A STUDY ON CHALLENGES FACED BY THE STREET VENDORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COIMBATORE CITY

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Abstract:

Street vendors are a significant force in Coimbatore's economy, yet they face numerous challenges that threaten their livelihood. This study explores the difficulties encountered by street vendors in the city, focusing on issues like lack of designated vending zones, unstable income, limited resources, policy hurdles, and competition. The research investigates how these factors impact vendors' well-being and proposes areas for further investigation, including vendor demographics, economic contribution, stakeholder perspectives.

Keywords

Street vendors, challenges, vending zones, income insecurity, infrastructure, regulations, competition, social stigma, livelihoods.

INTRODUCTION

Street vendors have been in existence since ancient times. In all civilizations, ancient and medieval, one reads accounts of travelling merchants who not only sold their wares in the town by going from house to house but they also traded in neighbouring countries. Perhaps ancient and medieval civilizations were tolerant to these wandering traders and that is why they flourished. In modern times we find that street vendors are rarely treated with the same measure of dignity and tolerance. They are targeted by municipalities and police in the urban areas as illegal traders, the urban middle class complains constantly on how these vendors make urban life a living hell as they block pavements, create traffic problem and also engage in anti-social activities (though more often than not, the same representatives of middle class prefer to buy from street vendors as the goods they sell are cheaper though the quality is as good as those in the overpriced departmental stores and shopping malls)

For most street vendors, trading from the pavements is full of uncertainties. They are constantly harassed by the authorities. The local bodies conduct eviction drives to clear the pavements of these encroachers and in most cases confiscate their goods. A municipal raid is like a cat and mouse game with municipal workers chasing street vendors away while these people try to run away and hide from these marauders. Confiscation of their goods entails heavy fines for recovery. In most cases it means that the vendor has to take loans from private sources (at exorbitant interests) to either recover whatever remains of his confiscated goods or to restart his business. Besides these sudden raids, street vendors normally have to regularly bribe the authorities in order to carry out their business on the streets. All these mean that a substantive income from street vending is spent on greasing the palms of unscrupulous authorities or to private money lenders. In-fact in most cases street vendors have to survive in a hostile environment though they are service providers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the current status of street vendors.
- To examine the awareness level on current government schemes to uplift street vendors.
- To analyze the challenges faced by the street vendors

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

TYPE OF RESEARCH
The present type of research belongs to the category of 'Descriptive study'. Descriptive study are undertaken when the researcher is interested in knowing the characteristics of certain groups, assessing behaviour, making projections or for determining the relationship between one or more variables.

SOURCES OF DATA
The research should keep in mind two types of data while collecting data viaprimary data and secondary data.

PRIMARY DATA:

Primary data may be described as those data that have been observed and recorded by the researcher for the first time to their knowledge. The survey method frank questionnaire with general face-to-face interaction of street vendors. A questionnairewasprepared and with the help of which the primary data has been collected.

SECONDARY DATA:

These data already exist in the magazines. I collect the secondary data from:-Various Magazines published Journals, Internet and Books.

AREA OF THE STUDY:

The area of study was detained to Coimbatore City.

SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size of the study is to be 104 respondents.

FINDINGS AND RESULT

TABLE NO.1 SHOWING GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS

Gender	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	58	55.8
Female	46	44.2
Total	**104**	**100.0**

INFERENCE:

This pie chart reveals a clear gender disparity, with Males making up the larger portion at 55.8%. Females, on the other hand, comprise a smaller segment at 44.2%

TABLE N0.2 SHOWING ANNUAL INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

Annual Income	No: of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Upto 50000	53	51.0
Upto 70000	51	49.0
Total	**104**	**100.0**

INFERENCE:

The annual income distribution exhibits a near parity, with 53% falling within the bracket of up to ₹50,000 and the remaining 51% earning up to ₹70,000. This suggests a concentration ofrespondents within this mid-income range.

TABLE NO 3. PERSONAL FACTORS AND FACTORS AFFECT YOUR DAILY INCOME

Factor	P value	Dif	Sag. Value	S/NS
Annual income	9.592[a]	3	.022	S
Gender	1.669[a]	3	.644	NS
Number of earning person in family	2.426[a]	3	.489	NS

Note: S: Significant (p value <=0.05), NS: Not Significant (p value >0.05)

(SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA)

INTERPRETATION:

HO: There is no significant association between personal factors and factors affects your Daily income

H1: There is a significant association between personal factors and factors affects your Daily income

From the table, p value chi square test is less than 0.05. So, we are accepting the null hypothesis and rejecting the alternative hypothesis and in two case p value of chi square test is greater than 0.05. So, we are rejecting null hypothesis and accepting alternative hypothesis.

It is concluded that the annual income have significant association on factors affecting your daily income and Gender and Number of earning person in family have no significant association on factors affecting your daily income.

TABLE 4 PERSONAL FACTORS AND POTENTAIL BENEFIT OF STREET VENDOR ALLOCATION

Factor	P Value	Df	Sag. Value	N/NS
Gender	2.962[a]	2	.227	NS
Annual Income	3.356[a]	2	.187	NS
Number of Member in a family	6.590[a]	2	.037	S

Note: S: Significant (p value <=0.05), NS: Not Significant (p value >0.05)

(SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA)

INTERPRETATION:

HO: There is no significant association between personal factors and the potential benefit of proper vendor allocation.

H1: There is a significant association between personal factors and the potential benefit of proper vendor allocation.

From the table, p value chi square test is less than 0.05. So, we are accepting the null hypothesis and rejecting the alternative hypothesis and in two case p value of chi square test is greater than 0.05. So, we are rejecting null hypothesis and accepting alternative hypothesis.

It is concluded that the number of members in a family have significant association on potential benefit of street vendor allocation and Gender and Annual income have no significant association on potential benefit of street vendor allocation.

TABLE NO 5 PERSONAL FACTORS AND THE MAIN REASON YOU BECOME A STREET VENDOR

Factor	P Value	Df	Sag. Value	N/NS
Gender	4.770ᵃ	2	.092	NS
Annual Income	7.600ᵃ	2	.022	S
Number of Member in a family	.449ᵃ	2	.799	NS

Note: S: Significant (p value <=0.05), NS: Not Significant (p value >0.05)

(SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA)

INTERPRETATION:

HO: There is no significant association between personal factors and the main reason you became a street vendor

H1: There is a significant association between personal factors and the main reason you became a street vendor

From the table, p value chi square test is less than 0.05. So, we are accepting the null hypothesis and rejecting the alternative hypothesis and in two case p value of chi square test is greater than 0.05. So, we are rejecting null hypothesis and accepting alternative hypothesis.

It is concluded that the Annual income have significant association on main reason you become a street vendor and Number of members in a family and Annual income have no significant association on potential benefit of street vendor allocation.

CONCLUSION

The study examined problems of street vendors and their related activities in Coimbatore city. Study based on survey of street vendors and their activities revealed that they face several problems like eviction, harassment, lack of basic civic facilities, lack of formal space, license or certificate of vending etc. Most of these problems are result of non-consideration of street vendors while planning urban streets or land-use planning and Lack of implementation of street vending act. The objective of this paper is to identify thechallenges 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 police and other authorities, improvement in the working conditions, social protection and life skill development to improve the level of profitabilities. Create awareness program of PM SVA NIDHI Scheme among the street vendors. The government will have to make sure that the Act is implemented in its true sense and the street vendors are given their right to work and live a life with dignity.

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