

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF STREET VENDERS FROM THE GENDER PROSPECTIVE

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Street vending is a very imperative activity of informal/unorganized sectors in all underdeveloped and developing countries. In comparison with the other trades, it is easy way of trading for the poor people as well as lower level of income groups (vulnerable) living in the metro and non-metros cities. In this paper our objective is to examine the socio-economic profile of street vendors from the gender perspective and to identify the different problems faced by the Female street vendor as compare to male counterpart. To conduct this study, we have collected primary data with the help the detailed schedule in Lucknow city, Uttar Pradesh. We interviewed 400 street vendors engaged in different business activities i.e. flower, fruits, vegetable, juice etc. In this study we found that female street vendors faced the more problems rather than the male street vendors. They are livings in worst condition as compared to male. Since, there is not more data available on the street vendors in India, It will add a review of literature for the future research and will be a helping tool to the policy makers to know the socio-economic condition of street vendor from the gender perspective in detail.

Keywords: Female street vendors, socio-economic status and informal sector.

INTRODUCTION

Street vending is a very imperative activity of informal/unorganized sectors in all underdeveloped and developing countries. In comparison with the other trades, it is easy way of trading for the poor people as well as lower level of income groups (vulnerable) living in the metro and non-metros cities. In this paper our objective is to examine the socio-economic profile of street vendors from the gender perspective and to identify the different problems faced by the Female street vendor as compare to male counterpart.

Street vendors are among the most vulnerable workers group in the unorganized sector in any developing and undeveloped states. Their income levels are very low and uncertain. Various studies have been conducted on the socio-economic conditions of street vendors in developing countries. They enjoy neither safety nor security at the workplace as they face constant harassment from the local authorities (Bhowmik, 2001; and Saha, 2011). In many cities and towns of developing countries, street vending is a large source of employment (Choudhury et al., 2011), and contributes significantly to households incomes (Adjrah, Y., et al., 2013). In the Uttar Pradesh has passed a bill related to street vendors on 5th March, 2012 based on the national policy 2009 (National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, 2009). According to national policy, due to lot of congestion the system of hawking complexes has been introduced with moderate success in Lucknow city. But, street vending committees have not yet materialized by Lucknow Municipal Corporation.

During the fifteen years since the socio-economic condition of street vendors have not an enormous change in street vending activity business? It is thus important thinks that the current working life style of street vendors have not been improved in terms of income level, working hours, health related, access to finance, safety on work place and discrimination by local bodies and others important aspect. In view of these discussions the objective of the present study are

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follows; (1) To understand the socio profile conditions of the street vendors, their earning levels and conditions of livings in the city of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. (2) The present study seeks to draw attention to the poor economic conditions and precarious livelihood of a deprived economic section of the street vending. The background of the study and the objectives has been discussed in this introductory section. This study is based on a primary data survey, and therefore, the socio-demographic and economic profiles of four hundred individual street vendors are discussed. The summary and conclusion are discussed in the last section.

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

In this study we show that the street vending is a male dominated activity occupation. The present study demonstrates that around 75.8 per cent of the vendors are male, while 24.2 per cent are female. There was a fixed sample of 100 respondents in each main market in Lucknow city. We interviewed 400 street vendors engaged in different business activities i.e. vegetables, fruits & flower, cooked food, household utensils, wooden products and readymade garments sellers. In this study we use deceptive analysis was used to analyses the primary data obtained from the 400 individual samples. These important cases were developed on the basis of interviews and field observation in the study areas. It will add a review of literature for the future research and will be a helping tool to the policy makers to know the socio-economic condition of street vendor from the gender perspective in detail.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Demographic fractures

In this study, we have shown the socio demographic and economic conditions of the street vendors with the gender prospective issues in Lucknow based on primary data. The proportion of the female street vending has been significantly increasing over the years (Bhowmik, S.K., 2011; Saha, D., 2011; and Baliyan, et. al, 2015). The following section, we show the possible result of the study and the corresponding percentage share for these outcomes. The main focus of this study is to understand that women street vendors faced the more problems related to male counterparts in Lucknow. The total number of street vendors in each activity has been shown in the table 1 given below. In this table, the percentage share of readymade garments sellers is the highest among the vendors at 27 percent followed by 18 percent (household utensils), 16.3 percent (cooked food) and 14.3 percent (vegetable sellers). The highest percentage share of the women vendors in the readymade garments selling activity among all street vending activities at nearly 41.2 per cent followed by 23 per cent who are involving household utensils activities. The percentage share of all male street vendors is highest as compared to their female counterparts in all the street vending activities among the total sample size.

