

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES OF STREET VENDORS IN KANYAKUMARI DISTRICT

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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 2% of the population of a metropolis. The total number of street vendors in the country is estimated at 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 vendors 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. The main objective of the study is socio-economic problems and challenges of street vendors in Kanyakumari district. The study mainly based on both primary and secondary data. The total sample size was fixed at 200. The main findings of the study is problem faced by the street vendors in Kanyakumari district, Lack of Start-up Capital with the total score of 485 contributed 1st rank, Stiff Competition with the total score of 458 contributed 2nd rank and Social Security with the total score of 210 contributed 14th rank.

Key Words: Street Vendors, Socio-Economic, Problems and Challenges

1. INTRODUCTION:

Street vending is seen as a pervasive human activity. It is a crucial part of the informal sector of any country whether developed, developing and underdeveloped. It is the means of livelihood for millions across the world. In countries like India where the unemployment rate is so high, street vending assumes greater significance. National Urban Livelihoods Mission stated in its scheme objective that street vendors constitute a vital segment of the urban population at the bottom of the pyramid. Street vending provides a source of self-employment, and thus acts as a measure of rural and urban poverty alleviation without major Government intervention. Many see streets vending as a boon; while others observe it as a curse. They face many problems and are often overlooked as an annoyance to urban life. The current study has given the emphasis on the socio-economic problems and challenges faced by street vendors in Kanyakumari District.

2. MEANING OF STREET VENDORS:

Street Vendors may refer to vendors with fixed stalls, such as Kiosks, Vendors who operate from semi fixed stalls like folding tables, crates, collapsible stands, wheeled push carts that are removed from the streets and stored overnight, vendors who sell from fixed locations without a tall structure, displaying merchandise on cloth or plastic sheets, or mobile vendors who walk or paddle their bicycles through the streets as they sell.

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

In Kanyakumari district, it is observed that many of the urban and rural consumers go to street vendors for their daily requirements and at the same time another major portion of the informal sector are engaged in running street vending business for meeting their requirements. The prior studies say that lack of education, lack of a secured job, lack of financial stability, etc. are the driving forces behind this. Here comes the question of whether the aforesaid reasons are suited at the Kanyakumari district context because the district is ranked number one in education of Tamil Nadu. Furthermore, numerous problems are being reported in which the interest of street vendors is seriously affected. The present study is undertaken to address all these problems.

4. OBJECTIVES:

The important objectives of the study are.,

1. To analyze Socio-Economic conditions of street vendors in the study area.
2. To study the factors influencing street vendors in Kanyakumari district.
3. To find out problems faced by the street vendors in Kanyakumari district.

5. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The present study is descriptive by nature. The study has used both primary and secondary data. Primary data were collected from street vendors of Kanyakumari district. Secondary data were collected from published and unpublished sources, articles related to street vending, books, internet etc. Required data were collected using an interview schedule. The total sample size is fixed at 200. The convenience sampling techniques is used to collect the primary data.

6. DATA ANALYSIS:

6.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS:

The socio-economic factor is one of the significant factors to determine the standard of living of the street vendors in Kanyakumari district. The socio-economic factors include Age, Sex, Marital Status, Caste, Religion, Education, Type of house, Nature house and Nature of Family.

Table.1**Socio-Economic Profile of Street Vendors**

	No. of Vendors	%		No. of Vendors	%
Age wise Classification			Sex wise Classification		
Below – 25	15	7.5	Male	140	70.0
25 – 35	40	20.0	Female	60	30.0
35 – 45	65	32.5	Nature of Family		
Above -45	80	40.0	Joint Family	151	75.5
Education			Nuclear Family	49	24.5
Illiterate	25	12.5	Religion wise Classification		
Primary	22	11.0	Hindu	179	89.5
Middle	122	61.0	Christian	12	6.0
High School	31	15.5	Muslim	9	4.5
Caste wise Classification			Marital Status		
BC	150	75.0	Unmarried	25	12.5
MBC	15	7.5	Married	164	82.0
SC/ST	35	17.5	Separated	11	5.5
Type of House			Nature of House		
Thatched	66	33.0	Owned	150	75.0
Tiled	115	57.5	Rented	50	25.0
Terraced	19	9.5			

Source: Primary data

The table.1 reveals that 40 percent respondents are in the age group of Above-45 age group, 70 per cent of the respondents are male, 75.5 per cent of the respondents are living in joint

family system, 61 per cent of the respondents have Middle level education, 89.5 per cent of the respondents was Hindu 75.0 per cent of the respondents belonged to BC, 82 per cent of them are married, 57.5 per cent of the respondents are living in tiled houses and 75 per cent of the respondent are residing in their own houses.

