STREET VENDORS IN THE URBAN INFORMAL SECTOR: A CASE STUDY OF MATHER BAZAR, BROADWAY, ERNAKULAM

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project titled **"Street Vendors in the Urban Informal Sector: A case study of Mather Bazar, Broadway, Ernakulam"** submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Economics to St. Teresa's College (Autonomous) (Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam) is a Bonafide record of the work done by the project group under my supervision and guidance.

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CHAPTER – 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Indian economy is broadly divided into the formal sector and the informal sector based on the regulation, documentation and the legal recognition of economic activities. It is estimated that the formal sector, which consists of large private industries, government offices and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are estimated to contribute about 50 per cent of India's GDP, but only employs 10 to 15 per cent of the workforce. In contrast, the informal sector - mainly comprising the economic activities that are not regulated or protected by the government, such as daily wage labourers, street vending, small shopkeepers, etc., approximately accounts for 40 to 50 per cent of India's GDP and employs more than 80 to 85 per cent of the population. Within this sector, an estimated 14% percent of the population derives their livelihood from street vending. (Street Vendors | SEWA Delhi, n.d.)

Corresponding to a report published by SEWA Delhi, India has an estimated 10 million street vendors.

Street vending represents one of the largest sources of non-agricultural informal employment in the urban sector. In a study conducted by Sharit K Bhowmik, titled "Hawkers and the Urban Informal Sector: A Study Of Street Vending In Seven Cities", he states that street vending functions as a "safety valve" which absorbs workers excluded from the formal sector jobs, thus reducing open urban underemployment. K Bhowmik (n.d) states that, due to its low requirements of capital and formal skills, it remains one of the easiest options for employment. Although the earnings from vending are modest, they often support the entire household. For the consumers, street vendors make the urban market more accessible, particularly for the urban poor.

According to Neymat Chadha (2020) vending also leads to the generation of employment during rural – urban migration, specifically for people with limited skills or education. They sell all kinds of goods ranging from kitchenware, stationery, to fruits and vegetables. Despite being an integral part of the urban economy, the sector's disjointed nature has intensified struggles in the daily lives of street vendors. Their working conditions remain very poor across India, and they face challenges such as difficulty in accessing social welfare measures, various assistance schemes, and other initiatives from the government etc. The vendors are often subjected to harassment and threats of eviction from the public and the authorities.

The Street Vendors Act (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, defines "street vending" as an activity carried out by individuals who sells goods, articles, food

items, or services to the public from a temporary structure or while moving from place to place in a street, sidewalk, pavement, public park, or any other public or private area.
The Act classifies and identifies street vendors into two categories: stationary vendors and mobile vendors. Stationary vendors are vendors who regularly carry out vending at their specific places, whereas mobile vendors carry out vending at their designated locations by moving from one place to another. (Street Vendors - Rights and Duties | Handbook | CPPR, n.d.)

This study is based on The Role of Street Vendors in the urban economy and the effectiveness of the Street Vendors Act,2014. The objective of the study are two-fold; firstly, it analyses the nature of employment, income patterns and working conditions of street vendors in Broadway, Ernakulam, alongside the socio-economic difficulties faced by the street vendors. Secondly, it assesses the effectiveness of various government policies, particularly the Street Vendors Act,based on findings from the surveys conducted.

1.2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The importance of street vendors in the urban economy cannot be overstated, as they play a crucial role in fostering employment opportunities and growth. Existing literature provides valuable insights into the nature of employment, income patterns and working conditions of street vendors. The present review aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the existing literature on the topic "Street Vendors in the Informal Urban Sector" by examining various theoretical perspectives, empirical studies and key findings that assess the effectiveness of Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, in improving the livelihood of street vendors.

A study conducted by *Sinha (2023)* indicates that street vending plays a key role in generating urban employment. Many individuals enter this field of occupation due to factors such as "low level of financial investment, easy access to entry, low education and low skill oriented etc". In India street vending accounts for 14 per cent of the non-agricultural urban employment income as reported by *IEMS*.

Bhowmik (2005) classified informal sector activities into two sections - the self-employed and casual (non-permanent) labour. He observed that a significant proportion of self-employed are street vendors and further observed that their increasing numbers are largely due to the result of limited opportunities in other sectors. In contrast, *Nageswara Rao et al., (2015)* noticed that some of his

respondents quit their white-collar jobs because they perceived street vending as a better income-generating option compared to their poor paid formal employment. Evidence from existing studies suggests that street vending is shaped by both economic compulsions arising from limited employment opportunities and voluntary choice driven by the prospect of higher earnings.

Bhowmik (2005) pointed out that studies conducted by NASVI (2000), BMC (1998) in collaboration with TISS and YUVA and SNDT Women's University with the ILO (2001), though limited to selected cities, reveal common features among street vendors. Their earnings vary between Rs 50 and Rs 80 per day, while women vendors earn between the range of Rs 40 to Rs 60 per day. This qualitative insight aligns with national quantitative data from Raveendran and Vanek (2020) who reported that the average hourly earnings of urban street vendors is 41.39 rupees per hour, which falls below the minimum wage of 46.88 rupees per hour. Building on this, Sinha (2023) conducted an empirical study on the socio-economic conditions and problems of street vendors in India, where he noticed that most street vendors earn between Rs 101-300 per day, i.e., 12.625 - 37.5 rupees per hour. He analysed the daily income of a considerable portion of the respondents and found that those earning above Rs 600 are exclusively male, with no female respondents in the highest income groups. He identified that income levels vary according to the type and quantity of goods sold as well as the amount of time spent on vending activities.

According to Lyngwa and Sahoo (2022) street vendors selling food items enjoyed comparatively better economic outcomes and are permanently established. However, they faced "high risk, high rewarding situations that often-yielded greater profits". In divergence from this, a study conducted by Nageswara Rao et al., (2015) noticed that vendors of non-perishable goods earned comparatively lower profits but benefited from the ability to store their products for longer durations. The findings presented in his study indicate that the vendors who are vending for more hours earn higher income levels than the workers who work for less hours. This indicates a direct relationship between the no: of working hours and income levels of street vendors.

Numerous studies have highlighted the unsatisfactory working conditions of street vendors. A study conducted by Nageswara Rao et al., (2015) found that street vendors lack basic facilities such as designated spaces for rest or short breaks during working hours. Complementing these Sinha (2023), identified the major problems of street vendors which are related to "credit and infrastructure inadequacies, social security, economic instability, working instability, lack of awareness about legal rights, non-availability of basic amenities, weather fluctuations, harassment by municipal and police officials related to occupying major traffic junction and lack of shelters and storage space

etc". Overall, the existing literature indicates that street vendors work under substandard conditions which can disrupt their overall wellbeing.

Yadav et al., (2025) contend that the legal recognition of street vending in India emerged in response to prolonged "institutional hostility, criminalisation, and eviction". For much of post-independence India's urban history, they functioned without formal legal recognition making them vulnerable to institutional harassment. In 2014, the Government of India enacted the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, "to protect the rights of urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"(Government of India ,2014).

The implementation of Street Vendors Act, 2014 possesses several challenges. A primary challenge is the significant delays in constituting Town Vending Committees and conducting vendor surveys. A study conducted by Yadav et al., (2025) demonstrated that, despite the Act mandating surveys under Section (3), many states failed to comply with this provision. For instance, a study in 2019 found that of 7,263 town from 30 Indian states, only a one-third of them had formed TVCs, undermining the Act's protective intent. This finding is further reinforced in (Roopa Madhav, 2022)'s blog, which draws on the records from Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs records, showing that " only 17 states/union territories have constituted these committees (TVCs) in all eligible cities and towns, 14 have constituted them in 50-99 per cent of eligible cities and towns, and two have set them up in less than half". These findings indicate patchy implementation of the Street Vendors Act, 2014 with substantial delays and incompliance among states.

According to Ramanath Jha (2018) street vending is critical yet it is a marginalised sector in urban India. Even though it is supported by policies like Street Vendors Act 2014, it struggles with its implementation. The Act's spatial restrictions (e.g. 2.5 per cent vendor cap) often create conflicts among street vendors as the number of street vendors is greater than the available space. He emphasised the need of urban inclusive planning and suggested solutions like time-sharing systems, standardised vending carts, basic amenities and empowered Town Vending Committees to balance the livelihood of the Street Vendors.

Yadav et al., (2025) underscored several other challenges in the implementation of the Street Vendors Act, including "inconsistent application across jurisdictions, conflicts with existing laws and narrowing judicial interpretations". (Nageswara Rao et al., 2015) raised a major concern regarding the implementation of Street Vendors Act, noting that it undermines its true effectiveness.

Their findings revealed that 80% of their respondents are unaware about Street Vendors Act 2014 and their legal rights. Kambara and Nagarjun (2024) in their study similarly observed that street vendors often lack awareness of the associated benefits of holding a card or being a part of the TVC. The study further reported that many vendors faced demands for bribes from officials which undermined the Act's objective of providing vendors a safe, harassment free environment.

In 2018 Shibulal (2018) conducted a study to examine the needs and problems of street vendors in Kerala. Since Kerala is the state with highest literacy rate, most of the vendors had basic education. Although both the central and state level governments introduced legislative frameworks to protect the livelihood of the vendors, the implementation of vendor registration through Town Vending Committees (TVCs) continues to fall short of intended objectives. Most of the in-migrant street vendors are unaware about this Act and the existence of the Town Vending Committee. They also lack awareness about their rights and laws supporting them. A large proportion of street vendors in Kerala work more than 8-10 hours daily. The working conditions of these vendors are not satisfactory and need to be improved.

Findings of various researchers indicated that there is a persistent gap in the actual policy intent and the ground level reality. Even though Street Vendors Act 2014 was implemented to safeguard the rights of vendors, their lack of awareness significantly undermines its effectiveness. The government should introduce programs to raise awareness among street vendors about the Act, their rights and the schemes and laws supporting them. Some studies reflected that the rights of street vendors often appear to be symbolic rather than substantive. Therefore, it is essential for the government to monitor TVCs regularly to ensure that they function in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Instead of providing generic solutions to the vendors, the government should focus on need based solutions by delegating power to local authority, enabling them to assess context specific challenges effectively. In this way the government can address most of the problems vendors are facing in their daily livelihood.

1.3 RESEARCH PROBLEM

The informal sector is the backbone of urban economics in many developing countries, providing livelihood opportunities for millions of people who are excluded from the formal sector with minimum capital investment. Street vending represents a substantial section of this informal

economy and is widely recognised for contributing affordable goods and services. In India, this sector sustains millions of individuals yet remains under-recognised and poorly protected by the legal and constitutional framework.

Broadway, located in the heart of Ernakulam is one of the busiest commercial centres, and provides home to more than thousands of street vendors. These vendors represent a substantial share in the urban economy and contribute significantly to the local economy. The study is mainly focused on understanding the nature of employment, income patterns and working conditions of street vendors in Broadway by evaluating the effectiveness of Street Vendors Act 2014 on their livelihood. The existing studies reveal that vendors often face challenges in their working conditions including long hours of work, exposure to harsh weather, limited and congested space, lack of sanitation facilities and absence of proper waste management systems. Another significant challenge they face is the lack of inadequate infrastructure and facilities to support their business. Moreover, the socio-economic background of vendors varies, where some vendors rely on street vending as a means of survival whereas some others find street vending as an extra source of income. There is a variation in employment in street vendors varying from part time to full time, temporary to permanent arrangements, seasonal or supplementary activity etc. The employment arrangements of these vendors are largely informal, characterised by the absence of contracts, irregular earnings, lack of social security and occupational and regulatory risks. In addition, the income patterns of these vendors are unpredictable and irregular and are influenced by factors such as location, season, customer demand and type of goods sold. Together these variations demonstrate uncertainty about their stability, sustainability and overall quality of employment and studying these will help in determining whether the Street Vendors in Broadway, experience the common challenges or encounter additional or locational specific difficulties. Evaluating the nature of employment, income patterns and working conditions of vendors in Broadway is essential in understanding how these factors affect their productivity and overall quality of life.

Despite the enactment of the Street Vendors Act, 2014, challenges persist in implementation, including inadequate awareness among vendors, limited access to licensing, and inconsistent enforcement of protective provisions. This study is mainly focused on assessing the effectiveness of Act and to find out whether the vendors are still facing challenges such as eviction threats, inadequate licensing and limited access to welfare measures. The study further aims to uncover the socio-economic vulnerabilities the vendors face and identify the gap between policy intent and ground level execution.

1.4 OBJECTIVES

1. To analyse the nature of employment, income patterns, and working conditions of street vendors in Broadway, Ernakulam.
2. To assess the effectiveness of government policies, particularly the Street Vendors Act, 2014, on their livelihoods.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Mather Bazar, Broadway, Ernakulam, a major commercial hub characterised by a high concentration of vendors engaged in different trading activities. The research relied on both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire administered via personal interviews with street vendors. In the absence of an official vendor list for Mather Bazar, purposive and convenience sampling techniques were adopted to select a sample of 30 vendors. The Street Vending Plan of Kochi Municipal Corporation (2023) was used as a guideline to understand the overall framework of street vending in the city. Vendors in the study area were classified based on goods sold. While the plan notes that tea, coffee and cool drinks constitute 26 per cent of major vending items and garments account for only 18 per cent, field observations revealed that garment vending was the predominant activity in Mather Bazar. Therefore, garment was given higher weightage in the sample while the other categories were included in roughly equal propositions.

To analyse the nature of employment, income patterns and working conditions of street vendors, the study employed a combination of descriptive statistical, econometric and mathematical methods. Measures such as mean, standard deviation, hypothesis testing, Spearman's rank correlation and the construction of indices were used to examine relationships between variables and to provide an accurate representation of the prevailing conditions. A hypothesis was constructed to assess the relationship between average daily income and working hours and Spearman's rank correlation was applied. This non-parametric method was considered suitable given the small sample size and the likelihood of non-normal income distribution in the informal sector. In addition, income per hour was computed for each vendor by dividing daily earnings by total working hours. Vendors were then categorised based on the type of goods sold, and the mean income per hour for each category was determined by averaging the individual income per hour values. This approach allowed for a comparative assessment of earning efficiency across different types of vending activities. Further, to

assess working conditions, a "Working Condition Index" was constructed using a deficit-based index approach inspired by ILO's decent work framework. The Index was calculated by dividing the sum of individual deficit scores by the total number of respondents and categorised into four levels - good working conditions (0.00-0.25), moderate deficit (0.26-0.50), high deficit (0.51-0.75) and severe working condition deficit (0.76-1.00). The identified issues were further mapped to the four pillars of ILO's Decent work framework.

