



Socio-Economic and Health Conditions of Street Vendors in Kozhikode

Amrutha P¹, Dr. Ibrahim Cholakkal²

¹ Research Scholar, PG & Research Department of Economics, EMEA College of Arts and Science Kondotty, India

² Associate Professor, PG & Research Department of Economics, EMEA College of Arts and Science Kondotty, India

ABSTRACT

Street vendors have an important role in the urban informal economy in terms of generating more employment. It encompasses large number of people due to low level of financial investment, easy access to entry, low education and low skill oriented etc. Street vendors support both urban poor as well as the rich people because they provide platform for easily accessible market and inexpensive shopping experience for people. Consumers prefer street vendors because they provide services at convenient places such as outside the Government institution, railway station, bus stand, Historical monuments etc. Even though they are the indispensable section in the society, they are facing so many problems in order to compete with the formal sector. Almost all street vendors are doing their business independently and majority of them are struggling to survive because their daily income is less than Rs. 500 and have large competition in this field. This paper tries to examine socio-economic and health conditions of street vendors in their business life.

Keywords: Education, Health, Loan, Saving, Socio-economic, Vendor

1. INTRODUCTION.

India is a developing and second most populated country in the world. The population growth leads to a rapid increase in migration from rural areas to urban. Urban centers are not able to provide employment to all workforces in formal jobs and majority of labors are engaged in informal sectors. The people with low skills and less educational qualification normally gets expelled from the organized sectors. This has led to a rapid growth of informal sectors in most of the cities and they play significant role in economic growth and development of urban economies.

Street vendors are identified as self-employed workers in the informal sector who offer their labour as selling of goods and services on the street without having any permanent built up structure, (**National Commission on labour**). As per the National Policy on Urban street vendors 2009, there are three basic categories of street vendors, (1) Those street vendors who carry out vending on regular basis with a specific location (2) Those street vendors who carry out vending not on a regular basis and without any specific location for example vendors who sell goods in weekly bazaars during holidays and festivals. (3) The mobile street vendors: those who moves from place to place vending their goods and services on bicycles, buses, trains and mobile units on wheels.

Street vendors are the main distribution channel for a large variety of products of daily consumption, perishable goods like fruits, vegetables, fish and meat and nonperishable goods like readymade garments, shoes, household utilities, toys, stationery, newspaper, magazines and so on. Even though they are the essential factors of the society, they are facing so many problems in order to survive among the formal sectors. Their major problems are related to credit and infrastructure inadequacies, social security, economic instability, working instability, lack of awareness about legal rights, non-availability of basic amenities, weather fluctuations, harassment by municipal and police officials related to occupying major traffic junction and lack of shelters and storage space etc.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

DebdulalSaha (2011), Study on 'Working life of street vendors in Mumbai' pointed out that the main problem faced by street vendors is that they borrow money from local money lenders and wholesalers for access to credit for their business as well as social security purposes and they pay high rate of interest to money lenders. The current working hours of the vendors and the safety and security conditions in their workplace, together with extensive rent seeking by local authorities, contribute to a deteriorating working environment as well as economic deprivation for street vendors. This study reveals poor working condition of vendors in terms of excessively long working hours in a day and unhealthy and unsafe condition in the workplace.

Bhat, Aasif Hussain Nengroo (2013), in their study on 'Urban Informal Sector: A case Study of Street Vendors in Kashmir' highlighted the reason for choosing street vending as their employment option. The main reason for choosing street vending was found to be lack of employment opportunities, absence of earning member in the family. He found that the largest concentration of vendors was in the age group 16-35 year. Most of the vendors are from poor educational background. Most of the vendors start their business early in the morning and were working about 7-10 hours daily. The earning of vendors depends upon the type of product they sell. The highest profit was earning those vendors who were selling footwear followed by cloth and fish.

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of street vending) Act, 2014 aimed to regulate street vendors in public area and protect their rights. Town committee will be responsible for conducting of survey of all the vendors under its jurisdiction and such survey must be conducted every five years and issue certificate for vendors. All street vendors will be accommodated in a designated vending zone and all the street vendors above fourteen years of age will be granted a certificate of vending.

Manoj Panwar, Vikas Garg (2015), conducted “Issues and challenges faced by vendors on urban street: A case of Sonipat city, India, revealed that vending in urban area is characterized by small scale operation carried out in temporary structure in variable location without fixed place or store. Vendors sell their product in unregulated and competitive market environment without observing any fixed hour for vending. They have long hours of work without rest and lack of urban amenities. Vending is the main income earning source of street vendors but they earn very low level of income.

