



Problems of the Street Venders in Guntur city of Andhra Pradesh.

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The problems faced by street vendors in Guntur City, which affect both their work and daily life. Most vendors live in poverty, earning small and irregular incomes that are barely enough to meet basic needs. They often face harassment from authorities and the risk of being evicted, making their work insecure. Many vending areas lack basic facilities like clean drinking water, toilets, waste disposal, and proper shelters, forcing vendors to work in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. They also have limited access to affordable healthcare and education, which reduces their chances for a better future. Together, these issues make street vending in Guntur City a difficult and uncertain livelihood, even though it plays an important role in the local economy.

Statement of the Problem

Given these multidimensional challenges, there is an urgent need to critically examine the socio-economic conditions of street vendors, with a particular focus on their financial status, access to rights, working conditions, and the threats they face in a rapidly urbanizing and formalizing economy. There is also a pressing need to propose practical, policy-oriented solutions that can support their integration into the formal economy without compromising their autonomy and entrepreneurial spirit.

This study, therefore, aims to fill the existing research gap by focusing on the lived realities of street vendors in Andhra Pradesh, assessing the effectiveness of existing legal protections, and recommending evidence-based strategies to improve their livelihood security, dignity, and social recognition. In doing so, it seeks to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable model of urban development one that recognizes street vendors not as impediments, but as vital contributors to city life. In the high lighting the literature by **Borah Rimakhi (2022)** conducted a study titled “Socio-Economic Conditions and the Problems Faced by the Street Food Vendors of Sonitpur District of Assam”, focusing on the

livelihood challenges, working conditions, and institutional neglect experienced by street food vendors in a semi-urban context.

The study underscores that, as in many Indian towns and cities, urban poverty and lack of employment opportunities in rural areas push large numbers of people into the informal urban economy, with street vending emerging as a key livelihood strategy. In Assam, the phenomenon has seen rapid growth, particularly in districts like Sonitpur.

The research examined the socio-economic status of food vendors, many of whom sold fast food, chana, chaat, panipuri, ice cream, and fruit juice. Findings indicated that most vendors had a low level of education, lacked formal training, and operated without licenses or official registration. Furthermore, awareness of welfare schemes and social security provisions was minimal, and no significant government support had been extended to them.

The study also highlighted the absence of legal protection, financial support, and organizational backing, making vendors vulnerable to harassment, insecurity, and poor working conditions.

By shedding light on the informal food economy in a lesser-studied district, the study contributes to the broader discourse on informality, urban poverty, and the failure of policy implementation at the grassroots level. It calls for greater state intervention, awareness campaigns, and inclusive licensing mechanisms to protect the livelihoods of such vendors.

Objectives of the study

1. To evaluate the existing welfare programs available to street vendors.
2. To identify the key challenges and problems faced by street vendors in the study area.

Hypothesis

1. (H_0): There is no association between gender and facing problems among street vendors while vending.
2. (H_0): There is no significant difference in the mean scores of the problem across caste groups.

Sampling Method

The study focuses on analyzing the economic and social conditions of street vendors, with an objective of evaluating how these conditions impact the esteem associated with street vending. A descriptive survey method was adopted, and a sample of 250 street vendors was selected primarily using convenience sampling.

The sample was drawn from within the municipal limits of Guntur city including major commercial hubs, marketplaces, bus stations, railway stations, residential areas. The selection process was carried out with proper guidance and consultation from the research supervisor to ensure relevance and feasibility within the scope of the study.

Table - 1: Face Problems While Vending On Streets by their Gender

(H₀): There is no association between gender and facing problems among street vendors while vending.