Table 1: Sample size and Percentage Share of Male/Female in Different Activities

Indicators		Gender		
Name of Business	Sellers	Male	Female	Total
	Vegetable	49 (16.2)	8 (8.2)	57 (14.3)
	Fruit and Flower	29 (9.6)	9 (9.3)	38 (9.5)
	Cooked food	58 (19.1)	7 (7.2)	65 (16.3)
	Leather Products	19 (6.3)	5 (5.2)	24 (6.0)
	Household Utensils	50 (16.5)	22 (22.7)	72 (18.0)
	Wooden Products	30 (9.9)	6 (6.2)	36 (9.0)
	Readymade Garments	68 (22.4)	40 (41.2)	108 (27.0)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100)

N= 400 (Sample size)

Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

The size of family with age groups and marital statuses are most important part in the socio-economic characteristics of the street vending activity as revealed from the sample survey are discussed below (Table 2). The largest majority of street vendors 40.8 per cent belonged to the age group 26 to 40. Table shows that 53.6 per cent of the women street vendors are age group 26-40 years where as 36.6 per cent of the male vendors are belong to same age group. One of the female street vendors stated that she has no any option other than vending, as it requires less education level and relatively small capital as compared to other livelihood occupations. It has been analyzed that the large number of female street vendors are unmarried and less education level than their male street vendors.

Table 2: Percentage Share of Size of Family

Indicators		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
Age Groups	Less than 25	58 (19.1)	28 (28.9)	86 (21.5)
	26 to 40	111 (36.6)	52 (53.6)	163 (40.8)
	41 to 55	101 (33.3)	13 (13.4)	114 (28.5)
	Above to 56	33 (10.9)	4 (4.1)	37 (9.3)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)
Marital Status	Married	214 (70.6)	61 (62.9)	275 (68.8)
	Unmarried	56 (18.5)	28 (28.9)	84 (21.0)
	Widow & Widower	19 (6.3)	4 (4.1)	23 (5.8)
	Divorced	14 (4.6)	4 (4.1)	18 (4.5)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size), Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

In the table 3, the distribution of the male-female street vendors across religion and caste wise has been included in this study. In terms of religion wise, 62 per cent of the total vendors are Hindus, 32.8 per cent are Muslims and around 5.2 per cent are Sikhs (Table 3). In terms of caste composition, in this present study, largest proportion of street vendors 59.5 per cent belonged to OBC category followed by 30 per cent SCs. Only 10.5 per cent of the total vendors belong to the general castes and a few from ST caste. Thus, it is mainly the people from the weaker sections of the society who take to street vending activities as a means of livelihood.

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Respondents by Social Categories

Indicators		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
Religion	Hindu	183 (60.4)	65 (67.0)	248 (62.0)
	Muslim	99 (32.7)	32 (33.0)	131 (32.8)
	Sikhs	21 (6.9)	0 (0.0)	21 (5.3)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)
Castes	General	37 (12.2)	5 (5.2)	42 (10.5)
	OBCs	172 (56.8)	66 (68.0)	238 (59.5)
	SCs/STs	94 (31.0)	26 (26.8)	120 (30.0)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size), Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

In the table 4; we have explained the education level of male-female street vendors. The educational level among street vendors is generally very low. Out of the total, around 45 per cent of vendors are primary to only 8th class education; approximately 45 per cent street vendors are illiterate and can sign only their names, and about few around 10 per cent have taken only intermediate level education.

Table 4: Percentage Share of Education Level

Indicators		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
Education Level	illiterate	59 (19.5)	15 (15.5)	74 (18.5)
	Can sign only	81 (26.7)	25 (25.8)	106 (26.5)
	Primary	68 (22.4)	32 (33.0)	100 (25.0)
	Upper primary level	62 (20.5)	17 (17.5)	79 (19.8)
	High School	25 (8.3)	6 (6.2)	31 (7.8)
	Intermediate	8 (2.6)	2 (2.1)	10 (2.5)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size), Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

