

A Study On Quality Of Work Life Of Street Vendors Of Khanna

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Abstract

A street vendor sells/offers varied products and services to the public through push cart, cycles or through a temporary space. This has been referred by the Government of India as Urban vendors representing the basic urban poor who form a vital part of Indian economy. From selling fruits and vegetables to hosiery goods, a large part of Indian household relies on their services for meeting their needs. Khanna being the bustling agriculture market of the nation is also a hub for these small entrepreneurs. This occupation is a critical factor to the already poor employment statistics. Through this effort, the researchers aim to understand the problems face by these vendors and the quality of work life. Their significant contribution is seldomly highlighted by research studies and rarely their plight is exposed.

Keywords: Street vendors, economics, urban poor, social development, Quality of worklife.

Introduction

The street vendor is the smallest player in the market economy. This profession is the refuge of almost all those who migrate to cities from villages. While the state is spending on poverty alleviation, its minions are preying on the informal sector. Three views: Prof GangadharJha, National Institute of Urban Affairs: The vital role of the street vendors and the existing aberrations giving rise to corrupt practices calls for a re-look at the existing planning practice and process. Street vendors can be roughly divided into three types: those who constantly move around either by bike or on foot, those have a stable stand on a street and lastly, those who own a shop and expand their products on the pavement. For a tourist who comes to India the first time, these street vendors are the people who sell the culture and traditions of India in form colourfuldupattas, miniature elephants, street food etc. For an ordinary citizen of India it is these street vendors that provide a platform for an easily accessible market for an inexpensive shopping experience. Thus they are a very important part of the country's economy and the tourism industry. Approximately 170,000 vendors support themselves and dependents through street vending. In 2011-2012, they comprised 14 per cent of total urban employment and 32 per cent of women's urban employment. They serve as an informal yet extremely important agent in the local economy. According to WEIGO, street vendors form 2 percent of the total metropolitan economy. Although, Indian Government passed a significant legislation in form of Street Vendors Act, 2014 yet still they are considered sidelined in the overall image of "Emerging India". Their meager income and big family size inhibit them in achieving the social and security needs they desire. The economic liberation initiatives have them facing tough challenges and decreasing margins. On one side we encourage their proliferation and on other end we sideline their existence from the city development. Inclusive growth is possible only by dedicated efforts of all stakeholders of the society. Street vendors are increasingly regarded as a public nuisance by middle- and upper-middle-class people who aggressively demand restoration of pavements as

public space when street vendors 'encroach' on them. It is illegal to trade on the footpaths without a licence. But the National Association of Street Vendors in India says very few licences are ever issued. Government officials and urban vehicle owners also consider street vendors to be a hindrance, claiming that they clutter the urban space and prevent the smooth flow of traffic. Vendors are accused of depriving pedestrians of their space, causing traffic jams and having links with criminal activities.

Largely, these researches focus on the street vendors and their demographics and therefore aim to identify the issues pertaining to their development. As the vision of great leaders is considered, economic development should not be at the cost of these leading to threat to the major fabric of social economy of the urban poor. If they exist only then the urban poor feel that they do have chance of having basic products suiting their requirements. Planned rehabilitated is a welcome step but the bustling marketplace of new migrants looking for sustenance cannot be fulfilled fully.

Objectives Of The Study

The specific objectives of the study are:

1. To study about the quality of work life of street vendors.
2. To understand the problems faced by street vendors.

Research Methodology

Study Area

The research paper is mainly based on primary data. Survey method is used for data collection and data is collected from Khanna. In order to achieve the targets of this research, a questionnaire has been prepared.

Sampling Technique

In carrying out this study, random sampling technique was used for data collection out. Data was collected from adjoining villages of Khanna. The total sample size was 30 respondents.

Data Collection & Analysis

The data for this study was derived from primary source: structured questionnaire. Data was analyzed using simple percentage method.

Results:

Table 1 Education level

Level	Numbers	Percentage
Illiterate	10	33.33%
0-8	8	26.66%
8-12	8	26.66%
Graduation and above	4	13.33%
Total	30	100%

From the above data it is inference that maximum of the street vendors analyzed under the study were illiterate. Only 13.33% of the total population had a graduation degree.

Table 2 Daily income (in Rs.)

Income(in Rs.)	Numbers	percentage
0-500	26	86.66%
500-1000	3	10%
1000 and above	1	0.33%
Total	30	100%

The study found that the average earnings of the street vendors was under Rs. 500 per day.

Table 3 Product

Category	Numbers	Percentage
Fruits	8	26.66%
Vegetables	14	46.66%
Toys	4	13.33%
Fast-Food	4	13.33%
Total	30	100%

The study comprised of 30 street vendors of which majority were vegetable sellers. 26.66% were fruit sellers followed by toy and fast-food sellers.

Table 4 Daily working hours

Time	Numbers	Percentage
0-8	12	40%
8-16	14	46.66%
More than 16 hours	4	13.33%
Total	30	100%

These small scale entrepreneurs contribute to their profession 8-16 hours. Hence a large amount of time is spent by these in earning meagre wages.

Table 5 Problem faced by street vendor:-

Problems	Numbers	Percentage
Lack of space	4	13.33%
Lack of support by MC/Govt.	0	-
Lack of capital	20	66.66%
Unfavorable working conditions	6	20%
Total	30	100%

Lack of capital/credit presents a challenge to the street vendors and almost none of the street vendors raised the problem of institutional support. Hence, capital and working conditions form a major part of street vendor concern.

Table 6 Status of vending place

Area	Numbers	Percentage
Free access	14	46.66%
Access by paying fee	00	-
No fix place	16	53.33%
Total	30	100%

The majority of the street vendors under consideration had either no fixed place of conducting business or had free access to the place of business.

Table 7 Source of credit

Area	Numbers	Percentage
Friends and Family	10	33.33%
Wholesalers	15	50%
Banks	2	6.67%
Moneylenders	3	10%
Total	30	100%

50% of the total respondents relied upon wholesalers for credit followed by 33.33% reliance on friends and family. Only 6.67% rely on banks for their credit needs.

Findings

- a) The study stipulates an emerging problem of lack of credit sources to the street vendors. The majority of reliance lies upon the wholesalers or friends/family. The institutional credit sources are hardly availed by the vendors.
- b) The vendors had no fixed place of business or own space and they rely majorly on encroachments for earning.
- c) The majorities of street vendors still have lower level of income and spend more than 8 hours per day to gain access to a small earnings.

Conclusion & Suggestions

The growing rates 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 evolving

scenario and efforts of government have left out this important entrepreneur from the margins of global development. The institutional sources focus on important businesses and their development but choose to ignore the credit needs of these. Further, lack of capital has made these vendors “Space-less” i.e. very few of these entrepreneurs are ready to invest in a fixed place of business. All these are causing street vendors to be still at the receiving end of all burdens.

In light of above, the researchers feel that the government institutions: credit givers and law enforcers should try to frame better operational structure and credit framework. The vendors will highly benefit from the sustained efforts.

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