Face problems while vending on streets	Gender		Total
	Male	Female	
Yes	127	53	180
	50.8%	21.2%	72.0%
No	47	23	70
	18.8%	9.2%	28.0%
Total	174	76	250
	69.6%	30.4%	100.0%

The cross tabulation between gender and street vending problems portrays that a significant majority of vendors 72 percent of the total sample reported facing challenges while vending. Among them, 50.8 percent were male and 21.2 percent were female, reflecting their overall representation in the sample. On the other hand, only 28 percent of vendors stated they do not face such problems, comprising 18.8 percent males and 9.2 percent females. While the absolute number of male vendors facing difficulties is higher, this is proportionate to their larger presence (69.6 percent) in the sample. Overall, the data indicates that both male and female street vendors in Guntur city commonly encounter problems in their occupation, with no major gender-based disparity in the experience of vending-related challenges.

There is no statistically significant association between gender and whether vendors face problems while vending on streets at the 5 percent significance level. This implies that both male and female street vendors face challenges in roughly similar proportions, and gender does not play a significant role in the likelihood of facing problems in this context.

Table - 2: Pay fines even after proper allotment of vending zones by their Age

Pay fines even after proper allotment of vending zones	Age					Total
	< - 25	26 - 35	36 - 45	46 - 55	56 - >	
Yes	31	37	48	47	15	178
	12.4%	14.8%	19.2%	18.8%	6.0%	71.2%
No	10	18	20	19	5	72
	4.0%	7.2%	8.0%	7.6%	2.0%	28.8%
Total	41	55	68	66	20	250
	16.4%	22.0%	27.2%	26.4%	8.0%	100.0%

The analysis reveals that a large majority (71.2 percent) of street vendors across all age groups report paying fines even after being properly allotted vending zones or sites, highlighting a systemic issue of enforcement or harassment. Vendors in the age group 36–45 years form the largest segment affected (19.2 percent), followed closely by those aged 46–55 years (18.8 percent) and 26–35 years (14.8 percent), suggesting that middle-aged vendors who typically form the core of the workforce are most vulnerable to such practices. Even among younger vendors (<25 years), 12.4 percent report paying fines, indicating that the problem cuts across age groups. Only 28.8 percent of vendors said they do not pay fines under these circumstances. This data underscores a significant concern: allotment of vending zones is not necessarily protecting vendors from financial penalties, pointing to gaps in policy implementation, local governance, or law enforcement in Guntur city.

Table - 3: Officials/Goons take articles for free of cost by their Religion

Officials/Goons take your articles for free of cost	Religion			Total
	Hindu	Christian	Muslims	
Yes	42	7	8	57
	16.8%	2.8%	3.2%	22.8%
No	134	20	39	193
	53.6%	8.0%	15.6%	77.2%
Total	176	27	47	250
	70.4%	10.8%	18.8%	100.0%

The cross tabulation between religion and the experience of officials or goons taking vendors' articles without payment highlights a concerning issue of exploitation. Out of the total 250 vendors, 22.8 percent reported that their goods were taken without payment. The majority of these cases were reported by Hindu vendors (16.8 percent), followed by Muslims (3.2 percent) and Christians (2.8 percent), which roughly corresponds with their representation in the total sample. On the other hand, 77.2 percent of the respondents stated that they had not experienced such exploitation, with Hindus again forming the majority (53.6 percent), followed by Muslims (15.6 percent) and Christians (8.0 percent). Given that Hindus make up 70.4 percent of the vending population in this sample, their higher count is expected; however, the presence of this issue across all religious groups points to a broader systemic problem rather than one rooted solely in religious discrimination. The findings suggest a pattern of unchecked harassment by authorities or local enforcers, indicating the need for stricter protections and accountability mechanisms to safeguard street vendors' livelihoods, regardless of religious affiliation.

