

## **Socio-Economic Conditions of Street Food Vendors of Dindigul Area**

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**Abstract:** *Street Vending As A Profession Has Been In Existence In India Since Time Immemorial. Some Studies Estimate That Street Vendors (Approximately 3%) Of The Population Of Metropolis. The Total Number Of Street Vendors In The Country Is Estimated To Be Around 1 Crore. Urban Vending Is Not Only A Source Of Employment But Provide Affordable Services To The Majority Of Urban Population. The Role Played By The Hawkers In The Economy As Also In The Society Need To Be Given Due Credit But They Are Considered As Unlawful Entities And Are Subjected To Continuous Harassment By Police And Civic Authorities. This Is Reported To Be Continuing Even After The Ruling Of The Supreme Court That "If Property Regulated According To The Exigency Of The Circumstances, The Small Traders On The Sidewalks Considerable Add To The Comfort And Convenience Of The General Public, By Making Available Ordinary Articles Of Everyday Use For A Comparatively Lesser Price. An Ordinary Person Not Very Affluent, While Hurrying Towards His Home After A Day's Work Can Pick Up Those Articles Without Going Out Of His Way To Find A Regular Market. The Right To Carry On Trade Or Business Mentioned In Article 19(1) Of The Constitution 1 On Street Pavements, If Properly Regulated Cannot Be Denied On The Ground That The Street Is Meant Exclusively For Passing Or Re-Passing And No Other Use". Street Vendors Provide Valuable Service To The Urban Population While Trying To Earn A Livelihood And It Is The Duty Of The State To Protect The Right Of This Segment Of Population To Earn Their Livelihood This Policy Aims To Ensure That This Important Section Of The Urban Population Finds Recognition For Its Contribution To Society, And Is Conceived Of As A Major Initiative For Urban Poverty Alleviation.*

**Key Words:** *Street Food Vendors, Level Of Perception, Purchase Habit Of The Customer.*

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### **I. Introduction**

Street Vendors Are The Most Visible Section Of The Informal Economy. Street Vending As A Profession Has Been In Existence In India Since Times Immemorial. In Area Of Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, The Large Numbers Of Urban Poor Survive By Working In The Informal Sector. Poverty And Lack Of Gainful Employment In The Rural Areas And In The Smaller Towns Drive Large Numbers Of People To The Capital City For Work And Livelihood. These People Generally Possess Low Skills And Lack The Level Of Education Required For The Better Paid Jobs In The Organised Sector. Besides, Permanent Protected Jobs In The Organised Sector Are Very Low In Area. Hence Even Those Having The Requisite Skills Are Unable To Find Proper Employment. For These People, Hawking/Street Vending Is One Of The Means Of Earning A Livelihood As It Requires Minor Financial Input And The Skills Involved Are Low And Also No Entry Level Barriers In This Job. These Poorer Sections Are Able To Procure Their Basic Necessities Mainly Through Street Vendors, As The Goods Sold Are Cheap. And Also 2/3 Of The Total Population Depends Upon These Street Vendors For Their Daily Needs. In This Way One Section Of The Urban Poor, Namely, Street Vendors Are Taken As A Problem In The Development Of City. Street Vendors Have Been Defined In The National Policy Of Urban Street Vendors, 2004 By The Government Of India. "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 In Inclusive Of Both Traders And Service Providers, Stationary And Mobile Vendors And Incorporates All Other Local/Region Specific Terms Used To Describe Them, Such As, Hawker, Pheriwala, Rehri-Patri Wala, Footpath Dukandars, Sidewalk Traders Etc." (Mrs. Pappeswari Et Al., 2014).

### **Statement Of The Problem**

Street Vendors Constitute An Important Segment Of The Urban Population. Street Vendors Are Those Who Are Unable To Get Regular Jobs In The Remunerative Formal Sector On Account Of The Low Level Of Education And Skills. Street Vending Provides A Source Of Self-Employment, And Thus Acts As A Measure

Of Urban Poverty Alleviation Without Government Intervention. It Is Also Acts As Investment To Provide Affordable And Convenient Services To A Majority Of Urban Population. Street Vendors Are Likely To Have Upward Trend. It Is Vital That These Vendors Are Enabled To Pursue Their Livelihoods In A Congenial And Harassment Free Atmosphere. Considering The Significant Contribution Mode By Street Vendors To The Urban Society. Street Vending Business To Avoid Congestion In Sidewalks And To Ensure Free Flow Of Traffic In Roads By A Legislative Framework To Enable Street Vendors To Pursue A Honest Living Without Harassment.

