

# Issues and Challenges of the Weekly Market Street Vendors in Telangana: A Special Reference to Hyderabad

Prasad, Begari

School of Economics, University of Hyderabad, Telangana, India

Corresponding author: prasadhcu1@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

In developing countries, the informal sector is playing a dominating role in providing employment and income security in rural as well as urban areas. In India, Informal sector is playing a significant role because 93 per cent of employment workforce is from informal sector and only 7 per cent of employment of workforce is from formal sector or organised sector. The Hawkers and street vendors, one of the important part of the urban informal sectors, accounted for two third of the city's employment in India. The street vendors are not recognised and regulated by state, and therefore, they do not get any support from government to operate their activity. They face several problems like harassment and pressure by police department, municipality authorities, local leaders and market contractors or rent seekers. In this circumstance, the objectives of the study is to investigate the issues and challenges of weekly market street vendors in Hyderabad. The study is based on secondary as well as primary data. The primary data have been collected from three weekly markets in Hyderabad.

**Keywords:** Informal economy, street vendors, weekly market, issues and challenges, Hyderabad.

Street vending is one of the most visible and important sustainable occupations in the urban informal sector in India. Street vendors are identified as self-employed workers in the informal sector who offer their labour to sell goods and services on the street without having any permanent built up structure (National policy on urban street vendors-NPUSV, 2006).

Majority of the street vendors are migrants from rural area where poverty as well as lack of opportunities for gainful employment has pushed them to look for better opportunities in the cities. The hawkers and street vendors are constituting substantial proportion of the urban informal sector and it has accounted two third of urban employment. The around 10 million street vendors existed in India (Bhowmik, 2001).

Street vendors are playing a very vital role in the urban informal economy of India by providing employment and income, and goods and service to urban poor and marginal working class. They

sell various kinds of goods such as hosiery and clothes, leather made items, moulded plastic goods, and various household necessities, which are manufactured in small-scale or home-based industries where large numbers of workers are employed. It would hardly be possible for the manufacturers to market their own products. Apart from non-agricultural products, street vendors also sell vegetables and fruits. Thus, they provide a market for both home-based manufacturing products and agricultural products, supporting small scale and home based workers as well as agricultural workers. Therefore, several sectors and types of labour are linked with the street vendors. Street vendors also support the urban rich as well as the urban poor. They support the urban rich by providing daily requirements right on their doorsteps. Urban youth prefer to purchase clothes and accessories from street vendors, because the products that the vendors sell are typically cheaper than those found in formal retail outlets. People

from lower income groups also benefit from the vendors, spending a substantial portion of their income on purchases from street vendors because their goods are cheap and affordable.

Majority of the street vendors are migrants from rural area where poverty as well as lack of opportunities for gainful employment has pushed them to look for better opportunities in the cities. The hawkers and street vendors are constituting substantial proportion of the urban informal sector and it accounted two third of urban employment. The around 10 million street vendors existed in India (Bhowmik, 2001). In all the Indian cities, street vendors provide a low cost, decentralized and highly efficient system of distribution of a wide variety of goods of daily needs ranging from fruit and vegetables to clothes, utensils and many others. They reach the consumers at convenient locations, without whom people would have to travel large distances to procure these goods. The middle and lower income groups buy a substantial proportion of daily goods from these vendors at reasonable rates often lower than the formal stores (Ray, 2017).

The street vendor face several problem in India. The street vendorThey does not access any legal rights, lack of social security, lack of education, limited credit source, health security, uUncertainty in employment and income, lack of space, eviction, harassment and abuse mentd by civic authorities and lack of infrastructural problem and others as they are they are the provision of valuable services to the urban population (De sot 1989, Begari, P, P 2017; Bhowmik, Bhowmik 2000, 2001, 2001).

## Objectives

The study is based on the following two major objectives:

1. To examine the issues and challenges of weekly market street vendors in Hyderabad.
2. To understand the role and perception of the government stowards street vendors in Hyderabad.

## Methodology

This study is based on both secondary as well as primary data. The secondary data have been collected from different online and offline sources generated by different institution, agencies, and

from different government officials in Hyderabad. There is a dearth of data source and studies as the study was conducted to examine the informal market and weekly market vendors in Hyderabad, Telangana. Therefore, an attempt has been made here to understand issues and challenges of street vendors and operation of their activities. The primary data have been collected from weekly market street vendors at different place (Darga, Beeramguda and Patancheru) in Hyderabad with structured questionnaires about respondent of age, gender, education, occupation, ownership house, sanitation facilities, material source and employment days, unions and associations, government role in operating these markets and issues and challenges at market places. The total sample size of 120 weekly market street vendors have been considered for this study by applying the random and purposive sampling method. The sample size of 120 respondents (social category wise other caste (OC)-62, Backward caste (51), scheduled caste (SC)-15 and scheduled caste (ST)-2) have been presented in Table 1.

