

# A STUDY ON SOCIO ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF HAWKERS IN TENKASI DISTRICT

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**ABSTRACT:** The study is primarily based on the primary data generated through a comprehensive sample survey from 120 hawkers spread across the district of Tenkasi. It is devoted to the socio-economic analysis of hawkers tenkasi. As there is a dearth of such information, the study fulfills this gap which will be helpful to the state authorities for proper planning and public policy measures to protect and promote the livelihood rights of hawkers. The study found that an over whelming majority of them were living below the poverty line, vulnerable to poverty, victims of low income/earnings and educational level. Further, the study also explored that due to low level of income, these hawkers spend very low on various requirements which in turn lead to lower level of consumption expenditure, social welfare and low standard of living. These hawkers faced various types of harassments from different sources in the form of evictions and confiscation of their goods and other belongings. The study also found widespread lack/absence of basic infrastructure at the working sites, e.g. overhead shade, storage space, water, toilet facilities, electricity, etc. and unhygienic working environment. The study suggests that the state government and the urban local bodies should take appropriate steps to implement the various provisions of the Street Vendors Act 2014 to accommodate the needs of street vendors in the plans. This would stimulate the earning opportunity of these petty traders as well as will save them from debt-trap situation.

**KEYWORDS:** Hawkers, Livelihood, Problems.

## INTRODUCTION

Street vending is a global phenomenon. In the most of world countries, many people are earning their livelihood wholly or partly by selling a wide range of goods and services on the streets, footpaths, side-paths and other public spaces. It was predicted earlier that with the fast economic growth and advancement of modern retailing (big departmental stores, malls, showrooms, etc.), street vending as a profession would gradually be disappeared. However, street vending not only persisted, but expanded also in the most of world countries including the industrialized/advanced countries; even in those countries where local authorities/regulations tried to ban or restrict its scope. In India also, street vending has become an integral part of the urban informal economy. Various research studies conducted in India had acknowledged the significant role played by hawkers both in terms of generating employment and earning avenues to the urban poor and

providing goods and services at affordable prices to the less privileged people. They may be hawkers stationary occupying the space on roads or pavements or other public places and/or private areas (with implicit/explicit consent); or may be mobile carrying their wares on pushcarts/bicycles, in the bags/baskets in hand/s or on head, etc... Some of them sell their wares in moving buses, trains, etc. Thus, the term (street vending) has broader meaning which incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe such people as the hawkers, pheriwalls, rehri-patriwallas, footpath dukandars, side-walk traders, etc.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The hawkers in tenkasi district they have an enormous socio economic analysis. That the analysis is basic needs, housing conditions, stress, problems with neighbors, education and unemployment is the all socio – economic analysis. It is

therefore, the focus of this study is to assess a study on socio economic analysis of hawkers in Tenkasi district.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To analyze the socio-economic conditions of various hawkers. To examine the major issues related to livelihood and earning levels of different types of hawkers. To know the various legal, local and other problems that affects their livelihood.

### DATA COLLECTION

#### PRIMARY DATA

Primary data is collected from face to face interviews were conducted with the respondents in their work places. To measure a study on socio economic analysis of hawkers Tenkasi District. 120 hawkers are selected in direct interview method.

#### SECONDARY DATA

- Researcher used to collect the secondary data by the following ways.
- Through internet
- Through reference
- From Newspapers
- From Conferences papers, Articles, Journals
- From already existing data

#### LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study is limited to Tenkasi District and therefore the finding cannot be extended other areas.
- Lot of hawkers is there but the researcher selected few of them.
- When we are going to collect the questionnaire most of the respondents in busy in their work so they are not responding properly.
- A many respondents were illiterate so we explain the questions in to Tamil it leads to wastage of time.

#### REVIEW LITERATURE

**Karthikeyan.R and R.Mangaleswaran (2014)** in their paperwork on “A Study on Socio-economic Conditions and Working Patterns of street vendors in Tiruchirappalli City, Tamil Nadu and India” studied the working patterns in Tiruchirappalli City. The researchers selected 32 respondents through convenient sampling and descriptive methods. It is found that 50% of male vendors and 37.5% of female vendors knew well about the street vending policy. The

remaining 12.5 % of the male vendors are not interested to know about the policies of street vending. The study suggested that the government should conduct an awareness program about the street vendors’ policies to hawkers in Tiruchirappalli City

**Balasubramanian. B, Srinivasan.R and Vaidhyasubramaniam.S (2013)** in their paper on ‘Being powerless’ or ‘to be empowered’: A Case of Women Street Vendors at Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu” take a sample of 68 women street vendors in Tiruchirappalli. Correlation and regression analysis were employed on the data for the analysis. The study on women in the hawking profession at Tiruchirappalli reveals the poor economic condition of women engaged in Street Vending. The study suggested that there is a possibility to see some good to this community if they follow with certain regularization as suggested in the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, 2009.

**Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay (2016)** explained the politics of archiving of hawkers and pavement dwellers in “Politics of archiving: Hawkers and pavement dwellers in Calcutta”. This study analyzed how the success of the street vendors in claiming the footpath is tied to the marginalization of the claims of the pavement dwellers that have (a) homogenized the representation of the footpath as only used by pedestrians and street vendors and (b) led to the elision of the pavement dwellers as a governmental category. The study revealed that though the direct link between the street vendors and the manufacturers have become weak, street vendors still rely, to a great extent, on local supplies and cater to the needs of the poor and lower-middle-class buyers by selling those goods for a considerably cheaper rate. The survey asserted that street vendors are micro-entrepreneurs who rely more on market forces than on the state.

**Robert, S.P. (2015)** did a research study on “A study on the socio-economic status of the street vendors in the unorganized /informal sector at Tiruchirappalli town, Tamil Nadu, India”. There are 1500 street vendors identified by the researcher in the four divisions of Tiruchirappalli city. But the sample has taken only 300, i.e., 20% of the total population. From the results, it is found that there is no significant relationship between the expenditure and the nature of the business of the

street vendors. The awareness level is very high on government schemes. The education level is relatively very low. All the street vendors are facing harassment in the study area. The research study proposed that sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health, and employment conditions of the street vendors. The government can create separate ministry or a special cell under the Ministry of Labor to look after the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector where the street vending falls. Are 1500 street vendors identified by the researcher in the four divisions of Tiruchirappalli city? But the sample has taken only 300, i.e., 20% of the total population. From the results, it is found that there is no significant relationship between the expenditure and the nature of the business of the street vendors. The awareness level is very high on government schemes. The education level is relatively very low. All the street vendors are facing harassment in the study area. The research study proposed that sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health, and employment conditions of the street vendors. The government can create separate ministry or a special cell under the Ministry of Labor to look after the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector where the street vending falls.

## DATA ANALYSIS

**TABLE 1.1**

### AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO	AGE	NO.OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Below 20	24	20%
2	21 - 40	60	50%
3	41-60	20	17%
4	Above 60	16	13%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data**

The above Table 1.1 shows that out of 120 respondents, (20%) of the respondents lay down in the age group of below 20 years, (50%) were in the age group of 21-40 years, (17%) were in the age group of 41-60 years, and the remaining (13%) were in the age group of above 60 years. The researcher had

found that the most of the hawkers belongs to the age group of 21-40 years.

**TABLE 1.2**

### GENDER WISE CLASSIFICATION

SL.NO	GENDER	NO.OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Male	78	65%
2	Female	42	35%
3	Others	-	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data

Table 2.2 shows that out of 120 respondents, (65%) of the respondents were male, and (35%) of the respondents were female. The researcher had found that the most of the hawkers were male.

**TABLE 1.3**

### FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE HOME

SL.NO	FACILITIES AVAILABLE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Toilet	16	13%
2	Bathroom	40	33%
3	Water Facility	6	5%
4	Gas supply	22	18%
5	Mixer Grinder	12	10%
4	Refrigerator	0	0
5	Washing Machine	0	0
6	Television	24	20%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data**

The above Table (1.3) shows that out of 120 respondents (13%) of the respondents were having toilet facilities, (20%) of the respondents were having bathroom facilities, (5%) of the respondents were having water facility, (10%) of the respondents were having Mixer Grinder, (20%) of the respondents having Television and no one had Refrigerator and washing machine in their house. The researcher had found that most of the respondents were having bathroom facilities in their house.

**TABLE 1.4**

**OPINION ABOUT THEIR POSITION IN THE SOCIETY**

SL.NO	POSITION IN THE SOCIETY	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Good	104	87%
2	Bad	16	13%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data**

The above Table (1.5) shows that out of 120 respondents, (87%) of the respondents felt that their position in the society was good and (13%) of the respondents had opinioned that their position in the society was bad. The researcher had found that most of the respondent’s opinion regarding their position in the society was good.

