

Socio-Economic View on Street Vendors: A Study of a Daily Market at Jamshedpur

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Abstract

The term 'Street vendor' refers to those who are unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector on account of their low level of education and skills. However, street vending is an important activity related to urban areas. The terms Street vendors describe them are based on time or place where they work. The present study comprehensively covers the in depth views about their daily marketing and some spatial issues of street vendors near Tatanagar Rail Station, Jamshedpur. The present researchers attempt to explore the socio-economic milieu of street vendors of above said areas. The data has been collected by using observation method, interview with the structure and unstructured questionnaire and other qualitative methods including case studies. The study demonstrates that the male street vendors living into better condition with respect to income status compared to the female street vendors. Although, the study also indicates that the pattern of subsistence in the daily market were not comfortable for street vendors; where most of the street vendors were not fit on the street daily market although they have no better option for living the live.

Keywords: Street Vending, Street Vendors, Socio-economic Milieu, Pattern of Subsistence, Daily Market

Introduction

In the post-1991 period urban India has seen multiple transformations of various forms of exclusion in the urban area. Therefore, the street vendors were one of the most. However, space for a street vendor in the city is highly contested. Street as a public space gets defined as legal-illegal, main stream-periphery and so on. Street as a public space is contested as it changes and takes various forms for many marginalized groups. Street vendors occupy one of the largest and most visible occupational groups in the informal economy which is found in the public space i.e. 'street'.

However, street vending is a global phenomenon and it

is most visible aspect of casual division in any types of sector inside our country. Therefore, the street vending is characterized by low level of income, easy of entry, unskilled knowledge, self-employed that's why it's includes large number of people. In developing country like India as well as the states Jharkhand stated millions of people; earn money and living their livelihood by selling wide range of goods and service on the street. One of the street vendors' narrated his view on the socio-political scenario is not only captivating but it also shows how his or her social life and livelihood are regulated on the street through various forces. Therefore it indicates that not only uneducated people engaged in these types of occupation sometime some educated people or individual also choose this occupation also.

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According to the National Policy of Urban Street vendors, 2004 by Govt. of India, Street vendors defined as "A street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (or head load). Street vendors may be stationary by occupying space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or may be mobile in the sense that they move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or may sell their wares in moving trains, bus etc. In this policy document, the term urban vendor is inclusive of both traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile vendors and incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them, such as *hawker, pheriwalla, rehri-patriwalla, footpath dukandars, sidewalk traders* etc."

Conceptually, street vendors are one of the important components of the urban informal economy. Street vendors occupy a significant proportion of the total employment in the informal sector. Despite that street vendors face a lot of challenges and biases from local government representatives and also in urban policies and regulations. However, the street vendors came from outside of the Jamshedpur town while most of the street vendors are vegetable vendors and they try to live their life with dignity and self-respect through hard work. Hence, Jamshedpur is a developing city and because of capital city and proper opportunity, many rural areas worker came in here and as per convention of a developing city indicates heavy manpower like labour and that forces, pressurize to the city.

Problems of Street Vendors

Street Vendors faces many troubles as they are vulnerable people. They are deprived by laws through by government in respect of labour union.

- The street vendors all the time go through struggle with other street vendors because of instability in market prices and also crisis of market places.
- Decrease in income of street vendors is that they are compulsory to pay 15 to 20 percent of their daily income as inducements to local police.
- Street vendors are usually associated with infringement of public spaces, causes traffic congestion, inadequate hygiene, and poor waste disposal.
- The government does not recognize the contribution of street vendors towards economic and social well-being of urban population. However, government has passed "**Street Vendors Bill 2013**", which protects the rights of street vendors.

Review of Literature

Francie Lund (1998), study on "Women Street Vendors in Urban South Africa: A Synthesis of Selected Research

Findings" is based on the women street vendors at Johannesburg CBD and Durban Metropolitan. The study revealed that the level of education among the street vendors in both the cities was very low. Gender disparity was found in the level of education. It was also found that in Johannesburg, migrant street vendors had higher level of education.

Sharit Bhowmik (2005), in his study "Street Vendors in Asia: A Review" examined that the street vendors in Asian countries namely Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bangkok (Thailand), Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Hanoi, Cambodia, Seoul and India. The study analyzed the magnitude of street vending in different countries. The assessment found that the number of street vendors in the countries was on an increase.