6.2 FACTORS INFLUENCING TO START THE STREET VENDING

The factors which motivating to start the street vending business in Kanyakumari they are, Favorable Weather, Infrastructure, Location, Size of Family, Low Income, Poor Finance, Capital, Running Cost, Profit, Poverty, Education, Un-skilled Worker, Unemployment, No Job, Heredity, support from NGOs, SHGs, Govt., Officers, Competition, Friends, Family and Consumers, which are grouped into five factors such as Natural, Economic, Social, Authorities and Other factors.

Table.2 Factor influencing the Street Vendors

Problems	Factors	Component					h ₂
		F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₄	F ₅	
Natural	Favorable Weather Condition	.843	.163	.146	.035	.111	0.625
	Good Infrastructure	.795	.189	-.065	.042	-.065	0.612
	Good Location	-.780	-.089	.127	.311	-.261	0.713
Economic	Large Size of Family	-.145	-.761	-.061	-.093	.323	0.694
	Low/Little Income	-.060	.741	.027	.134	.263	0.699
	Poor Financial Background	.255	-.680	.145	.157	.072	0.680
	Less Capital Investment	.014	.643	-.043	.228	.130	0.697
	Running Cost is Low	-.355	-.540	.641	.180	.273	0.564
	More Profit	.128	.483	.172	.305	-.085	0.638
Social	Poverty	-.102	-.122	.634	-.265	.047	0.685
	Poor Education Status	.247	-.184	.670	-.230	-.181	0.674
	Un-skilled Worker	-.265	.362	-.655	.161	.230	0.697
	Unemployment	-.330	.182	.634	-.272	-.145	0.762
	No Permanent Job	.128	.173	-.620	-.148	.123	0.595
	Heredity	-.228	-.168	-.098	-.061	.228	0.631
Authorities	Support from NGOs	.040	.087	-.125	.581	-.059	0.342
	Support from SHGs	-.268	.097	.081	.574	-.181	0.325
	Support from Govt	.074	-.124	.042	.555	.162	0.335
	Govt. Officers	-.124	-.169	.362	-.521	.047	0.510
Others	Low Level Competition	.342	.135	.091	-.112	.602	0.625

	Friends Support	.591	.226	-.542	.456	.593	0.583
	Family Support	-.327	-.180	-.521	.568	.575	0.342
	Honest Customer	-.301	.426	.053	-.256	-.560	0.350
	Eigen Value	4.71	4.26	3.42	2.65	1.91	
	Variance	13.21	12.12	8.28	7.61	6.47	
	Cumulative Variance	13.21	25.33	33.61	41.22	47.69	

Source: Computed data

There are factors loading the 5 variables influencing street vendors in Kanyakumari district. The factor analysis reduced the 23 variables into five factors namely F_1 , F_2 , F_3 , F_4 and F_5 . The variables fall under each category of factor in a way closely related to one another. The different factors so categorized are F_1 – Natural, F_2 - Economic, F_3 – Social, F_4 – Authorities and F_5 –Other Factors.

The F_1 factor, ‘Natural’ is the first factor which explains a higher variation of 13.21 per cent in the total variable set. The second factor ‘Economic’ factor has the next higher factor loading in the rotated component matrix. The Economic Factor explains a variation of 12.12 per cent in the total variable set. The third factor ‘Social Factor’ factor also has the next higher factor loading in the rotated component matrix. The Social factor explains variation of 8.28 per cent in the total variable set. Authorities factor has the next higher factor loading in the rotated component matrix The Authorities factor explain a variation of 7.61 per cent in the total variable set. The fifth factor ‘Other Factors’ has a higher factor loading in the rotated component matrix. This explains a higher variation of 6.47 per cent in the total variable set. The higher eigen value shows the higher intensity of the variable explained in the factor. Analysis of eigen values of different factors reveal the intensity of each factor comprising 23 variables and their influence of street business growth among street vendors in Kanyakumari district.

The factor analysis employed in the study shows the interrelationship among the variables and their influence of the street vendors in Kanyakumari district. Since different variables identified have a different level of influence the street vendors.