### **Review Of Literature**

The Present Study Is Based In The Following Review:

Keith Hart (1970), Their Article Entitled "Informal Income Opportunities And Urban Employment In Ghana" Stated That, The Problem In Developing Economies Was Not So Much One Of Unemployment Or Of Under Employment But Rather Of Low Productivity Of The Work Carried Out By Large Number Of People. The Understanding Of The Dimensions Employment Has Been Enhanced Through The Large Number Of Studies Undertaken In Specific Branches Of Economic Activity."

Satapparaj A. S(1996) In His Article Entitled "The Socio-Economic Profile Of The Street Vendors, The Entrepreneurial Background, Status Of Trade, Its Competitiveness And Problems" Have Also Been Studied. The Pattern Of Job Search Of Migrants In Urban Labour Market, And The Influence Of Demographic, Social And Economic Characteristics Of The Migrants On Their Job Statement And Earnings Is Demonstrated In Some Of The Research Work.

Nair S. T. (1998) In His Article Entitled "Meeting The Credit Needs Of The Micro" Stated That, Host Of Other Factors Other Than Credit Like Marketing, Technology, Training, Physical Health And General Well-Being Of The Poor Have Been Affecting The Viability Of Enterprises At The Micro Level Other Than The Credit.

The Relationship Between Knowledge, Attitudes And Behaviour Is Often Explained Through The Kap Model (Simelane, 2005). Knowledge Accumulates Through Learning Processes And These May Be Formal Or Informal Instruction, Personal Experience And Experiential Sharing (Glanz & Lewis, 2002). It Has Been Traditionally Assumed That Knowledge Is Automatically Translated Into Behaviour (Glanz & Lewis, 2002). However, Behaviour Change Theorists And Experiences In The Hiv Field Have Indicated That Knowledge Alone Does Not Translate Into Appropriate Behaviour Modification (Unaids 2004, Shisana & Simbayi, 2002; Ghaz & Lewis, 2002).

Knowledge However, Is Not Insignificant And It Is Found To Be Vital In The Cognitive Processing Of Information In The Attitude-Behaviour Relationship (Simelane, 2005).

### **Scope Of The Study**

The Study Has Been Undertaken Mainly To Highlight The Perspective About Street Vending In Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. This Study Includes The Street Food Vendors And Their Level Of Perception Only Individual Street Food Vendors And Their Level Of Perception Have Been Taken And Others Are Excluded From The Study.

This Study Is Conducted In Order To Create Awareness Of Street Vendors At The Time Of Selecting The Street Vending Business.

The Purchase Habit Of The Customer Of Dindigul About The Street Food Vending Has Been Tested With The Help Of Number Of Street Food Vendors.

### **Objectives Of The Study**

A. To Understand The Working Life Of The Street Vendors In Terms Of Level Of Income, Accessibility Of Finance And Working Hours.

B. To Explore The Issue Concerning Their Working Conditions And Rights At Work.

C. To Understand The Role Of Collective Bargaining In Formulating And Realising Their Demands For Basic Rights At The Work Place.

D. To Understand The Relationship Between Government And Street Food Vendors.

E. To Find Out How Traders Make Their Choices On Trading Location.

### **Research Methodology**

This Section Describes The Research Methodology Which Includes Collection Of Data, Construction Of Questionnaire, F-Test, Garrett Ranking, Karl Pearson's Co-Efficient Of Correlation Rank, Field Work And Frame Work Of Analysis.

### **Collection Of Data**

The Study Is Based On Both The Primary And Secondary Data. The Primary Data Were Collected From Respondents Directly With The Help Of Interview Schedule. Secondary Data Were Collected From Journals And Websites.

### **Construction Of Interview Schedule**

The Interview Schedule Was Constructed By The Researcher Himself. The Variables To Be Included Was Identified By The Researcher. The Identified Variables Are Converted Into Appropriate Questions And They Are Included In The Interview Schedule.

It Is Then Circulated To Few Academicians And Research Scholars. In The Light Of Recommendation From Them The Interview Schedule Was Modified.

### **Sampling Design**

The Sample Was Selected From Dindigul Which Was Considered To Be Urban, Semi-Urban And Rural Area. It Became District Headquarters Recently. The Sample Size Is 125. They Were Selected At Random By Applying Convenience Sampling.

### **Field Work And Data Collection**

The Researchers Carried Out His Field Work For The Study During The Period From June 2017 To October 2017. The Required Information Is Collected Through Interview Schedule.

