



SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE STREET VENDORS OF ICHALKARANJI AND KOLHAPUR CITY

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INTRODUCTION:

Vending has been a profession since time immemorial, with street vendors an integral part of our urban history and culture. Shopping and marketing, in a traditional Indian sense, has primarily been informal. Social interaction is integral to Indian markets in contrast to the mechanized and sterile concept of shopping favored by modern market and super market structures. Vendors exhibit remarkable entrepreneurial skills. Purchasing of commodities is no easy task with constant market fluctuations. Besides, middlemen have a major say in the wholesale markets. Commodities have to be in sync with both consumer tastes and paying capacity. As most vendors deal in perishables, the goods have to be sold at the right time.

Today, vending is an important source of employment for a large number of urban poor as it requires low skills and small financial inputs. Broadly defined, a street vendor is a person who offers goods or services 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 could be stationary and occupy space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or could be mobile, and move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or could sell their wares in moving buses.

NEED OF THE STUDY:

The Kolhapur city in the southern part of Maharashtra has been industrially progressive and it is known for oil engines, auto components cotton-yarn units, many cooperative sugar factories. Ichalkaranji is known as the **Manchester Maharashtra**. In recent times the spurt of services activities and promotion of the place as an important tourist destination has necessitated the improvement in urban infrastructure effected in the rise of street vending activities. Until now no study has taken on the street vending. In the present paper we attempt to highlight the factors which push the street vendors of Kolhapur and Ichalkaranji city to the vending profession.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The present research study concentrates on the following types of street vendors.

There are major two types of Street Vendors-

- 1 Stationary street vendors 2 Mobile street vendors

The street Vendors are further categorise on the basis of their sale products. These are as follows :

Perishable Goods	Non-Perishable Goods	Services Goods
1.Vegatables	1.Agri.implements	1.Newspaper stall
2.Fruits	2.Electronic goods	2.Intertainment products
3.Plant sale	3.Hardware	3.Mobile shoppe
4.Fast food	4.Plastic goods & Toys	4.Barbering & shoepolish
5.Cold drinks	5.Hosiery & Garments	
6.Tea Snacks	6.Novelties	
7.Crafts & Poteries	7.Cosmetics	
8.Panshop		
9.Masala products		

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

1. Conceptual study of street vending.
2. To find out the causes that push the vendors to this profession.
3. To study the capital investment in vending by street vendors.

HYPOTHESIS:

1. **II Ho:** Unemployment pushes most of the street vendors to this profession.
2. **I Ho:** Inadequate investment makes a person to become a street vendor.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY:

The vendors are listed in three groups. These groups are divided into subgroups information is collected from each sub groups. This process focused on numbers, hawking space and registration status of vendors. For the ward wise estimated data collection at the local level from the municipal sources and information was also generated through focused group discussion and personal interview with street vendors and their committees / organization.

Convenient random sampling method as well as observation method is used. A representative variable is taken from each group of street vendors.

Concept of street vending - “street vendor” means a person engaged in vending of articles, goods, wares, food items or merchandise of everyday use or offering services to the general public, in a street, lane, side walk, footpath, pavement, public park or any other public place or private area or from a temporary built up structure or by moving from place to place and includes hawker, peddler, squatter and all other synonymous terms which may be local or region specific; and the words “street vending” with their grammatical variations and cognate expressions, shall be construed accordingly;

