



SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF STREET VENDORS

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ABSTRACT

For many households in urban areas, street vendors support their families through their income, which enables households for bringing food, educational needs of their children and daily necessities etc. Vending creates job opportunities to subsidiary professionals such as farmers, transporters, warehouses, artisans which indirectly helps them to strive and improve the overall socio-economic status.

KEYWORDS: Street Vendors, Social Condition, Age Group, Type of vendors, Economic conditions.

INTRODUCTION

Street vending has ancient history and every civilizations it is evident that existence of travelling merchants selling their goods in the town through door to door visits and also traded in neighboring areas. Ancient and medieval civilizations do not have any objection to these merchants or vendors and that is why they flourished.

Many street vendors are forced to migrate to city in search of employment, and obviously street vending being easier option, migrants stick to vending as self-employment. Reasons for migration are varied such as workers lost jobs due to closure of mill or factory, displacement of people due to projects or people who faced natural calamities.

AREA OF THE STUDY-

Pune Municipal Corporation is the area of the study.

The area of Pune Municipal Corporation has been divided into 15 ward offices for administrative purpose and specific areas have been assigned for each ward office. The research study conducted within these 15 ward office limits of Pune Municipal Corporation.

Pune is located in Maharashtra state and according to Census of India of year 2011 total population was 3,115,431, out of which 1,602,137 are males and 1,513,294 females.

Sample Size :

Pune Municipal Corporation conducted survey of street vendors in 2014-15 which shows that there are 26992 street vendors in Pune city. All these street vendors are divided in 15 wards of city. Researcher selected 379 sample size as per the Krejcie and Morgan method from population of 26992 vendors.

Social Status of Street Vendors :

Pune city is a metropolitan city wherein people of all religions and caste reside. Majority of respondents (74.4%) respondents are Hindus followed by 19% respondents of Muslim religion. There are



6.1% respondents of Buddhist respondents and one each respondent from Christian and Jain religions.

Social Category of Respondents :

Category wise distribution of respondents

Sr. No.	Category	No. of Respondents	Percent
1	Scheduled Caste	96	25.4
2	Scheduled Tribe	5	1.3
3	Other Backward Classes	45	11.9
4	Nomadic Tribes	22	5.8
5	General / Open	211	55.7
	Total	379	100

Category wise distribution shows that, significant number of scheduled caste (25.4%) respondents are involved in street vending compared to scheduled tribes (1.3%). Table shows that general or open category respondents are 55.7% of total sample size of 379 respondents. There are 11.9% other backward caste respondents and 5.8% nomadic tribes street vendor respondents.

Education level of respondents :

Lack of education seems to be a major reason for informal employment such as street vending. Almost 89% respondents are educated up to secondary level of school education. Percentage of illiterate respondents is 27.2% respondents, which is significant. Street vendors who have completed secondary level of education constitute 43 % of the total sample followed by primary level educated respondents with 18.7%. Only 1.6% respondents are graduates and 9.5% respondents are educated with higher secondary level of education.

Marital Status of Street Vendors:

The study shows that majority of respondents (86.5%) are married and 7.9% street vendors are unmarried. 5.8% respondents are widows.

Type of family of vendors :

According to this study, 56.7% respondents have joint families which is in contrast to the fact that majority of families in urban areas are nuclear in nature. Nuclear families constitute 42.7% of entire sample size. Few respondents (0.5%) have extended families.

Age Group of street vendors :

The study shows majority of street vendors are in the age group of 26 to 55 years and constitute 65% of the total sample size of respondents. Maximum 34.5% respondents are in the age group of 36 to 45 years followed by 20.8% respondents in the age group of 26 to 35 years. It is evident that 15 respondents have to rely on street vending for their livelihood although they have crossed the age of 65 years. No respondent below the age of 15 was reported through the primary data collected from the sample. 13.9% street vendors are in the age group of 56 to 65 years and 7.6% respondents are young i.e. in the age group of 16 to 25 years.

Status of Housing :

The study shows that majority of respondents (64.4%) have their own houses. 35.4% respondents' houses are on rental basis. Few respondents (0.3%) are staying in houses owned by their relatives.

As far as housing status is concerned, majority of respondents (88.7%) stay in rooms either owned or rented. Few stay in flat (6.1%), kaccha houses (2.1%) and shanty (2.1%). Among the owned houses majority of respondents stay in rooms (86.5%), 8.2% in flats / apartments, 2.9% in kaccha houses and 2.5% in shanty. Among the Rented houses also majority of respondents stay in rooms (93.3%). In case of rented houses 1.5% stay in flats / apartments, 3.7% in kaccha houses and 1.5% in shanty.

Status of Migrants :

Due to various reasons people from various regions migrate to Pune city. According to collected primary data majority of respondents (73.9%) are migrants.

Monthly Income of Family of Street Vendors :

It is observed that monthly family income of 91.7% respondents is below Rs. 15000. The monthly income of majority (60.69%) of respondent's family is between Rs. 5001 and Rs. 10000. Considerable percentage of respondents' (19.53%) monthly family income is less than Rs. 5000. Monthly income of between Rs. 10001 and Rs. 15000 is earned by 11.35% respondents' families. 3.17% respondents' families have income in the range of Rs. 15001 to Rs. 20000. Very few respondents' (1.06%) families income is above Rs. 30000.

Daily Income of Street Vendors:

Majority of respondents (95.3%) earn less than Rs. 500 on daily basis through vending. Here also 46.2% respondents earn less than Rs. 250 through vending. Only 2.6% respondents' daily income is between Rs. 501 and Rs. 1000. Only 4 respondents (1.1%) stated that their daily income is between Rs 1001 to Rs. 1500. and More than Rs. 1500

Sources of Loan for vending:

In this study 8.4% respondents have availed loan from different sources. Out of these, 6.6% respondents have taken loan from banks. While 0.8% respondents have borrowed money with high rate of interest from money lenders because they are not eligible to avail loan from banks. Few self help group member respondents (0.8%) have used facility of borrowing money from their SHG for business purpose. Only one respondent has taken business loan from friend.

Status of Savings per annum:

Majority of respondents (57.8%) do not save money. Among the respondents (42.2%) who save money, 21.4% respondents save less than Rs. 5000 per annum and 12.1% respondents save money in the range of Rs. 5001 to Rs. 10000 in a year. Few respondents (0.5%) save money in the range of Rs. 20001 to Rs. 30000, while only 0.3% respondents are saving Rs. 30001 to Rs. 40000 per annum. Percentage of respondents who are saving money in the range of Rs. 40001 to Rs. 50000 is 0.8% and no respondent is saving above Rs. 50000.

Summary:

Street vendors provide income to their households, which also include food, shelter and educational fees to their children. This study carried out in Pune city with a sample of 379 street vendor's shows socio-economic status of street vendors in Pune. Majority of street vendors are Hindus by religion, 25% of street vendors are scheduled caste category, 27% street vendors are illiterate, majority of them are married, 56.7% street vendors have joint families, 64% street vendors have own rooms to stay, 73.9% street vendors are migrants, majority of them earn less than Rs. 15000.

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