To examine the effectiveness of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014, the study analysed vendors awareness and its influence on livelihood outcomes. Fisher's Exact Test was employed to study the relationship between educational level and awareness of the Act, using the online tool "Easy Fisher Exact Test Calculator". Additionally, a simple regression model was constructed to assess the impact of awareness on livelihood, with the Livelihood Index taken as the dependant variable and Awareness Score as the independent variable. The study used charts, graphs and tables to present the data in a clear and concise manner. Secondary data were drawn from published research works and government reports.

1.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theoretical framework provides specific insights in relation to research and much of the present study surrounding street vendors relies on various economic theories to understand the phenomenon comprehensively. The theories adopted in the study are Segmented Labour Market Theory, Legal Pluralism, The Structuralism and Neoliberal Theory, Dual Economy Theory and Informal Sector Theory, with each theory contributing a distinct yet complementary perspective to the analysis.

1.6.1 Segmented Labour Market Theory

Segmented Labour Market Theory was developed by Michael Piore and Peter Doeringer in 1971. This theory explains that the labour market is divided into two main segments: the primary (formal) and the secondary (informal) sectors. The primary sector offers stable employment, better working conditions, legal protection and standardized wages. In contrast secondary sectors are often characterised as low income, poor working conditions, job insecurity, lack of social protection etc.

Street Vendors in Broadway are classified under Secondary Sector due to their informal and unregulated work nature. This theory highlights that the workers are in this sector, not because of

choice or lack of skills, but due to structural barriers such as social exclusion, limited education and weak institutional support. Unlike traditional views, the theory states that mobility between different segments is difficult and as a result workers in informal sector get trapped in precarious conditions without access to formal job benefits. This theory is relevant to the study's objective of analysing employment nature, income patterns and job insecurity among vendors in Mather Bazar.

1.6.2 Legal Pluralism

The concept of Legal Pluralism developed by John Griffiths (1986) refers to the existence of multiple legal systems within one society and or geographical area. It recognised that in addition to formal laws, people also follow informal laws, community norms, traditional practices etc. In this framework, law is not monopolised by the state but is produced and maintained by various factors including municipalities, market associations, police and unions.

Street vendors may continue to face harassment and evictions despite having legal rights like Street Vendors Act 2014. This is because informal systems of power like decisions of municipal officials, police or political factors operate alongside or even contradict the legal framework. Legal Pluralism helps to explain the gap between law and practice, and this framework is essential for understanding the real environment in which the street vendors operate.

1.6.3 The Structuralism and Neoliberal Theory

To understand the street vending phenomenon in the urban informal economy, the study draws upon two theories, mainly Structuralism and Neoliberal Theory. Structuralist theory views street vending as a last-resort survival strategy for those excluded from the formal labour market. According to this view, vendors are engaged in informal work not only by choice but also due to structural barriers, such as unemployment, poverty, and a lack of access to education and formal sector jobs. Scholars such as Williams and Gurtoo (2012) and Bhowmik (2007) highlight how street vending provides basic economic needs in the absence of secure livelihoods.

In contrast, Neoliberal theory views street vendors as rational economic actors who start their business in street vending because markets and governments failed to support them. They are seen as strong and resilient workers, who keep going on their business despite challenges like rules, evictions, poor working conditions, etc. Many researchers like Bhowmik (2012), Mazhambe (2017, and Williams and Gurtoo (2012) have used this theory to study street vendors in different cities.

1.6.4 Dual Economy Theory

This theory was proposed by W. Arthur Lewis, describes an economy divided into two sectors: a traditional sector (low-productivity, labour-intensive technique) and a modern sector (high-productivity industry). Surplus labour from the traditional sector migrates to the modern sector, where higher wages and industrialization drive economic growth. Profits in the modern sector are reinvested, expanding employment and gradually absorbing excess labour. Over time, this process leads to rising wages in both sectors, reducing inequality and integrating the economy into a more advanced, unified system.

1.6.5 Informal Sector Theory

The Informal Sector Theory was introduced by Keith Hart. This theory challenges the earlier view that informal work is merely a leftover from traditional economy and instead recognised it as a dynamic and essential part of urban life in developing countries. In the case of Street Vendors of Broadway, Ernakulam, they are not just economic outcasts but active participants who provide affordable goods and services especially to low- and middle-income groups. The theory explains how informal employment arises due to insufficient access to formal jobs. Despite operating outside formal legal frameworks, they actively contribute to urban vibrancy. This theory supports the view that informal workers deserve policy attention and legal recognition.

1.7 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- Mather Bazar is only a part of larger Broadway Market. Therefore, the findings of this study may not fully represent the entire Broadway zone.
- Many vendors were hesitant to disclose their actual earnings, and, in some cases, they reported their profit instead of total income which may led to inaccuracies in estimating their true income levels.
- Due to the small sample size, the data were spread across several categories, limiting the scope for analysis.
- The study relied heavily on self-reported data, which may be affected by exaggeration or underreporting.

CHAPTER – 2

STREET VENDING AND ITS EVOLUTION: AN OVERVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Indian urban informal sector, especially through street vendors, is a critical part of the economy. Millions of people are employed in the informal sector due to limited availability of formal jobs; street vendors offer residents of cities affordable products and services essential to their daily lives. In Kerala, street vendors have a very important function in maintaining local markets and enabling everyday urban life; however, they operate under insecure and vulnerable conditions and are marginalized.

Street vendors' working spaces typically do not have adequate access to necessary infrastructure including clean drinking water, sanitation, and shelter, in addition to the fact that their income levels are generally unstable and low, leaving vendors economically fragile. The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, was passed to provide legal status, livelihood security, and protection against arbitrary evictions to street vendors; however, the implementation of this rights-based framework has been uneven in terms of application among states and municipalities.

In the case of Kerala, having state specific rules, programs, and institutional mechanisms to regulate street vendors has not necessarily led to improved experience in their everyday lives. Many vendors still face consistent harassment, threats of eviction, extortion, and confusion resulting from varying interpretations and inconsistent enforcement of laws and zoning regulations. Seasonal fluctuations in income exacerbate the difficulties faced by the vendors, which make it difficult to plan long-term financially and invest in a business.

This chapter will provide an overview of the problems experienced by street vendors in Kerala, particularly focusing on the economic vulnerabilities, infrastructure shortages, and regulatory obstacles they face. Additionally, the chapter will analyse the roles of the state and municipal governments, regulatory agencies, and the mechanisms used to implement and enforce policies that protect vendors' rights. Through examining the history of street vendor legislation and critiquing its limitations, the chapter will highlight the gaps between the legal protections afforded to vendors, and the lived realities of street vendors; this will demonstrate the necessity of implementing more effective, collaborative, and equitable models of urban governance that ensure the well-being and dignity of street vendors.

STRUGGLES FACED BY STREET VENDORS IN KERALA: AN OVERVIEW

2.2.1 Lack of basic infrastructure and water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities

According to studies regarding street vendors in Kerala, the main issue that has been reported is the lack of basic infrastructure, particularly access to clean drinking water and sanitation. Ninety per cent of vendors in Kottayam municipality (nineteen of twenty-one) are unable to get access to a source of clean drinking water at the location of their vending activities (Benny and AV,2023(This forces vendors to transport water to their workplace from their residence or purchase bottled water at nearby stores, resulting in an increase in vendors' daily expenses.

The lack of public sanitation facilities is another barrier for many vendors. Sixty-two percent of the vendors surveyed (a total of thirteen) indicated they did not have public restrooms accessible to them near their vending site. There is only one public restroom available for females in Kottayam, and because of this, female vendors are forced to travel farther than necessary to find a restroom. The absence of this critical infrastructure impacts both the health of vendors and their ability to keep up with standards of cleanliness.

2.2.2 Low and unstable income

The vast majority of vendors struggle financially. Every municipality research done in Kerala indicates that low income is a basic problem affecting their livelihoods. Research on Kottayam Municipality found that 90% of street vendors make less than Rs700/day; 48% of them make less than Rs500/day. Expenses for vendors are typically between Rs300 to Rs400 per day, which include food, water, travel, medication, etc. Therefore, vendors can only make very little profit, usually between Rs100 and Rs400/day, which they have no way to use to support their household or to prepare for emergencies. Thus, it is evident that a majority of vendors across the country live below the poverty line.

2.2.3 Drastic Seasonal Variations in Income

There are significant seasonal fluctuations in income in Kerala, which causes chronic financial uncertainty for vendors. Vendors continuously indicate that income peaks during festival seasons, such as Onam and Vishu, and on weekends and holiday days. In contrast, the rainy season is the worst time for vending with most vendors indicating a large decline in income. The lack of a steady

income creates cash flow issues and puts vendors under extreme financial pressure during off seasons when there is no other source of income.

2.2.4 Systematic harassment, eviction and extortion by local authority

Legal rights of the vendors are often violated by bribes and harassment. Although the Street Vendor's (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014 provides protection to street vendors in Kerala, there is evidence of consistent harassment of street vendors by local authorities and the police. The research done in different regions of Kerala has documented that street vendors are forced to pay bribes to local law enforcement officials as a proportion of their daily earnings ranging between 20-30%. As an example of systematic extortion, this clearly exploits what is a very low-wage-earning group of people who have few other options and reduces their ability to earn a living further, while at the same time violating their legally protected rights. Additionally, street vendors have been subjected to harassment from the general public. Of the 21 vendors surveyed in Kottayam Municipality, 12 stated they had experienced harassment from the general public while operating on footpaths, which creates difficult working conditions and compounds the economic stresses of being a street vendor.

2.2.5 Confusion regarding enforcement creates vulnerability for vendors

The Kerala High Court has upheld the authority of municipal authorities to control the location of vendors and enforce evictions from designated vending zones of unauthorised vendors. Although there is a body of law relating to the regulation of vending zones and enforcement of evictions, it creates uncertainty for vendors. There are examples such as the vendors operating on KK Road and TB Road in Kottayam Municipality, who are located in designated vending zones and therefore should be permitted to vend, however, the restrictions on one way traffic prevent them from doing so and therefore create a situation of ambiguity regarding whether they will be subject to an eviction order.

As a result of the chronic insecurity faced by vendors, they do not have the confidence to invest in their business or make long term plans for their future. Conflicts with shopkeepers add to the problems faced by vendors, with some vendors having been asked to vacate the premises by shop owners creating yet another source of uncertainty over space.

2.3 OTHER REGULATORY BODIES & STATE MECHANISMS FOR STREET VENDORS IN KERALA

In addition to the national Street Vendors Act 2014, Kerala also has an entire web of regional entities and state systems that are meant to help control the selling of goods by street vendors at the local level. In theory, this creates a very protective environment for the vendors; in reality, though, the vendors along have no idea about any of them.

2.3.1 Kerala Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules, 2018.

The statewide regulations for implementing the national Street Vendors Act 2014 were issued pursuant to Section 36. The rules outline specifics as to how TVCs will be established, what the license application and approval process will be, what specific offenses will result in license cancellation (with an appeals process), what types of zoning designations can be designated "no-vending zones," and how the timing of vending activities can be regulated to reduce congestion. Whereas in reality, many of the vendors in India said that they had never seen any enforcement of the rules. Additionally, many said that because there are rarely TVC meetings that take place, little or no action is ever taken. [Benny & Unais, 2024].

2.3.2 Local Vending Committee (LVC): The Central Vending Body

Both National Act and Kerala Rules require that all municipalities establish an LVC with:
- A minimum of 40% representative vendors (as elected by vendors)
- Headed by the Mayor or Chairperson of the municipality
- Comprised of Municipal Officials; Trade Union Representatives; NGOs; etc.
- Functions to plan zoning, grant licenses, handle grievances and make decisions regarding relocation.

Status in Kochi (as of 2026): Established a functional LVC due to High Court pressure. Only vendors holding certificates are permitted to carry out vending within the city.

2.3.3. Department of Local Self Government (DLGS) - State Level Implementation Support

The DLGS is the state-level department responsible for coordinating the implementation of street vending policies at the state level:
- Issues Street Vending Plans for each corporation (finally issued G.O. No. 77/2024/LSGD notification for Kochi in June 2024).

- Funds the development of infrastructure in designated vending zones (provides water, toilets etc.).
- Monitors TVC function and effectiveness.
- Responsible for receiving appeals from vendors regarding decisions made by the municipality.

DLGS should be able to ensure that municipalities adhere to the provisions of the National Act and Kerala Rules. However, they have proven unable to do so and instead rely on pushing notifications that the local body ignores.

2.3.4. The Kerala Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending and Licensing) Scheme, 2019

This Kerala specific scheme builds upon the 2018 Rules:
- Specifies procedures for relocating vendors (vendors can only be relocated to areas close by and with their consent).
- Requires a minimum 30-day period for municipalities to serve unlicensed vendors with notice before evicting them.
- Mandates a process of enumerating vendors prior to designating zoning.
- Requires the approval of the LVC before declaring any area a no-vending zone.

Gap: Relocating vendors to "areas near-by" rarely if ever occurs. Vendors are often fearful of being relocated to dead-zones where there will be no customers.

2.3.5. Example of an Active Local Authority: Kochi Municipal Corporation

The most developed Kerala municipality in terms of implementing street vending regulations:
- Notified the Street Vending Plan (G.O. No. 77/2024/LSGD) in June 2024.
- Establishes and issues certification and photo identification cards to vendors through the Local Vending Committee.
- Clearly defines zoning restrictions: restriction-free zones; restricted zones; and no-vending zones.
- The High Court has taken action to monitor compliance with these regulations.

2.4. EVOLUTION OF THE STREET VENDORS ACT, 2014 AND ITS CRITICISMS

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and regulation of Street Vending) Act,2014 was legislated to provide legal recognition and livelihood security to street vendors, who constitute a significant section of India’s urban informal economy. While there is no evidence that the Indian government created a national law regulating all aspects of the street vendor industry prior to this

Act; however, the regulatory environment governing the street vendor business had historically been shaped by state or local ordinances. Historically, many of these ordinances treated street vendors as unauthorized persons obstructing public spaces and resulted in numerous instances of eviction, harassment and loss of income to street vendors (Bhowmik, 2010). Organisations like SEWA and NASVI have been advocating for a national policy to govern the street vendors for years. Also, based on recommendations made by the National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS), the Indian government introduced the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors in 2004, which was revised in 2009. This led to the creation of a legally enforceable rights-based framework, ultimately contributing to the passage of the Street Vendor Act in 2014 (NCEUS, 2009).