Table - 4: Face Problem of Eviction/Relocation by their Education

Face problem of eviction/relocation	Education					Total
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Inter	Graduate and above	
Yes	7	16	5	7	4	39
	2.8%	6.4%	2.0%	2.8%	1.6%	15.6%
No	38	81	38	33	21	211
	15.2%	32.4%	15.2%	13.2%	8.4%	84.4%
Total	45	97	43	40	25	250
	18.0%	38.8%	17.2%	16.0%	10.0%	100.0%

The cross tabulation between education level and the experience of eviction or relocation among street vendors reveals that only 15.6 percent of the total respondents reported facing such issues, while a large majority (84.4 percent) did not face such issues. The highest number of eviction-related problems was reported by vendors with primary education (6.4 percent), followed by illiterate vendors (2.8 percent), those with intermediate education (2.8 percent), and smaller shares from secondary (2.0 percent) and graduate-level (1.6 percent) vendors. Further, vendors with higher education levels (intermediate and graduate) reported fewer problems related to eviction or relocation, which may suggest that education offers some level of awareness or coping mechanisms when dealing with authorities.

On the other hand, the majority of vendors across all education levels reported no issues with eviction or relocation, with particularly high proportions among those with primary education (32.4 percent), illiterate (15.2 percent), and secondary education (15.2 percent). Since street vending is more common among individuals with lower educational attainment (56.8 percent of vendors are either illiterate or educated up to primary level), their slightly higher exposure to eviction pressures reflects their precarious legal and economic status. The data suggests that while eviction is not a widespread issue across the board, it disproportionately affects less-educated vendors, highlighting the need for targeted legal support and inclusion measures for the most vulnerable groups.

Table - 5: Get Affected Due To Harsh Weather Conditions by their Education

Get affected due to harsh weather conditions	Education					Total
	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	Inter	Graduate and above	
Yes	32	63	23	30	15	163
	12.8%	25.2%	9.2%	12.0%	6.0%	65.2%
No	13	34	20	10	10	87
	5.2%	13.6%	8.0%	4.0%	4.0%	34.8%
Total	45	97	43	40	25	250
	18.0%	38.8%	17.2%	16.0%	10.0%	100.0%

The cross tabulation between education level and whether street vendors are affected by harsh weather conditions divulges that a substantial 65.2 percent of vendors experience adverse impacts from weather, while only 34.8 percent do not impact. The highest number of affected vendors are those with primary education (25.2 percent), followed by intermediate (12.0 percent), illiterate (12.8 percent), secondary (9.2 percent), and graduate and above (6.0 percent). This indicates that vendors with lower to moderate levels of education are more vulnerable to weather-related hardships, possibly because they lack resources to invest in protective infrastructure like tents, shelters, or covered stalls.

On the other hand, among the 34.8 percent who reported not being affected by harsh weather, the largest proportions also come from those with primary (13.6 percent) and secondary (8.0 percent) education. Interestingly, the better-educated vendors (graduates and above) show a more balanced distribution, with 6.0 percent affected and 4.0 percent unaffected, suggesting that education might offer some advantage through awareness, coping strategies, or access to better vending zones though it does not fully eliminate vulnerability. Overall, the data highlights the pervasive impact of weather conditions on street vendors, particularly among those with limited education, underlining the need for climate-resilient infrastructure and support mechanisms in urban vending policies.

Table - 6: Any Problem Related To Source of Loan/Credit by their Size of Family

Any problem related to the source of loan/credit	Size of family				Total
	1- 2	3-4	5-6	7 and above	
Yes	18	128	79	6	231
	7.2%	51.2%	31.6%	2.4%	92.4%
No	1	11	6	1	19
	.4%	4.4%	2.4%	.4%	7.6%
Total	19	139	85	7	250
	7.6%	55.6%	34.0%	2.8%	100.0%

The data divulges that a vast majority (92.4 percent) of street vendors face problems related to accessing loans or credit, indicating a widespread financial exclusion across all family sizes. Among these, the 3–4 member families are the most affected (51.2 percent), followed by 5–6 member families (31.6 percent), and even smaller families (1–2 members) report considerable difficulty (7.2 percent). Only 7.6 percent of the total respondents stated they do not face any loan-related issues, showing that access to institutional or reliable credit remains a critical barrier for most vendors regardless of family size.