SK Shibin & PM Nishanth (2017), studied the problem of street vendors in Kollam district and observed that most of the common people mainly middle class and the lower class people depend on street vendors for their purchase satisfaction. The street vendors depend only on their vending profession as livelihood. They do not have any other means of income other than vending. This study depicts that socio-economic status and the challenges faced by street vendors in their business life as Economic instability, Social insecurity, weather conditions, barriers towards credit facility, health issues, discrimination, working instability, lack of awareness about legal right etc.

Harpreet Kaur, Sanpreet Kaur (2017), ‘A study on Quality of work life of street vendors of Khanna’, founded that street vendor provide a platform for an easily accessible market for an inexpensive shopping experience. The growing rate of urban poor find their source of livelihood in street vending and help in wedging the gap between the customer and the seller considerably. However the involving scenario and efforts of government have left out this important entrepreneur from the margins of global development. The institutional sources focus on important business and their development but choose to ignore the credit need these.

Shibulal. A.L (2018), study on “Needs and Problems of Street Vendors: An Inquiry” observed that most of street vendors in Kerala engage in trading activities more than 8 to 10 hours. They cannot support the family or family members at their time of need. In terms of social security, the street vendors are not getting support from NGOs. Nor they have the security of insurance.

Vinod C & Abhin Vyas (2020), study on ‘Socio-economic profile of street vendors in Kerala: A case study of vendors in East fort, Thiruvananthapuram’. According to their study male dominate the street vendors in vending process. The security problem faced by the women and the male dominance may be the reason behind the smaller number of females in these sectors. As compared to males, females are less in number. The study showed that the participation of youngsters was less in street vending because youngsters prefer white collar job. Now a days most of the youngsters are highly qualified and they might not want to do such type of job. The vendors those were of below 25 were mostly from North Indian state.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Street vendors are the main distribution channel for a large variety of products of daily consumption like fruits, vegetables, readymade garments, shoes, household utilities, toys, stationery, newspaper, magazines and so on. The common people mainly middle class and low class depend on street vendors for their purchase items. This is because people are getting necessary items from these informal sectors in reasonable price which is affordable to them than the formal sector. The basic problem of Street Vendors is unhealthy working conditions, insecurity and uncertainty as their profession is considered unlawful, but according to the government of India assessment in 2004 shows around 2.5% of local poor urban people lives on working this occupation. So, this also has to be examined.

4. OBJECTIVES

1. To understand socio-economic and health condition of street vendors in Kozhikode.
2. To study working condition of street vendors in Kozhikode.
3. To understand the importance of street vending.

5. RELEVANCE OF THE STUDY

Street vendors constitute an important segment of the trade and commercial activities in the informal sectors of our economy. Vending in urban area is characterized by ease of entry, small scale operation carried out in temporary structure in a variable location without a fixed place or store. Poverty and lack of gainful employment in the rural area and in the small towns drive large number of people to the cities for work and livelihood. In rural areas the low skilled or semiskilled workers with low level of education are not normally enrolled to the jobs in the organized sectors. Street vendors are facing numerous problems in their day-to-day transactions. Their major problems are related to credit and infrastructure inadequacies, social security, economic instability, working instability, lack of awareness about their legal rights, non-availability of basic amenities, weather fluctuation, harassment by municipal and police officials in occupying important traffic junctions and lack of shelters and storage space. They have long hours of work without rest and lack of urban amenities and unhygienic environment for the vendors particularly women vendors. In this scenario, it is highly important to examine the real conditions of street vendors in general and their working conditions and endowment status.

6. METHODOLOGY

The research is based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected through interview schedules, telephone interview of experts and other participatory approaches among various stakeholders. Both quantitative and qualitative information was gathered in order to supplement the data. The well-structured questionnaire is developed for the collection of primary data regarding various factors influencing socio-economic condition of street vendors. A detailed interview with officials of the municipal cooperation were also conducted.

Secondary data were collected from documents, published reports from Government and non-governmental agencies. Beside this the relevant data were also collected from Economic Reviews by Government of Kerala, Department of Economics and Statistics of Government of Kerala, and various studies and reports undertaken by researchers in the relevant fields etc.

For the analysis of data, the statistical techniques like percentage, averages and simple bar diagrams were used.