The Act acknowledges street vending as an acceptable form of employment and aims to find a balance between protecting street vendors' livelihoods and promoting urban planning. The Act calls for the establishment of Town Vending Committees (TVCs) to include representation from street vendors, require municipalities to periodically survey the number of street vendors, issue vending permits to street vendors, identify designated vending zones and prohibit municipalities from removing vendors from their designated vending zone unless there are appropriate due process provisions in place and provide assistance to displaced vendors (Government of India, 2014).

Although the Act was designed to protect the rights of street vendors and provide them with greater security regarding their livelihoods, the Act has received criticism. There have been issues with implementing the Act uniformly throughout all states, including long periods of time before the establishment of TVCs and the completion of surveys of street vendors, thus diminishing the protective nature of the Act (Vision IAS, 2024). Many of the bureaucratic officials who are responsible for enforcing the Act still consider vendors to be obstacles to commerce and infrastructure development rather than legitimate participants in the economy and therefore continue to harass vendors regardless of the protections provided by the Act (Rau's IAS Compass, 2023). Furthermore, the Act has failed to integrate well with urban development initiatives such as Smart City projects and the Act has caused disputes between the need to expand infrastructure and the need to support the livelihoods of street vendors (IMPRI, 2024). The failure to create adequate vending areas and to provide street vendors with basic amenities has limited the effectiveness of the Act.

2.5 CONCLUSION

This chapter has shown how the difficulties experienced by street vendors in Kerala represent a substantial gap between the legal acknowledgment of street vending and its day-to-day reality. In

addition to providing an essential service to urban economies and people's daily lives, street vendors continue to suffer structural disadvantages (inadequate basic services; low and unstable income; serious seasonality; chronic insecurity in regard to both space and tenure) which are likely to be the result of an absence of effective basic services and lack of political power.

Furthermore, while the legal protection of the Street Vendors Act, 2014, together with Kerala's state-specific laws and programs, have failed to be implemented, harassment, extortion, and unprovoked eviction by local officials and law enforcement agencies have reflected the failure of effective implementation of the law and continue to view street vendors as encroachers rather than as legitimate economic agents. The confusion regarding the zoning of the vendor and the enforcement of the rules has increased the vulnerability of the vendor, discouraged long-term investment and reinforced cycles of poverty and insecurity.

Although Kerala has established various regulatory bodies and institutional mechanisms (Local Vending Committees, state-wide implementation frameworks and municipal vending plans), the chapter shows that these bodies and mechanisms are generally unavailable or non-functional for vendors because of a lack of awareness, irregular operation and lack of accountability among the stakeholders. Even in relatively progressive municipalities, the inequality of application of the rules and lack of supply of basic services limit the potential advantages of the regulatory regime.

Finally, the chapter highlights that the problems experienced by street vendors in Kerala are not solely based on economics but are also fundamentally institutional and governance related. Therefore, the disconnection between policy intentions and the day-to-day operations calls for a more inclusive, transparent and rights-based governance model of urban planning and management that includes vendors in decision making processes and recognizes their livelihoods as well as the urban planning.

CHAPTER – 3

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF STREET VENDORS AND POLICY EFFECTIVENESS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

In India, street vending forms a significant component of the informal economy. It sustains over 10 million livelihoods by providing low-entry barriers to self-employment, especially to marginalized communities such as migrants and low-income households. Although they play a crucial role in distributing affordable commodities within urban commons and sustaining the daily rhythm of city life, street vendors have long lived under precarious circumstances - marked by livelihood insecurity, routine harassment and the constant threat of eviction. These vulnerabilities are not only structural but also manifest in the everyday experiences of vendors. Recognising these issues, the Government of India enacted the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 to safeguard vendors' rights and livelihoods.

Within this context, the present study explores the socio-economic characteristics of Street Vendors in Mather Bazar and examines how the Act has improved their livelihood. The study is based on primary data collected from 30 street vendors, capturing not only quantitative indicators of employment, income and working conditions but also qualitative insights into their daily experiences and regulatory engagement. The data were systematically analysed using appropriate statistical tools to identify patterns and variations, as well as the effectiveness of the Act in shaping vendors' livelihood. The findings are presented in tables, charts and graphs and are supported by appropriate interpretations to provide a comprehensive understanding of the working conditions, challenges and policy awareness among street vendors.

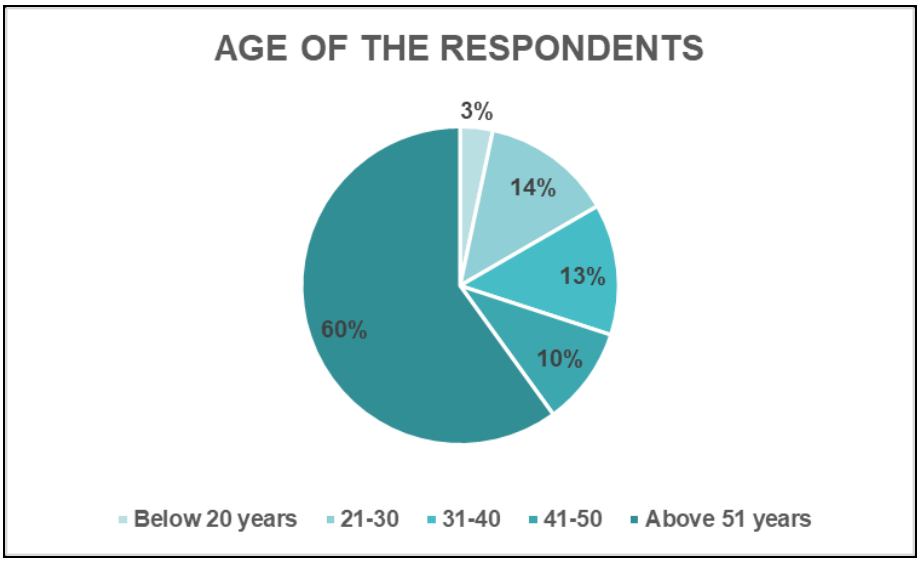
3.2 SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The present study examines the socio-demographic characteristics of street vendors in Mather Bazar based on the primary data. These characteristics provide vital insights into the vendors' demographic background and how such factors influence their everyday livelihood activities. Key demographic variables such as age, gender, place of origin and level of education are considered for the purpose of analysis. An understanding of these characteristics is essential to assess the socio-economic profile of vendors and its influence on employment patterns and working conditions.

3.2.1 Age of the Respondents

Age is an important demographic feature that shapes the nature of work participation, earning capacity and livelihood vulnerability among street vendors. As shown in ***Figure 1,*** most of the sampled vendors fall under the age group of above 51 years, indicating that street vendors in Mather Bazar are largely sustained by older workers rather than youth. The dominance of elderly vendors reflects the absence of adequate social security measures and pension coverage which compels elderly individuals to continue working even at an old age.

Figure:1 – Age of the Respondents

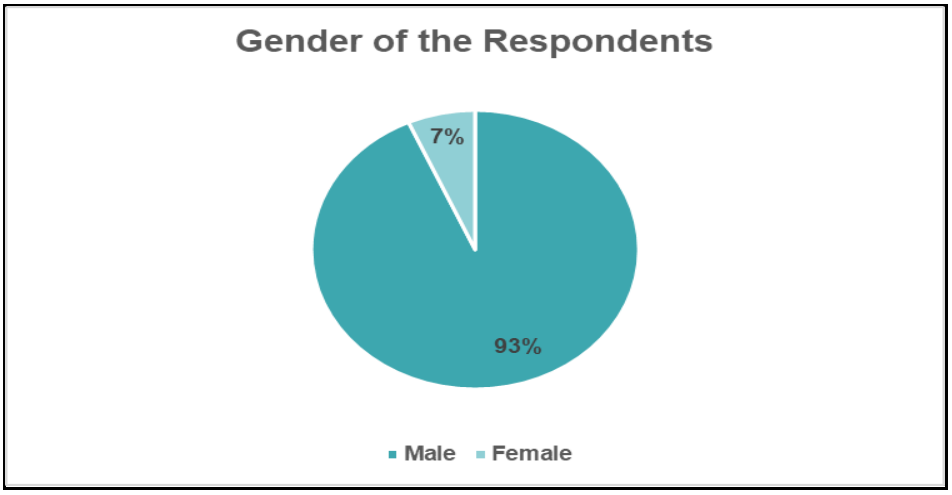


Source – Primary Data

3.2.2 Gender of the Respondents

An examination of ***Figure 2*** indicates that 93 per cent of the sampled vendors belong to the male category. Males outnumber females in street vending may be due to greater physical mobility and fewer household responsibilities that limit women's participation. Street vending often involves long working hours, early morning or late evenings and exposure to public spaces which may pose safety concerns for women.

Figure: 2 – Gender of the Respondents

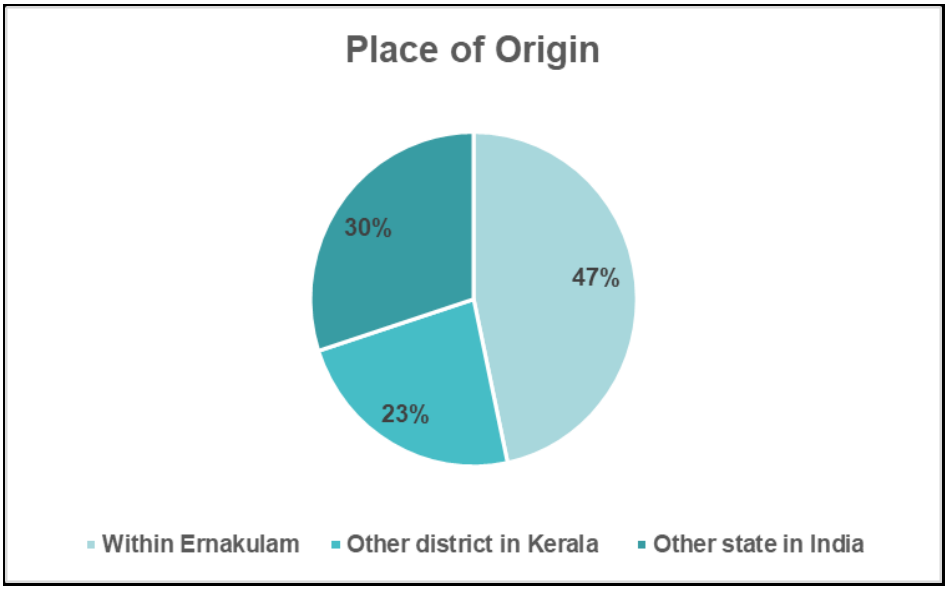


Source – Primary Data

3.2.3 Place of Origin

As shown in ***Figure 3***, 47 per cent of the vendors are residents of Ernakulam, suggesting that street vending is an important source of livelihood for the local population in Mather Bazar. More than half of the respondents have migrated to Mather Bazar (from other districts of Kerala as well as from other states in India) in search of better employment opportunities, highlighting the area's ability to attract a substantial workforce.

Figure:3 – Place of Origin of the Respondents

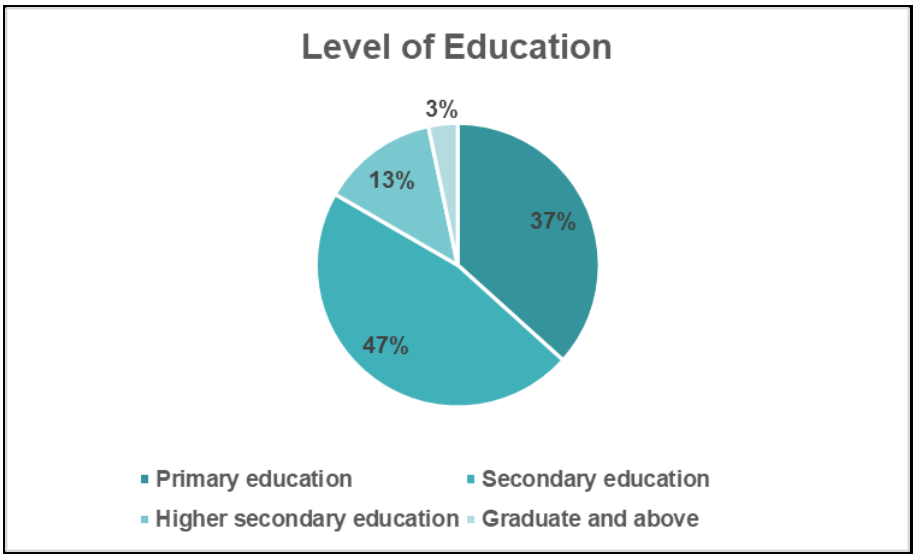


Source – Primary Data

3.2.4 Level of Education

The educational profile of street vendors ***(Figure 4)*** shows that the majority have attained a primary or secondary level of education. Limited access to higher education results in an early entry into the labour market or increased family responsibilities. As a result, many vendors with primary or secondary opt for street vending as it requires minimal qualifications and low investment. Street vending offers immediate income generation which is crucial for individuals facing financial instability.

Figure: 4 – Level of Education of the Respondents



Source – Primary Data

3.2.5 Synthesis of Demographic Patterns across Categories of Goods Sold

Table:1 Summary of Dominant Demographic Characteristics by Categories of Goods Sold

Categories	Dominant Age Group	Dominant Gender	Dominant Education Level	Dominant Place of Origin
Garments	Above 51 years	Male	Secondary Education	Within Ernakulam
Food and Beverages	Above 51 years	Male	Higher Secondary Education	Other District in Kerala
Footwear and Accessories	Above 51 years	Male	Secondary Education	Within Ernakulam
Utility Items	Above 51 years	Male	Primary Education	Within Ernakulam
Jewellery or Ornaments	31-40	Male	Secondary Education	Other State in India

Miscellaneous	Above 51 years	Male	Primary Education	Within Ernakulam

Source: Primary Data

Table 1 serves as a concluding summary of the demographic patterns observed among street vendors across different categories of goods sold.