6.3 PROBLEMS FACED BY STREET VENDORS:

The below table.3 reveals that problem faced by the street vendors in Kanyakumari district, Lack of Start-up Capital with the total score of 485 contributed 1st rank, Stiff Competition with the total score of 458 contributed 2nd rank, Lack of Storage with the total score

of 443 contributed 3rd rank, Inadequate Skill with the total score of 420 contributed 4th rank, No Job Security with the total score of 413 contributed 5th rank, Low Level Sales with the total score of 404 contributed 6th rank, Consumers Reactions with the total score of 401 contributed 7th rank, Unwanted Persons with the total score of 394 contributed 8th rank, Local Authorities with the total score of 386 contributed 9th rank, Policemen with the total score of 365 contributed 10th rank, Price Variations with the total score of 358 contributed 11th rank, Lack of Demand with the total score of 325 contributed 12th rank, Perishable Goods with the total score of 321 contributed 13th rank and Social Security with the total score of 210 contributed 14th rank.

Table.3**Problems faced by the Street Vendors**

Problems	High level (3)	Medium level(2)	Low Level (1)	Total Score	Ranks
Lack of Start-up Capital	103 (309)	79 (158)	18 (18)	485	I
Stiff Competition	98 (294)	62(124)	40 (40)	458	II
Lack of Storage	71 (213)	101 (202)	28 (28)	443	III
Inadequate Skill	82 (246)	56 (112)	62 (62)	420	IV
No Job Security	54 (162)	105(210)	41(41)	413	V
Low Level Sales	53 (159)	98 (196)	49(49)	404	VI
Consumers Reactions	57 (171)	87 (174)	56 (56)	401	VII
Unwanted Persons	74 (222)	56 (112)	60 (60)	394	VIII
Local Authorities	59 (177)	68 (136)	73 (73)	386	IX
Policemen	36 (108)	93 (186)	71 (71)	365	X
Price Variations	49 (147)	70 (140)	71 (71)	358	XI
Lack of Demand	24 (72)	77 (154)	99 (99)	325	XII
Perishable Goods	2 (6)	117 (234)	81 (81)	321	XIII
Social Security	40 (120)	100 (200)	70 (70)	210	XIV

Source: Primary data

6.4 FINDINGS:

The important findings of the study are,

- ❖ The study reveals that 32.5 per cent respondents are in the age group of 35-45 and 40

percent respondents are in the age group of Above-45 age group.

- ❖ The study highlights that 70 per cent of the respondents are male.
- ❖ The study reveals that 75.5 per cent of the respondents are living in joint family system.
- ❖ The study shows that that 61 per cent of the respondents have Middle level education.
- ❖ The study expresses that 89.5 per cent of the respondents was Hindu
- ❖ The study shows that 75.0 per cent of the respondents belonged to BC.
- ❖ The study expresses that 82 per cent of them are married.
- ❖ The study explains that 57.5 per cent of the respondents are living in tiled houses
- ❖ The study focuses that 75 per cent of the respondent are residing in their own houses.
- ❖ The study result shows that there are factors loading the 5 variables influencing street vendors in Kanyakumari district. The factor analysis reduced the 23 variables into five factors namely F₁, F₂, F₃, F₄ and F₅. The variables fall under each category of factor in a way closely related to one another. The different factors so categorized are F₁ – Natural, F₂ - Economic, F₃ – Social, F₄ – Authorities and F₅ –Other Factors.
- ❖ The factor analysis employed in the study shows the interrelationship among the variables and their influence of the street vendors in Kanyakumari district. Since different variables identified have a different level of influence the street vendors.
- ❖ The study reveals that problem faced by the street vendors in Kanyakumari district, Lack of Start-up Capital with the total score of 485 contributed 1st rank, Stiff Competition with the total score of 458 contributed 2nd rank and Social Security with the total score of 210 contributed 14th rank.

6.5 CONCLUSION:

Street vendors form a very important part of informal sector. Street vendors offer goods and services for sale without having a permanent built up arrangement to satisfy the demands of urban and rural people. Most of the street vendors in Kanyakumari district are live in below poverty level. The study concludes that Natural factors, Social factors and Economic factors have highly influenced the street vendors in Kanyakumari district. Lack of Start-up Capital, Stiff Competition from other street vendor, Lack of Storage, Inadequate Skill, are the major problems faced by the street vendor in Kanyakumari district. Finally, the socio-economic condition of Street vendors in Kanyakumari district is not satisfied.

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