7. PROFILE OF THE RESEARCH AREA

Kozhikode is the second largest urban area in the state and 38.25 percent of the area is urbanized. According to official figures available with the Kozhikode corporation, there are 2036 street vendors in the city with special identity cards. In Kozhikode district, street vendors are doing their vending activity mainly in SM street, Mavoor road, Palayam, Kozhikode Beach, Medical college, Bus stand at Vatakara, Koyilandy and Thamarassery. Street vending profession is mainly male oriented in Kerala and the result of this study also shows that the sex composition of the street vendors in the study demonstrates that 88% of the street vendors are male and about 12% are women,

8. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

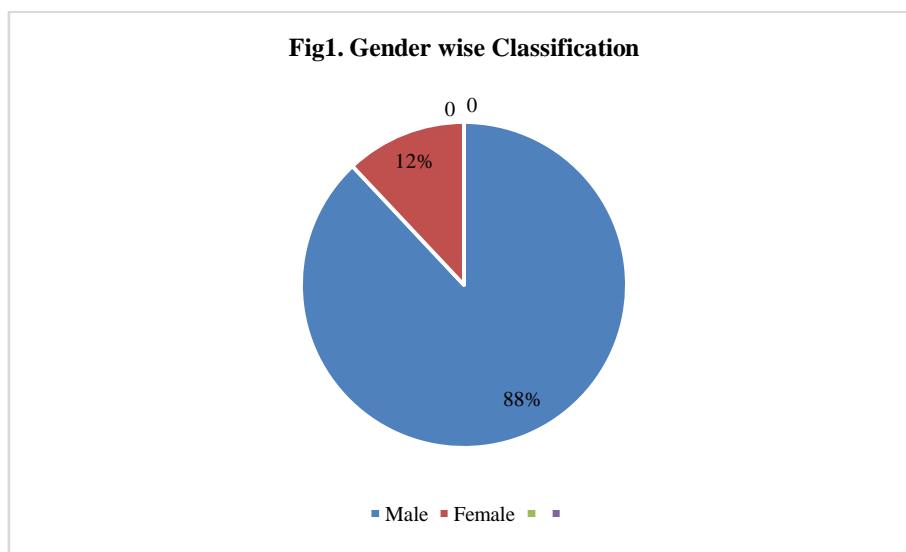
The major objective of the study is to examine socio-economic and health condition of street vendors in Kozhikode based on both primary and secondary information. The primary data was collected among the street vendors who were vending in Kozhikode district, sample size of 50 street vendors were randomly selected and interviewed with the help of well-structured questionnaire. The comprehensive analysis of socio-economic and health profile of street vendors in Kozhikode are as follows.

Table 1 Age Group

Age Group	Number of Respondents	Percentage
20-30	2	4
30-40	8	16
40-50	23	46
50-60	13	26
60 and above	4	8
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

The above table show that 46% of the sample respondents are between the age group of 40-50. Majority of street vendors are above 40 years so they have long period of experience in this filed. It indicates that there is inability to find better job at this age, which is mainly due to poor health condition, low education and lack of skills for another better job.



Source: Field survey 2020

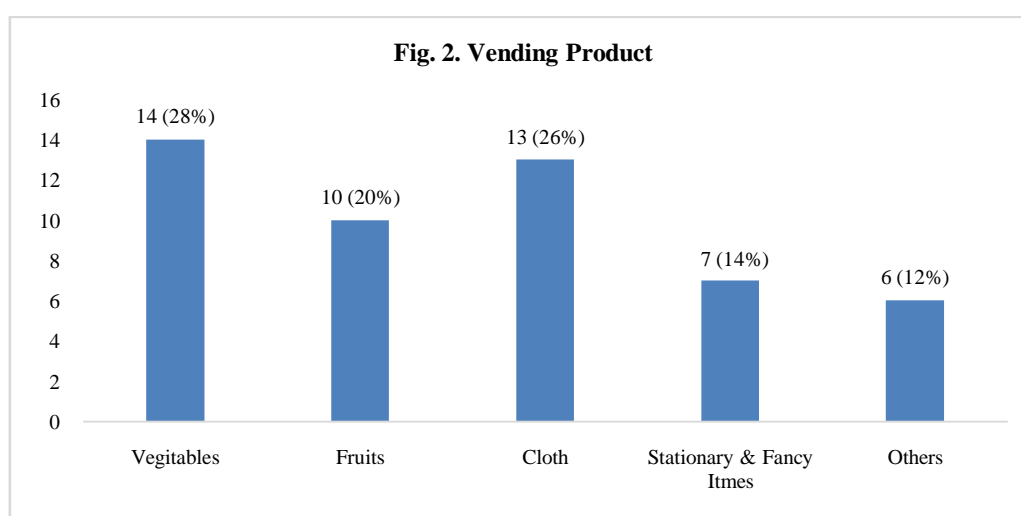
Out of total respondents, 88 percent are male and remaining 12% are female. The male dominance in vending activity is due to restless work nature, continues work in open space and dusty area and lack of proper toilet facilities which create more insecurity feeling among women vendors and therefore they abstain from the vending job.