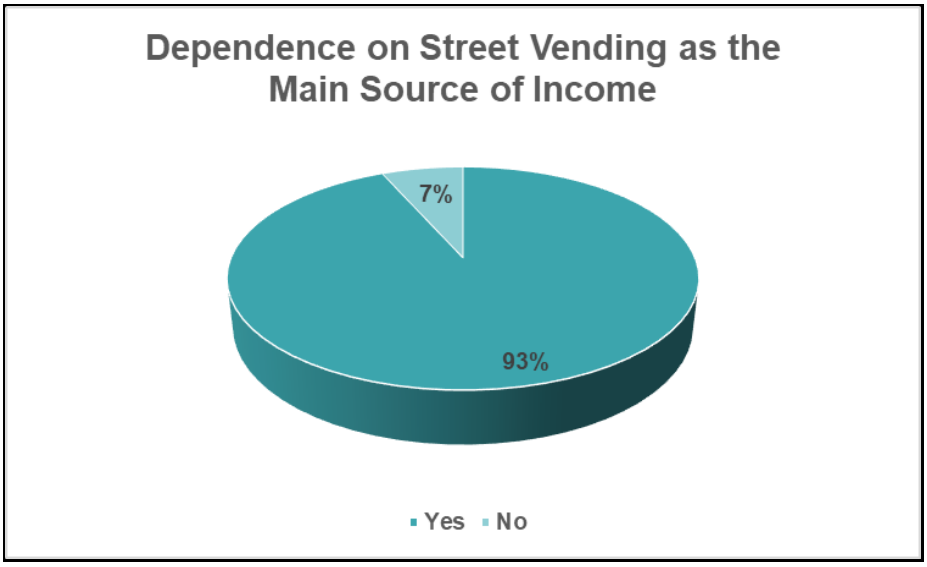
3.3 ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Economic characteristics encompass various aspects of the sampled street vendors that directly influence their living standards. The study focused on analysing various factors affecting the economic characteristics of street vendors in Mather Bazar, Broadway, Ernakulam, with a particular emphasis on their nature of employment, income patterns and working conditions. To analyse these dimensions, a sample of 30 vendors working in Mather Bazar was selected. Data was collected through a scheduled survey, which gathered information on employment structure, income patterns and the working environment. The results of these dimensions are crucial for understanding the economic profile of vendors and serve as a basis for assessing the effectiveness of Street Vendors Act,2014.

3.3.1 Nature of Employment

The nature of employment covers the core dimensions of vendors' working relationships, which are analysed in detail in the following sections. As indicated in ***Figure 5***, a significant majority of the sampled vendors (93.33 per cent) rely on street vending as their primary source of income, which accentuates the sector's significance as a key means of livelihood and economic sustenance for the vendors. Entry into street vending is influenced by a combination of social and economic factors. 25 per cent of the sampled vendors (as shown in ***Figure 6***) stated reason as their inherited occupation which underscores the role of intergenerational continuity in sustaining their livelihood. Additionally, 23 per cent of them reported that street vending offered better income prospects compared to their previous job, suggesting street vending is perceived as a relatively more economically viable option. Other reasons cited by the vendors include low capital requirement and lack of alternative employment opportunities. As multiple reasons were permitted, the reported percentages are overlapping, indicating that entry into street vending is shaped by a combination of traditional and economic factors.

Figure:5 – Dependence on Street Vending as the Main Source of Income



Source – Primary Data

Figure:6 – Reasons for Entering Street Vending

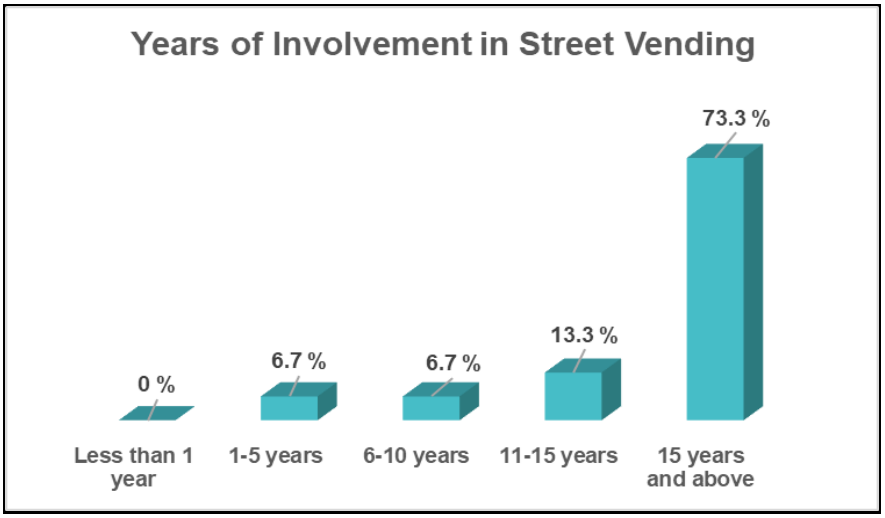


Source – Primary Data

3.3.2 Year of Engagement in Street Vending

The prolonged involvement of vendors in the street vending business aligns with theories discussed in the "Theoretical Framework", which implies that workers often remain in the informal sector for longer periods due to limited mobility into the formal sector. The predominance of vendors with 15 years or more of experience (as presented in ***Figure 7***) indicates occupational persistence rather than transitory employment pointing to structural constraints in the labour market. The long-term dependence underscores street vending as a stable, though informal livelihood strategy rather than a temporary survival activity.

Figure: 7 – Years of involvement in Street Vending

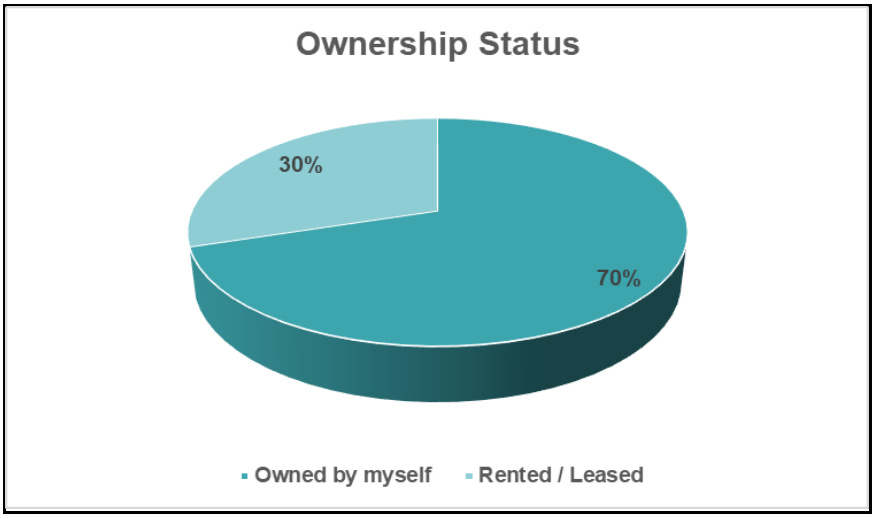


Source – Primary Data

3.3.3 Ownership Status

The ownership status of the vendors (as indicated in ***Figure 8***) reveals that 70 per cent of the vendors enjoy a relatively secure form of tenure, which may reduce their operational costs and enhance their livelihood stability. Owing a vending unit reduces financial stress by eliminating rental obligations and allows vendors greater control over their work environment. On the other hand, vendors dependent on rented or leased spaces often experience uncertainty due to recurring costs and the constant risk of displacement. This variation in ownership status highlights that ownership extends beyond economic advantage, shaping vendors lived experiences of security, dignity and resilience in their everyday work.

Figure: 8 – Ownership Status



Source – Primary Data

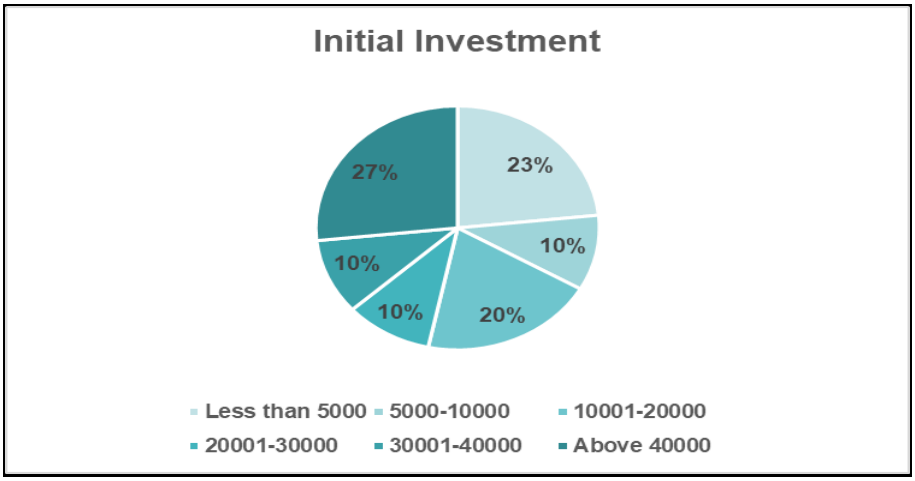
3.3.4 Initial Capital Investment Required for Street Vending

The initial capital investment refers to the minimum investment needed to meet the initial cost of purchasing items, basic equipment and other related operational expenses. The level of investment varies across different vendors (as shown in ***Figure 9***) depending on the categories and types of goods sold.

Among the sampled vendors, 27 per cent of the vendors required an investment of more than Rs.40,000 while 23 per cent required less than Rs.5000. Higher level of investment is largely associated with vendors engaged in garments, footwear and accessory sales, which entails a comparatively higher inventory requirement. For many, this initial investment represents a significant personal risk, sometimes funded through savings, family support or informal loans.

These variations in initial investment underscore the differences in the types of goods sold and the scale of operations among vendors. While higher investment can offer the potential for greater income, it also comes with higher risk, demanding careful planning and perseverance. Recognizing these differences is essential to understand the economic realities of vendors and designing policies that support their growth and livelihood security.

Figure: 9 – Initial Capital Investment Required for Street Vending



Source – Primary Data

3.3.5 Nature of Employment of Individuals in Street Vending Business

Street vending in Mather Bazar is largely characterised by “Self-Employment”. In few cases vendors receive assistance from family members or friends or employ hired labour. Different modes of operation adopted by Street vendors in Mather Bazar are shown in ***Table:2***.

Table:2- Nature of Employment in Street Vending

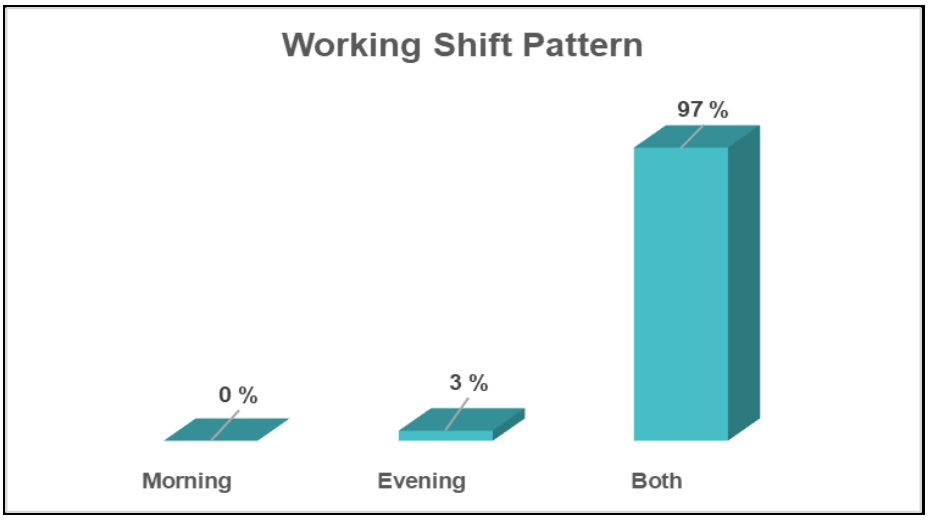
Nature of Employment in Street Vending	Percentage
Self-managed vending	73.33
Vending with hired employees	6.67
Family-assisted vending	16.67
Friends/neighbours-assisted vending	3.33

Source – Primary Data

3.3.6 Pattern of Working Shifts and Daily Working Hours

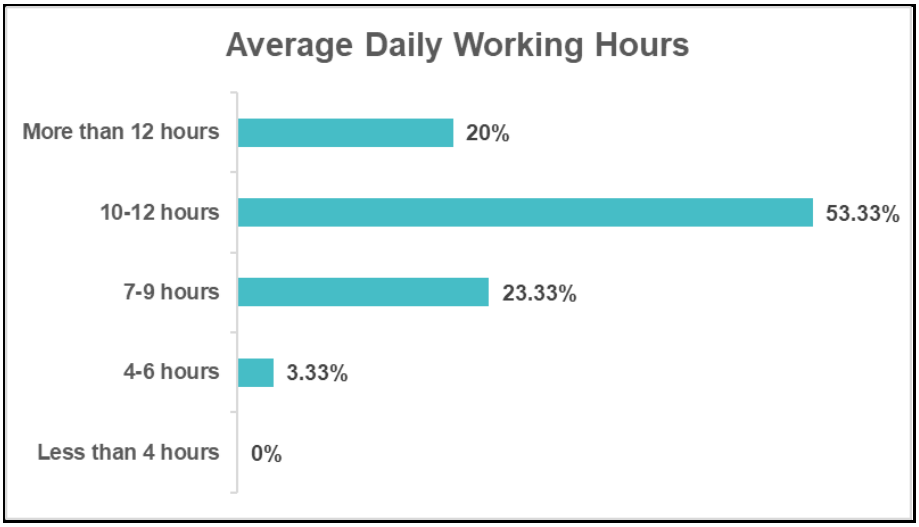
The pattern of working shifts and daily working hours are important indicators that determine the intensity of work, income-earning capacity and overall livelihood sustainability of the vendors. An examination of ***Figure 10*** reveals the pattern of working shifts among vendors, with 97 per cent operate during morning and evening shifts. Further analysis of ***Figure 11*** indicates that a significant proportion of the vendors work for longer durations with 20 per cent working for more than 12 hours and 53.33 per cent working between 10 and 12 hours daily. The average working hours of street vendors in Mather Bazar are estimated at 10.7 hours per day. This reflects the economic necessity that compels vendors to sustain their livelihoods through extended working hours.