Table - 7: Other Problems of Street Vendors

Sl. No	Other Problems	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Total N=250
1	Articles Often Stolen	38.0	24.4	37.6	100.0
2	Long Standing Hours	73.6	14.4	12.0	100.0
3	Traveling Long Distances	60.8	09.2	30.0	100.0
4	Unhygienic Work Environment	27.6	34.8	37.6	100.0
5	Difficulties Due to Seasons	32.0	37.6	30.4	100.0
6	Competition Due to Fixed Location	52.8	29.6	17.6	100.0
7	Customer Criticism for Fraudulent Articles	27.6	35.2	37.2	100.0
Overall Total Percentage		44.6	26.5	28.9	100.0

Articles Often Stolen out of the 250 respondents, 38.0 percent agreed that articles are often stolen, indicating that theft is a significant problem for over one-third of vendors. 24.4 percent remained neutral, suggesting they may not have faced such incidents directly but acknowledge its occurrence in the community. An almost equal proportion (37.6 percent) disagreed, implying that theft is not a universal issue and may depend on location, security measures, and type of goods sold.

Long Standing Hours that a large majority (73.6 percent) agreed that they work long hours standing, highlighting the physically exhausting nature of vending work. Only 14.4 percent were neutral, while a small proportion (12.0 percent) disagreed, possibly due to having less physically demanding vending arrangements or seating options.

Traveling Long Distances of the problem was agreed upon by 60.8 percent of vendors, reflecting the need to commute far for work due to lack of nearby vending zones or affordable housing. 9.2 percent were neutral, while 30.0 percent disagreed, suggesting that location proximity varies greatly among vendors.

Unhygienic Work Environment that only 27.6 percent agreed that their work environment is unhygienic, while a larger proportion (37.6 percent) disagreed, indicating that cleanliness problems are not uniform across vending sites. 34.8 percent remained neutral, possibly due to mixed or varying experiences depending on seasons or municipal maintenance.

Difficulties Due to Seasons that about 32.0 percent agreed that seasonal changes create problems, 37.6 percent remained neutral, and 30.4 percent disagreed. This almost even distribution shows that seasonal effects are highly variable, depending on the presence of shelter, nature of goods sold, and vendor resilience.

Competition Due to Fixed Location that more than half (52.8 percent) agreed that competition from fixed locations is a problem, pointing to market saturation and reduced customer base. 29.6 percent were neutral, and 17.6 percent disagreed, indicating that competition intensity depends on the product type and location density.

Customer Criticism for Fraudulent Articles that 27.6 percent agreed they face criticism for allegedly selling fraudulent goods, 35.2 percent were neutral, and 37.2 percent disagreed. This shows that such criticism is not widespread and might occur in particular vending categories like branded goods or perishables.

Overall, the aggregate figures (44.6 percent agree, 26.5 percent neutral, 28.9 percent disagree) indicate that while certain problems such as long working hours, travel distances, and competition are widespread across the street vending community, others are situational and depend on the vendor's working environment, location, and type of business.

ANOVA Table - 8: Problem of Street Vending

(H₀): There is no significant difference in the mean scores of the problem across caste groups.

Statement	Caste	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	F value	P Value
Articles Often Stolen:	OC	72	1.9306	.90890	1.194	.313
	BC	121	1.9917	.85143		
	SC	32	2.2500	.87988		
	ST	25	1.8800	.83267		
	Total	250	1.9960	.87122		
Long Standing Hours:	OC	72	1.4444	.68974	.367	.777
	BC	121	1.3802	.71012		
	SC	32	1.3125	.64446		
	ST	25	1.3200	.69041		
	Total	250	1.3840	.69171		
Traveling Long Distances:	OC	72	1.6389	.92395	.241	.868
	BC	121	1.7355	.89227		
	SC	32	1.6250	.90696		
	ST	25	1.7200	.93630		
	Total	250	1.6920	.90355		
Unhygienic Work Environment:	OC	72	2.2361	.75978	2.136	.096
	BC	121	2.0000	.83666		
	SC	32	2.0000	.76200		
	ST	25	2.3200	.74833		
	Total	250	2.1000	.80286		
Difficulties Due to Seasons	OC	72	2.2222	.71645	3.601	.014
	BC	121	1.8512	.80272		
	SC	32	2.0312	.82244		
	ST	25	1.8800	.78102		
	Total	250	1.9840	.79136		
Competition Due to Fixed Location	OC	72	1.6944	.76248	.241	.868
	BC	121	1.6777	.76610		
	SC	32	1.4062	.66524		
	ST	25	1.6800	.85245		

