



Women in Street Vending: Socioeconomic Conditions, Collective Strategies, and Urban Placemaking — A Systematic Literature Review

¹Rajani Das, ²Dr.Polakshi Bhattacharyya

¹Research Scholar, ²Assistant Professor

¹Department of Economics, ²Department of Economics

¹Assam Don Bosco University, ² Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati, India

Abstract: This literature review studies the challenges, experiences and endowment of women street vendors in the informal economy beyond different global settings. Through a standardized review of scholarly literature, this paper blends current knowledge on women street vendors, acutely analyzes methodological techniques, identifies systems and differences, and offers guidance for future research. The review affirms that women street vendors encounter considerable socioeconomic vulnerability, function within intricate and often adverse regulatory settings, and employ different cooperative and personal tactics to navigate threats. Their experiences are moulded by intersecting elements including geography, policy frameworks, gender, and socioeconomic backgrounds. In spite of important research in Asian and African contexts, substantial gaps continue in Latin American perspectives, digital revolution impacts, longitudinal studies, and climate susceptibility. The review closes by proposing definite research instructions to discourse these gaps and brief more conducive policies and interferences to endorse women street vendors universally.

IndexTerms : literature, women, socioeconomic, policies

1.INTRODUCTION

Street vending portrays one of the most observable and important system of informal economic activity universally, providing means for millions of people, particularly women (Brown et al., 2010; Bhowmik, 2012; UN Women, 2022). From busy markets in Nairobi to footpath enterprises in Phnom Penh, women street vendors make up a large portion of the informal workforce, with their participation rates varying by region: over 80% in South Asia, 74% in sub-Saharan Africa, and 54% in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN Women, 2022). As a critical part of city informal economies, street vending forms a key employment scope while raising the living conditions of the urban poor (Roever & Skinner, 2016; Martinez et al., 2017; Tong et al., 2022). Despite their economic contributions and extensive influence in urban landscapes globally, women street vendors often function at the limits of formal economic systems, facing different challenges shaped by policy environments, gender, and socioeconomic conditions.

The informal economy, generally specified as economic activities that happen outside formal regulatory frameworks (Chen, 2012; Bonnet et al., 2019; Tong et al., 2022), plays a vital role in emerging economies by contributing to inclusive economic growth and poverty alleviation. These economic activities contribute crucial livelihood opportunities, notably for disadvantaged populations with little access to regular employment (Williams & Gurtoo, 2012; Harriss-White, 2017; Recio et al., 2017). Within the informal sector, street vending constitutes a substantial employment option and improves the living conditions of the urban poor (Tong et al., 2022).

This literature review intends to blend and critically evaluate the available scholarly literature on women street vendors, their challenges, economic activities, and contributions across multiple landscapes. Categorically, the review attempts to:

1. Study the socioeconomic status and vulnerability factors influencing women street vendors
2. Examine the regulatory framework and legislative framework shaping women's involvement in street vending
3. Look into combined efforts and organizational approaches employed by women vendors
4. Inquire about spatial perception and public space design of the roles of women street vendors
5. Appraise impacts on well-being and standard of living
6. Label considerable gaps in the present-day literature and propose clear directions for future research

The review applies a structured approach, drawing on research reports, peer-reviewed journal articles, and high-quality institutional publications from multiple academic repositories. The preferred literature spans diverse geographical settings, with particular attention to studies published between 2010-2025, while also compiling original works from prior times that have significantly developed understanding in the field.

By integrating this different body of literature, this review contributes to academic discussion by providing an inclusive and contemporary analysis of research on women street vendors, offering essential understanding into systematic approaches, featuring gender-related aspects of the informal sector, identifying unexplored areas, and proposing new directions for inquiry. The findings have implications for policy consultation on the unorganized sector, urban expansion, and women's financial independence.