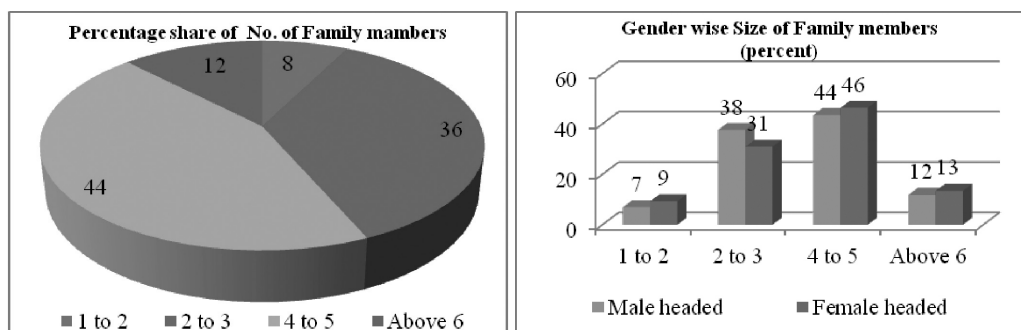
In this study we are found that the largest proportion of street vendors around 78.3 per cent belonged to nuclear family and only 21.8 per cent joint family. But the average size of household of the female headed family is higher than compared to male headed family (see fig 1). The percentage share of number of family members 44 per cent is belonged to 4-5 members of household and 36 per cent is above to 6 members in each family. Only 8 per cent families are belonged to have 1-2 family members in the street vending family.

Table 5: Percentage Share of Family size

Indicators		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
Family Size	Nuclear	248 (81.8)	65 (67.0)	313 (78.2)
	Joint	55 (18.2)	32 (33.0)	87 (21.8)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size), Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

Fig. 1: Percentage Share of Gender wise Size of Family members



In this table 6, we discuss their house conditions and ownership of the street vendors at urban area in Lucknow. Housing condition is a very important index of the quality of life of the people.

Only 55 per cent street vendors were living in pacca houses. 36 per cent were living in Semi-pacca (Kaccha) and the 9 per cent street vendors are living in jhopri out of total sample. Table 6 shows that 52.3 per cent of the street vendors are living on rented house and 44 per cent have own house.

Table 6: Percentage Share of Ownership and Type of House

Indicators		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
House type	Pacca	164 (54.1)	55 (56.7)	219 (54.8)
	Semi-pacca (Kaccha)	115 (38.0)	29 (29.9)	144 (36.0)
	Jhopri	24 (7.9)	13 (13.4)	37 (9.3)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)
House ownership	Own	128 (42.2)	48 (49.5)	176 (44.0)
	Rented	169 (55.8)	40 (41.2)	209 (52.3)
	Relative	6 (2.0)	9 (9.3)	15 (3.8)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size)

Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

This study also demonstrates that around 75 per cent of the street vendors are migrants from the rural areas of Lucknow district and other nearby districts namely; Onnau, Hardoi, Sitapur and Barabankki districts. The percentage share of migrants of female vendors is higher rather than male vendors. Generally, women street vendors have migrant after their marriages and they try to help their husband profession. (Diwakar, N., & Anand, R., 2014) found that the low skill and poor economic street vendors comparison with other trades it is easy to enter this trade for the poor migrants as well as lower income groups living in the any city. Comparatively women face much more problems in street vending rather than men.

Table 7: Percentage Share of Migration Level and BPL Cardholder

Indicators		Gender		
		Male	Female	Total
Migration	Yes	225 (74.3)	75 (77.3)	300 (75.0)
	No	78 (25.7)	22 (22.7)	100 (25.0)
	Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.3)	400 (100.0)
BPL card holding	Yes	146 (47.6)	161 (52.4)	307 (76.8)
	No	57 (61.3)	36 (38.7)	93 (23.2)
	Total	203 (50.7)	197 (49.3)	400 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size), Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

Socio-Economic Statues

In this section, we have explained the socio-economically condition of street vendors in Lucknow city. The data on the daily and monthly income earners statues of the respondents some essential details regarding standard of living. The mostly street vendors belong to poor condition. Only 5.5 per cent of respondents had a daily income earn ranging (moderate income level) from Rs. 501 to Rs. 700. The daily income of a considerable portion of the sample respondents (48.8 per cent) was found to be Rs. 50 to Rs. 250. The total number of the respondents in the next income level (Rs. 251 to Rs. 500) is 45.8 per cent (Table 8). More female street vendors are in lower income level as compared

to male counterparts. While, 7 per cent male in moderate income level but no female street vendors is not in this groups. Average daily income of the respondents from main source was reported at Rs. 295. Daily income earning of female street vendors is lower as compared to male street vendors.