Harlan Dimas (2008), in his paper on "Street Vendors: Urban Problem and Economic Potential" discussed the roots of street vending phenomenon and suggested several street vending management solutions from best practices followed around the world. The paper revealed that street vendors were a big challenge for urban management. The city managers eliminated them as they defaced city sights. The paper suggested a change in the mindset of urban decision makers.

Sharit Bhowmik (1999), "Urban Responses to Street Trading: India" was a survey conducted on seven cities in India namely Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Imphal, Patna and Bhubaneswar. The study found that except in Kolkata, all other municipalities have provisions for providing licenses for street vending.

Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria (2006), in his paper "Street Hawkers and Public Space in Mumbai" studied the life of street vendors in Mumbai. It was revealed that in the central districts of Mumbai, many former mill workers and their families have been compelled to take up hawking.

Nidan (2010) in his paper "Study on Street Vendors at Patna (Bihar)" was based on 600 street vendors in 72 wards in Patna. It found that most of the respondents chose vending as a profession because there were no other jobs available, entry was easier and investment was low. It also found the problems faced by female street vendors and revealed that lack of protection and lack of basic facilities such as toilets and crèches for their children were the major constraints faced by them.

Objectives

In view of the above background the present work aims to illustrate over view on the street vendors near Tatanagar Rail Station, Jamshedpur. The following specific objectives are given below:

- To illustrate the demographic view of the street vendors.
- To explore the socio-economic milieu and subsistence view of the street vendors.

Significance of the Study

The study is attempted to explore the situation of street vendors in Jamshedpur city. The results of the study will provide a better understanding view of the street vendors and awareness topolicy constructors, to design an operative and proficient policy for the improvement of the livelihood ofthe street vendors. The study also serves as stages who are interested to conduct research on street vending. Moreover, it maybe helps to the policy makers as sources of information about subsistence view of the street vendors.

Methodology

The present study was conducted on a street near tatanagar rail station, Jamshedpur where majority of the vendors sitting on street for selling their goods and most of the street vendors are selling vegetables. Therefore, the present

study is selected in street vendors who are selling various types of goods near tatanagar rail station, Jamshedpur. The present study is descriptive by nature. The sampling is selected by using convenient sampling and the sample size is confined as 100 individuals who selling goods on the street.

For the collection of data some anthropological methods like observation method, interview with the structure and unstructured questionnaire, group discussion, case history method were adopted to know some of the issues that were not incorporated in the schedule.

However, during study semi-structured questionnaire used which based on the objectives of the study (Bryman, 2009). Both closed and open-ended questions were included in the questionnaire. Since the study was exploratory in nature, open-ended questions were used to give a hand to exploring the present condition (ibid.). Group discussion has been conducted with vendors under study area. In depth discussion has been also prepared with the street vendors, who provided information.

Table and Discussions

Table 1

Variables	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Age Distribution						
15-24	17	17.00	9	9.00	26	26.00
25-59	37	37.00	17	17.00	54	54.00
60 above	12	12.00	8	8.00	20	20.00
Marital Status						
Married	43	43.00	19	19.00	62	62.00
Unmarried	15	15.00	3	3.00	18	18.00
Widow	3	3.00	5	5.00	8	8.00
Separated	5	5.00	7	7.00	12	12.00
Educational Status						
Non-literate	11	11.00	8	8.00	19	19.00
Ability to sign	38	38.00	17	17.00	55	55.00
I – IV	12	12.00	8	8.00	20	20.00
V – X	5	5.00	1	1.00	6	6.00

*In **Age Distribution** age division basis on years, the category of the age group to follow the "POPULATION BY MAJOR AGE GROUP AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BY AGE GROUP FOR THE WORLD" page - 37 Source: *World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision*, Datasets in Excel and PDF Formats, Extended Dataset, United Nations, 2005.

The table deals with demographical aspects such as “Age Distribution, Marital Status and Educational Status” of the street vendors under study area. From this table it is revealed that in case of ‘Age Group’ wise distribution of the total number of the respondents under study maximum numbers of street vendors (across both the sexes) were belongs in the age group 25-59 i.e. 54% out of the total number of respondents whereas, 26% street vendors (across both the sexes) were belongs in the age group 15-24. Similarly, in the age group 60 and above shows 20% street vendors (across both the sexes).

However, the age group distribution of the street vendors also demonstrates that in the age group 15-24 have 17% male street vendors while female street vendors are 9 percentages. Whereas, in the age group 25-59 shows 37% male and 17% female street vendors out of the total number of studied population. But in the age group 60 and above displays only 12% male and 8% were female street vendors and this age group has lowest number of street vendors whereas, male and female in both the cases maximum percentages of street vendor has belongs in the age group of 25-59. It may be also indicates that percentages of street vendors in higher age group (across both the sexes) is decreasing gradually.