2.METHODOLOGY

This literature review engaged a systematic, organized search to label related studies on women street vendors. Several academic repositories were searched, including JSTOR, Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar, using combinations of search terms such as, "women street vendor", "women informal trader", "female street trader" and "women market vendor" combined with terms like "gender", "informal economy," and "urban livelihoods,"

Studies were covered if they focused mainly on women street vendors or provided important gender-differentiated analysis of street vending, were high-quality reviews or empirical studies, were published in English, and mainly concentrated on literature from 2010-2025 (with inclusion of seminal works from previous periods). Studies were omitted if they focused purely on male vendors without gender analysis, were non-academic sources (with exceptions for top-notch institutional reports), only mentioned women vendors secondarily, or were duplicates.

The selection process resulted in the addition of key sources covering various geographical contexts, including India, South Africa, China, Egypt, Cambodia, and Kenya, as well as worldviews. These sources employed numerous research approaches, including surveys, mixed methods, ethnographic studies, and institutional analyses.

The selected literature was thematically arranged, combined to identify main findings and patterns, and critically assessed for methodological accuracy and new ideas. Knowledge gaps and future outlook were identified based on this in-depth study.

3.SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND VULNERABILITY

3.1 Determinants of Vulnerability

The literature systematically labels women street vendors as active in unstable conditions with considerable socioeconomic exposure (Roever, 2014). Quantitative confirmation from Nagaland, India, explains that explicit factors greatly impact vulnerability levels. Odyuo and Thangkhiew (2025) found that being a migrant and dwelling in a rented room greatly raises vulnerability amongst female vendors, while being married plays as a preventive factor that reduces vulnerability. Their study of 393 vendors reveals that tenancy features have the most noticeable effect on vulnerability, while health essence contributes the least. Comparable sorts of vulnerability have been on record across various geographical contexts, including Vietnam (Truong, 2018).

These findings are supplemented by an ethnographic study in Cambodia, which points out how post-pandemic fluctuations have forced strained vendors through reduced incomes and mounting costs. Mohan (2024) records how manufacturing plant closures and cut-down worker numbers have notably dropped consumer expenditure, influencing vendors' earnings by 30-40%. Earlier, earning \$500-\$600 monthly, countless female vendors nowadays struggle to make ends meet, with monetary difficulty aggravated by mounting material expenses.

The international context presented by UN Women (2022) emphasizes the unequal portrayal of women in informal employment over regions, with specifically considerable proportions in Latin America (54%), sub-Saharan Africa (74%), and South Asia (80%). This report points out how working in the unregulated economy leaves women without the security of labour laws and social welfare, such as health insurance, pensions, or paid sick leave, creating lasting effects on economic well-being and welfare.

3.2 Double Burden and Work-Family Balance

A common thread throughout studies is the dual challenge experienced by women street vendors (Kawarazuka et al., 2018; Moussié & Alfes, 2018). Tong et al. (2022) bring out the lack of efficient government action to women's occupational-family clash in China, observing that, in contrast to public laws and administrative policies, local authorities occasionally contemplate the outlook of female street vendors when planning and enforcing pertinent policies. This disconnect between policy stages has been likewise recorded in the Philippines (Milgram, 2011), India (Agarwala, 2016), and across African urban hubs (Skinner, 2008; Forkuor et al., 2017).

Likewise, Mohan (2024) draws attention to how women vendors in Cambodia are anticipated to perform household chores without pay at home, mainly unsupported by other household members, apart from their vending jobs.

This dual responsibility generates distinct difficulties for women that are not encountered by their male peers in the informal economy. As Mohan (2024) remarks, street vending is widely regarded as "an occupation associated with women" and is generally accepted as a continuation of the duties carried out by a woman who does at home, sustaining and feeding her household. Although this idea fails to acknowledge the extra responsibilities placed on women and the inadequate support they get in handling these numerous tasks.

3.3 Economic Contributions and Survival Strategies

Although working under risky circumstances, the economic support of women street vendors is significant. Lund's (1998) groundbreaking study confirmed this evidence in the South African setting, recording how women street traders add considerable economic value to both household and countrywide economic systems despite stressful situations.

More recent research findings have supported this study. Sassen et al. (2018) showcase how street trading acts as a significant way for economic endurance and welfare in Cape Town, South Africa. Their ethnographic study unveiled that street trading appears as an independent answer to economic potential, a choice for independence, and a novel approach beyond low-paid formal employment.

