

A Study On Issues And Challenges Faced By Street Vendors In Tamilnadu

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Abstract- *Street vending plays a crucial role in the informal economy, providing goods and services to urban populations, especially in developing countries. Despite their significance, street vendors face numerous challenges that affect their livelihoods and ability to operate successfully. This research aims to explore and analyse the various challenges faced by street vendors, focusing on issues such as legal and regulatory barriers, lack of access to financial resources, social stigma, competition with organized retail, and poor infrastructure. The research highlights the financial instability of vendors, particularly in the context of informal work, and identifies potential solutions to address these challenges, such as policy reforms, infrastructure improvements, and support for vendor association.*

Keywords- Harassment by authorities, financial instability, vending locations, regulatory barriers, public space management, legal challenges, vending infrastructure, vendors protection. TR-PID-ZN-Fuzzy-MRAM-MATLAB.

I. INTRODUCTION

Street vendors are an integral part of the urban economy, particularly in developing countries, where they provide affordable goods and services to a wide range of customers. These vendors often serve as a vital source of income and employment, especially for marginalized and low-income populations. Despite their significant role in the economic landscape, street vendors face numerous challenges that hinder their ability to operate smoothly and sustain their businesses. These challenges are compounded by their position in the informal economy, where they are often excluded from legal protections and regulatory frameworks available to formal businesses. Among the key issues faced by street vendors, harassment by local authorities stands out as a major concern. Vendors often encounter frequent eviction threats, fines, and confiscation of goods by municipal authorities who view street vending as an encroachment on public space.

Such harassment not only disrupts daily business operations but also creates a sense of insecurity among vendors, leading to financial losses and heightened stress.

Another significant challenge is financial instability. Many street vendors operate without access to formal credit or banking services, relying on limited personal savings and informal lending sources. This lack of access to financial resources makes it difficult for vendors to invest in their businesses, manage cash flow, or respond to market fluctuations. As a result, many vendors face unpredictable incomes and financial hardships, with no social safety nets to fall back on. The location of vending spaces is also a critical issue. Vendors often operate in areas with limited foot traffic or in unsuitable locations that do not attract sufficient customers.

Statement of the problem:

In developing countries like India, the informal sector including street vending absorbs the majority of the urban unemployed growing labour force. It creates a wide employment opportunity; it is a means for income generation for the marginalized groups, and the urban poor especially for those who migrate from the rural area. However, despite its increasing importance in the total economy, policies, regulations, services, infrastructure facilities and support are not available for the street vending and the environment under which the vendors operate their business are not suitable for their health and wellbeing. In addition to this, there is no proper attention, which is given to street vending by policy makers, decision makers.

Review of literature:

Seepana Prakasam (2022)¹ said that it focused on urban street vendors in India and services during the pre-migration and post-migration scenarios. It gives us a true picture of the majority of urban street vendors in India. - The questions explore the difficulties of letting go of emotions, experiencing love, and sharing secrets, emphasizing the complexity of human feelings and expression.

EP Akbar, C Destria (2021)² said that street vendors conditions of public space settings that exist to sell at the waterfront. Arrangements of street vendors facilitate the economic needs of street vendors.

Samarpita Koley, Parikshit Chakraborty (2018)³ said that attempt to explore the socioeconomic status of street vendors in Jamshedpur and challenges faced by street Vendors. - The questions explore the complexities of emotions, highlighting the difficulty in letting go of feelings, fully experiencing love, and sharing deep secrets. They reflect the challenge of understanding and expressing complex human emotions.