Table 8: Percentage Share of Respondents by Income Groups

Groups of Daily Income		Lower Income (50-250)	Middle Income (251-500)	Moderate Income (Above 501)	Total	Average Income (Rs.)	
	Male	140	141	22	303	307	
	(%)	46.2	46.5	7.3	100		
	Female	55	42	0	97	261	
	(%)	56.7	43.3	0	100		
	Total	195	183	22	400	295	
	(%)	48.8	45.8	5.5	100		
Monthly Family Income		less than 5000	5001 to 10000	10001 to 15000	Above to 15000	Total	Average MFI (Rs.)
	Male	16	187	78	22	303	9208
	(%)	5.3	61.7	25.7	7.3	100	
	Female	10	66	21	0	97	7829
	(%)	10.3	68	21.6	0	100	
	Total	26	253	99	22	400	8874
	(%)	6.5	63.2	24.8	5.5	100	
Monthly Per Capita Income		Less than 1500	1501 to 2000	2001 to 5000	Above to 5001	Total	Average MPCFI (Rs.)
	Male	28	36	182	57	303	3768
	(%)	9.2	11.9	60.1	18.8	100	
	Female	10	15	63	9	97	3143
	(%)	10.3	15.5	64.9	9.3	100	
	Total	38	51	245	66	400	3617
	(%)	9.5	12.8	61.2	16.5	100	

N= 400 (Sample size), Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

In terms of, monthly family income earning 63.2 per cent of the respondents had the monthly income viz. Rs. 5001 to Rs. 10000. Only 5.5 per cent of the respondents had the highest monthly income earn above to Rs. 15000. A comparison of the male-female share of the income level showed that out of the total number of 76 female (78 per cent) and 203 male (67 per cent) fall within the income range of Rs. 2500 to Rs. 10000. A monthly per capita income (MPCI) examination of the share of the male-female respondents indicates that out of the sample, only 16.5 per cent MPCI in the above to Rs. 5000. Around 61 per cent had a monthly per capita income (MPCI) ranging between Rs. 2001 to Rs. 5000. The highest number of male (60 per cent) respectively female (65 per cent) had an MPCI range between Rs. 2001 to Rs. 5000. Only 9 per cent female street vendors had an MPCI in the range of above to Rs. 5000. The average monthly per capita income earn by each family of the street vending from the main occupation amounted to Rs. 3617 (Rs. 126 per day). Thus, most of the street vendors are living below the poverty line (Table 8).

In the table 9, we have shown the daily expenditure, monthly per capital expenditure (MPCE) and level of monthly saving of the street vendors in Lucknow city. A comparison of the male-female share of daily expenditure reveals that the low of female street vendors as compared to the male street vendors. Only 7 per cent of the respondents had the optimum expenditure level (above

to Rs. 301) per day. The average daily expenditure of the Rs. 168 out of the total respondents, and Rs. 147 and Rs. 174 is female and male street vendors respectively. The 40 per cent street vending had the lower expenditure (less than Rs. 100) in per day. In terms of monthly per capita expenditure only 40 per cent out of the total respondents have spent above to Rs. 1100. Table 9, shows that the average monthly per capita expenditure (MPCE) of street vending the Rs. 1148, with the female (Rs. 1060) and male (Rs. 1176). Mostly, street vendors belong to poor income level people because their monthly income and monthly saving is very low. Average monthly saving of the street vendors from main income sources was reported at Rs. 2469. The monthly saving level of the female vendors is Rs. 2083 belong to low when compared to the male vendors is Rs. 2593. Also, a highest percentage share of male-female vendors has a level of monthly saving income level between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000, around 66 per cent out of the total sample.

In terms of monthly income and monthly saving, we estimated the poor condition of street vending people in Lucknow city. It is estimates from the primary data. While taking into account the number of earner in the each vending family, the per day capita income of these household is less than Rs. 60 (Less than a dollar per day). The poverty line as given by the World Bank for developing countries is one US \$ per day per person. Hence, 50 per cent of the total respondents in this study can be estimated as extremely poor. Which is the matter of the serious condition of street vending family?