Figure:10 – Working Shift Pattern of Vendors in Mather Bazar



Source – Primary Data

Figure:11 – Average Daily Working Hours of Vendors in Mather Bazar



Source – Primary Data

3.3.7 Income Patterns

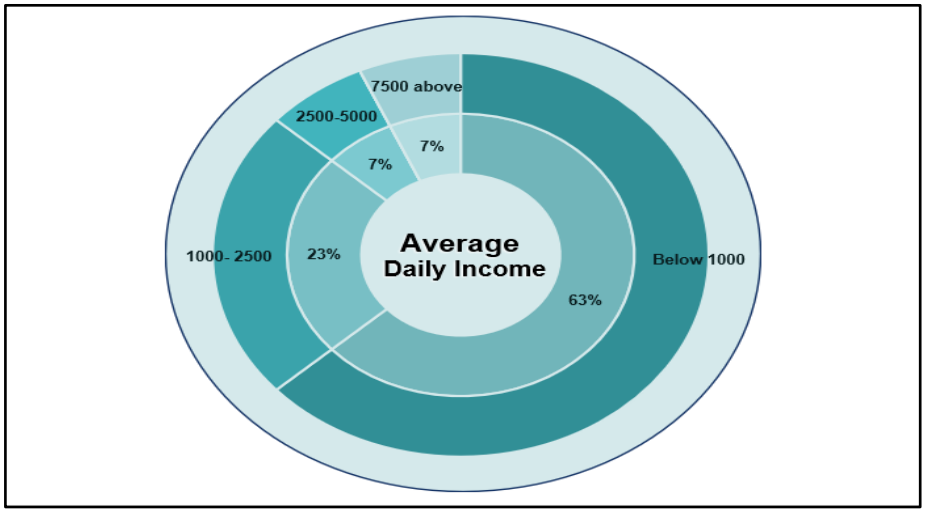
Income Patterns are a crucial element in understanding the economic characteristics and livelihood sustainability of the vendors. Since street vending operates within an informal sector framework, vendors' incomes are often characterised by seasonality, variability and vulnerability to external factors such as weather conditions. An analysis of income patterns not only determines the earning capacity of the vendors but also helps in understanding the degree of income security, savings behaviour and resilience against economic shocks. The present study attempts to analyse the income patterns of street vendors in Mather Bazar by examining multiple interrelated aspects of their earnings. Understanding their average daily income, stability of earnings and saving patterns provides insights into their overall income stability. The study also discusses the impact of positively contributing events such as festivals as well as negatively affecting periods like off-season phases. Additionally, it also examines the role of institutional financial support by analysing vendors' access to and experiences with the PM SVANidhi scheme, and its contribution to improving their livelihoods.

3.3.8 Average Daily Income and Income Stability of Vendors

The average daily income of a vendor varies depending upon their potential earning capacity. A closer examination of ***Figure 12*** reveals that a significant majority of the vendors earn an average daily income below Rs.1000 whereas 7 per cent of the vendors earn more than Rs.7500 per day.

Vendors belonging to the higher income groups are primarily engaged in garment trade and have capital investments exceeding Rs 40,000.

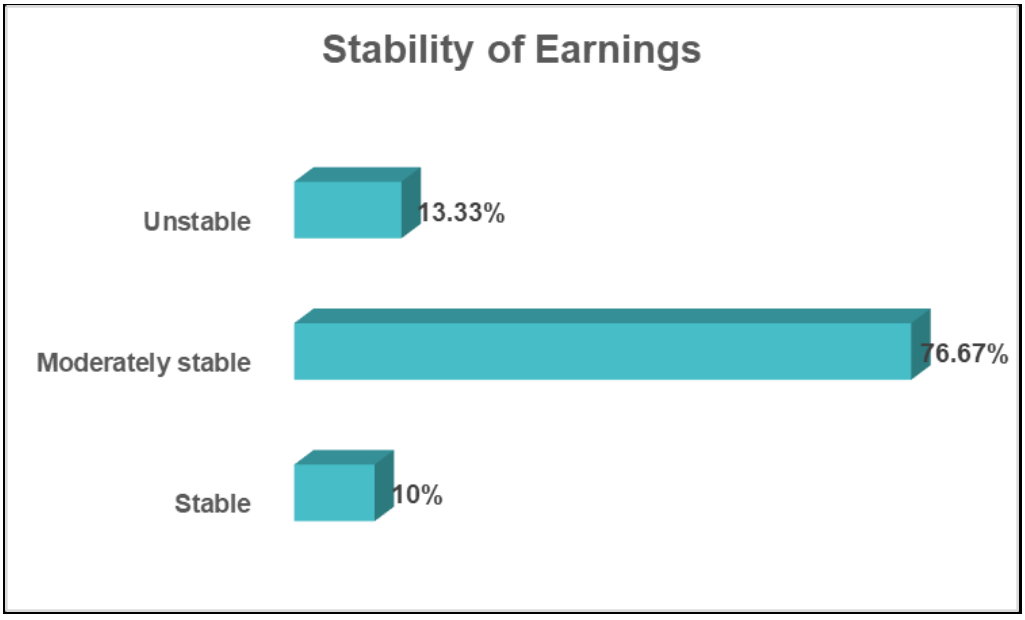
Figure: 12 – Average Daily Income of Street Vendors in Mather Bazar



Source – Primary Data

Income stability among vendors (as shown in ***Figure 13***) indicates that 76.67 per cent of the vendors' daily incomes are moderately stable, indicating that although fluctuations exist, their degree is relatively low. The presence of moderate stability in their earnings helps vendors anticipate their earnings to some extent, enabling them to manage their day-to-day activities.

Figure: 13 – Income stability among vendors in Mather Bazar



Source – Primary Data

From the statistical analysis of ***Table 2***, it is observed that there is a high degree of economic heterogeneity among the vendors. The descriptive analysis shows that the mean income of street vendors in Mather Bazar is 1558.33. However, the standard deviation of 2118.06 indicates that there is a significant level of fluctuations around the sampled mean. The coefficient of variation of 1.35 leads to the conclusion that there is income disparity among the vendors, where a small number of high-earning vendors raise the mean income by masking the low-income earning majority. Thus, the high standard deviation and coefficient of variation indicate very high variability in earnings which results in high income inequality and economic instability among street vendors where income is highly unpredictable and unevenly distributed. This variation in income across vendors limits the ability of low-earning vendors to sustain or expand their business. Targeted measures, such as skill development, improved market access and financial support are therefore essential to reduce disparities and promote a more inclusive and resilient informal economy.

Table: 3 – Average Daily Income of Vendors in Mather Bazar

Average daily income of street vendors in Methar Bazar						
Income group	f	Mid-Value (X)	fX	X-Mean	(X-Mean)²	f(X-Mean)²
Below 1000	19	500	9500	-1058.333333	1120069.444	21281319.44
1000-2500	7	1750	12250	191.6666667	36736.11111	257152.7778
2500-5000	2	3750	7500	2191.666667	4803402.778	9606805.556
5000-7500	0	6250	0	4691.666667	22011736.11	0
7500 above	2	8750	17500	7191.666667	51720069.44	103440138.9
	30		**46750**			**134585416.7**

Source – Primary Data

3.3.9 Income per Hour Analysis Across Categories of Goods Sold

This section analyses the productivity of street vendors based on their income per hour. By deriving income per hour from each vendor and comparing it across different categories of goods sold, the study aims to find the patterns of earnings efficiency and understand how the type of product influences income relative to working hours.

C_j = Category of goods sold, where j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

1 = Garments

2 = Food and Beverages

3 = Footwear and Accessories

4 = Utility Items

5 = Jewellery and Ornaments

6 = Miscellaneous

$\mathbf{P_{ij}}$ = Income per hour of vendor I in category J

$\mathbf{n_{ij}}$ = Number of vendors in category J

$$\mathbf{P_{ij}} = \frac{Yij}{Hij}$$

Where i = 1,2,…….30 represents the individual street vendors in the sample

j = 1,2,…..6, represents the category of goods sold

Y_{ij} = Daily Income of vendor i in category J

H_{ij} = Working Hours of vendor i in category J

To calculate the Mean Income per Hour for Each category, the following formula is used

$$\bar{P}_J = \frac{1}{NJ}\sum_{i=1}^{NJ} Pij = \frac{1}{NJ}\sum_{i=1}^{NJ}\frac{Yij}{Hij}$$

Where,

$\bar{P}_J$ = mean income per hour for category J

N_J = Total number of vendors in category J

Table:4 – Category Analysis of Mean Income per hour

Category (J)	No: of Vendors	Mean Daily Income	Mean Working Hours	Mean Income Per Hour	Remarks
Garments	8	3125	10	339.87	High Turnover, Strong Earning Efficiency
Food and Beverages	4	1312.5	10	131.21	Stable Demand, Moderate Earning Efficiency
Footwear and Accessories	5	750	10.2	82.12	Moderate Demand, Lower Sales Turnover
Utility Items	4	500	11	45.45	Low Turnover, Limited Earning Efficiency
Jewellery or Ornaments	4	812.5	11	73.86	Moderate Demand, Lower Sales Turnover

Miscellaneous	5	1500	11.2	129.98	Stable Demand, Moderate Earning Efficiency

Source: Primary Data

Table: 4 presents a category-wise analysis of mean income per hour among street vendors calculated using the income per hour measure ($P_{ij} = Y_{ij} / H_{ij}$). The results reveal considerable variation in income efficiency across different categories. Vendors engaged in garment sales record the highest mean income per hour. This high turnover can be attributed to the locational advantage of Mather Bazar, as Broadway is well known for its wholesale and retail garment markets, offering goods at affordable price. In addition, seasonal demand during festivals and peak shopping periods also contribute to increased sales and higher earnings. In contrast, vendors dealing in utility items have lowest turnover, reflecting limited profit margins even with longer working hours. This category-wise income per analysis directly addresses the study's objective of examining income patterns among street vendors. The findings highlight that the type of goods sold plays a more decisive role in determining earning efficiency than working hours alone.

3.3.10 Hypothesis Testing: Relationship between Average Daily Working Hours and Daily Income of Street Vendors

The objective of this hypothesis test is to examine whether there exists a statistically significant relationship between the average working hours and daily income of street vendors.

Statement of Hypothesis

Null Hypothesis (H_0): There is no relationship between average daily working hours and daily income among street vendors.

Alternative Hypothesis (H_1): There is relationship between average daily working hours and daily income among street vendors.

To analyse the relationship between average daily working hours and daily income, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient has been used. This non-parametric method is considered appropriate due to the limited sample size and the likelihood of non-normal distribution of income in the informal sector. The analysis is based on primary data collected from 30 street vendors and is carried out at the 5 per cent level of significance.

Table:5 – Correlation between average working hours and daily income

Variables	Sample Size (n)	Spearman's Rank Correlation Coefficient (ρ)
Average Working Hours and Daily Income	30	-0.07078

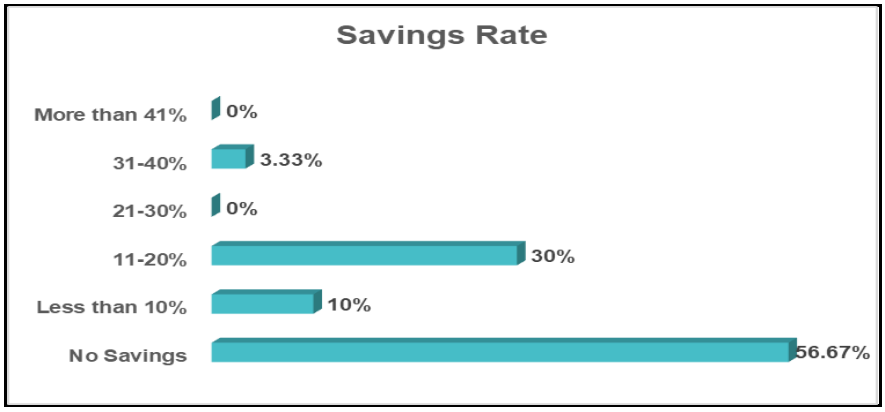
To determine whether the observed relationship between average working hours and daily income is statistically significant, we compared the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient (ρ = -0.0708) with the critical value from standard Spearman tables. For a sample of 30 vendors and a two-tailed test at the 5 per cent significant level, the critical value is about 0.362. Since the ρ value falls below the threshold, the observed correlation is not statistically significant. Thus, we fail to reject the null hypothesis, concluding that there is no statistical relationship between average working hours and daily income.

In general, there exists a direct relationship between no: of working hours and the daily income. However, this relationship is paradoxical in street vending at Mather Bazar. The findings suggest that an increase in working hours does not necessarily lead to higher daily income for street vendors. This indicates that income levels are influenced more by structural and market-related factors such as location of vending, nature of goods sold, customer demand and seasonal variations rather than the number of hours worked. The absence of a significant association between the variables underscores the challenges of labour-intensive strategies in the informal sector, where effort alone often falls short.

3.3.11 Income Saving Patterns among Street Vendors

Figure 14 shows the proportion of income saved by Street Vendors in Mather Bazar. It is observed from the figure that 56.67 per cent of the vendors do not have any savings from their income. This is primarily due to their low-income levels, as most of the vendors fall under the income group of earning below Rs.1000 per day. The vendors stated that their inability to save is due to their household and vending related expenses as well as the repayment of loans taken earlier. After meeting all these expenditures, they are left with nothing to save.