**Table 1: Sample Size**

Caste	Beeramguda	Darga	Patancheru	Total
OC	20	17	15	62
BC	15	18	18	51
SC	5	5	5	15
ST			2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>120</b>

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Issues and Challenges of the street vendors

#### Gender Empowerment

The street vending activity is dominated by male rather than the female and children. Table 2, shows that 82.5 per cent of the vendors are male and 17.5 per cent of the vendors are female. Female vendors were found to be less because they were physically less capable in comparison to male. Thus, the female vendors are dealing with the commodities like vegetable, fruits and fancy items, which are meant for female whereas the male vendors deal with durable goods like clothes, electrical, bed sheet, plastic, fruits. However, some of the male vendors

deal with vegetables and fruits because it requires less capital investment to start the business.

**Table 2: Gender Composition**

Gender	Male	Female	Total
OC	49 (94.2)	3(5.8)	52(100)
BC	39 (76.5)	12(23.5)	51(100)
SC	9 (60)	6(40)	15(100)
ST	2 (100)	0 (0)	2(100)
<b>Total</b>	<b>99 (82.5)</b>	<b>21(17.5)</b>	<b>120(100)</b>

**Source:** Field work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

### Age Group of Vendors

Table 3 depicts The age group of vendors. There are no vendors working independently below 15 years of age who only assist their and are only in family members. Some of the children carry out in the absence of their parents. Here, 51.67 per cent of the vendors belong to the age group of 15-39 and this age group is comparatively more capable to vending than the other age groups. The age group of above 60 was very less because they were unable to carry out the operational activity that needs more efforts. In caste wise distribution under other castes category, age group of 15-39 is having the highest (32) number of vendors and only four members falls in under the age group of above 60. In case of schedule caste, 53.33 per cent vendors falls under the age group of 40-59 and, 20 per cent in under the age group of above 60 years, which indicates that marginalised section people cannot survive without work.

**Table 3: Age Distribution of Vendors**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
15-39	32(61.54)	26(50.98)	4(26.67)		62(51.67)
40-59	16(30.77)	23(45.10)	8(53.33)	2(100)	49(40.83)
Above 60	4(7.69)	2(3.92)	3(20)		9(7.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>52(100)</b>	<b>51(100)</b>	<b>15(100)</b>	<b>2(100)</b>	<b>120(100)</b>

**Source:** Field work (Figures in parentheses show Percentage)

### Literacy Level

The literacy rate of street vendors and performance of the street vending activity are having great significance. Low level of literacy indicates low skills and capabilities and lack of awareness. Table 4 represents that nearly half of the vendors are

illiterate. They are not aware of the formal facilities, benefits and legal protection of the vendors. The level of education can help them to perform better and make them capable to operate activity and learn new managerial skills and techniques. This study found that most of the vendors have low level of education. It is further observed from the table that 40 per cent of street vendors are illiterate, whereas 15 per cent, 13.33 per cent and 21.66 per cent of the vendors have studied up to primary, middle and upper middle class, respectively. Only 6.6 per cent of vendors have studied the intermediate and 3 per cent of vendors have studied degree and above degree. The vendors are not capable to educate their children due to their insufficient income. The high illiteracy level is in SC and ST caste.

**Table 4: Literately of Vendors**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Illiterate	14 (26.92)	24(47.06)	8(53.33)	2(100)	48(40)
Primary	10(19.23)	3(5.88)	5(33.33)	0	18(15)
Middle	8(15.38)	7(13.73)	1(6.67)	0	16(13.33)
Upper Middle	11(21.15)	15(29.41)	0(0)	0	26(21.66)
Inter	5(9.62)	2(3.92)	1(6.67)	0	8(6.66)
Degree	3(5.77)	0(0)	0(0)	0	3(2.5)
Above degree	1(1.92)	0(0)	0(0)	0	1(0.83)
<b>Total</b>	<b>52(100)</b>	<b>51(100)</b>	<b>15(100)</b>	<b>2(100)</b>	<b>120(100)</b>

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

### House

Table 5 highlights the ownership of house of the street vendors. Half of the vendors are having their own house and rest of them are staying in rented house. 56.86 per cent, 46.67 per cent and 42.31 per cent of BC vendors, SC vendors and OC vendors respectively are having their own house, whereas 43.14 per cent of OB caste people are staying in rented houses compared to 53 per cent of SC vendors and 57 per cent of OC vendors.