Table 9: Percentage Share of Respondents by Expenditure Groups

Daily Expenditure level		Lower Ex- penditure (Less than 100)	Moderate Expenditure (101-300)	Optimum Expenditure (Above 301)	Total	Average Expenditure (Rs.)	
	Male	112	165	26	303	174	
	(%)	37	54.5	8.6	100		
	Female	49	45	3	97	147	
	(%)	50.5	46.4	3.1	100		
	Total	161	210	29	400	168	
	(%)	40.2	52.5	7.2	100		
Monthly per Capita expenditure		Less than 500	501 to 700	701 to 1100	Above to 1101	Total	Average MPCE (Rs.)
	Male	24	54	97	128	303	1176
	(%)	7.9	17.8	32	42.2	100	
	Female	22	15	28	32	97	1060
	(%)	22.7	15.5	28.9	33	100	
	Total	46	69	125	160	400	1148
	(%)	11.5	17.2	31.2	40	100	
Level of Monthly Saving		Less than 1000	1001 to 3000	3001 to 5000	Above to 5001	Total	Average MS (Rs.)
	Male	33	192	49	29	303	2593
	(%)	10.9	63.4	16.2	9.6	100	
	Female	12	73	9	3	97	2083
	(%)	12.4	75.3	9.3	3.1	100	
	Total	45	265	58	32	400	2469
	(%)	11.2	66.2	14.5	8	100	

N= 400 (Sample size)

Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

The main source of financial accessibility of street vendors has been playing an important role for access and startup the vending type small business activities. The finance requirement for the street vendors depends on the type of trade vending activity. In the present study, we found that the 239 vendors (around 60 per cent of total respondents) borrow credits from the different sources for different vending activities. Generally, four types of credits/loan sources have been identified for the street vendors in lucknow city namely, friends & relatives, local vendors, money lenders and banks. In order to starting their vending business activity, street vendors mainly depends on moneylenders and own friend & relatives, as compared to other sources of credits. Table 10 shows that 58.6 per cent and 26.8 per cent of the street vendors depend upon moneylenders and friend & relatives, respectively. Table 10, we can be seen that the female vendors depend on own relatives more than male street vendors. About 53.9 per cent of the female street vendors and 60.7 per cent of the male vendors depend on the moneylenders, while only 2.6 per cent of the female vendors and 4.9 per cent of the male street vendors depend on the banks.

Table 10: Gender Wise Source of Credits

Taking Loan/Credits	Male	Female	Total
Yes	163 (53.8)	76 (78.4)	239 (59.8)
No	140 (46.2)	21 (21.6)	161 (40.2)
Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.2)	400 (100.0)
Sources of Credits	Male	Female	Total
Friends & Relatives	36 (22.1)	28 (36.8)	64 (26.8)
Local Vendors	20 (12.3)	5 (6.6)	25 (10.5)
Moneylenders	99 (60.7)	41 (53.9)	140 (58.6)
Banks	8 (4.9)	2 (2.6)	10 (4.2)
Total	163 (100.0)	76 (100.0)	239 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size), Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

In this table we identified through the emphasis cluster tools reflect the significance of discrimination and difficulties in vending activities to workplace insecurity for street vendors in Lucknow city. Out of the respondents 42.75 per cent of the respondent face the eviction and 28.25 per cent of the vendors face the anti-social elements difficulties in vending at the workplace. Only 1.75 per cent and 8.75 per cent of the respondents are face the theft article and market closures typing difficulties. Out of the total respondents 73 per cent female vendors and 63 per cent of male street vendors face the insecurity and discrimination at the workplace (see fig. 2).

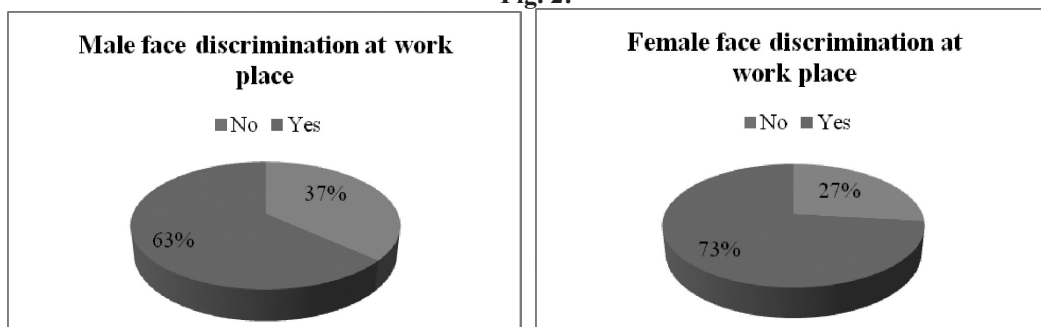
Table 11: Difficulty in Vending Activities and Discrimination face at Workplace