Women vendors display a striking ability to adapt in their survival techniques. Mohan (2024) records how some vendors in Cambodia have initiated selling beauty care products online in response to market flooding and shrinking physical sales. This transformation to online platforms symbolizes a developing strategy that justifies deeper analysis.

4. POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND REGULATORY ENVIRONMENTS

4.1 *Legal Status and Harassment*

The literature exhibits significant variation in policy strategies to women street vendors across regions, but with typical patterns of unclear legal status and harassment (Bénit-Gbaffou, 2016; Horn, 2018; Crossa, 2016). In Egypt, Saad (2022) highlights that street vendors' endeavours are classified as illicit and described as a perception of underdevelopment that hinders investors and tourism. This law enforcement builds a fragile environment where vendors must persistently guide foreseeable disciplinary actions. Similar illegalization has been reported in Bogota, Colombia (Donovan, 2008), Delhi, India (Schindler, 2014), and Guangzhou, China (Huang et al., 2020), revealing a worldwide phenomenon of regulatory conflict with regard to hawking activities.

Likewise, Tong et al. (2022) report harassment by chengguan (urban planners) as a usual challenge for female street vendors in China, with the degree of harassment directly linked to contradictory policies throughout different cities and regions. Their study using open coding methodology exposed that this harassment was the most frequent obstacle testified by women vendors in southern and eastern Chinese cities.

This evidence matches with earlier findings by Lund (1998), which studied the regulatory structures impacting women street traders in South Africa and underscored the obstacles created by unreliable and often adverse regulatory conditions.

4.2 *Policy Disconnects and Implementation Gaps*

A prominent topic in various studies is the gap between policy design and execution (Lund & Skinner, 2004; Graaff & Ha, 2015). Tong et al. (2022) pinpoint that, in contrast to country-specific laws and policies in China, local bodies hardly ever reflect on the viewpoint of female street vendors when developing and executing appropriate policies. This generates a condition where even potentially favourable government policies fail to be implemented into better situations at the grassroots level. This execution gap is common to China, yet it has been seen in various settings, including South Africa (Skinner & Valodia, 2003), and Zambia (Ndhlovu, 2011).

This enforcement gap is common to China. Studies in a range of contexts stress how policies regularly fall short in meeting the particular requirements and issues of women vendors, despite the fact that they are supposedly created to promote informal employment support more extensively.

4.3 *Policy Recommendations and Interventions*

The key findings in the literature to several feasible policy initiatives to more effectively assist women street vendors. Mercy et al. (2023) propose leadership and management workshops for the leadership of the association to strengthen the effectiveness of street vendor associations in Nairobi, Kenya. Their findings indicated that the leadership role was the principal advantage of associations, while ineffective leadership was the biggest obstacle, signifying that focused leadership training could substantially boost shared advocacy efforts.

Tong et al. (2022) discovered the necessity for unambiguous laws and an enhanced role for women's groups in China, along with effective regulatory standards that identify the economic significance of street vendors. The UN Women (2022) report draws attention to the significance of social safety nets for women in the informal sector, observing that their absence generates long-lasting results such as disparities in pension access and poverty in later life.

5. COLLECTIVE ACTION AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGIES

5.1 *Vendor Associations and Effectiveness*

Collective movement forms as a crucial method for women street vendors in diverse circumstances (Brown et al., 2010; Morange, 2015; Bénit-Gbaffou, 2016). Mercy et al. (2023) provide data-driven support from Nairobi, Kenya, that street vendor associations have yielded positive results in cultivating joint effectiveness rather than individualized results. Their mixed approach study of 204 female street vendors indicated that all positive outcomes of street vendor associations modified membership as their p-values were less than 0.05, with leadership role ($p=0.000$), social support and credit availability ($p=0.002$), business skills training ($p=0.001$), and networking ($p=0.003$) all indicating strong influence. Similar findings on the importance of vendor organizations have been documented in Durban (Skinner & Valodia, 2003), Johannesburg (Bénit-Gbaffou, 2016), and among waste collectors in Pune, India (Chikarmane, 2012), pointing out the worldwide importance of collective action for informal workers.