R Sankar (2019)⁴ said that analysing the work life balance among street vendors in Puducherry and the problems faced by them. - Work-life conflict occurs when work responsibilities interfere with personal life, reducing work-life balance. This imbalance negatively affects work performance. Minimizing work-life conflict improves balance and enhances employee performance

Manoj Panwar (2015)⁵ said that analysing the issues and challenges faced by vendors on urban street a case of Sonipat city, India and policy measures for regulating urban vendors. The study focuses on the challenges faced by street vendors, including income uncertainty, harassment by authorities, and lack of urban amenities. Vendors often work in harsh conditions, dealing with extreme weather and poor infrastructure. The uncertainty of site allocation and lack of basic facilities like shelters and storage further complicates their work. These issues stem from the neglect of street vendors in urban planning. The research aims to analyse their socio-economic conditions and propose strategies to integrate them into formal urban planning processes, improving infrastructure and land-use planning for their benefit.

Research gap:

Previous studies have broadly addressed the challenges faced by street vendors, but there has been limited exploration of the specific challenges related to harassment by local authorities, financial instability, and improper location of vending spaces. Many studies focus on general problems such as access to markets, social stigma, and the informal nature of street vending but do not offer an in-depth look into how specific issues, like frequent eviction or harassment, financial

challenges, and inadequate infrastructure, uniquely affect the daily lives of street vendors.

Objectives of the study:

1. To Examine the Impact of Harassment by Local Authorities on Street Vendors
2. To analyse the financial instability faced by street vendors
3. To access the impact of improper or inconvenient vending locations
4. To identify the role of government policies and regulations in shaping the conditions of street vending
5. To propose policy recommendations for improving the working conditions of street vendors

Research Methodology :

This research is both doctrinal and non doctrinal. Primary data is collected from 55 This research both primary and secondary data. Primary data is collected from 50 respondents in Tamil Nadu through survey method. This research used satisfied Random sampling. Secondary data is collected from various websites like government reports, policy documents, newspapers reports and journal. The statistical tool of the research is used only average and percentage method.

Significance of the study:

The significance of this study lies in its potential to enhance the understanding of the complex challenges faced by street vendors and contribute to the development of policy solutions and interventions that can improve their working conditions. Street vendors form a vital part of the informal economy, particularly in urban areas, and their well-being directly impacts both the socio-economic landscape of cities and the livelihood of marginalized communities. By exploring the specific challenges of harassment by local authorities, financial instability, and improper location of vending spaces, this research seeks to fill important gaps in existing literature and offer actionable insights.

Hypothesis of the study:

H1f financial instability or difficulty in managing your family's needs from your earnings.

H2 face harassment from local authorities like Police, Municipal officers.

Limitations of the study: This research duration is only 3 months. The sample size of the respondents is 50. The study is based upon the challenges faced by street vendors in particular

districts only the data collected for the research is mostly based on primary data given by the Respondents. There is a chance for personal bias. So, the accuracy is not true. Due to lack of time and other constraints the study has been limited to 50 Respondents only. The data is collected from only 50 people in particular jurisdiction. This research used satisfied Radom sampling. The statistical tool of the research is used only average and percentage methods.

Results and discussion:

The legal and regulatory challenges faced by street vendors, examining existing laws, policies, and frameworks that impact their work environment. The results indicate that while street vending is an essential part of urban economies, street vendors often face a variety of legal, social, and economic hurdles that hinder their ability to sustain their livelihood.

Legal framework and recognition:

One of the key findings of this research is that the lack of legal recognition for street vendors remains a major obstacle. In many jurisdictions, street vendors are often categorized as part of the informal economy, and existing laws do not offer sufficient protection. Laws surrounding street vending are often outdated, ambiguous, or poorly implemented, leading to discrimination and exploitation of street vendors.

For instance, many street vendors face difficulties in obtaining licenses or permits, leaving them vulnerable to arbitrary eviction, harassment, or fines by authorities. Despite the existence of legislation such as the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 in India, the implementation has been uneven, and many street vendors still face legal uncertainties that disrupt their livelihoods.