**TABLE 1.6**

**TYPE OF GOODS SOLD**

SL.NO	TYPE OF GOODS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Vegetables	42	35%
2	Fruits	22	18%
3	Flowers	18	15%
4	Fishes	12	10%
5	Fancy product	20	17%
6	Other articles	06	5%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data**

The above Table (1.6) shows that out of 120 respondents, (35%) of the respondents were selling vegetables, (18%) of the respondents were selling fruits, (15%) of the respondents were selling flowers, (10%) of the respondents were selling fishes, (17%) of the respondents were selling fancy product and (5%) of the respondents were selling other articles. The researcher had found that most of the respondents were Vegetable vendors, as they were selling vegetables.

**TABLE 1.7**

**SELLING STYLES**

SL.NO	SELLING STYLES	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Sitting	54	45%
2	Bicycle	20	17%
3	Trolley	22	18%
4	Walk	24	20%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary data**

The above Table (1.8) shows that out of 120 respondents, (47%) of the respondents are selling their products by sitting in one place, (3%) of the respondents were selling goods by carrying out that products in bicycle, (32%) of the respondents were selling through trolley and (18%) of the respondents are selling the goods through walking in the street. The researcher had found that majority of the respondents were selling their goods by sitting in one place.

**CHI SQUARE TEST**

**TABLE 1.8**

**TYPES OF GOODS SOLD AND SELLING STYLES OF THE RESPONDENTS**

SL.NO	TYPES OF GOODS	SITTING	BICYCLE	TROLLEY	WALK
1	Vegetables	22	02	04	02
2	Fruits	10	04	06	04
3	Flowers	12	04	02	06
4	Fishes	04	04	04	06
5	Fancy Product	04	04	04	04
6	Other articles	02	02	02	02

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Degree of freedom} &= (c-1)(r-1) \\ &= (6-1)(4-1) \\ &= (5)(3) \\ &= 15 \end{aligned}$$

$$X^2 = 11.38$$

$$\text{Calculated Value is} = 11.38$$

Table value for 2-degree freedom at 5% level of significance = 24.996

Since the calculated value is less than the table Value, so the null hypothesis was accepted and the alternative hypothesis

was rejected. So there exists a relationship between the type of goods sold and the selling style of the respondents.

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- It was found that 50% of the respondents belong to the age group of 21-40 years.
- It was found that 65% of the respondents were male.
- It was found that 33% of the respondents were having bathroom facilities.
- It was found that 87% of the respondents opined that their position in the society was good.
- It was found that 35% of the respondents were selling vegetables.
- It was observed that 47% of the respondents had sold the products by sitting in one place.

### FINDINGS ON HYPOTHESIS

#### HO 1

There is no relationship between the type of good selling and selling styles.

The null hypothesis was accepted. The type of goods sold by the respondents had no relationship with their selling styles.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

hawkers a need promotional measures such as government support to promote literacy rate among hawkers households, opportunities for skill development, participation in pension schemes and provision of cheap housing particularly to migrant vendors to improve their living standard. There is a dire need to regulate and promote street vending properly so that the livelihood of millions of informal sector workers can be protected. Otherwise, urban poverty in the state cannot be reduced without supporting such a large section of urban poor people working as hawkers in the informal sector. Although the Street Vendors Act of 2014 has recommended various ways to accommodate the hawkers in the urban plans, but still after one year of this legislation, these recommendations are still on papers and have not been implemented so far. So, the government should implement the latest provisions of this act as early as possible with necessary changes to uplift their standard of living and to eliminate the feelings of alienation among them.

### CONCLUSION

Hawkers are an integral part of human society. The findings of the study on Street Vendors revealed precarious conditions of work and life, involving an extensive workload, very low sales, and profit, and no guarantee as to safety and security. When such hawkers fall ill or injured they do not have any option to depend on any other person for continuing their business. It is very important to recognize that to improve the quality of life of hawkers, their working conditions should be improved. To achieve this the researchers also noticed that the hawkers should join various trade unions, associations, and also get the memberships of national and international organizations to avoid harassment from police and municipal authorities. It is also very important that they should have basic legal knowledge and readily available legal support. Also, they must get registered as street vendors as per the provisions of the hawkers (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of street vending) Act, 2014. This in turn can lead to an improvement in the quality of life and the quality of working conditions of every individual hawker.

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