulties in allocating space to vendors, a thorough awareness of the specific environment is required.

4. Difficulties in Reducing Poverty

Due to a wide range of variables, India faces a variety of complex, wide-ranging, and insurmountable obstacles in the fight against poverty. The following issues are noted and discussed in this work in order to illustrate the objective of the following few challenges:

4.1. Corruption:

The leaders steal from the economy public funds that could have been used to improve the lives of the people for their own gain. The primary factor behind India’s poverty, pollution, illness, and hunger is political and bureaucratic corruption. It is challenging to measure political corruption because it is so extreme. However, there are estimations about the level of corruption in the government. India’s population of poor people is still expanding despite government efforts to combat it. The lower classes are increasingly calling for economic change to reduce extreme poverty as a result of rising debt, an uptick in crime, and other important challenges.

4.2. Not Enough Good Jobs

It demonstrates how a lack of excellent jobs and low earnings contribute to poverty in India, which in turn leads to hunger, sickness, and malnutrition. Although we are aware of the differences between wealthy and developing nations, there is a global trend toward increasing poverty. They are unable to escape this cycle of poverty because of things like a lack of employment opportunities, resources, and access to education, and opportunities. Lack of an adequate quality of living undermines a person’s health and well-being and causes them to be socially excluded. Poverty is a notion that can be attributed to an individual, a family, or an entire nation. Its causes are frequently connected to issues like unemployment, discrimination, poor leadership, and legislation.

4.3. Social Injustice to Blame

India’s level of poverty has been a major reason for concern. The astonishing number of Indians living in poverty, according to the World Bank, is 32.7%. Widespread poverty in India is mostly a result of social inequality and national political issues. People who are in poverty are those who do not have enough money to

⁸ Ramanath ,Jha ,Strengthening urban India’s informal economy: The case of street vending .*ORF Issue Briefs And Special Reports* (2018).

⁹ Tanvi. Deshpande , Every ward in city will have a crèche, old-age home, and hostel for women. *Mumbai Mirror* (2017), <https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/mumbai/cover-story/every-ward-in-city-will-have-a-crche-old-age-home-and-hostel-for-women/articleshow/57742160.cms>. (Last visited Nov.21st, 2022)

buy the necessities of existence. Significant issues with poverty have been seen in the majority of emerging countries. The main causes of poverty in India include social injustice, gender inequality, and a lack of employment options for rural populations.

4.4. Inequality

The effects of inequality, a strong undercurrent that threatens to drown the poor in India, are felt by them. Due to the disparities in their income, the exceedingly wealthy and the less fortunate face contrasting economic circumstances. The wealthy have extra money, while the underprivileged only have enough to get by. The underprivileged in India struggle to escape this oppressive system in any way they can. As a result, oppression bears down on them, deteriorating their situation over time. The caste system, a brutally unsuccessful system of caste-based prejudice and social hierarchy dating back to 500 B.C., is today causing problems for the nation of India. A community of poverty of almost abysmal depths was produced as a result of this antiquated practise, which resulted in thousands upon thousands of people. Everyone in this society was supposed to adhere to strict restrictions based on their birth, or “caste ranking,” to ensure that they stayed where they were allocated to be forever, leading to a community that is impoverished and hasn’t advanced since it was founded.

4.5 Lack of Education

India’s poverty rate is shockingly high at 60%. Lack of education is the primary cause, and in other circumstances, people need assistance entering the workforce after completing their education. Over 4 million kids graduate from primary school each year but never enrol in secondary education. Many people who drop school quickly become impoverished, marry young, and have large families. The main cause of poverty in India is illiteracy. Many people who are poor lack the education and skills necessary to make a good living. Families living in villages without adequate shelter, clothing, and food are a common example of the cycle of poverty it perpetuates.