Figure: 14 – Proportion of Income Saved by Street Vendors in Mather *Bazar*

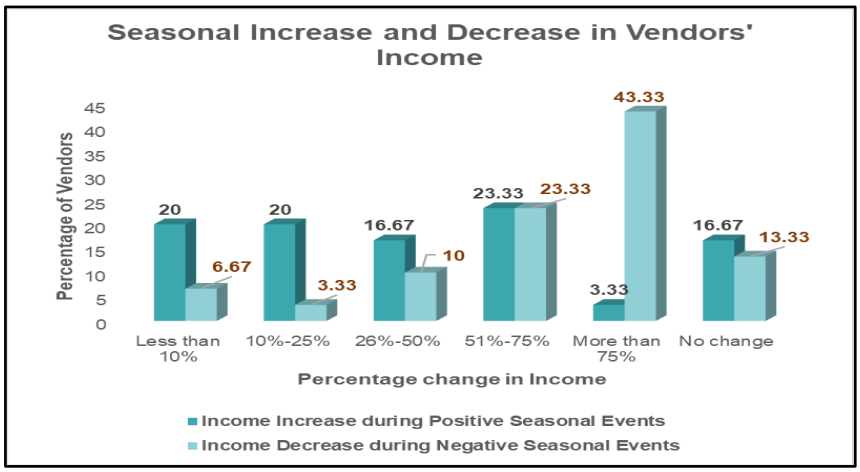


Source – Primary Data

3.3.12 Impact of Seasonal Factors on Vendors' Income

Income fluctuations in street vendors' income are predominantly influenced by seasonal factors. ***Figure 15*** illustrates the percentage change in vendors' income during positive seasonal events such as festivals and negative seasonal conditions such as monsoons. During positive events such as festivals, most vendors experience an increase in income. Vendors selling festival-related commodities experience higher earnings, while other vendors also benefit from the increased crowd flow. The figure indicates that a considerable proportion of vendors (23.33 per cent) experienced an increase in their earnings of 51-75 per cent. This substantial rise stems from heightened consumer demand, increased footfall from celebrations and tourism and sales of seasonal goods. However, during negatively impacting seasons such as monsoon, most vendors experience a decline in income. This happens mainly due to reduced crowd flow and limitations on vendors ability to display their items, as exposure may damage their products.

Figure: 15 – Seasonal Fluctuations in Vendors' Income



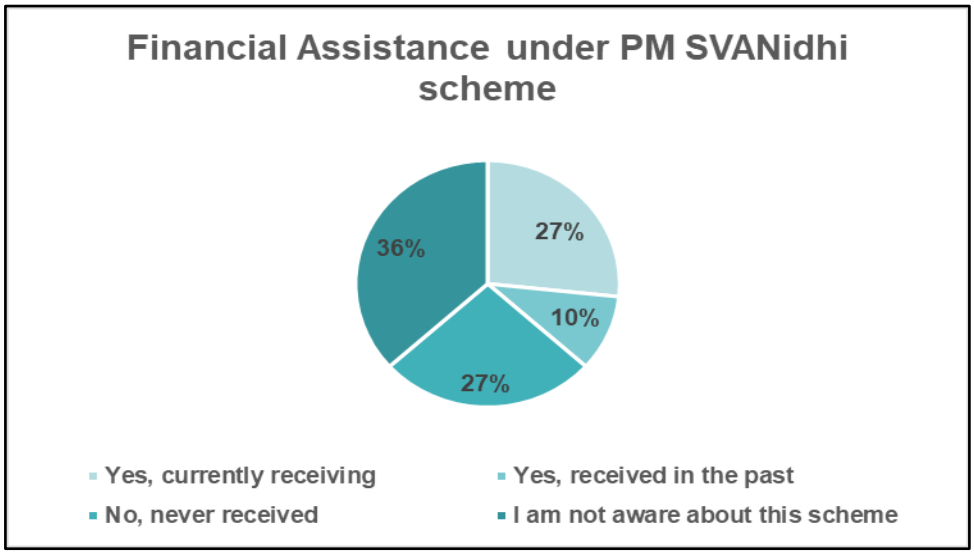
Source – Primary Data

3.3.13 Role of PM SVANidhi scheme in enhancing vendors livelihood

The PM SVANidhi scheme was launched by the Government of India to provide collateral-free micro loans to street vendors along with interest subsidies for timely repayment and cashback incentives for digital transactions. The primary objective of the scheme is to enhance the livelihood of street vendors by enabling them to operate without financial constraints. **Figure 16** presents the proportion of street vendors who have accessed the scheme and those currently accessing it. From the figure it is understandable that the scheme has not penetrated among street vendors in Mather Bazar. Among the vendors who availed the benefits, 60 per cent reported that the scheme had helped them upgrade or

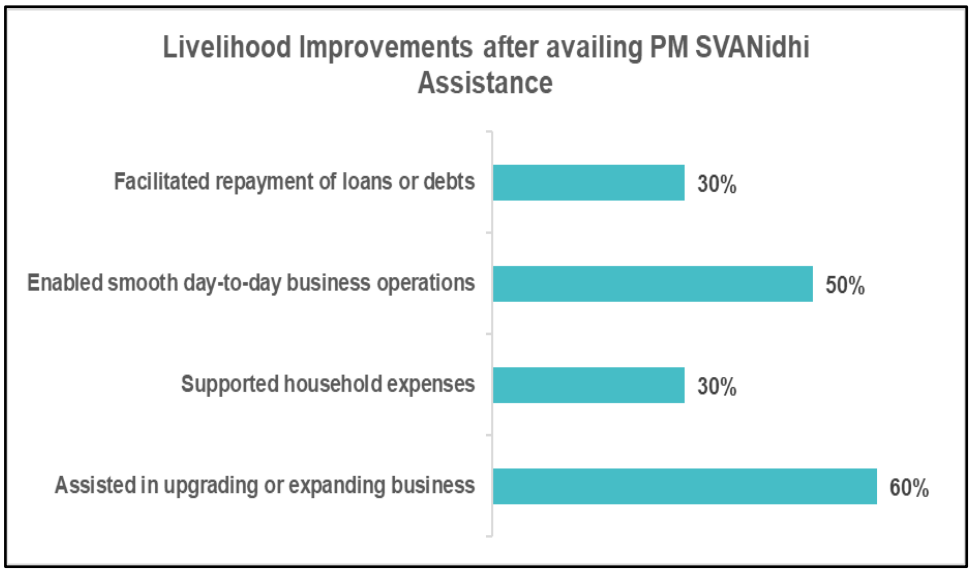
expand their business. The scheme also contributed in other ways, which is shown in ***Figure 17***. This leads to the conclusion that the scheme has largely achieved its intended benefits for the beneficiaries.

Figure: 16 – Coverage of Financial Assistance under PM SVANidhi Scheme



Source – Primary Data

Figure: 17 – Livelihood Improvements among Vendors after availing the PM SVANidhi Scheme



Source – Primary Data

3.3.14 Working Conditions

Working conditions refer to the environment in which street vendors carry out their daily activities. The present study analyses the working conditions of street vendors in Mather Bazar using a deficit-based index approach inspired by the ILO's decent work framework. Vendors were asked to tick the problems they experience, including lack of proper vending space, absence of basic facilities (drinking water, resting areas, shades), poor sanitation, exposure to harsh weather conditions, lack of shelter and storage space and threats from Municipal and Police officials. Each response was coded numerically.

Table 6 represents the construction of the Working Condition Index based on the issues faced at their workplace. Each column represents a specific working condition issue. Score of 1 was assigned to the existence of an issue and a non-ticked response was assigned a value of 0. For each respondent, individual deficit score was calculated by dividing total number of issues reported by total number of questions. The working condition Index of the street vendors was calculated by obtaining the sum score of individual deficit scores divided by the total number of respondents. The index values were categorised into four levels - good working conditions (0.00-0.25), moderate deficit (0.26-0.50), high deficit (0.51-0.75) and severe working condition deficit (0.76-1.00). Further, the identified issues were mapped to the ILO's Decent work 4 pillars, wherein lack of basic facilities, poor sanitation, exposure to harsh weather conditions, lack of shelter and storage space and threats from municipal and police officials were linked to Social Protection and Rights at Workplace and lack of proper vending space was linked to Job Creation.

Table:6 – Working Condition Analysis Table

Vendors	Lack of proper vending space	Lack of basic facilities	Poor sanitation and hygiene at the workplace	Exposure to harsh weather conditions	Lack of shelter and storage space	Threats from Municipal and Police officials	Individual Deficit Score
1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.166667
2	0	0	1	1	1	1	0.666667
3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.166667
4	0	1	1	1	0	0	0.5
5	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.333333
6	0	1	1	1	0	0	0.5
7	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.166667
8	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.333333
9	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.333333
10	0	1	1	1	1	0	0.666667
11	0	1	1	1	0	0	0.5
12	0	0	1	1	0	0	0.333333
13	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.333333
14	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.166667
15	0	1	0	1	1	0	0.5
16	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.166667
17	1	0	1	1	0	0	0.5

18	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.333333
19	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.166667
20	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.166667
21	0	0	1	1	0	1	0.5
22	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.333333
23	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.166667
24	1	0	0	1	0	0	0.333333
25	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.166667
26	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.333333
27	1	0	0	1	0	0	0.333333
28	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.333333
29	0	1	0	1	0	0	0.333333
30	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.166667

Source: Primary Data

The Working Condition Index for the surveyed vendors is 0.33 indicating a moderate level of working condition deficit. This suggests that although severe deprivation is not widespread, they continue to face some challenges. An examination of ***Table 6*** reveals that the most common deficit reported by vendors is “exposure to harsh weather conditions”. The findings indicate the need to improve infrastructure and basic facilities for the well-being of vendors.

3.4 EFFECTIVENESS OF STREET VENDORS ACT ON VENDOR’S LIVELIHOOD

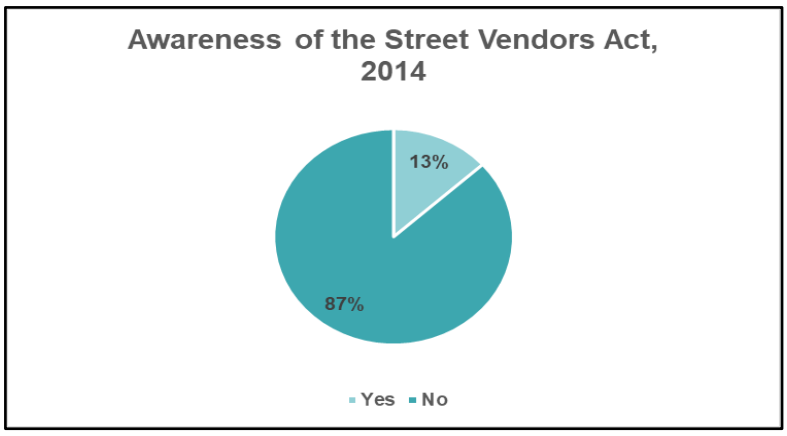
When a government implements a policy, it may not always achieve the desired results due to the gaps between policy formulation and ground level implementation. This section examines the

effectiveness of Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014, which was enacted by the Government of India, to safeguard the rights of street vendors. Street vendors in Mather Bazar were taken as the sample to assess the effectiveness of the Act. Vendors were asked questions regarding their awareness about the Street Vendors Act and the Town Vending Committee, possession of vending licenses and the extent to which the Act has improved their livelihood. For analytical purpose, a regression model was constructed taking the Livelihood Security Index as the dependent variable and the awareness of the Street Vendors Act 2014 as the independent variable. This will help us to determine the extent to which the act has achieved in improving the livelihood of the vendors.

3.4.1 Awareness of the Act and Their Rights

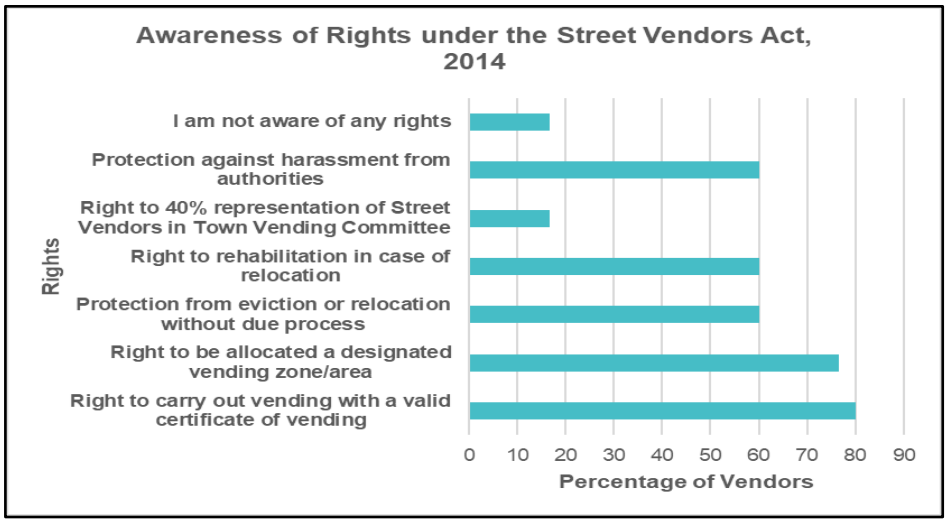
Figure 18 presents the level of awareness of the Street Vendors Act 2014 among vendors in Mather Bazar. The data show that 87 per cent of vendors lack knowledge of the Act. However, when vendors were asked specifically about their rights, a relatively higher level of awareness was observed as shown in ***Figure 19***. Only 16.66 per cent of them reported having no knowledge of their rights under the Act. Except for the provision mandating 40 per cent representation of street vendors in the Town Vending Committee, most vendors appeared to be aware of other rights provided under the Act. This suggests that vendors are aware about their rights through interactions with associations or local authorities rather than through statutory awareness. The low awareness of the right to 40 per cent representation in TVCs implies that vendors have no major role in participatory decision making. These findings indicate that the Street Vendors Act 2014 has achieved only partial effectiveness in Mather Bazar.

Figure:18 – Awareness regarding the Street Vendors Act 2014



Source – Primary Data

Figure:19 – Awareness of Rights under Street Vendors Act, 2014



Source – Primary Data

3.4.2 Examining the Relationship between Education and Awareness of the Street Vendors Act: A Fisher's Exact Test Analysis

This section examines whether the educational level of street vendors influences their awareness of the Street Vendors Act, 2014. For this purpose, vendors were grouped into two categories based on their educational attainment: Higher Education which includes Higher Secondary education and above and Lower Education which includes Primary and Secondary education. Awareness was measured as a binary variable, where vendors coded as "aware" if they could identify at least, one right guaranteed under the Act and "not aware" if they could not.

A Fisher's Exact Test was conducted to assess the relation between education level and awareness of the Street Vendors Act. This test was chosen over the Chi-square test because some expected cell frequencies were small, which violates the assumptions of the Chi-square test. Fisher's Exact Test is particularly appropriate for small sample sizes and 2*2 contingency tables, as it calculates the exact probability of the observed pattern of awareness that could occur by chance if education had no effect on awareness.