It is further revealed from the table that in case of marital status wise distribution of the street vendors shows 62% respondents (across both the sexes) were married whereas, only 18% respondents (across both the sexes) were unmarried. Similarly, 12% respondents (across both the sexes) were separated. On the other hand, noticeable fact is that 8% respondents were widow/ widower it includes only 3% respondents were widower whereas, 5% respondents were widow.

The table under marital status clearly illustrate that most of

the street vendors has been married where 43% male and 19% female street vendors. Therefore, it was the evident that most of the street vendors had engaged as street vending because street vending as their main and primary occupation and moreover, approx. 60% street vendors were surviving their livelihood through street vending.

The educational level among street vendors is generally low, as indicated in education status wise distribution. Out of the total, 19 percent of vendors (across both the sexes) are illiterate, whereas, 55 percent vendors (across both the sexes) can only sign their names, and 20 percent have acquired only primary level education i.e. class I-IV. Out of the total number of vendors, 6 percent comprise those who acquired only post primary level education i.e. class V-X.

They had come to Jamshedpur from nearby rural areas in search of better-paid jobs in the informal sector, however they decided to street vending because it's one of the easiest way of earning to surviving life and they had not technical education although it also encompasses small financial input and they not taken of technical knowledge of education. Therefore, these post primary level education had become street vendors.

It has been observed that greater percentages of male vendors were less educated than compared to female counterparts of the street vendors under study area. However, some of women street vendors carry out this occupation to support their families because 17% female street vendors were married and those females street vendors were one of the earners of their respective families. One of the women street vendor stated that she has no opportunity other than street vending, as it necessitates less education, unskilled knowledge and comparatively minor resources as compared to other occupations.

Table 2

Variables	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Daily Income (in Rs.) Gender-wise:						
≥ 100	5	5.00	8	8.00	13	13.00
101-200	16	16.00	14	14.00	30	30.00
201-300	21	21.00	9	9.00	30	30.00
301-400	7	7.00	2	2.00	9	9.00
401-500	10	10.00	1	1.00	11	11.00
601-700	2	2.00	-	-	2	2.00
801-900	3	3.00	-	-	3	3.00
901-1000	1	1.00	-	-	1	1.00
≤ 1000	1	1.00	-	-	1	1.00
Product- and Gender-wise Distribution:						
Vegetables	29	29.00	14	14.00	43	43.00
Fruits	15	15.00	6	6.00	21	21.00
Flowers	8	8.00	9	9.00	17	17.00
Household Implements	5	5.00	-	-	5	5.00
Cooked Food	9	9.00	5	14.00	14	14.00
Working Hours per Day						
≥ 3	6	6.00	8	8.00	14	14.00
3-6	17	17.00	16	16.00	33	33.00
6-9	24	24.00	10	10.00	34	34.00
9-12	12	12.00	-	-	12	12.00
≤ 12	7	7.00	-	-	7	7.00

The table deals with “Daily Income, Product-wise Distribution and Working Hours per Day” of the street vendors under study area. In case of ‘Daily Income’ on gender wise distribution of the respondents exhibits that the daily income status of the respondents exposes important facts about their standard of living and the amount of daily income. However, 13% respondents (across both the sexes) had deprived daily income ranging from Rs. 101 to Rs. 200. While, 30% respondents (across both the sexes) had daily income reaching from Rs. 101 to Rs.200 and Rs.201 to Rs. 300 and the clearly evident that the majority of the respondents has been belong to this category with above mentioned income ranges. However, a majority of the female vendors belong to the category with an income range of Rs. 101 to Rs. 200. On the other hand, 11% respondents had daily income reaching from Rs. 401 to Rs.500 however; the income amount is slightly high range but in this range of income had only one female respondent. The daily income of a considerable portion of the sample respondents (9 percent across both the sexes) was found to be Rs. 301-400. The daily income wise distribution also displays that in the higher range income such as Rs. 601-700, Rs. 701-800, Rs. 801-900, Rs. 901-1000 and Rs. 1000 and above rupees in a day had only male respondents however, no female respondents had not in the highest income groups.