The Study establishes that street vendors associations among women street vendors in Nairobi city county have proven highly successful in fostering collaborative energy rather than individualized impacts of members. The main result emphasizes the importance of business strategies in managing the underlying challenges faced by women vendors.

5.2 *Social Connectedness and Well-being*

Community bonding and unity are considered critical for welfare among women street vendors (Steel et al., 2014; Gamielien & van Niekerk, 2017; Omoegun et al., 2019). Sassen et al. (2018) wrap up from their ethnographic study in Cape Town that women's safety as street traders is mainly decided by the strength of their social connection and social cohesion, along with individual motivation. Their study included the essential attribute of street traders' encounters in the theme "Togetherness: steering against the current towards a better life," stressing the core importance of social ties in handling challenges. This finding corresponds with research from Ghana (Steel et al., 2014), South Africa (Gamielien & van Niekerk, 2017), and Nigeria (Omoegun et al., 2019), which similarly draws attention to the value of social relationships in addressing the challenges of street vending.

However, establishing these relationships is not without difficulties. Mohan (2024) identifies the barriers to fostering trust between competitors in the unregulated sector in Cambodia, which may contribute to a feeling of exclusion. His study revealed that operating informal market stalls poses involved issues for women vendors required to manage individually with no partner to assist them, rendering it hard to attend to individual needs or rest. This isolation is increased owing to insufficient family backing, with many vendors indicating that family members avoid socializing with them on account of their poverty.

6. SPATIAL DYNAMICS AND PLACEMAKING

6.1 *Territorial Identity and Urban Space*

A fresh insight from the literature is the acknowledgement of women street vendors' role in city shaping and placemaking (Crossa, 2016; Martínez et al., 2017). Saad (2022) validates with research in Heliopolis, Cairo, how female street vendors assist in community shaping by establishing place-based identities and a feeling of belonging. Using literature analysis, field observations,

and on-the-spot interviews to study disputes established beliefs by revealing how vendors express themselves, revealing arrangements, socio-ethnic identities, and activities develop engaging urban spaces. This geographic aspect has been equally investigated in Mexico City (Crossa, 2016), and Cali, Colombia (Martinez et al., 2017), showing how stressing vendors' geographic activities shapes city identity and identity across distinct territorial contexts.

Saad (2022) records how female street vendors in Cairo demonstrate similarities in showcasing organization and individual expression, regularly taking on a traditional rural posture of sitting on the ground, showcasing products in baskets, and their social conduct to foster a sense of homeliness. This spatial activity supports the identity and atmosphere of metropolitan spaces, resisting authoritarian unlawful practices of street vending through the perspective of placemaking.

6.2 Spatial Strategies and Location

The geographic aspect of street vending is also dealt with in Lund's (1998) work, which explores the distribution patterns and location planning of women street traders in South Africa. This geographic viewpoint contributes a crucial element to interpreting the complex part of women street vendors in urban landscapes (Swider, 2015; Chen & Sinha, 2016; Young, 2019). Research in Bangkok, Thailand (Nirathron, 2006), Kampala, Uganda (Young, 2019), and across Indian cities (Chen & Sinha, 2016; Patel et al., 2014) further highlights how vendors expertly handle and alter urban environments through commercial activities.

Saad (2022) mentions that Cairene female street vendors in Heliopolis are mostly immobile and remain in the same location during working hours, known for their early morning beginning (around 8 AM) versus business hours (around 10 AM). They are found in several arrangements and settings: dispersed, clustered, and solitary, with different patterns in core areas versus residential neighbourhoods. This territorial organization reveals both intentional adjustment to urban spaces and their role in shaping place identity.