	Total	250	1.6480	.76317		
Customer Criticism for Fraudulent Articles	OC	72	2.1528	.76287	2.136	.096
	BC	121	1.9917	.84158		
	SC	32	2.1875	.78030		
	ST	25	2.3200	.69041		
	Total	250	2.0960	.80084		

The ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) results provide insight into whether the challenges faced by street vendors vary significantly based on caste category (OC, BC, SC, ST). Across the seven variables measured, most of the p-values are greater than 0.05, indicating no statistically significant differences among caste groups for the majority of items. However, one variable shows a significant difference, suggesting that perceptions or experiences may vary in that area.

Articles Often Stolen:

The mean scores range from 1.88 (ST) to 2.25 (SC), with an F-value of 1.194 and a p-value of 0.313, indicating no significant difference among caste groups. This suggests that theft is a common issue experienced similarly across social groups.

Long Standing Hours:

All groups reported low mean values (between 1.31 and 1.44), indicating strong agreement that standing for long hours is a shared challenge. The p-value is 0.777, showing no significant difference across castes.

Traveling Long Distances:

Mean scores are fairly close, ranging from 1.62 to 1.73, and the p-value of 0.868 again confirms no significant variation. Daily travel is a uniform burden for all vendors.

Unhygienic Work Environment:

The mean scores vary slightly (2.00 to 2.32), with STs reporting the highest discomfort. The F-value is 2.136,

and the p-value of 0.096 approaches significance but remains above the 0.05 threshold. This suggests marginal variation in perceived environmental hygiene.

Difficulties Due to Seasons:

This is the only variable with a statistically significant result ($F = 3.601$, $p = 0.014$). OCs (mean = 2.22) reported the highest impact of seasonal difficulties, while BCs and STs reported fewer issues. This indicates a caste-based variation in vulnerability to seasonal disruptions, possibly due to differences in vending goods or locations.

Competition Due to Fixed Location:

Mean values across groups are similar (around 1.40 to 1.69), and with a p-value of 0.868, no significant difference exists, implying that competition is a universally felt concern among vendors.

Customer Criticism for Fraudulent Articles:

The mean responses show minor variation (1.99 to 2.32), but with a p-value of 0.096, the differences are not statistically significant, though STs feel slightly more criticized.

The ANOVA results reveal that most challenges are shared uniformly across caste groups, emphasizing the collective struggles faced by all street vendors, such as long working hours, theft, travel, and competition. However, seasonal difficulties emerged as a significantly different challenge, affecting caste groups unequally, potentially due to the nature of their vending items or location-specific factors.

Conclusion

The study clearly establishes that street vendors in Guntur City face a wide spectrum of occupational, social, financial, and health-related challenges that are largely uniform across gender, caste, and religion, with only a few variations. Common issues such as harassment by authorities, payment of fines even after legal allotment of vending zones, bribe demands, exploitation by officials or goons, lack of basic amenities, exposure to harsh weather, and health problems like hyper acidity, stress, respiratory issues, and skin diseases collectively depict the precarious nature of this livelihood. While competition with settled market retailers and eviction threats affect only

a smaller section, problems such as long standing hours, traveling long distances, and lack of sanitation facilities are near familiar.

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