Table.2 Educational Qualification

Education Level	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Below SSLC	31	62
SSLC	8	16
Higher Secondary	6	12
Degree	4	8
Above Degree	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

The main attraction to vending job is which never demands a particular education qualification. There are 62 percent of street vendors with below SSLC qualification and there is only one street vendor with an educational qualification of degree and above. The highly educational qualified persons turn to the street vending business is due to the hereditary in nature.



Source: Field survey 2020

The study shows that vegetables and cloths are the most demanded items by the customers from street vendors. Out of total street vendors, 28 percent deal the business of selling vegetables and followed by cloth which is 26 percent. Other vending products include lottery, fish, flowers etc.

Table.3 DURATION OF WORK PER DAY AND AMOUNT OF PROFIT.

Amount of Earning	Duration				Total	Percentage
	Up To 5 Hours	5-8 Hours	8-12 Hours	Above 12 Hours		
100-200	5				5	10
200-300		4	14		18	36
300-400			22		22	44
400-500				2	2	4
Above 500				3	3	6
Total	5	4	36	5	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

In the study area, majority of the street vendors are working 8-12 hours in every day for their daily livelihood. Street vendors depend only on their vending profession as livelihood. They don't have any other means of income and majority of them earn 300-400 per day after deducting their expenditure.

Table.4 SOURCE OF GETTING LOAN

Types of Loan	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Bank	1	2
Private Financial Institution	5	10
Local Money Lender	39	78
Self Help Group	2	4
Relative	3	6
Any Other Sources	-	-
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

Out of 50 street vendors under study, 39 depend on the money lenders for loan, that is 78 percent of the total vendors of the study area. Secondly most of the vendors depend on the private financial institution which is 10 percent of the total. 6 percent of street vendors arranged money from their relatives. Street vendors are not getting any government financial support or allowances. This is the main reason for street vendors taking loan from private money lenders and wholesalers for access to credit for their business as well as social security purpose by lending high rate of interest. In this study only a single street vendor has taken loan from bank for education purpose of their children.

Table.5 AMOUNT OF GETTING LOAN

Amount	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 10,000.	22	44
10,000 – 20,000	19	38
20,000 – 30,000	4	8
30,000 – 40,000	2	4
40,000 – 50,000	2	4
Above 50,000	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

The study says that majority of the street vendors get minimum level of income in the range of Rs.300-Rs.400 every day. Due to the financial backwardness of street vendors, they are not able to invest or purchase goods and they approach local money lenders or wholesalers for access to credit for their business as well as social security purpose. 44 percent of street vendors availed loan of less than Rs.10,000 and 38 percent of them received loan ranging from Rs.10,000-Rs. 20,000 for their vending activity. Only one street vendor availed loan which is more than Rs.50,000 for their business and other social security purpose.

Table.6 MODE OF SAVING

SCHEMES	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
No saving	29	58
Bank	1	2
Post office	3	6
Self-help group	16	32
Private Institution	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

The frequency of visiting a bank varies from person to person. In the study area majority of the street vendor are not using online banking services but they visit bank couple of times to deposit and withdraw their amounts during working time itself. It will adversely affect their vending business. 58 percent of street vendors not save any amount of money because they get minimum amount of money to meet their necessary needs. 32 percent of street vendors deposit amount in self-help groups like *kuri*, *kudumbashree* etc

Table.7 EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF STREET VENDING

Experience	Number Of Respondents	Percentage
Below 5 years	4	8
5-10 years	6	12
10-15 years	21	42
15-20 years	14	28
20 Years above	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

The study shows that 42 percent of street vendors working this field for 10-15 years and 28 percent of street vendors have an experience of 15-20 years. A smaller number of workers have more than 20 years of experience. Many of the street vendors drop out their job and go to another job or take rest in remaining life period due to the poor health condition.