Difficulty in Business	Male	Female	Total
Anti-social elements	49 (43.4)	64 (56.6)	113 (28.25)
Market closures	30 (85.7)	5 (14.3)	35 (8.75)
Extortions	66 (89.2)	8 (10.8)	74 (18.5)
Eviction	151 (88.3)	20 (11.7)	171 (42.75)
Theft articles	7 (100)	0 (0.0)	7 (1.75)
Total	303 (75.8)	97 (24.2)	400 (100.0)

N= 400 (Sample size)

Source: Based on Primary Survey, 2015.

Fig. 2:



Street vending is a very imperative activity of informal/unorganized sectors in all underdeveloped and developing countries. In comparison with the other trades, it is easy way of trading for the poor people as well as lower level of income groups (vulnerable) living in the metro and non-metros cities. In this study we found that female street vendors faced the more problems rather than the male street vendors. They are livings in worst condition as compared to male. The present study shows that street vending business play an important role in the informal/unorganized sector in the developing countries by generating self-empowerment and supporting to improve the standard of living and decline the proportion ratio of poverty peoples. The finding of the study shows that the educational level among street vendors is generally very low. In this study we are found that the largest proportion of street vendors around 78.3 per cent belonged to nuclear family and only 21.8 per cent joint family. But the average size of household of the female headed family is higher than compared to male headed family. The percentage share of migrants of female vendors is higher rather than male vendors. The study revealed that the street vendors belong to economically most vulnerable groups of the society. Their income levels are extremely very low and precarious as compared to formal sector workers related. The mostly street vendors belong to poor condition. Only 5.5 per cent of respondents had a daily income earn ranging (moderate income level) from Rs. 501 to Rs. 700. More female street vendors are in lower income level as compared to male counterparts. While, 7 per cent male in moderate income level but no female street vendors is not in this groups. Average daily income of the respondents from main source was reported at Rs. 295. Daily income earning of female street vendors is lower as compared to male street vendors.

A monthly per capita income (MPCI) examination of the share of the male-female respondents indicates that out of the sample, only 16.5 per cent MPCI in the above to Rs. 5000. The highest number of male (60 per cent) respectively female (65 per cent) had an MPCI range between Rs. 2001 to Rs. 5000. The average monthly per capita income earn by each family of the street vending from the main occupation amounted to Rs. 3617 (Rs. 126 per day). Thus, most of the street vendors are living to below the poverty line. In terms of monthly income and monthly saving, we estimated the poor condition of street vending people. While taking into account the number of earner in the each vending family, the per day capita income of these household is less than Rs. 60 (Less than a dollar per day). The poverty line as given by the World Bank for developing countries is one US \$ per day per person. Hence, 50 per cent of the total respondents in this study can be estimated as extremely poor. Which is the matter of the serious condition of street vending family?

The main source of financial accessibility of street vendors has been playing an important role for access and startup the vending type small business activities. The finance requirement for the street vendors depends on the type of trade vending activity. We can be seen that the female vendors

depend on own relatives more than male street vendors. About 53.9 per cent of the female street vendors and 60.7 per cent of the male vendors depend on the moneylenders, while only 2.6 per cent of the female vendors and 4.9 per cent of the male street vendors depend on the banks. In this study we found that the out of the respondents 42.75 per cent of the respondent face the eviction and 28.25 per cent of the vendors face the anti-social elements difficulties in vending at the workplace. Only 1.75 per cent and 8.75 per cent of the respondents are face the theft article and market closures typing difficulties. Out of the total respondents 73 per cent female vendors and 63 per cent of male street vendors face the insecurity and discrimination at the workplace.

To improve the self-empowerment of the street vendors, in this entire process they are facing many problems because of the lack of the formal recognition of the economic activities of the vendors. Thus, they needs to be imparted certain proper rights: to access better education for our children, to access the essay financial assets/credits, to remove the discrimination at workplace, to utilise the public areas and to participates activity in trade union activities, all of which help them achieve decent work and enjoy an adequate standard livelihood life style.

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