**Table 5: Ownership of House**

House	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Own	22(42.31)	29(56.86)	7(46.67)	2(100)	60(50)
Rent	30(57.69)	22(43.14)	8(53.33)	0(0)	60(50)
<b>Total</b>	<b>52(100)</b>	<b>51(100)</b>	<b>15(100)</b>	<b>2(100)</b>	<b>120(100)</b>

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

### Access of Public Distribution System (PDS)

Table 6 explains access to Public distribution system (PDS) by vendors. Under PDS, vendors can avail rice, wheat, cooking oil, sugar and kerosene etc. Here, 11.67 per cent of vendors do not access PDS benefits because they are temporary inter district migrants, intra-district migrants and inter-state migrants. The majority of the respondent get PDS access only at their origin place and those from other states who have kept migrating for several years do not get PDS access because they are no longer are the local residents of that particular state or city. They government officials do not consider them as they do not have any address or voters identity card by the city or the state who migrated within the state. Who migrated from other state for several year but they don't get PDS access because they are not local and they do not have any address or voter identity card by the city or state.

**Table 6: PDS Access**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Yes (%)	43(82.69)	47(92.16)	14(93.33)	2(100)	106(88.33)
No (%)	9(17.31)	4(7.84)	1(6.67)	0(0)	14(11.67)
Total (%)	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

Therefore they are not concern by government officials. However, few of the respondents are getting access to PDS on the basis of temporary cards for which they incur extra money to get this card. Those who are getting their temporary PDS card holders pay areextra money as bribe to PDS shop dealer as bribe.

### Social Security Programme Access

Table 7 explains the access of pension for widows, old age and disability pension schemes.

**Table 7: Distribution of Pension**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Yes	10(19.23)	12(23.53)	7(46.67)	0(0)	29(24.17)
No	42(80.77)	39(76.47)	8(53.33)	2(100)	91(75.83)
Total	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

The pension provides a supplementary income personfor those who does not earn a minimum

livelihood security. 75.83 per cent of vendors do not have pension and only 24.17 per cent of vendors have this access.

### Health Security

Table 8 explains about the health security of vendors. 31.67 per cent of vendors do not have access to any health security, whereas 66.66 per cent of vendors have Arogyasri health card. Only 1.67 per cent (only one respondent) of vendors have Employment State Insurance (ESI). For instance, a man was working in Reliance Company, but he lost his fingers in an accident inside the company. Now he is unable to work and hence is getting ₹ 1000 as pension per month from the company. The vendors regularly fall sick due to fever, cold, dust allergy and so on. This is due to their sale of goods in the crowded places and road sides. Most of the vendors depend on private hospitals and they are claiming for health and accidental insurance cards by the government.

**Table 8: Health Security**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
No	24(46.15)	9(17.65)	5(33.33)	0	38(31.67)
Arogyasri	26(50)	41(82.35)	10(66.67)	2(100)	80(66.66)
ESI	2(3.85)	0(0)	0(0)	0	2(1.67)
Total	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

### Sanitation Facilities at Working place

The street vendors do not have basic sanitation facilities at their working places. Most of the vendors carry drinking water from their home and the rest purchase from shops. There are no toilet facilities. The women are experiencing this problem more acutely because they cannot use the open place. Even if it is urgent, the local people stop them. The problem of electricity also persists at the working place.

### Migration

Most of the vendors are migrating to urban cities or towns due to the lack of employment of opportunities in rural areas. Table 9 elaborates about the migration of vendors. This study found that 46.7 per cent of vendors are migrants of intra, inter

districts and inter states categories. Within the caste wise distribution, 57.7 per cent, and 35.3 per cent of vendor migrants belong to other caste (OC and BC caste). Their children are not unable to attend to school and they do not get any benefits of Public distribution system because of their migration. Most of the vendors migrate to cities due to lack of employment and income opportunities in rural areas and agriculture failure or lack of water source for agriculture etc.

**Table 9: Migration of Vendors**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Yes	30(57.7)	18(35.3)	7(46.7)	1(50)	56(46.7)
No	22(42.3)	33(64.7)	8(53.3)	1(50)	64(53.3)
Total	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

*Source: Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)*

### Working Hours

Many studies have found that the working hours of street vendors is too long (more than 10 to 12 hrs.). The working hours vary from vendor to vendor, depending on the type of commodity sellers. At early dusk (5 am to 6 am) the Perishable (Vegetable, fruits and flowers) commodity sellers purchase goods every day. In case of being late to the market they wouldn't get fresh goods and at a cheaper-price. The durable good sellers buy materials weekly once or twice in a month from various places within the city and also from other places.

### Lights facilities

Late night working hours is difficult to manage. All of them are not able to buy charging lights and only few possess their own charging light. Those who do not have their own light hire charging lights and pay ₹ 30 per day in all the three markets.

