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SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF STREET VENDORS OF ONGOLE TOWN OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Dr. M. Harsha Preetha Dev Kumar

Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work Acharya Nagarjuna University Nagarjuna Nagar Guntur District. A.P.

ABSTRACT

Street vendors are an integral component of informal sector and form a social and vital part of the social and economic life of a country. Street vendors play an important role in the urban dwellers in Ongole town of Andhra Pradesh. This paper attempts to explain about the businesses of street vendors as well as their impacts on our society. A large number of people are directly and indirectly engaged with this occupation. Two objectives constitute the message of this study. Firstly, a number of people are generating income through street vending which helps them and their families. Secondly, street vendors are a source of employment as they occupy a large part of informal sector in Ongole town of Andhra Pradesh. But the street vendors are faced different type of problems, some unfavorable effects are also visible such as lack of management system approaches, which create problems in urban areas by producing street garbage and gathering crowd on the footpath. By the implementation of proper public management system and with help of social work professional, street vendors would become a role model for urban dwellers of Ongole town of Andhra Pradesh.

KEYWORDS:

Livelihood, Socio-economic, Street Vendors, Unorganized.

I. INTRODUCTION:

Over 94 percent of India's working population is part of the unorganized sector. In local terms, organized sector or formal sector in India refers to licensed organizations, that is, those who are registered and pay sales tax, income tax, etc. Street vending is a major livelihood for the urban centers particularly developing and undeveloped countries. Even Although street vending has been seen as an option for the poor; their legal and social status and business prospects differ domestically as well as

regionally (Bhowmik, 2005)[1]. In search of a better employment, people are coming from rural areas in the cities for lack of gainful employment husband and wife with poverty. But they are not in position to get a better income, secured employment in the organized sector and they have to stay for work in the unorganized sector. The activities in the unorganized sector can be categorized into two sections – self-employed and casual (nonpermanent) labor. A major section of people self-employees work as street vendors. Street vending survives not merely because it is an important source of employment but also because of the services it provides for the urban population. Therefore, street vendors are providing cheap goods to the urban poor. Yet, they are popular because they provide the urban population with much needed services that neither the municipalities nor the larger retailing outlets can provide. Although they live in poverty, they are generating employment as well as income. So, street vendors are found to be crucial to Ongole town as a source of income, employment and service to people.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

However, literatures (Surabhi Singh, Rose Mary Viswanath 2012) have stated many problems of street vendors regarding their social protection, credit accessibility, role of govt. authorities in addressing their problems. Debdulal Saha stated the working condition of street vendors in Mumbai. National policy on urban street vendors (2009) have also pointed out the major problems and recommended policies on street vendors' livelihood conditions. A study conducted by Sharit K Bhowmik examined the problems faced by the street vendors and the possible means of overcoming these. Another study conducted by Sharit K Bhowmik and Debdulal Saha (2012) for NASVI pointed out the working and living conditions of street vendors in ten cities in India. The study of Debdulal Saha intends to understand the condition of working life of the street vendors in Mumbai and also highlights the role of member based organisation or unions. Street vendors are a fundamental constituent of urban economies around the world. Street vendors provide consumers with convenient and available retail options and form a vital part of the social and economic life of a city by distributing affordable goods and services. Sharit and Bhowmik (2005) assessed the magnitude of street vending in different countries and the composition of the vendors. Most of South Asian developing cities have a large number of street vendors as an informal trade in the main urban transaction points as well as Ongole town. Ongole town has a number of poor urban dwellers with no formal skill to get job in formal sectors. They often become street vendors in urban areas. Most of them are rural-urban migrants due to the lack of work facilities and public services in rural areas. Being a street vendor is one of the best job opportunities for them as informal activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study was carried out with the following specific objectives:

To understand the socio-economic conditions of street vendors.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present study is restricted to the socio-economic conditions of street vendors of Ongole town of Prakasham District in Andhra Pradesh. To study the socio-economic conditions, variables like, income, Employment, Services and Expenditure selected for the study.

METHODOLOGY:

The Study was designed as descriptive in nature based on the survey method. Both primary and secondary data was used for the study. Data was analyzed through different statistical techniques i.e., frequency distribution and cross tabulation by using SPSS 16 software.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Street vending is a place important role in the economic framework of the poor who mostly belong to middle and lower class of the society. Two objectives message of this study. Firstly; a number of people are producing income by street vending which helps them and their dependent family members to live from hand to mouth. Secondly, street vending is a source of employment. People who are illiterate, unskilled and lacking capital can easily generate income by involving in this job. Their dependent family members are also benefited in this way. Moreover, street vendors are rendering very useful service to the community of our country. The main focus of this study is to find out the impact of street vending on income generation, employment generation and affording service to the people in Ongole town.

Table 1: Educational status of street vendors

Level of Education	Number of street vendors	Percentage
Below matriculation	127	42%
Matriculation	62	21%
Inter (+2)	70	23%
Graduation	15	5%
Illiterates	26	9%
Total	300	100%

About 42% respondents of street vendors completed their secondary education (below 10th class) and 8% had no education where 5% vendors were graduated even. It was found that no one had the degree of post graduate. (Table 1).