Case law:

Tamil Nadu Street Vendors v. The Commissioner, Madras High Court (Jan 30, 2018)

Facts of the Case:

The case of Tamil Nadu Street Vendors v. The Commissioner dealt with the rights of street vendors in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. A group of street vendors filed a petition in the Madras High Court challenging the actions of the Chennai Corporation (MCC) and the Commissioner in relation to the eviction of street vendors from certain areas of the city. The vendors were being displaced without proper alternatives being provided, violating their right to earn a livelihood. The petitioners claimed that their livelihood was at

risk due to the arbitrary actions of the local authorities and that the eviction notices issued to them were without a valid legal basis. Case: Tamil Nadu Street Vendors v. The Commissioner, Madras High Court (Jan 30, 2018)

The vendors argued that their right to livelihood, as guaranteed under Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty) of the Indian Constitution, was being infringed upon. They also pointed out that the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 had been enacted to protect their rights, yet the authorities were failing to comply with the provisions of the Act.

Issue:

The main issue in the case was whether the actions of the Chennai Corporation and its Commissioner to evict the street vendors were lawful and whether the rights of street vendors under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 had been violated.

Held:

The Madras High Court ruled in favour of the street vendors, acknowledging that the right to earn a livelihood through street vending was protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Court held that the eviction of vendors without providing them alternative vending spaces violated their fundamental rights.

Harassment and exploitation by Authorities:

A critical finding of this research is that street vendors are frequently harassed by local authorities, particularly law enforcement. In many cases, street vendors are forced to pay bribes or face fines for operating unauthorized areas, despite not having been provided with an alternative location.

This creates a cycle of exploitation that leaves vendors with limited options for recourse. In some instances, vendors are forcibly removed from their vending spots, leading to not only financial loss but also emotional and physical stress. The absence of clear policies and the inconsistent enforcement of laws contribute significantly to this challenge.

Lack of legal and financial support:

Another significant finding is that street vendors often struggle to access legal aid or financial support due to

their informal status. This lack of access to legal assistance means that many vendors are unable to challenge unfair treatment or resolve disputes related to their vending activities. Additionally, many vendors face difficulties in obtaining bank loans or financial assistance to expand their businesses because of their informal status and lack of formal business documentation. This financial exclusion further limits their ability to improve their working conditions or invest in their enterprise.

Limited access to social security and welfare:

Street vendors often lack access to basic social security benefits, such as health insurance, pensions, and other social protections. Despite their crucial role in urban economies, street vendors are not typically integrated into formal labour markets, which means they are excluded from welfare programs designed to provide a safety net.

As a result, vendors face heightened vulnerabilities in times of illness, injury, or economic hardship. Legal frameworks in some countries, such as India, have begun to acknowledge the need for integrating street vendors into social protection schemes, but the coverage is still inadequate, and many vendors are unaware of their rights.

Policies:

SVANidhi scheme:

SVANidhi scheme was launched to benefit over 50 lakhs street vendors who had been vending in urban areas including those from surrounding peri – urban / rural areas . It’s also aims to promote digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs 1,200 per annum.

National association of street vendors of India (NASVI):

NASVI is an organisation working for the protection of the livelihood rights of thousands of street vendors across the country. The main objective was to bring together the street vendor organisation in India so as to collectively struggle for macro level changes.

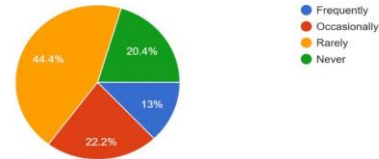
Table1: face harassment from local authorities like police, municipal officers

Particulars	Male	Female	Total
Frequently	3 (5.46)	5 (9.09)	8 (14.55)
Occasionally	3 (5.45)	9 (16.36)	12 (21.81)

Rarely	11 (20.00)	13 (23.64)	24 (43.64)
Never	3 (5.45)	8 (14.55)	11 (20.00)
Total	20 (36.36)	35 (63.64)	55 (100.00)

Source: Primary data

How often do you face harassment from local authorities like police, municipal officers?
54 responses