Table 8. HEALTH RELATED PROBLEM

Health Problem	Number Of Respondents	Percentage
Dust allergies	24	48
Cough and Fever	12	24
Hypertension	4	8
Urinary Infection	3	6
Other	7	14
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

In the study area 48 percent of street vendors are facing dust allergies, skin rashes, red, itchy or teary eyes, wheezing etc. 24 percent of street vendor feels cough and fever. Around 8 percent feel hypertension and 6 percent are suffering from urinary infection due to lack of proper toilet facilities which is mainly affected the women vendors. Lack of proper rest and continuous work which may cause other health related problem to the street vendors like kidney ailment, injuries at work place, infections, depression, migraine and epidemic disease such as dengue, cholera etc.

Table.9 TREATMENT TAKEN BY STREET VENDORS

Hospital	Number Of Respondents	Percentage
Government Hospital	13	26
Private Hospital	37	74
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

In the study area 74 percent of the street vendors approaching private hospitals, nursing homes and daily consultant physicians for their treatment. Only 26 percent of street vendors using the health facilities of government hospitals because of crowd and related delay in health services and which may affect their daily business.

Table.10 MONTHLY EXPENSES ON TREATMENT

Expenses	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Less than 500	2	4
500-1000	32	64
1000-1500	10	20
Above 2000	6	12
Total	50	100

Source: Field survey 2020

The monthly expenses for treatment of 64 percent of street vendors are observed to be Rs.500-Rs.1000 and 4 percent of them used less than Rs.500 and 20 percent street vendors spend Rs.1000-Rs.1500 and 12 percent of street vendor's monthly expenses are above Rs. 2000. Majority of the street vendors used regular medicine for their diseases.

9. CONCLUSION

Street vendors are important segment of urban informal economy. They provide necessary things at reasonable price. It will help rich as well as poor section of the society to expend the minimum level and manage the budget properly. The street vendors depend only up on their vending profession as livelihood. They don't have any other means of income other than vending. There are so many problems encountered by street vendors such as lack of access to institutional finance, limited space to run their business and little scope for expansion, competition from other vendors, working for long hours, health issues etc. Majority of the street vendors were earned low amount of money daily. Since large number of people are engaging in this business for their livelihood without considering their health and all other strains, and the problems faced by them is very clearly identified by many studies in general and particularly by this study, the government authorities have to consider the issues of street vendors favorably.

Reference:

- Bhat,G.M, & Nengroo, A.H.(2013). Urban informal sector: A Case study of street vendors in Kashmir. *International Journal on Management & Business Studies, IJMBS Vol.3 (Issue 1)*, 112-115.
- H.Malsawmtlunga, & Lalnunthara.R.(2020). A Study of financial inclusion of Street Vendors: With special reference to Street Vegetables Vendors in Pukpui Locality Lunglei Town Mizoram. *International Research Journal of Management in Engineering Technology and Science*, 02(07), 111-119.
- Kaur,H., & Kaur.S(2017). A Study on Quality of work life of street vendors of Khanna. *Biz and Bytes*, 8(1), 59-63.
- M.Kalimuthu, & S.Sindu (2021). A Study on problems faced by street Vendors in Coimbatore City. *EPR International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, 7(8), 87-90.
- Panwar.A., & Gray, V. (2015). Issues and Challenges faced by Vendors on Urban Street: A Case of Sonipat City, India. *International Journal of Engineering Technology, Management and Applied Science*, 3(2), 71-84.
- R.Karthikeyan, & R.M.(2017) Problem faced by the street vendors in their workplace: A Study with special reference to Tiruchirappalli City, Tamilnadu, India. *International Journal of Recent Research and Applied Studies* 4(1(8)), 30-39.

- Rani.S.(2016), Wwomen in unorganized sector-Women vegetable vendors in Tiruchirappalli-A Socio-Economic Study. *Indian Journal of Applied Research*, 6(4),70-72.
- Saha,D. (2011), Working Life of Street Vendors in Mumbai, *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 54(2), 301-325.
- Sharath A.M (2016). An Economic Analysis of street Food Vendors with Special reference to Durgigudi Street, Shivsmoggs City. *International Journal of Research in commerce & Management*, 7(07), 84-89.
- Sonawane.S.T. (2017). Problem and Solution of Vendors-A Case study. *International Journal of Innovative Research in Science, Engineering and Technology*, 6(1),940-943.
- Sugathan.V.C & Vyas.A (2020 June), Socio-Economic Profile of Street Vendors in Kerala: A Case study of vendors in Eastfot, Thiruvananthapuram. *Mukt Shabd Journal IX(VI)*, 151-165.
- V.Jaishankar and Sujatha.L (2016). A Study on problem faced by the street vendors in Tiruchirappalli City. *SSRG International Journal of Economics and Management Studies*, 3(9), 40-43.