Table 2: Family size of street vendors

No. of family members	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	186	62%
6-10	105	37%
10 and above	9	3%
Total	300	100%

In this study the family size of street vendors is found to be an average 5 persons. From the table it is clear that majority (62%) of street hawker have family size (1-5) (Table 2).

Table 3: Ownership status of street vendors

Ownership Status	Frequency	Percentage
Rent	154	51%
Own	146	49%
Total	300	100%

The ownership status of street vendors whether the business is own or rent. Half of the respondents are rented (51%) and the rest are owned (Table 3).

Table 4: monthly average income of street vendors

Income	Frequency	Percentage
Less 2,000	24	8%
2,000-3,000	18	6%
4,000-5,000	39	13%
6,000-10,000	93	31%
11,000-15,000	48	22%
16,000-20,000	78	26%
Total	300	100%

It is clear from the Table 4 that, most of the street vendors' monthly income is from 6,000 to 10,000 (31%) as most of them belong to average monthly income. Majority of the street vendors are found as poor class people with lower standard of living.

Table 5: monthly average Expenditure of street vendors

Expenditure	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 2,000	48	16%
2,100-3,000	51	17%
3,100-5,000	90	30%
5,100-10,000	57	19%
10,100-15,000	33	11%
15,100-20,000	21	7%
Total	300	100%

It is seen from Table 5, maximum vendors expend (3,100-5,000) monthly, about 30% vendors' monthly expenditure is 3,100-5,000. These data indicate living is lower. So, most of the street vendors belong to the poor class in Ongole town to meet their basic necessities of day to day life.

EMPLOYMENT:

Street vending is play important role in the economic development of any country. The contributions of street vendors to the economy in our country are not estimated. Now-a-days number of people are investing on street vending as it is the low cost sector of investment compared to investment in other business. Each street vendor is generally small in size, low skills, basic facilities and small amount of capital. They are very potential for generating income and employment. Incomes from street vending are relatively higher than those from other informal sectors. Street vending requires low capital expenditure. Vendors have the freedom to choose their work hours and they have few constraints on their movements and are self employed. It has been found that vendors work in shifts daily. Thus, the actual employment generation is almost double against vendors included in this study. In this study, the data collected from three selected type vending places 1. Static vending place, semi-Static vending place and mobile vending. This study found various types of vendors in those vendors who were financially independent, dependent and semi dependent.

It is seen that 43% worked mobility. There is no financial support, so they depending on mobile vending. So, most of the street vendors belong to the poor class in Ongole town to meet their basic necessities of day to day life.

Table 6: the types of Vending Place and types of street vendors

	Independent vendor	Semi dependent vendor	Dependent vendor	Total
Static Vending	33 (11%)	15 (5%)	27 (9%)	75 (25%)
Semi-Static Vending	27 (9%)	45 (15%)	24 (8%)	96 (32%)
Mobile vending	51 (17%)	42 (14%)	36 (12%)	129 (43%)
	111 (37%)	102 (34%)	87 (29%)	300

SERVICES:

Street vending is not only the means of income generation or employment generation, but also providing a very useful service to the community by playing the following important roles, 1. Street vending is very helpful for providing door to door services. So, it is very convenient for citizens to purchase their necessities from street vendors. Both high income and low income people purchase goods and services from the street vendors. There are some rural areas, where street vendors are only means of shopping. Because any shopping mall is far away from their area, people of those areas are familiar with street vending, for purchasing their daily goods. A large number of people in Ongole town are low income group. Vendors purchase their ingredients in large quantities and in cheapest market. So, street vending requires less cost as they serve several consumers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The mobile street vendors play vital role in Ongole town. It creates various jobs and absorbs a providing self employment for skilled, semi skilled and unemployed. For the betterment of the street vendors a number of suggestions can be put forward.

1. Recognition street vending.
2. Provide suitable place for street vendors to do vending
3. Provide proper assistance of this sector will improve their economic and social status significantly.
4. For proper management of street vending the cooperation between municipalities and the police is necessary.
5. Municipalities should update national policies for the management of vendors which will be helpful to tackle the social and economic problems associated with vendors.
6. Street vendors suffer from lack of security and lack of access to credit. Government should formulate some comprehensive plan like different training programs to improve the life style of street vendors and introduce credit facilities.

CONCLUSION

Street vending provides an important goods and services in the urban, semi-urban and rural areas. Ongole town has a large number of street vendors as an informal business in the main urban points. Without street vending in urban areas a large number of urban dwellers fall into a critical situation in their lives. Not only the low income group but also the middle income group of urban dwellers depends on street vending to purchase their necessities. In providing services to the urban population, especially the poor, street vendors perform a significant role. But their assistance is unfortunately hardly ever recognized by the governments. Street vendors are a key part of the informal sector not only because of their numbers but because of the crucial roles they play in protecting this

sector.

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