7. WELL-BEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE

7.1 Occupational Justice and Rights

The literature shows a detailed insight of welfare for women street vendors (Gamiendien & van Niekerk, 2017; Abebe et al., 2018; Carrillo-Rodriguez & Reed, 2018). Sassen et al. (2018) outline roadside selling through the perspective of workplace justice and entitlements, assessing how this style of small business ownership supports women's well-being in Cape Town. Their study found that street trading is appreciated for financial stability and well-being, with the relationally specific environment of this work interpreted to be both challenging and profitable experiences, resulting in a refined awareness of well-being as "flourishing despite adversity." This work viewpoint supports economic evaluations that emphasize the monetary support of street vending to household prosperity (Patel et al., 2014; Abebe et al., 2018) and food security (Nirathron, 2006; Carrillo-Rodriguez & Reed, 2018).

The UN Women (2022) report presents a comprehensive view on well-being by pointing out how the shortage of social safety nets has lasting effects on women's economic resilience, particularly in old age. The report mentions that fewer women benefit from pensions across the globe, and as a result, more aged women live below the poverty line. Even in industrialized countries such as Greece, Germany, France, and Italy, average female retirement income is more than 30% lower than men's, exhibiting the impacts through the lifecycle of casual employment on well-being.

7.2 Agency and Empowerment

Regardless of the obstacles, many women vendors have a sense of self-determination and empowerment through their work. Sassen et al. (2018) highlight how self-motivation is a central component of well-being for women street vendors in Cape Town, alongside social networks. Their research found that street trading arises as a proactive reaction to financial prospects and an inclination toward freedom.

In the same way, Mohan (2024) observes that, though facing obstacles, many vendors in Cambodia hold on to hope, hoping for more effective regulation and support to protect their economic stability. His investigation showed that many women vendors appreciate financial independence from their income, seeing themselves as self-starters. This apparent freedom becomes key to supporting the movement of low-income families while they labour to place themselves or their families by means of education for well-paid employment.

8. REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND VARIATIONS

8.1 African Contexts

The literature presents a detailed analysis of women street vendors' experiences spanning multiple African contexts. In South Africa, Lund's (1998) pioneering study developed a starting point for understanding women street traders' experiences, while Sassen et al. (2018) furnish up-to-date ethnographic perceptions from Cape Town, accentuating the necessity of social relationships and ambition toward well-being. In Kenya, Mercy et al. (2023) investigate the effectiveness of street vendor associations among women in Nairobi, noting that these associations promote cooperative effort and offer advantages, including leadership pathways, social services, access to loans, business skills development, and networking.

8.2 Asian Contexts

Asian perspectives are accurately shown in the literature across multiple scenarios. In China, Tong et al. (2022) capture the problems faced by female street vendors, including intimidation by municipal officers and uneven rules across territories. Their investigation underscores the absence of adequate government action to address women's professional and family role stress and inadequate laws addressing gender. In India, Odyuo and Thangkhiew (2025) share quantitative results on the factors influencing economic and social risk among female vendors in Nagaland, recognizing elements such as migratory status, housing classification, and marriage status that influence degrees of exposure. Egyptian perspectives are showcased by Saad (2022), who studies female street vendors' role in public space development in Heliopolis, Cairo, questioning traditional beliefs of street vending as solely a business activity by highlighting vendors' contributions to city distinctiveness and place-making. Cambodian observations spring from Mohan (2024), who records the challenges after the pandemic faced by female street vendors in Prey Toteung and Phnom Penh, covering income reductions, growing expenditures, and the combined workload of vending and household duties.

8.3 Global Patterns and Variations

The UN Women (2022) report furnishes valuable international context, drawing attention to regional differences in women's inclusion in informal employment: over 80% in South Asia, 74% in sub-Saharan Africa, and 54% in Latin America and the Caribbean. This worldwide view assists in placing regional studies amid extensive patterns while recognizing major differences across contexts. The literature displays widespread challenges faced by women street vendors globally, risky work environments, insufficient social support, the burden of income-generating tasks, and variable conditions shaped by local legal systems, cultural practices, and economic state.

9. METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES AND LIMITATIONS

9.1 Methodological Diversity

The selected studies make use of an extensive range of methodological approaches, which validates the comprehensive evidence base but also points out shortcomings. Qualitative studies such as Sassen et al. (2018), Saad (2022), and Tong et al. (2022) furnish valuable environmental understanding of women street vendors' encounters with methods including ethnographic study, observational walks, on-the-spot interviews, and conceptual coding. These approaches offer substance and refinement but commonly have reduced sample numbers and limited external validity.