4.6 Lack of government assistance

An ordinary Indian citizen’s \$30 monthly wage is far insufficient to pay for even the most basic living costs. In India, there are many different sorts of poverty, including capital shortages, traffic congestion, health and nutrition issues, and illiteracy and unemployment. But the common factor among all of these core problems is a lack of assistance from the government. Farmers struggle to make enough money in rural locations to support their family’s educational expenses. Disease and illness spread swiftly in urban settings because there are too many people crammed into too little space. Due to a lack of government assistance, large portions of India continue to be impoverished.

5. National Policies for the protection of Street Vendors

The Indian government has implemented a number of national laws and programmes that are either directly or indirectly related to the protection of street sellers in India.

Child Labour National Policy, 1987

In 1987, there was the creation of a national child labour policy. For addressing the issue of child labour, it offers an action plan. It envisions a plan for legislation to ensure that the Child Labour Act and other labour rules is strictly enforced. The National Child Labour Project (NCLP) programme was established in 1988 to help rehabilitate the working children in accordance with the aforementioned policy. The programme aims to use a step-by-step approach, putting the initial emphasis on the rehabilitation of young people involved in risky jobs and procedures. After conducting a survey of children working in dangerous jobs and processes, the plan

calls for removing children from these jobs and processes and placing them in special schools so they can be mainstreamed into the formal educational system.¹⁰

National Nutrition Policy, 1993

In 1993, a national nutrition policy was approved. It promotes a multi-sectoral approach to end malnutrition and ensure that everyone has access to optimal nutrition. The strategy encourages tracking national nutrition levels and educating the government's institutions on the importance of healthy eating and malnutrition prevention. The Food and Nutrition Board, which creates posters, audio jingles, and video commercials to spread accurate information on breastfeeding and supplementary feeding.¹¹

National Policy for Women's Empowerment, 2001

2001 saw the adoption of a national policy for women's empowerment. The policy aims to promote women's advancement, development, and empowerment. The policy's specific goals are like fostering an environment for women's full growth through sound economic and social policies so they can reach their full potential. Equal opportunity for women to participate in and make decisions in the social, political, and economic life of the country. Stabilizing the legal framework for the abolition of all types of discrimination against women.¹²

National Health Policy, 2002

The Alma Ata Declaration's call for "Health for All by 2000" prompted the creation of the first National Health Policy (NHP) in 1983. 2002 saw a revision of it. The major goal of this programme is to improve the country's general population's health to an acceptable level. The strategy entails creating new infrastructure in underdeveloped areas and improving the infrastructure in already-existing institutions in order to improve access to the decentralised public health system. A greater emphasis is placed on ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their socioeconomic status or location, have equal access to health care.¹³

National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007

In order to achieve the goal of providing affordable housing for all, the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007, aims to foster diverse public-private partnerships, with a focus on the urban poor. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission's goals now include housing and the provision of essential services to urban disadvantaged people (JNNURM).¹⁴

National Urban Sanitation Policy, 2008

The National Urban Sanitation Policy, 2008's vision is for all Indian cities and towns to be completely hygienic, healthy, and liveable, as well as to guarantee and sustain good public health and environmental outcomes for all of their citizens, with a special focus on hygienic and reasonably priced sanitation facilities for the urban poor and women. Encouraging access to housing with secure sewage systems and appropriate disposal systems.¹⁵

¹⁰ Reena Jabwala and R. K. Subramanyam, *The Unorganised Sector: Work Security and Social Protection* 50 (Sage Publications, New Delhi, 1st edn., 2016)

¹¹ M. Laxmikanth, *Governance in India* 37 (Mc Graw Hill Education, Chennai, 3rd edn., 2018).

¹² S. C. Tripathi and Vibha Arora, *Law Relating to Women & Children* 215 (Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 6th edn., 2015)

¹³ Sumitra Mohan, *Indian Policy and Development: A Manual for National Schemes and Policies* 150 (Mc Graw Hill Education Series, New Delhi, 1st edn., 2018)

¹⁴ Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation, *National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007*, available at https://nhb.org.in/Urban_Housing/HousingPolicy2007.pdf (Last visited on 20th Nov. 2022).