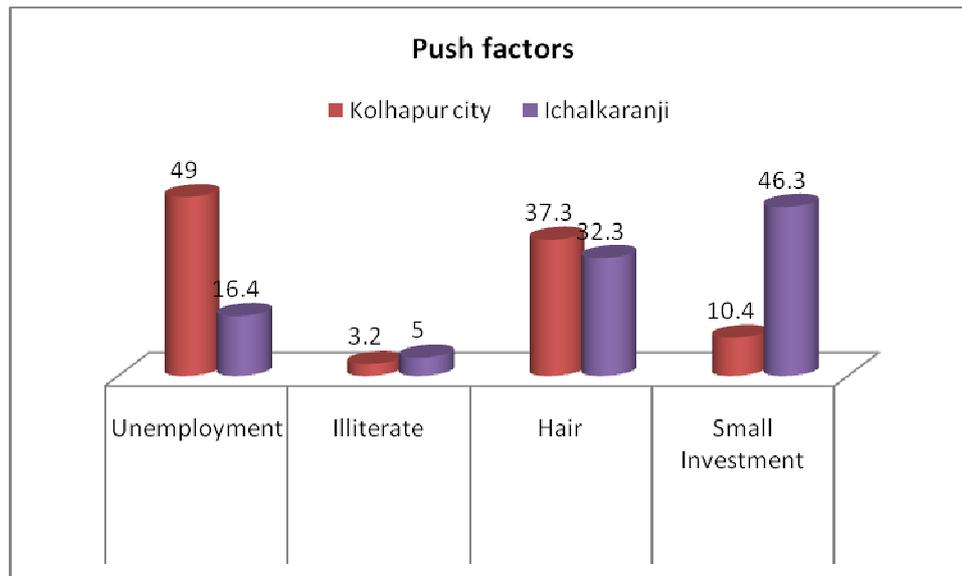
a 'Street Vendor' is defined as 'a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public in a street without having a permanent built-up structure.' There are three basic categories of street vendors: (a) stationary; (b) peripatetic and (c) mobile. Stationary vendors are those who carry out vending on a regular basis at a specific location, e.g. those space on the pavements or other public places and/or private areas either open/covered (with implicit or explicit consent) of the authorities. Peripatetic vendors are those who carry out vending on foot and sell their goods and services and includes those who carry on their head/slung on their shoulders and those who sell their goods on pushcarts. Mobile street vendors are those who move from place to place vending their goods or services on bicycle or mobile units on wheels, whether motorized or not. They also include vendors selling their wares in moving buses, local trains etc.

Push factors in vending:

Street vendors are classified into the unorganized workers. The field survey result states the following causes pushes the street vendors into this job.

City	Kolhapur city		Ichalkaranji	
	Frequenc y	Percent	Frequenc y	Percent
Unemployment	151	49	33	16.4
Illiterate	10	3.2	10	5.0
Hair	115	37.3	65	32.3
Small Investment	32	10.4	93	46.3
Total	308	100.0	201	100.0

Source – field survey



The table gives us information about the reason of taking vending. The street vendors 49% of Kolhapur and 16.4% of Ichalkaranji were taken vending because of unemployment. 37.3% of street vendors of Kolhapur and 32.3% of Ichalkaranji were taking vending by family background (hair). Small investment is reason behind 10.4% street vendors of Kolhapur and 46.3% of Ichalkaranji. Illiterate is also the cause of 3.2% of Kolhapur and 5.0% of Ichalkaranji street vendors.

The analysis of the table show that unemployment is the main cause of street vendors of Kolhapur for taking up vending. Small investment is main reason of taking vending of street vendors of Ichalkaranji. Family background is also the other reason behind the taking up vending.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING:

To elucidate the outcome of the study the researcher has used frequency tables, bar diagram, and for hypothesis Testing Z Test is used.

One Sample Z Test -

This test is to assess the significance of the difference between the hypothesized mean (H_0) and the sample mean () of large sample size

PRE REQUISITES : Large sample size and σ^2 is known..

TEST STATISTIC :

$$z = \frac{\bar{x} - \mu^o}{\sigma / \sqrt{n}}$$

Hypothesis:- Inadequate investment makes a person to become street vendors.