Table: 7 - Awareness of Street Vendors' Rights by Educational Level

Education Level	Not Aware	Aware	Total
Higher education	0	5	**5**
Lower education	5	20	**25**
Total	**5**	**25**	**30**

Source: Primary Data

The Fisher's Exact Test indicated no statistically significant relation between educational level and awareness (p=0.5562). Although the result is not significant, it is notable that a majority of lower-educated vendors are aware of their rights, suggesting that factors such as experience and peer networks play an important role in shaping awareness beyond formal education. Another notable finding from the table is that all vendors with higher education are aware of the rights prescribed under the Act. This reflects the role of education in helping vendors understand legal entitlements and highlights that those with lower educational backgrounds may depend more on informal sources for information.

The Fisher's Exact Test result was obtained using the online calculator "Easy Fisher Exact Test Calculator" and the result is given below.

Easy Fisher Exact Test Calculator

Success! The Fisher exact test statistic and statement of significance appear beneath the table.
Blue means you're dealing with dependent variables; red, independent.

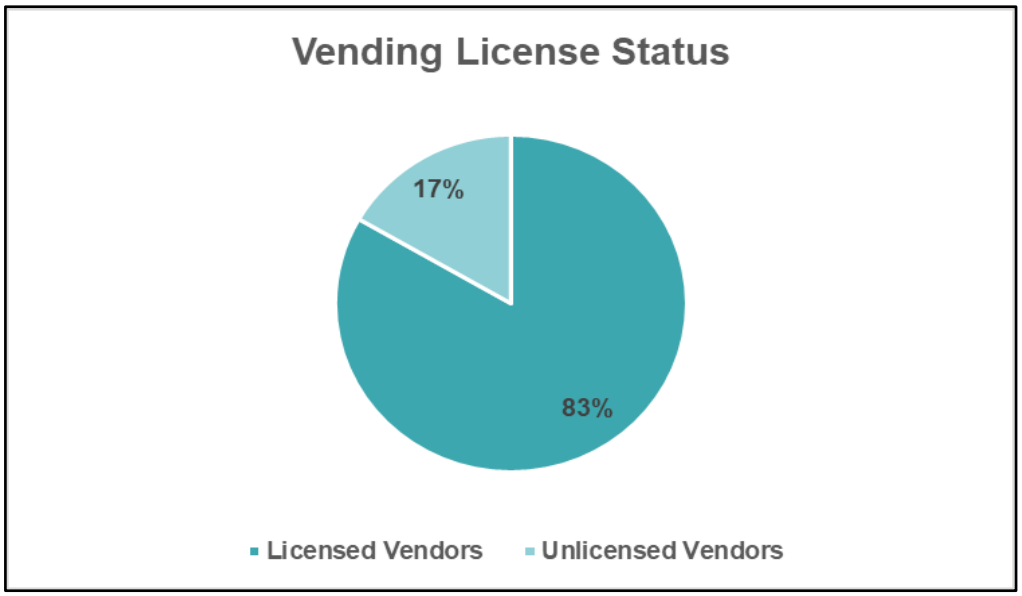
Results			
	Not aware	Aware	*Marginal Row Totals*
Higher Education	0	5	5
Lower Education	5	20	25
Marginal Column Totals	5	25	30 (Grand Total)

The Fisher exact test statistic value is 0.5562. The result is *not* significant at p < .05.

3.4.3 Vending License Status of Street Vendors

A vending license is an official permit issued to street vendors for conducting vending activities without the fear of eviction. ***Figure 20*** indicates that 83 per cent of the sampled vendors are licensed vendors in Mather Bazar whereas 17 per cent of them are unlicensed vendors. Among the unlicensed vendors, 40 per cent reported that they already have applied for a license, but their applications are still pending. This highlights procedural delays in the licensing process.

Figure:20 – Vending License Status of Street Vendors

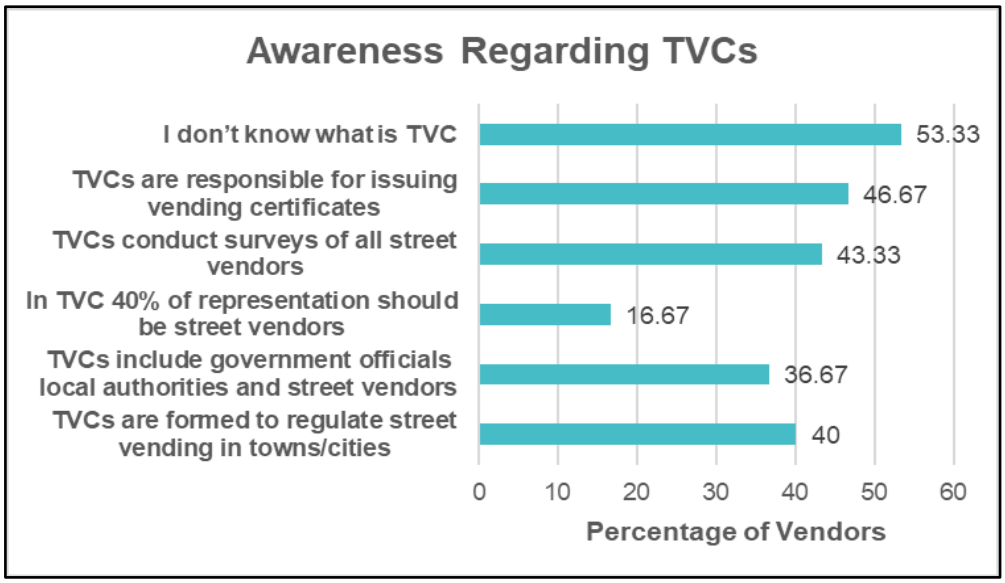


Source – Primary Data

3.4.4 Awareness Regarding Town Vending Committee (TVC)

The Town Vending Committee is a local body constituted to regulate street vending in India. The main functions of TVCs include identifying street vendors, issuing vending certificates, conducting surveys and keeping the record of street vendors under its jurisdiction. Awareness about TVCs will empower street vendors as they can actively engage with local authorities, which help them to stay informed about policies, their rights, schemes, regulations and developments related to their field. ***Figure 21*** shows the level of awareness regarding TVCs among street vendors in Mather Bazar. The figure indicates that more than half of the vendors are unaware of TVC, which means information about TVCs is not effectively communicated to street vendors by local authorities, resulting in limited awareness. The remaining vendors are aware that TVC is responsible for issuing vending certificates and conducting surveys. Only 16.67 per cent of the vendors are aware that 40 per cent of the members of the TVC must be street vendors. This suggests that vendors are largely informed about the administrative functions of TVCs but not about their own role and representation in the decision-making process.

Figure: 21 – Vendor Awareness regarding Town Vending Committees



Source – Primary Data

3.4.5 Regression Analysis on the Effectiveness of the Street Vendors Act 2014, in improving Vendor's Livelihoods

Governments often enact laws and policies with the objective of promoting welfare of its citizens. However, the mere formulation of such policies does not guarantee that the intended benefits reach the target population. Effectiveness of such policies depend upon the quality of implementation at its ground level. In this context, the study seeks to assess the effectiveness of the Act by examining the level of awareness about the Act and how well it has succeeded in improving the livelihood of the vendors.

To analyse the relationship, a simple linear regression model was constructed. Regression analysis is a statistical method used to examine the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables. To assess the effectiveness, the present study takes the livelihood index as the dependent variable and awareness of their rights under the Street Vendors Act as the independent variable. The dependent variable was constructed by aggregating scores of five indicators: increase in income, improvement in working conditions, reduction in harassment by officials, increased job security and reduction in the threat of unnecessary eviction. Vendors were asked to respond to each indicator with a binary choice (Yes/No). A score of 1 was assigned to "yes" response and 0 to "no" response. The score of all five indicators was added to obtain the total livelihood score of each vendor. To standardise the result the score was divided by 5 and to express it in percentage form, it was multiplied by 100. Similarly, the independent variable was constructed by aggregating the score of its key indicators, namely: Right to be allocated in a designated vending

zone/area, Protection from eviction or relocation without due process, Right to rehabilitation in case of relocation, Right to 40 per cent representation of Street Vendors in Town Vending Committee and Protection against harassment from authorities. Each indicator was assigned a value of 1 for positive response and 0 for negative response. The scores obtained for each vendor were summed and the total score was then divided by 6 to derive the standardised value. To express it in percentage form, the standardised value was multiplied by 100. ***Table 8*** shows the livelihood score and awareness score of each vendor.

To assess the effectiveness of the Act on vendors livelihoods, a simple linear regression model is used:

$$\mathbf{Y = \alpha + \beta X + e}$$

Where Y = Livelihood Index (dependent variable)

X = Awareness of Rights

α = Intercept

β = slope

e = error term

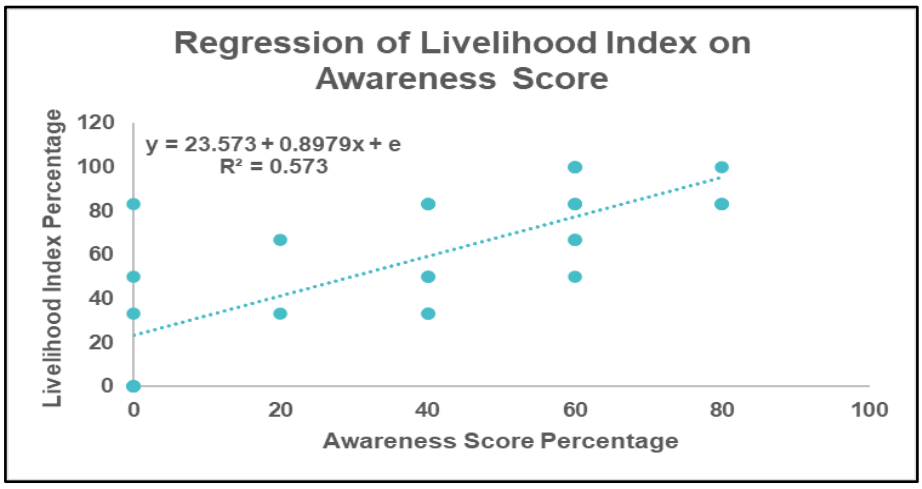
Livelihood Index (Y Variable)	Awareness of Rights (X Variable)
0	0
0	0
60	50
20	66.66666667
40	50
60	83.33333333
60	66.66666667
60	66.66666667
0	0
40	33.33333333
80	83.33333333
20	33.33333333

60	83.33333333
60	100
80	83.33333333
40	83.33333333
0	33.33333333
40	83.33333333
0	50
0	0
80	83.33333333
60	83.33333333
0	0
40	50
60	100
40	83.33333333
40	33.33333333
60	100
80	100
0	83.33333333

Table: 8

Source – Primary Data

Figure:22 – Regression of Livelihood Index on Awareness Score



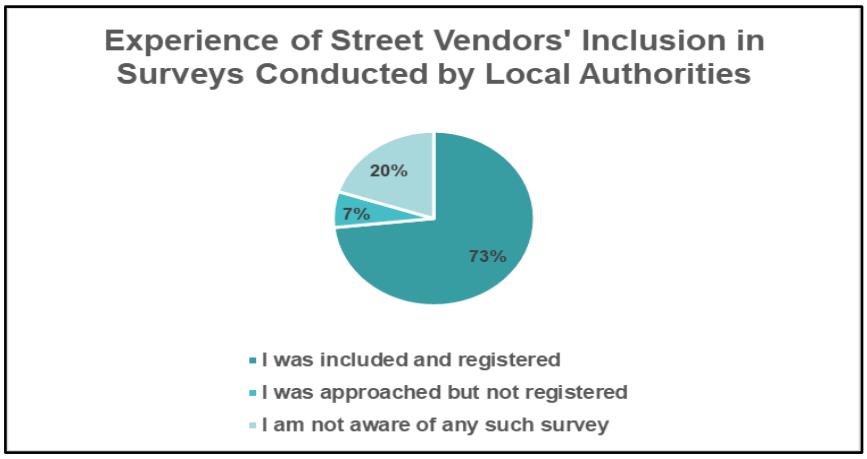
Source – Primary Data

Figure 22 shows the scatter plot that depicts the relationship between the livelihood index score of street vendors in Mather Bazar and their awareness level. The trendline included in the graph shows a positive correlation between the variables. The R^2 value of 0.57 suggests that 57 per cent of the total variation in Livelihood Index can be explained by the linear relationship between X and Y variables as described in the regression equation. This suggests that vendors who are more aware of the rights and protections specified under the Act tend to have better livelihood possibly due to improved access to vending, reduced harassment or utilisation of available support mechanisms. The other 43 per cent of the total variation in Livelihood Index remains unexplained and is attributed to other factors included in the disturbance variable "e". From this, it can be concluded that provisions of Street Vendors Act, 2014 and its implementation by local authorities have been successful in enhancing the livelihood of vendors to the extent of 57 per cent.

3.4.6 Experience of Street Vendors' Inclusion in Surveys Conducted by Local Authorities

Vendor surveys are conducted by local authorities to identify eligible street vendors for registration and to issue them a vending certificate and license for vending. These surveys influence vendors' access to legal protection and livelihood security. ***Figure 23*** reveals the experience of Street Vendors' inclusion in Surveys conducted by local authorities. 73 per cent of the vendors were included in the survey and were registered. 20 per cent of the vendors are unaware of such surveys and among them 66.67 per cent of them do not hold a vending license. This indicates that although the local authorities were successful in identifying and registering most of the vendors, a segment of vendors remained unregistered and was not reached by the authorities.