A comparison of the male–female respondents of daily income that reveals lesser percentages of male vendors belong to the lowest income category compared to the

female vendors. Where, a majority of the male vendors belong to the category with an income range of Rs. 201 to Rs. 300. Therefore, the daily income indicates that male vendors have a slight advantage with respect to income status compared to the female vendors.

The income of street vendors depends on which types of products they sell, and it varies product to product and also in terms of the amount of product and spending time for selling of the products. The daily income of the street vendors shows that a few vendors earn quite a high income. Remarkably, the table also illustrate that the incomes of street vendors depends on the selling’s of verity of goods such as fruits, flowers, vegetables and cooked foods vendors.

In case of selling of ‘Product’ wise distribution of the respondents it is revealed from the table that most of the street vendors have been selling vegetables i.e. 43% out of the total number of street vendors whereas, 29% were male vegetable street vendors and 14% were female vegetable street vendors and comparison to the other types products which selling by the street vendors that reveals maximum percentages of vendors selling vegetables compared to the products. However, 21% street vendors were selling fruits out of the total number of street vendors whereas, 17% respondents selling flowers. Similarly, 14% street vendors were selling cooked food on the street. But noticeable fact is that only 5% respondents were selling household implements and it is clearly visible that no female vendors

does not engaged here.

On the other hand, the working hour's wise distribution of the street vendors revealed that 14% street vendors (across both the sexes) ≥ 3 hours selling their products on the street. However, 3-6 hours of working hours category shows 33% street vendors (across both the sexes) selling their products on the street; 6-9 hours group displays 34% street vendors (across both the sexes) selling their products on the street, however, it's also clearly illustrate that maximum percentages of male street vendors selling goods spending 6-9 hours on the street whereas, maximum percentages of female street vendors selling goods spending 3-6 hours on the street. That's why the daily income of female street vendors had lesser percentages compared to the male street vendors. However, under the working hours the categories such as 9-12 hours and 12 hours and above shows only male street vendors selling their product where no female street vendors does not spent time above 9 hours for sell her products on the street. That's why only few of the street vendors had to earn a highly daily income.

Despite the hard and their sustainability of their livelihood as they unskilled as well as uneducated although, the street vending is an illegal activity and vendors were seen with contempt. As the result, the street vendors faced endless harassment from the local traffic police at their workplace. Some time in regular basis they were forced to pay payoffs.

Street Vendors at Tatanagar

Street vendor means a person who selling goods to the public with having a temporarily static structure on the side of the street. However, in station road, Street vendors could be occupying space on the roadway areas. On the other hand, the Government of India has used the term "urban vendor" as inclusive of both traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile specific terms used to describe them such as *hawker*, *pheriwalla*, *rehri-patriwalla*, *footpath-dukandars* and more.

The numbers of street vendors is increasing randomly day by day. However, most of the street vendors came from nearby rural areas of Jamshedpur city and most of them are uneducated that's why very few employment opportunities for rural people; therefore, rapidly increase of population at urban center like Jamshedpur because of rural came to urban center to searching for work or service but the rural people are completely unskilled that's why those people engaged in vending goods of center point on the street like station road near tatanagar rail station, Jamshedpur. A number of such populations have been investing small investment in order to earn their livelihood and carry out their trade on the roads. Therefore, the street vendors are exposed to a number of problems such as harassment at the hands of local police in general and traffic police in particular. Moreover, due to huge increase of street

vendors, the front main road of tatanagar rail station excessive congestion and as the result of this the numbers of problems have come up. Therefore, some time police excesses against the street vendors are widespread and constrain the smooth functioning of vending activities, often challenging the livelihoods of vendors.

Conclusion

The term 'street vendors' has become central tissue of city values, and is identical with the spirit of symbolized by the city. However, we are still a long away from truly accepting the phenomenon, which is economically and socially incorporates our city culture for both developed as well as underdeveloped. During study time it's clearly stated by the key respondents clearly that most of the street vendors were came from nearby rural areas and most of them were unskilled (in terms of knowledgeable labour because Jamshedpur is an industrial hub that's why without knowledge nobody cannot work; even unskilled person cannot work as a daily a labour), uneducated or little education which is difficult for the street vendors. The study indicates the poor working conditions of the vendors in terms of working hours in a day, in addition to unhealthy and unsafe conditions in the workplace. The occupation of street vending is distribution theatrically. The findings of the present study indicates that majority of the street vendors were earn low amount of daily that exposes about their standard of living life. The study also demonstrates that the working hours of the vendors, poor safety and security conditions at their workplaces, together with the illegal compensations they have to pay the local authorities.

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