### **Tools For Analysis**

Data Were Analysed With The Help Of Table And Percentage. Karl Pearson's Co-Efficient Of Correlation Were Used To The Factors That Influenced To Go For That Particular Street Food Vendor Regarding The Attitude Of Respondents From Their Most Importance To Least Importance. F-Test Was Used To Analyse The Relationship Between The Level Of Perception Of The Respondents, And Socio-Economic Profile Of The Respondents Like Age, Gender, Marital Status, Size Of The Family, Type Of Family, Level Of Education And Nature Of House.

### **Hypotheses**

The Following Hypotheses Were Formulated:

- There Exists No Significant Relationship Between Gender Of The Respondents And Their Level Of Perception.
- There Exists No Significant Relationship Between Age Of The Respondents And Their Level Of Perception.
- There Exists No Significant Relationship Between Marital Status Of The Respondents And Their Level Of Perception.
- There Exists No Significant Relationship Between Nature Of Family Of The Respondents And Their Level Of Perception.
- There Exists No Significant Relationship Between Size Of The Family Of The Respondents And Their Level Of Perception.

### **Limitations Of The Study**

- It Was A Challenge To Find The Former Market Traders As They Were Scattered In Different Places.
- It Was Time Consuming As I Had To Move From One Place To Another.
- Some Of Them Were Suspicious That The Information So Collected Would Be Used Against Them, Hence Delayed Cooperation.

## **II. Data Analysis And Interpretation**

### **Expectation Level Of The Respondents In Street Food Vending-Pearson's Product Moment Correlation**

The Relationship Between The Influential Factor And The Expectation Level Of The Respondents In Street Food Vending Are Analysed With The Use Of Pearson's Product Moment Correlation. The Following Is Derived:

**Table 1:** Expectation Level Of The Respondents In Street Food Vending-Pearson's Product Moment Correlation

Sr. No.	Factors	Financial Factors	Legal Factors	Environmental Factors
1.	Financial Factors	1	-0.42	-0.26
2.	Legal Factors	-0.42	1	-0.97
3.	Environmental Factors	-0.26	-0.97	1

From The Above Table, It Is Clear That All The Influential Factors Namely 'Financial Factors', 'Legal Factors' And 'Environmental Factors' Were Significant With The Expectation Level Of The Respondents.

Thus, The Null Hypothesis Is Rejected And Concluded That The Various Influential Factors Of Expectation Level Of The Respondents In Street Food Vending Is Significantly Related With The Overall Expectation Level Of The Respondents.

**Table 2: Level Of Perception**

Sr. No.	Level Of Perception	Number Respondents	Percentage
1.	High	47	37.6
2.	Medium	33	26.4
3.	Low	45	36
	<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>

It Is Clear From The Above Table That Out Of 125 Respondents, 37.6 % Of The Respondents Came Under The Category Of High Level Of Perception, 26.4% Came Under The Category Of Medium Level Of Perception And 36% Came Under The Category Of Low Level Of Perception.

**Relationship Between Gender And Level Of Perception**

Sr. No.	Gender	High	Medium
1.	Male	43 (84)	22 (76)
2.	Female	8 (16)	7 (24)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>

  

Sources Of Variation	Sum Of Squares	Degrees Of Freedom	Mean Sum Of Squares	Ratio Of 'F'	Table Of Value
Between Level Of Perception	100	2	50	1	19.00
Between Gender	937.5	1	937.5	18.75	18.51
Error	100	2	50	-	-

From The Stated Values, It Is Evident That 'F' Value Is Less Than The Table Value 19.00 At 5% Level Of Significance. Hence, The Null Hypothesis Is Accepted. (There Is Significant Association Between Gender Of Respondents). As The 'F' Value 18.75 Is More Than The Table Value 18.51 At 5% Level Of Significance. Hence, The Null Hypothesis Is Rejected. (There Is No Significant Association Between The Level Of Perception). It Is Also Considered That The Level Of Perception Of Different Gender Of The Respondents Differ Significantly.

**Relationship Between Age And Level Of Perception**

**Table 4: Age And Level Of Perception**

Sr. No.	Age	Level Of Perception			Total
		High	Medium	Low	
1.	> 20 Yrs	7(14)	7 (24)	5 (12)	19
2.	20-40 Yrs	19 (37)	8 (28)	15 (33)	42
3.	40-60 Yrs	17 (33)	9 (31)	15 (33)	41
4.	< 60 Yrs	8 (16)	5 (17)	10 (22)	23
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>125</b>

**Results Of Anova**

Sources Of Variation	Sum Of Squares	Degrees Of Freedom	Mean Sum Of Squares	Ratio Of 'F'	Table Value
Between Level Of Perception	60.67	2	30.34	3.07	5.14
Between Age	124.91	3	41.64	4.21	4.75
Error	59.34	6	9.89	-	-

It Could Be Seen From The Table That The Obtained 'F' Values 3.07 And 4.21 Were Less Than The Table Values 5.14 And 4.75 At 5% Level Of Significance. Hence, The Null Hypothesis Is Accepted. (There Is No Significant Association Between Age And Level Of Perception). As A Result, It Is Concluded That The Level Of Perception Of Different Age Group Of The Respondents Do Not Differ Significantly.