Figure:23 – Experience of Street Vendors' Inclusion in Surveys Conducted by Local Authorities



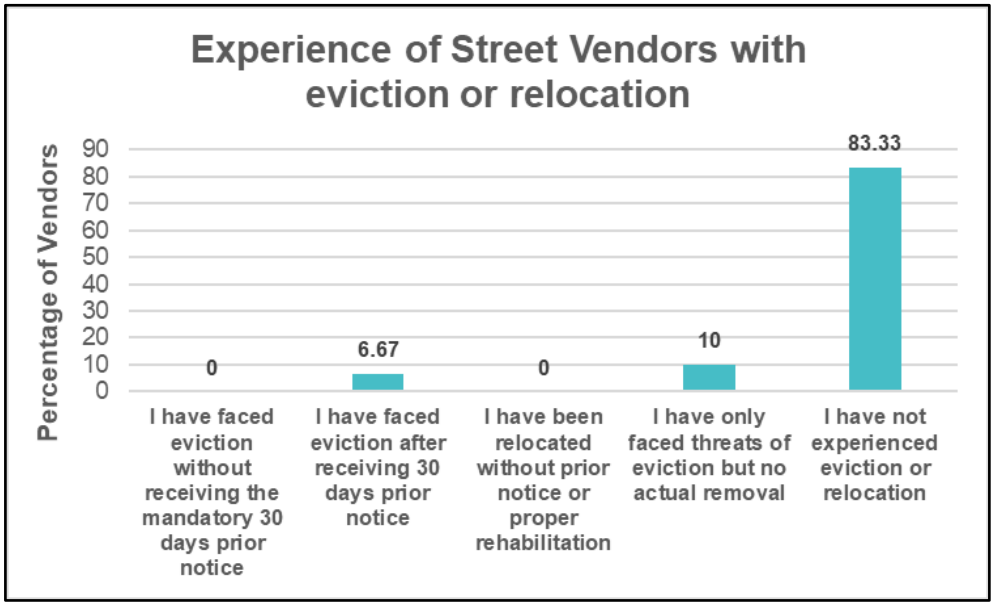
Source – Primary Data

3.4.7 Experiences of Street Vendors with Eviction or Relocation

Eviction or relocation constitute critical challenges for street vendors, posing a direct threat to their socio-economic stability. As shown in ***Figure 24***, 83.33 per cent of the street vendors in Mather Bazar have not experienced eviction or relocation. A small proportion (6.67 per cent) of the vendors had faced eviction after receiving a prior notice prescribed under the Act. The remaining 10 per cent only faced threats of eviction but not actual removal.

Interactions with vendors revealed that neither corporation nor police raised objections to vendors selling goods on footpaths. Instead, it is the shopkeepers who often resist street vendors operating near their establishments. Vendors also pointed out that some shopkeepers themselves display goods on footpaths without adhering to the distance and spatial norms prescribed under the Act; nevertheless, enforcement actions are often directed exclusively at them. Another major concern expressed by vendors relates to rehabilitation. If vendors are relocated to uncrowded areas, it would significantly reduce their income. Over the years, most vendors have built a fixed customer base, and relocation would require them to rebuild their market presence from the ground level. This process not only affects their livelihood but also their psychological well-being.

Figure: 24 – Experience of Street Vendors with Eviction or Relocation



Source – Primary Data

3.5 CONCLUSION

The study of Street Vendors in Mather Bazar provides a comprehensive understanding of their socio-economic profiles and helps in assessing the level of effectiveness of the Street Vendors Act, 2014. The study reveals that street vending is not a marginal or temporary occupation but a primary and long-term source of livelihood for most of the vendors. The analysis of the nature of employment indicates that street vendors in Mather Bazar are predominantly self-employed and work for longer durations. Income analysis further reveals that the daily income of most of the vendors is moderately stable. The analysis of mean and standard deviation in vendors income results in the conclusion that there exist income inequality and economic instability among vendors. Moreover, the income pattern at Mather shows that garment vendors earn more per hour due to favourable location and seasonal demand, while utility goods vendors earn the least revealing that earnings depend more on the nature of goods sold and market conditions than on long working hours. The Working Condition Index of street vendors shows that their conditions are inadequate and substandard. This suggests the need for improving basic facilities and infrastructure for vendors. The study on the effectiveness of Street Vendors Act, 2014, reveals mixed outcomes. Although many vendors possess vending licences and are aware of most of the rights prescribed under the Act, lack of awareness regarding TVC, particularly about 40 per cent representation of street vendors in decision making indicates a weak participatory governance. Regression analysis of livelihood security and awareness of rights lead to the conclusion that 57 per cent of the improvement in vendors' livelihood can be attributed to the Street Vendors Act. This indicates the Act has been partially successful in improving vendors' livelihoods.

CHAPTER – 4

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Street vending serves as a livelihood option for millions of people and for 93.33 per cent of vendors in Mather Bazar, street vending is their primary occupation. For many decades street vending was treated as an illegal activity until the enactment of Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. This led to positive outcomes for vendors' livelihood as they were legally recognised and encouraged to participate in inclusive town planning through the mandated Town Vending Committees which aim to provide social security and prevent unnecessary evictions and harassments.

The two primary objectives of the study are: 1) To analyse the nature of employment, income patterns, and working conditions of street vendors in Mather Bazar, Broadway, Ernakulam. 2) To assess the effectiveness of government policies, particularly the Street Vendors Act, 2014, on their livelihoods. The study conducted within Mather Bazar among street vendors revealed significant challenges, particularly in the implementation of street vending rules and vendor awareness. The final chapter presents the key findings derived from the analysis and interpretation of data collected during the study. The chapter puts forward recommendations, and the insights gained from the study can serve as a foundation for future actions by government authorities.

4.2 FINDINGS

The study undertakes a comprehensive analysis of the nature of employment, income patterns and working conditions of street vendors and assesses the effectiveness of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 in improving their livelihood. The results derived from the study shows that street vending is a primary source of occupation for 93.33 percent of the vendors and for 90 percent of the households street vending is the sole source of income. Vendors in Mather Bazar work for longer duration with an average of 10.7 hours per day indicating work intensity driven by economic necessity. Regarding income patterns, there is a high degree of economic heterogeneity among the vendors. The mean income of street vendors in Mather Bazar is 1558.33. However, the standard deviation of 2118.06 indicates there is a significant level of fluctuations around the sampled mean. The coefficient of variation of 1.35 results in the conclusion that there is income disparity among the vendors where a small number of high earning vendors raise the mean income by masking the low-income earning majority. Another interesting finding related to income pattern is that garment vendors earn more hourly income due to locational

advantage and seasonal demand, whereas vendors selling utility items record the lowest earnings. This suggests that income is driven more by the type of goods and market conditions rather than longer working hours. The findings further shows that most of the vendors in Mathar Bazar do not have savings from their income. The absence of savings is largely due to their household and vending related expenses as well as the repayment of loans taken earlier. After meeting all these expenditures, they are left with nothing to save. The lack of savings increases vendors' vulnerability to economic shocks. With respect to government support, awareness and penetration of PM SVANidhi scheme remain limited, with 36 per cent unaware and 27 per cent never availing the scheme. The scheme has helped 60 per cent of the beneficiaries to upgrade or expand their business, indicating effectiveness of those who accessed it. The assessment of working conditions reveals a score of 0.33, indicating a moderate level of deprivation. This suggests that although severe deprivation is not widespread, they continue to face some challenges. The most reported issue is exposure to harsh weather conditions followed by lack of basic facilities and sanitation. These findings underline the need for infrastructure development in Mather Bazar.

The study also highlights limited statutory awareness of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. About 87 per cent of vendors were unaware of the Act itself; however, when specifically asked about their rights, most vendors exhibited awareness of several key provisions prescribed under the Act. Except for the right to 40 per cent representation of street vendors in the Town Vending Committee, most of the vendors appear to be aware of other rights provided under the Act. This suggests that vendors are aware about their rights through interactions with associations or local authorities rather than through statutory awareness. Although no significant link found between education and awareness, all higher educated vendors are aware of their rights, while many lower educated vendors rely on experience and peer networks, underscoring the importance of informal sources of information. The low awareness of right to 40 percent representation in TVCs implies that vendors have no major role in participatory decision making. Further, regression analysis reveals a positive relationship between awareness of rights and livelihood security. An R^2 value of 0.57 implies that vendors who are more aware of the provisions, rights and protections specified under the Act tend to have better livelihood possibly due to improved access to vending, reduced harassment or utilisation of available support mechanisms.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are suggested.

- There is a strong need to improve awareness regarding Street Vendors Act 2014 particularly regarding the role and composition of Town Vending Committees. As the study observes a significant gap between street vendors and existing TVC, Municipality officials should ensure that vendors are well informed about the TVC and its meetings. The election for the representatives of street vendors should be held democratically, ensuring that all vendors are properly informed.

- The coverage of PM SVANidhi scheme should be expanded, and it is recommended to conduct workshops for street vendors to clearly understand the procedures involved. Digital financial literacy programs should be introduced to encourage the use of cashless transactions and formal banking systems.

- Given the working condition deficit of 0.33, there is a need to improve infrastructure in vending areas. The provision of weather resistant shelter should be prioritised by Municipal Authorities to protect the vendors from harsh weather conditions.

- To address income losses during off season periods like monsoons, temporary alternative covered vending spaces should be developed. Vendors should be supported through seasonal credit, income support mechanisms and insurance schemes to mitigate economic shocks.

- Since vendors have expressed concerns regarding their relocation to uncrowded or inactive areas, relocation or rehabilitation should be carried out in customer-based areas.

- Periodic evaluation of the Street Vendors Act 2014 at the local level should be conducted to identify gaps. Feedback from vendors should be incorporated into policy revisions to ensure inclusive and effective urban governance.

QUESTIONNAIRE

STREET VENDORS IN THE INFORMAL URBAN SECTOR: A CASE STUDY OF MATHER BAZAR, BROADWAY, ERNAKULAM

Section A: Personal Information

1. Name (optional): _____

2. What is your Age Group?

- Below 20 years
- 21–30
- 31–40
- 41–50
- Above 51 years

3. What is your Gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other

4. What is your highest level of Education?

- No formal education
- Primary education
- Secondary education
- Higher Secondary education
- Graduate and above

5. Place of Origin:

- Within Ernakulam
- Other District in Kerala (please specify)
- Other State in India (please specify)

Section B: Nature of Employment, Income Patterns and Working Conditions

6. Is street vending your primary occupation?

- Yes
- Other Occupation:

7. How many years have you been engaged in street vending?

- Less than 1 year
- 1–5 years
- 6–10 years
- 11-15 years
- 15 years and above

8. What were the reasons for you to start street vending?

- Family tradition
- Low capital requirement
- Lack of alternative employment opportunities
- Better income prospects compared to previous work
- Migrated to Ernakulam in search of Livelihood
- Other:

9. What type of goods do you sell?

- Food and Beverages
- Garments
- Footwear and Accessories
- Jewellery or Ornaments
- Utility Items
- Miscellaneous

10. Do you own or rent the space used for street vending?

- Owned by myself

- Rented / Leased
- Other:

11. What is the minimum capital required to start your business?

- Less than ₹ 5000
- ₹ 5000 - 10,000
- ₹ 10,001- 20,000
- ₹ 20,001-30,000
- ₹ 30,001- 40,000
- Above ₹ 40,000

12. What is the contribution of street vending to your household income?

- Sole source of household income - (all household income comes from street vending)
- Primary source of household income - (majority of household income comes from street vending)
- Secondary or Supplementary source of household income - (street vending is the extra income that supports the household, but not the main one)
- Occasional or marginal source of household income - (contribute minimally or irregularly to household income)

13. Do you employ any individuals to assist you in your street vending business?

- No; I manage the vending entirely by myself
- Yes, I have hired employees
- Yes, my family members are there to assist me in street vending activities
- Yes, I receive assistance from friends or neighbours
- Others:

14. What is your usual working shift in street vending?

- Morning
- Evening
- Both
- Other:

15. How many hours do you work per day?

- Less than 4 hours
- hours
    - 9 hours
- 10- 12 hours
- More than 12 hours

16. What is your average daily income from street vending?

- Below Rs 1000
- Rs 1000 – Rs 2500
- Rs 2500 – Rs 5000
- Rs 5000 – Rs 7500
- Rs 7500 and Above

17. How would you describe the stability of your income from street vending?

- Stable - Income is regular and predictable
- Moderately stable - Income is mostly consistent but varies occasionally
- Unstable / irregular - income fluctuates frequently and unpredictably

18. What percentage of your street vending income do you usually save?

- I don't have any savings from street vending
- My savings is less than 10% of my total street vending income
- Between 10-20%
- Between 21-30%
- Between 31-40%
- More than 50%

19. By what percentage does your income increase during positively contributing events such as festivals?

- Less than 10%
- 10%-25%
- 26%-50%
- 51%-75%
- More than 75%
- No increase in income

20. By what percentage does your income decrease during negatively impacting events such as monsoons or off-seasons periods?

- Less than 10%
- 10%-25%
- 26%-50%
- 51%-75%
- More than 75%
- No decrease in income

21. Have you received financial assistance under the PM SVANidhi Scheme?

- Yes, currently receiving
- Yes, received in the past
- No, never received
- I am not aware about this scheme

22. If yes, how has the PM SVANidhi scheme helped in your livelihood?

- Assisted in upgrading or expanding business
- Facilitated repayment of loans or debts
- Supported household expenses
- Enabled smooth day-to-day business operations
- Others:

23. Tick the issues you face in your working conditions.

- Lack of proper vending space

- Lack of basic facilities (drinking water, resting areas, shades)
- Poor sanitation and hygiene at the workplace
- Exposure to harsh weather conditions (sun, rain, heat, cold)
- Lack of shelter and storage space
- Threats from Municipal and Police officials
- Others:

Section C: Effectiveness of Street Vendors Act

24. Are you aware about the Street Vendors Act, 2014?

- Yes
- No

25. Do you have a vending license or certificate?

- Yes
- No

26. Tick out the rights of street vendors in the Street Vendors Act, 2014 that you are aware about.

- Right to carry out vending with a valid certificate of vending
- Right to be allocated a designated vending zone/area
- Protection from eviction or relocation without due process
- Right to rehabilitation in case of relocation
- Right to 40% representation of Street Vendors in Town Vending Committee
- Protection against harassment from authorities
- I am not aware of any questions

27. Which of the following statements about Town Vending Committees are you aware of?

- TVCs are formed to regulate street vending in towns/cities
- TVCs include government officials, local authorities and street vendors

- In TVC, 40% of representation should be street vendors
- TVCs conduct surveys of all street vendors
- TVCs are responsible for issuing vending certificates
- I am not aware of any of these rights

28. How has the Street Vendors Act improved your livelihood?

- It has increased my income
- It has improved working conditions
- It has reduced harassment from officials
- It has increased my job security
- It has reduced the threat of unnecessary evictions
- Others:

29. What was your experience of inclusion in vendor surveys conducted by the authority?

- I was included and registered
- I was approached but not registered
- I was not approached at all
- I am not aware of any such survey
- Other:

30. What kind of experience have you had with eviction or relocation carried out by the authorities?

- I have faced eviction without receiving the mandatory 30 days prior notice
- I have faced eviction after receiving 30 days prior notice
- I have been relocated without prior notice or proper rehabilitation
- I have only faced threats of eviction but no actual removal
- I have not experienced eviction or relocation
- Other:

31.What support do you expect from the government? _____

32. What changes should be made to improve the Act? _____

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