



International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com ISSN 2582-7421

Impact on Street Vendors During Covid-19 (Pandemic):

¹Maddineni Venkata Sai, ²Aditi Girhepunje, ³Pooja P S, ⁴Purva Patil

^{1,2,3,4}Arihant Institute of Business Management Email: venkatsaim2000@gmail.com Contact number: 9010559005

²Email: aditigirhepunje05@gmail.com, ³Email: poojushyam@gmail.com, ⁴Email: purvap749@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on street vendors. Many have experienced a decrease in customers and income due to lockdowns & restrictions. Due to lockdown all the people who were their customers locked at their homes which completely reduced their sales. It has been challenging for them to maintain their business and support their families. Due to so many rules & regulations and harassment of local authorities to maintain proper hygiene and social distancing, it became vendors more difficult to survive in such critical times. The people who depended only on street vending their livelihood had completely destroyed. It became difficult to have single meal a day.

Government took some steps to help them but they could have taken some more essential steps for their betterment because they play major role in country's Economy.

KEYWORDS: COVID-19, Street vendors, India, Economy, Income loss, Livelihood disruption, Health and safety concerns, reduced sales, Rules & Regulations.

INTRODUCTION

Street vending in India has very rich and ancient history. Street vendors are being there since many ancient years. Millions of people overall the globe depended and depending upon street vending. It's been a classical change from ancient marketplaces to today's modern marketplaces where it's still being updating according to society.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has ruined many people's life. Among those who have been hit hardest street vendors who lost their employment even they are self employed people. This pandemic had a profound impact on the global societies and economics affecting business of all sizes and types. The most severe consequence was no income. Food street vendors faced many more challenges in maintaining hygiene and cleanliness which lead to sales reduce and some are even lost their operations. Moreover, the informal nature of their work left them without the social protection benefits afforded to formal sector workers. Despite their contribution to the economy of the urban or rural area, there are considered anti-social, frequent eviction, unethical, dirty and unhygienic. Here is one of the facts that government had not taken major steps to help them. Beyond government, local authorities' harassment for bribes which been added to their bows. The pandemic's impact on street vendors in India highlighted both their vulnerabilities and their ability to adapt and preserve in the face of adversity. One of the major credits to their owes is their illiteracy and approach to the formal environment to which major people need it.

Challenges faced by street vendors:

- Accessing govt. support and financial assistance.
- Difficulty accessing supplies & ingredients for their product.
- Financial struggle and reduced income.
- Health and safety concerns for themselves & their customers.
- Limited opportunities for growth and expansion during pandemic.
- Uncertainty about the future and the viability of their business.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To understand the problems faced by street vendors during covid-19.

- To understand how COVID-19 affected the income and financial problems of street vendors.
- To find out the measures taken by street vendors to overcome covid period.
- Changes in customer behaviour and demand for street vendor's products/services during the pandemic
- Lack of Government support towards street vendors to stable their income or livelihood.
- How local authorities have harassed the vendors for bribe to do their business.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- ✚ Commodities during the COVID-19 outbreak inn the informal economy. Open journal of social sciences, 115-129.
- ✚ Govt. office official records and some of street vendors through interviews.
- ✚ Bhattacharya, S., & Londhe, B. R. (2014). Street vendor ship: Sources of Finance & Related Constraints. *Procedia Economics and Finance*, 11(14).17
- ✚ Government of India. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. 2021. Accessed 08 July 2021.
- ✚ Lancet T. India under COVID-19 lockdown. *Lancet*. 2020;395(10233):1315.
- ✚ BBC News. sec. India, 2020.news/world-asia-india-52559324. Accessed 11 June 2020.
- ✚ The Hindu. Street vendors struggle to stay afloat. *The Hindu*, sec. Bengaluru. 2020. Accessed 10 June 2020.
- ✚ The Economic Times. Lockdown 4.0 guidelines: The Economic Times, 2020.news/politics-and-nation/centre-extends-nationwide-lockdown-till-may-31-with-considerable-relaxations/article show/75790821.cms. Accessed 8 June 2020.

METHODOLOGY

This Research is a systematic approach to understand the impacts of COVID-19 on street vendors lives. First, we prepared some of the basic questionnaires and asked them. This method helped us to have primary valuable insights from the vendors how the pandemic has ruined their lives. Later, we gone through government records of our local govt. office and newspaper articles and they provided us good content.

We have started the mouth interviews of vendors to know consequences so that we can start our research. We selected the people on random sampling method where most of the other areas vendors with different backgrounds are also included so that genuine content is generated. We ensured that the we collected is reliable and valid to process(analyse) and get good output. In the interviews we also asked them to share their experiences in their own words, so that the bullet points in that are answering our questions. This study also used to explore many unknown facts which made us so sad. We also referred some of the previous research papers, articles, journals, websites etc to get some information which would helps us to make our research so strong.

Many street vendors have genuinely answered all the questions and shared their experiences. It took more than a week to collect all the data from everywhere and it took total 10 days to complete our research. We got a good result out of our research.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research on Covid-19 Pandemic impact on street vendors we can conclude that, it is evidently seen that each and every street vendor has affected their incomes and livelihoods. We also identified their economical/financial crises they faced during pandemic and how the government helped them to get out of it. This study also shows how vendors helps in urban economies and how they are treated by that urban people. Government policies and support measures have played a major role, but there will be need of continuous support to get back to their pre pandemic position. Overall, this research focuses on understanding and addressing the challenges faced by street vendors during pandemic.

It also helps us to understand their needs and develop effective support system. It helps to identify best practices & strategies for street vendors to adopt.

FINDINGS

- ❖ Pandemic has led a gradual decrease in income and livelihood of street vendors.
- ❖ Lockdowns & rules have stopped their ability to operate and sell their products.
- ❖ They faced many challenges that they got hard have a single meal per day.
- ❖ All the people have locked in the houses due to pandemic which in results no customers and no sales.
- ❖ Government has taken some steps, but they would have taken much better steps to support these people.

These findings underscore the importance of providing targeted assistance and support to vendors to recover from Pandemic and to sustain their business as before.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Firstly, we would like to extend our gratitude to our respected faculty Dr. Swapnali Bhosale and Prof. Radhika Bajaj for their able guidance and support in completing our research paper.
- Next, we would like to thank our management/institution for giving this wonderful opportunity and for ethical and economical support throughout the research.
- Our special thanks to street vendors who helped us with their valuable answers and their experiences. And we also thank some of the govt. officials who helped us by providing their official records.
- We would also thank some of the researchers who already made this research before and in which we used them as our reference.
- Lastly, we would like to thank our families, friends for their unconditional support, patience, understanding during the research journey.

References

- ❖ <https://covid19.who.int/>
- ❖ <https://covid19.nhp.gov.in>.
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india>
- ❖ <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore>
- ❖ <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>