**Relationship Between Marital Status And Level Of Perception**

Table 5: Marital Status And Level Of Perception					
Sr. No.	Marital Status	Level Of Perception			Total
		High	Medium	Low	
1.	Married	36(71)	21 (72)	25 (56)	82
2.	Unmarried	15 (29)	8 (28)	20 (44)	43
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>125</b>

**Results Of Anova**

Sources Of Variation	Of	Sum Of Squares	Degrees Of Freedom	Mean Of Squares	Ratio Of 'F'	Table Value
Between Level Of Perception		64	2	32	1	19.00
Between Marital Status		253.5	1	253.5	7.92	18.51
Error		64	2	32	-	-

It Could Be Seen From The Above Table That The Obtained 'F' Value 1 And 7.92 Is Lower Than The Table Values 19.00 And 18.51 At 5% Level Of Significance. Hence, The Null Hypothesis Is Accepted. (There Is No Significant Association Between Marital Status And Level Of Perception).

It Is Further, Concluded That The Level Of Perception Of Different Marital Status Of The Respondents Do Not Differ Significantly.

**Relationship Between Type Of Family And Level Of Perception**

**Table 5: Marital Status And Level Of Perception**

Sr. No.	Type Of Family	Level Of Perception			Total
		High	Medium	Low	
1.	Nuclear	39(76)	17 (59)	25 (56)	81
2.	Joint Family	12 (24)	12 (41)	20 (44)	44
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>125</b>

**Results Of Anova**

Sources Of Variation	Of	Sum Of Squares	Degrees Of Freedom	Mean Of Squares	Ratio Of 'F'	Table Value
Between Level Of Perception		161.33	2	80.67	1	19.00
Between Type Of Family		228.16	1	228.16	2.83	18.51
Error		161.34	2	80.67	-	-

It Could Be Seen From The Above Table, The Obtained 'F' Values 1 And 2.83 Were Less Than The Table Values 19.00 And 18.51 At 5% Level Of Significance. Hence, The Null Hypothesis Is Accepted. (There Is No Significant Association Between Type Of Family And Level Of Perception)

It Is Further Concluded That The Level Of Perception Of Different Type Of Family Of The Respondents Do Not Differ Significantly.

**Relationship Between Family And Level Of Perception**

**Table 5: Marital Status And Level Of Perception**

Sr. No.	Family Size	Level Of Perception			Total
		High	Medium	Low	
1.	Small	20(39)	15 (52)	12 (27)	47
2.	Middle	17 (33)	10 (34)	23 (51)	50
	Large	14(28)	4 (14)	10(22)	28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>125</b>

**Results Of Anova**

Sources Of Variation	Of	Sum Of Squares	Degrees Of Freedom	Mean Of Squares	Ratio Of 'F'	Table Value
Between Level Of Perception		11.5	2	5.78	3.54	19.24
Between Family Size		94.88	2	47.44	2.32	6.94
Error		81.79	4	20.45	-	-

It Could Be Seen From The Above Table That The Obtained 'F' Values 3.52 And 2.32 Are Less Than The Table Values 19.24 And 6.94 At 5% Level Of Significance. Hence, The Null Hypothesis Is Accepted. (There Is No Significant Association Between Family And Level Of Perception).

It Is Further Concluded That The Level Of Perception Of Different Family Size Of The Respondents Do Not Differ Significantly.

### **III. Conclusion**

Street Food Vending Is A Prevailing And Distinctive Part Of A Large Informal Sector In Dindigul Area. It Also Serves As A Guide To Government Health Worker And Food Dealers To Be More Careful With The Risks Associated With Street Food. Since Street Food Is Consumed By Most People And All Types Of People And Socio-Economic Groups, Including Children And Women, It Can Catalyse Broad Spectrum Nutritional Interventions. In This Regard, Continue Nutrition Education And Social Communication Is Essential For Consumers To Be At The Front Of The Fight For The Promotion Of Healthy Food. Using Factor Analysis As A Tool, Critical Areas Are Related To Business Operation, Business Knowledge, Extortion And Product Production. Formal Education, However, Does Not Have Any Significant Impact On Business Performance. Its Palatability, Affordability And Easy Accessibility Make It Highly Popular Across All The Income And Age Groups In Society And Ensure It Significant Place In The Society.

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