Reason	Kolhapur City	Ichalkararnji	Total	Proportion
Unemployment	151	33	184	0.361
Illiterate	10	10	20	0.039
Hair	115	65	180	0.354
Small Investment	32	93	125	0.246
Total	308	201	509	1.00

Ho: $p=0.5$, the proportion of respondents opted vendor occupation because it requires small investment is significant

H1: $p < 0.5$, the proportion of respondents opted vendor occupation because it requires small investment is insignificant

The suitable test for testing the above hypothesis is Z-test for significance of proportion. The following are the test results:

. prtesti 509 0.246 0.5

One-sample test of proportion		x: Number of obs = 509	
Variable	Mean	Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]
x	.246	.0190895	.2085853 .2834147
p = proportion (x)		z = -11.4610	

Ho: $p = 0.5$

Ha: $p < 0.5$

Ha: $p \neq 0.5$

Ha: $p > 0.5$

Pr (Z < z) = 0.0000

Pr (|Z| > |z|) = 0.0000

Pr (Z > z) = 1.0000

From the above test results, the probability of alternative hypothesis $P < 0.5$ is very small, less than 0.05 (5 percent level of significance). Thus, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it is inferred that the lack of investment is not the major reason to opt for vendor occupation.

Hypothesis- : Unemployment pushed most of the street vendors in this profession.

Ho: $p=0.5$, the proportion of respondents opted vendor occupation because of unemployment is significant

H1: $p < 0.5$, the proportion of respondents opted vendor occupation because of unemployment is insignificant

.prtesti 509 0.361 0.5

One-sample test of proportion		x: Number of obs = 509	
Variable	Mean	Std. Err.	[95% Conf. Interval]
x	.361	.0212885	.3192753 .4027247
p = proportion (x)		z = - 6.2720	
Ho: p = 0.5			
Ha: p < 0.5	Ha: p != 0.5	Ha: p > 0.5	
Pr (Z < z) = 0.0000	Pr (Z > z) = 0.0000	Pr (Z > z) = 1.0000	

From the above test results, the probability of alternative hypothesis $P < 0.5$ is very small, less than 0.05 (5 percent level of significance). Thus, the alternative hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it is inferred that unemployment is not the major reason for becoming a vendor in Kolhapur and Ichalkaranji.

FINDINGS:

1. By hairy most of the vendors are pushed in this profession. Small investment and unemployment is also other reasons.
2. Large numbers of persons engaged in this profession are self employed.
3. Females are found less in numbers than male vendors.
4. All the backward caste people are entered in this job by throwing their old caste jobs.
5. Most of the vendors are between the age of 21-50.
6. Most of the vendor's education level is up to 10th class only. UG and PG completed vendors are small in numbers.
7. The earnings of street vendors are very low it is between 3000-5000 per month.

8. The investment of 1 thousand rupees for raw material per day is found in many street vendors.
9. Earning of the vendors in Kolhapur city is rupees 101 to 300 Rs. while in Ichalkaranji it is 100 rupees only. Very few vendors' income is between the 301 to 500 Rs per day.

CONCLUSION:

After the detailed analysis of the table above findings are derived. We conclude here that if urban spaces and markets were managed strictly under the principles of participatory governance, vendors would be a part of the decision-making process that governs urban spaces. This would, in turn, promote a multifunctional approach to space that would allow each context to throw up the system best suited to its unique complexities.

One view is to urge the government, as regulator, Promoter and facilitator of development, and its agencies to give support in the form of credit, technical aid and secure tenure to street spaces, to further stimulate a culture of enterprise. To minimize dislocations, such incentives should be made available to all people engaged in street vending, otherwise, only a few would emerge successful those who fail, marginalized further. The basis of this argument is the recognition that, street vending often develops without the active encouragement of public authorities and frequently with their disapproval.

Street vending should not be dismissed but co-opted as one form of promoting socio-economic welfare. What is essential is to understand the needs, motivations and risks faced by the street vendors, with an intention to make street vending more functional, to the immediate, short-term, and long-term developmental needs and aspirations of the individual street vendors and possibly the country at large.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Special Cell in every bank for the vendors is needed. It should preferentially clear the problems of loans and savings.
2. There is need of financial assistance of the government for their business activities at free rate of interest. The government should extend the subsidy to the street vendors, especially for vending perishable items.
3. The street vendor's organization should start their own Credit Societies. The Trade Unions also gather the vendors to form their credit societies.
4. Nationalized banks should give priority in giving loans to the street vendors at a nominal interest rate.

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