Quantitative and mixed-methods studies, such as Odyuo and Thangkhiew (2025) and Mercy et al. (2023) offer greater sample populations and statistical testing, expanding the scope of relevance within their contexts. Odyuo and Thangkhiew's (2025) survey of 393 vendors in Nagaland provides strong quantitative proof of risk factors, while Mercy et al. (2023) combine quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews to investigate vendor connections in Nairobi.

Institutional reports like UN Women (2022) present meaningful global figures but often lack the methodological clarity of research findings. The report gathers data from multiple sources, which may vary in standards and collection approaches.

9.2 Limitations and Challenges

Several methodological limitations are apparent in the scholarly work. Small-scale qualitative studies, while presenting detailed analysis, have restricted applicability beyond their specific contexts. Sampling approaches may introduce sampling distortion, particularly when working with underserved populations like informal workers.

Few studies acknowledge researcher perspective or ethical principles in studying vulnerable populations, which is a major disparity given the social power structures involved in researching underrepresented groups like women street vendors.

The literature also shows minimal practical value of longitudinal or comparative research designs, which hinders understanding of developments over time and generalizability of findings across contexts. Most studies provide cross-sectional instant observations instead of tracking developments of change or comparing diverse regulatory systems or economic environments.

10. RESEARCH GAPS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

10.1 Geographical Coverage Gaps

Even with the prominent presence of women street vendors in Latin America (54% of female workers in the informal economy according to UN Women, 2022), there is a restricted study specifically focused on women's narratives in this region (Donovan, 2008; Crossa, 2016; Martinez et al., 2017). Although several important studies exist examining street vending in Colombia (Martinez et al., 2017; Donovan, 2008), and Mexico (Crossa, 2016), a need persists for in-depth research on women vendors' definite experiences and problems across Latin American contexts. Potential studies should highlight research concentrated specifically on women street vendors in Latin American contexts, assessing shared characteristics across different areas and special regional characteristics.

Moreover, the majority of research concentrates on leading urban hubs (Cape Town, Cairo, Phnom Penh, Nairobi), with minimal consideration given to women street vendors in rural districts or less populated cities. Research should be amplified beyond primary urban locations to study women vendors' experiences in these settings, where policy frameworks and economic trends might show considerable variation.

10.2 Methodological Gaps and Recommendations

The literature uncovers a significant absence of longitudinal research documenting changes in women street vendors' experiences, hurdles and transformations over time (Skinner, 2008; Roever, 2014; Moussié and Alferts Year, 2018). While cross-sectional examinations provide critical perspectives, they cannot apprehend the evolving nature of non-formal occupations over the course of time. Researchers ought to create longitudinal cohort assessments, keeping track of women vendors over 5-10 years to understand vocational paths, coping strategies, and future results, building on methodological approaches suggested by Skinner (2008), Roever (2014), and Moussié and Alferts(2018).

Limited research applies direct comparison designs throughout different territories, cities, or regulatory environments. Forthcoming research should adopt direct comparative models across different settings with varying governance strategies, financial state, and traditional milieus to determine useful takeaways.

While focusing on disadvantaged communities, limited research uses meaningfully inclusive strategies that revolve around vendors' voices in data collection, research design, and analysis. Researchers need to cooperate with women vendor associations to build community-driven research efforts that both produce understanding and support constructive transformation for participants.

10.3 Thematic Gaps and Emerging Areas

Numerous thematic gaps justify the focus in the subsequent study. There is small-scale analysis on how women street vendors are handling digital overhaul, including digital payment platforms, social media advertising, and e-commerce platforms. A focused research initiative should examine these forces, including constraints to embracing, effective approaches, and impacts on income and welfare.

The literature does not effectively deal with how climate change impacts women street vendors, who regularly carry out duties in unprotected outdoor conditions sensitive to severe weather phenomena, increasing heat, and other weather-related effects. Studies should explore these repercussions and determine workable adaptation solutions.