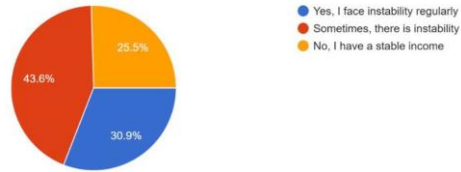
The chart illustrates the frequency of harassment faced by individuals from local authorities such as police or municipal officers, based on 55 responses. A significant portion, 14.55 percentage, reported facing harassment frequently, represented by the blue section. Additionally, 21.81 percentage of respondents indicated they face harassment occasionally, shown in orange. About, 43.64 percentage stated that they face harassment rarely, marked by the green section, while 20 percentage of the respondents, said they have never experienced any form of harassment, represented by the red section. This data highlights that a considerable number of individuals experience regular harassment from local authorities.

Table 2 : street vendors facing financial instability or difficulty in managing theirfamily’s needs from there earning

Particulars	Male	Female	Total
Yes, I face instability regularly	6 (10.91)	11 (20.00)	17 (30.91)
Sometimes, there is instability	6 (10.91)	18 (32.73)	24 (43.64)
No, I have a stable income	8 (14.54)	6 (10.91)	14 (25.45)
Total	20 (36.36)	35 (63.64)	55 (100.00)

Source : Primary data

Do you face financial instability or difficulty in managing your family's needs from your earnings?
55 responses



Interpretation:

The chart illustrates the financial instability faced by respondents in managing their family's needs based on 55 responses. A majority, 43.64 percentage reported that they face instability sometimes, represented by the red section, indicating ongoing financial struggles. 30.91 percentage of respondents stated that they face instability regularly, shown in blue, suggesting that the financial challenges are not constant but occur intermittently. 25.45 percentage of respondents indicated that they have No stable income and do not face financial difficulties, represented by the yellow section. This data highlights that a significant portion of individuals face sometimes or occasional financial instability while managing their family's needs.

Testing of hypothesis:

A hypothesis test was conducted on the statement H1 that force financial instability or difficulty in managing your family' needs from your earnings. At the beginning of the research. It was assumed that face instability regularly. After conducting survey, the result as shown in table 6, sometimes there is instability in managing your family's needs from your earnings. The responses Was 43.6 percentage out of 100 percentage respondents. The hypothesis was accepted. A hypothesis test was conducted on the statement H2 face harassment from local authorities like police, municipal officers. After conducting the survey, the result as shown in table 3, Rarely there is face harassment from local authorities like police, municipal officers. The responses Was 44.4 percentage out of 100 percentage respondents. The hypothesis was accepted.

II. SUGGESTION

In the light of the foregoing analysis and findings the following suggestions can be made to improve the conditions of the street vendors.

- Sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health and employment conditions of the street vendors.

- A market place can be allotted specially for street vending where the street vendors where the street vendors may be charged a very nominal rent.
- The government can assist them financially for their business activities at free rate of interest. And government can extend the subsidy to the street vendors, especially for vending perishable items.
- Awareness programmes on environment and waste disposal management can be given to the street vendors.
- The major issue of the street vendors is adequate vending space and regulation of the vending space.

III. CONCLUSION

The research on the challenges faced by street vendors highlights several key issues that significantly affect their livelihoods and overall well being. These challenges include harassment from local authorities, financial instability, lack of proper infrastructure, uncertain locations for vending, and limited access to government support. Despite their essential role in urban economics, street vendors often find themselves in precarious situations due to inadequate legal frameworks, unregulated environments, and inconsistent enforcement of policies. The findings of this study underscore the need for comprehensive policy reforms and formal inclusion of street vendors in urban planning processes. Addressing these challenges through better infrastructure, stable vending zones, financial support, and simplified regulatory frameworks will not only improve the working conditions of street vendors but also contribute to the broader economic growth and social development of cities. Therefore, a more inclusive, sustainable approach that recognizes the vital role of street vendors is essential for creating a fairer, more equitable urban environment.

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