¹⁵ Ministry of Urban Development Government of India, *National Urban Sanitation Policy, 2008*, available at https://www.mohua.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/NUSP_0.pdf (Last visited on 20th NOV.2022).

National Policy on Skill Development, 2009

By 2022, the Indian government hopes to have 500 million people with the necessary skills. It created a, to achieve this goal. The goal of this strategy is to increase everyone's knowledge, skills, and access to internationally and nationally recognised credentials in order to enable them to find respectable job and maintain India's competitiveness in the global market. Provide chances for everyone to learn skills throughout life, with a focus on young people, women, and underrepresented groups. ITCs, vocational schools, technical schools, polytechnics, and professional colleges are all institutions that focus on building skills.¹⁶

National Policy for Children, 2013

In 1974, the first national policy for kids was approved. A new policy was created in 2013 to replace this one. The government's commitment to ensuring that all children's rights are upheld throughout the country is reiterated in the new National Policy for Children, 2013. It acknowledges that everyone under the age of 18 is a kid, that childhood is a crucial stage of life with its own value, and that a long-term, sustainable, multi-sect oral, integrated, and inclusive strategy is required for the healthy development and protection of children. The policy outlines twelve guiding principles that must be followed by the federal, state, and local governments in all of their projects and actions that affect children.¹⁷

Nehru Rozgar Yojana, 1989

The Seventh Five Year Plan (1985–1990) saw the introduction of the Nehru Rozgar Yojana. October of 1989 saw its debut. To better the poor's economic situation while also providing jobs for the urban unemployed and underemployed. Three programmes are included in the Nehru Rozgar Yojana.¹⁸

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, 2005

In 2005, this Ministry's first major initiative, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, was introduced. Basic Services for Urban Poor (BSUP) and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) are two parts of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, which is carried out by the Ministry of Housing Urban Poverty Alleviation. These programmes aimed to integrate the development of slums through initiatives that provided shelter, basic services, and other related civic amenities with a view to providing utilities to the urban poor.¹⁹

Janani Suraksha Yojana, 2005

By altering the current National Maternity Benefit Scheme, the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) programme is being proposed under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (NMBS). While the National Maternity Benefit Scheme links better nutrition to pregnant women from BPL families, the Janani Suraksha Yojana integrates cash assistance with prenatal care during pregnancy, institutional care during delivery, and immediate postpartum care in a health centre by establishing a system of coordinated care by field level health workers. The Janani Suraksha Yojana would be a completely centrally financed programme.²⁰

¹⁶ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Policy on Skill Development, 2009, available at <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1607310> (Last visited on 20th Nov. 2022).

¹⁷ K. Chatterjee, *Offences Against Children & Juvenile Offences* 190 (Central Law Publications, Allahabad, 1st edn., 2013).

¹⁸ Government of India, "Nehru Rozgar Yojana of 1989" (National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, 1989).

¹⁹ Ramesh Singh, *Indian Economy & Development*, 170 (Mc Graw Hill Education, Chennai, 42nd edn., 2016).

²⁰ Government of India, Janani Suraksha Yojana, (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2005) available at https://nhm.gov.in/images/pdf/programmes/jsy/guidelines/jsy_guidelines_2006.pdf (Last visited on May 22nd 2022).

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, 2009

The government of India introduced the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana on December 1st, 1997, with the goal of giving the underemployed and unemployed in urban areas gainful work by promoting the creation of businesses for themselves or by offering wage jobs. The Urban Women Self Employment Programme (UWSEP), the Urban Women Self-Help Programme (UWSHP), the Skill Training for Employment Promotion among the Urban Poor (STEP-UP), the Urban Wage-Employment Programme (UWEP), and the Urban Community Development Network were all incorporated into this scheme with effect from April 2009, revamping the previous three urban poverty alleviation programmes (UCDN).²¹

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, 2014

On August 28, 2014, this campaign was introduced. It is making sure that the excluded groups, such as weaker sections and low-income groups, have access to a variety of financial services, such as the availability of a basic savings bank account, access to need-based credit, remittances facilities, insurance, and pension. There is no minimal balance requirement.²²