Partial focus is given to generational linkages of women's street vending, including knowledge sharing, career path planning, and transforming desires among generations. Research needs to analyse these characteristics, including both ongoing and changing vending strategies.

While gender is the central concern, there is a lack of consideration of how gender interacts with other aspects of identity, such as age, ethnic group, disability and migration condition to shape vendors' experiences. Future research ought to create and apply an intersectionality assessment framework that analyzes these relationships.

Limited research thoroughly assesses the outcome of precise policy strategies or supportive services for women street vendors. Thorough assessments should be carried out to create a knowledge base for efficient strategies to support women vendors.

10.4 Theoretical Development Needs

Current literature lacks consolidated conceptual structures that unite various disciplines and furnish well-structured explanations for women vendors experiences in varied scenarios. Scholars have to focus on cultivating such contexts to improve theoretical consistency in the field.

There is a necessity for mid-level theoretical frameworks focused to women in unregulated markets that connect macrostructural determinants with individual personal experiences. Research should focus on constructing these models to support the theoretical structure of the field.

Despite the gender-based characteristics of street vending, women-centred economic approaches are not uniformly implemented to examine women vendors' activities and achievements. Future-oriented studies have to reliably execute these approaches to evaluate women vendors' encounters and inputs to both household and state economies.

10.5 COVID-19 and Post-Pandemic Recovery

Further, Mohan's (2024) study in Cambodia, studies are few on the full impacts of COVID-19 on women street vendors across geographical areas and the outcome of intervention plans. An extensive global analysis of these impacts has to be undertaken, examining both typical developments and environment-specific struggles.

Additional studies are necessary on the variables that improve or deteriorate women vendors' resistance to substantial shocks like the pandemic. Research must highlight individual-level, societal, and organizational influences that enhance this resilience.

11. CONCLUSION

This extensive review of studies has integrated existing understanding on women street vendors across diverse geographical contexts (Skinner, 2008; Bhowmik, 2012; Graaff & Ha, 2015), rigorously evaluated methodological strategies (Brown et al., 2010; Roever, 2014; Forkuor et al., 2017), revealed consistencies and discrepancies (Béni-Gbaffou, 2016; Crossa, 2016; Huang et al., 2020), and presented ideas for future analysis (Recio et al., 2017; Moussié & Alferts, 2018)

Many critical results surface from this blending. First, women street vendors add a noteworthy economic impact regardless of precarious settings, revealing outstanding perseverance and compliance. Second, their experiences are determined by converging factors including gender, geography, regulatory structures, and social-economic landscape, creating both usual problems and environment-specific changes. Third, collaborative initiatives and social networks grow as essential approaches to boost well-being and promote enhanced environments. Fourth, women vendors perform an essential role but usually unnoticed contributions in placemaking and establishing city distinctiveness through their geographic behaviours.

Despite considerable analysis in African and Asian contexts, critical lacunae persist in Latin American perspectives, longitudinal studies, effects of digital change, susceptibility to climate change, and cross-sectional analyses. Filling these voids through the outlined future research avenues would considerably broaden awareness in this field and support better policy-making and strategies to back women street vendors globally.

The discoveries from this review have essential results for strategy and practice. They highlight the Demand for gender-inclusive regulations approaches that recognize women vendors' concrete problems(Moussié & Alferts, 2018) the importance of supporting street vendor associations and collaborative initiative (Chikarmane, 2012; Béni-Gbaffou, 2016 ; Horn, 2018), the value of social

security programs that include informal workers (Lund & Skinner, 2004; Bonnet et al., 2019), and the opportunity for urban development approaches that recognize vendors' local area enhancements (Crossa, 2016; Martinez et al., 2017). By expanding on current understanding while correcting observed omissions, further research might add to both research knowledge and real-world enhancements in the well-being and sources of income of women street vendors worldwide. This literature review lays the groundwork for such efforts by combining present understanding, recognizing essential sequences and contrasts, and offering definite strategies for advancing the field.

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