Jeevika Campaign, 2015

The movement aims to secure legal status for informal sector business owners so they can concentrate on earning a living without suffering unwarranted harassment and humiliation at the hands of the government and private gangsters. Jeevika creates public policy initiatives to open doors for free entrepreneurship and change the conversation in society to support lowering barriers to entry and exit from the market. Assist street entrepreneurs in obtaining all legal safeguards and assistance that the formal sector enjoys, including ownership of real estate, equipment, and machinery as well as access to the formal banking system. Create appropriate vending areas utilising the Seva Nagar Market or Dilli Haat models (renovating existing vending spaces, respectively).²³

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, 2015

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was introduced on June 25, 2015. The programme was launched with the purpose of providing housing for everyone by 2022, the year the country celebrates 75 years of independence. The goal aims to solve the housing needs of urban poor people, particularly those who live in slums.²⁴

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, 2015

On June 24, 2015, the Atal Mission was inaugurated. The scheme's primary goals are to provide essential services to homes (such as water supply, sewage, and urban transportation) and to provide amenities in cities that will enhance the quality of life for everyone, especially the underprivileged and destitute.²⁵

Atal Pension Yojana, 2015

On May 9, 2015, the Atal Pension Yojana was introduced.²⁶ The scheme's primary goals are to increase the number of people who are enrolled in pension plans of all kinds. One of the three Jan Suraksha programmes

²¹ Government of India, "Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana" (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs) available at <https://www.india.gov.in/swarna-jayanti-shahari-rozgar-yojana> (Last visited on Nov. 20th 2022).

²² Government of India, "Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, 2014", (Ministry of Finance, 2005) available at <https://www.pmjdy.gov.in/> (Last visited on Nov 20th 2022).

²³ Jeevika Campaign, Centre for Civil Society (CCS) 2015.

²⁴ Gaurav Misra, Government Schemes, Missions Campaigns & Programmes in India 165 (Parbhat Parkashan, New Delhi, 1st edn., 2016)

²⁵ V.K. Puri, S.K. Mishra, Indian Economy 120 (Himalya Publishers, New Delhi, 34th edn. 2016).

²⁶ Government of India, Atal Pension Yojana, 2015 (Ministry of Finance) available at <https://financialservices.gov.in/pension-reforms-divisions/Atal-Pension-Yojana> (Last visited on 22nd Nov. 2022).

that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has introduced is the Atal Pension Yojana. The country-wide expansion of pension programme beneficiaries is the goal of the Atal Pension Yojana. The programme is available to all Indian nationals between the ages of 18 and 40 and is specifically targeted towards the private unorganised sector. Prior to receiving a pension at age 60 under the programme, the beneficiary must have contributed for at least 20 years. The programme offers a monthly pension ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs. 5000 per month based on the contribution amount.

Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, 2016

On June 9, 2016, this campaign was introduced. The program's primary goal is to provide pregnant women with free health checks. The country's healthcare options for expectant mothers would improve thanks to the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan programme. To safeguard their wellbeing, all pregnant women will receive kits or a minimum package after four months of their pregnancies. This would also guarantee the newborn child's health. Every ninth day of the month would also include a free health checkup and any necessary treatment. In addition to lowering the rate of maternal death, this will also increase people's awareness of various illnesses.²⁷

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan, 2019

The launch of the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan took place on February 15, 2019. To assure the security of unorganised employees in their old age, the Indian government has established the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) pension plan. The majority of unorganised employees, who earn Rs. 15,000 or less per month and are classified as entry a, are employed as home-based workers, street sellers, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers, and other similar occupations.²⁸

PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

Centre announced monetary relief to street vendors under the SVANidhi scheme²⁹ last year to mitigate financial hardship as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the central government approved a Rs. 5,000 crore special credit facility for street vendors. A vendor can get up to Rs.10,000 in working capital under the SVANidhi initiative. This technique was designed to target "legitimate" suppliers, but many others were left out. While the scheme's criteria for evidence of profession have since been reduced, this underscores the importance of providing merchants with a legal identification. The initiative, while innovative and largely applauded as a ground breaking COVID relief scheme, has not been without flaws. Several sellers cite difficulties in obtaining credit, ranging from the time-consuming application procedure for vendors who aren't considered "legal" to delays in loan processing. The government's eligibility requirements, regardless of the type of social programme it adopts, are the most important factor. Due to the restricted number of street sellers, linking it to registration requirements may not be a good idea. Concerns have been raised regarding whether the scheme's benefits would reach the intended recipients. There should be a mechanism allowing suppliers who have not yet registered to take advantage of the scheme's benefits, subject to verification and background

²⁷ Government of India, "Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, 2016" (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) available at <https://pmsma.nhp.gov.in> (Last visited on Nov 25th 2022).

²⁸ Government of India, "Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan"(Ministry of Labour and Employment) available at <https://labour.gov.in/pmsym> (Last visited on Nov 25th 2022).

²⁹ Avi Singh Majithia, With Impact of Lockdown Yet to Wear Off, Delhi Street Vendor's Travails Persist, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing, available at <https://thewire.in/labour/as-the-impact-of-lockdown-yet-to-wear-off-delhi-street-vendors-travails-persist> (last visited on Nov.25th,2022).

checks. The government must take these considerations into account while implementing the socioeconomic profiling programme so that the scheme's original vision is fully realized.³⁰

Conclusion

Despite playing a critical role in the economy in terms of employment, the vast portion of the workforce has continued to be ignored. Without any formal statutory framework, the right to make a living can also be asserted in court. In order to ensure that a large number of people can benefit from the court's rulings, one approach to bring the livelihood difficulties experienced by the resourceful poor before the court is through public interest litigation. The Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that, subject to regulation and reasonable constraints, street sellers had a fundamental right to engage in their trade or business. Street vendors are acknowledged as an essential and legal component of the urban retail trade and distribution system in the Bellagio International Declaration of Street Vendors, 1995. Without any formal statutory framework, the right to make a living can also be asserted in court. In order to ensure that a large number of people can benefit from the court's rulings, one approach to bring the livelihood difficulties experienced by the resourceful poor before the court is through public interest litigation. The Supreme Court ruled in 1989 that, subject to regulation and reasonable constraints, street sellers had a fundamental right to engage in their trade or business. Street vendors are acknowledged as an essential and legal component of the urban retail trade and distribution system in the Bellagio International Declaration of Street Vendors, 1995. With the intention of supplying and encouraging, the National policy on Urban Street Vendors was enacted in 2004 and updated in 2009. The Supreme Court ordered the Government at both levels to draught legislation by June 2011 to acknowledge the rights of street sellers to a living and control vending operations. A Central law was suggested for adoption by the National Advisory Council in 2011. India was the first nation to legalise the occupation of street vendors. The 2014 Street Sellers (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act is a potent tool for upholding the rights and dignity of street vendors. The Act will likely assist in protecting the livelihoods of roughly 1 crore families by fostering an environment that is conducive to street sellers conducting their business with dignity. The Street Vendors Act of 2014 has been in effect for five years, but due to the lack of empathy among the officials, the law is still in its development. The main reason laws, rules, and judgments fail to lessen and ameliorate the situation of street sellers is that the implementing officials lack compassion. The question of social protection might be raised for social requirements if the vendor's business is secure and they are recognised as licenced traders. The vendor's job and income would be secure if bribe soliciting ended, which would enable them to find better employment. In the event that property rights are transferred, vendor's trade is recognised legally, their income is eventually taxed, and bribe payments are permanently halted.

³⁰ Prateek Kukreja ,Samridhi Bimal, Microcredit or Direct Benefit Transfer? Designing a Scheme for Street Vendors,The Wire(June20,2020), available at <https://thewire.in/government/microcredit-or-direct-benefit-transfer-designing-a-scheme-for-street-vendors>. (Last visited on Nov.25th, 2022).