### Lack of Legal Recognition

The study found that government officials are harassing and pressurizing the vendors. The mobile vendors are frequently harassed by traffic officials and they are found to be paying rent and fine and are often taken to the police station. The weekly market vendors need to pay a rent every day to operate their activity without which they will not

allow them to sell. Table 10 shows that majority of the vendors do not have licence card or identity card (95.8 per cent). Only 4.2 per cent vendors are having identity card. Those who do not have identity card, they do not get any loan and face harassment by the municipality authority, local leader and contractors. The identity cards are issued by National Hawker federation (NHF) and the identity card is limited to identify area only. The Greater Hyderabad Municipality Corporation (GHMC) also issued identity cards or license cards to vendors to operate their vending activity without undergoing any sort of harassment in identified areas.

**Table 10: Identity Card**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Yes	0(0)	3(5.9)	2(13.3)	0(0)	5(4.2)
No	52(100)	48(94.1)	13(86.7)	2(100)	115(95.8)
Total	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

*Source: Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)*

### Rent Paying

The Thai bazar contractor exists in Beeramguda and not in Darga and Patancherv. In Beeramguda, Thai bazar contractor ngcollects rent from the vendors. The Beeramguda weekly market vendors pay rent ranging between ₹ 20 and 50 every week. The amount of rent depends on the size of place of shop. Some small shops pay ₹ 20 and a little bigger shop pay ₹ 40 to 50 and so on. The vendors have to pay 20 to 30 rupees rent for their vehicle parking to Thai bazar rent. Most of the vendors reveal that Thai bazar contractors give receipt or pay slip for rent (87.5 per cent) and only 12.5 per cent said that they do not receive any slip for paying rent. 85 per cent of the vendors said that the contractor does not take more rent than the receipt and 15 per cent of the vendors responded that the contractors are taking more rent than the receipt.

**Table 11: Play Slip Receipt**

Caste	OC	BC	SC	Total
Yes	16(80)	15()	4(80)	35(87.5)
Sometimes	4(20)	0(0)	1(20)	5(12.5)
Total	20(100)	15(100)	5(100)	40(100)

*Source: Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)*

The study found that Thai bazar contractors are collecting more rent than the amount fixed by the GHMC or official authority. The vendors are not aware of the mechanism for determining the rent of the vendors because they are not part of the decision-making process.

**Table 12:** Rent paying more paying vendors paying more than the amount mentioned in the Receipt

Caste	OC	BC	SC	Total
Yes	4(20)	2(13.3)	0(0)	6(15)
No	16(80)	13(86.7)	5(100)	34(85)
Total	20(100)	15(100)	5(100)	40(100)

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

### Seasonal Difference in Sales

There is seasonal difference in sale and income of the vendors. The sale and income vary monthly and seasonally as responded by 93.3 per cent of vendors and only 6.7 per cent of the vendors said that there is no seasonal difference in sale and income of the vendors (Table 13). The demand of the people rise in the first and the second week of every month because people who are working in companies get their wages in the first and second week. The sales is average during other weeks of the month. The vendors face problem in the rainy season because of not having a permanent shed. Similarly, they face problem in the summer season because the market starts late in the evening.

**Table 13:** Seasonal Difference

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Yes	47(90.4)	48(94.1)	15(100)	2(100)	112(93.3)
No	5(9.6)	3(5.9)	0(0)	0(0)	8(6.7)
Total	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

### Market Competition

Generally, weekly market vendors face mass competition from local shops, supermarket like big bazars, Dmart, within the vendors and markets. 91.7 per cent of vendors are facing competition and only 8.3 per cent said that do not face any competition (Table 14). Also, the competition varies

from commodity to commodity and vendor to vendor. There is competition among the vendors because some vendors sell commodities at a lower price, while others sell at a higher price as there is an opening of the new weekly market in the surrounding areas.

**Table 14:** Face Competition

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Yes	44(84.6)	49(96.1)	15(100)	2(100)	110(91.7)
No	8(15.4)	2(3.9)	0(0)	0(0)	10(8.3)
Total	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

### Lack of Space for Market

The street vendors do not have conducive place to operate their trading activity. Those who are having place are not been legalised and recognised. Therefore, there is a variation in owning the size of place for trading activity among the vendors. Some of the vendors are having more than sufficient place, as a result, they are giving the additional place to others for trading activity and are charging ₹ 100 to 150 for a day. In few markets, vendors pay ₹ 20 to 50 rupees to the market contract (Thai bazar contractor) for a day. The vendors and customers stir problems during sale and purchase due to the lack of sufficient place.

### Lack of Formal Credit Access

Many of the vendors do not have access to formal credit as reported by several studies. This study also supports to this statement. More than 50 per cent of vendors are borrowing from different source for various purposes.

**Table 15:** Debt of Vendors

Caste	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
Yes	8(34.62)	25(49.02)	7(46.67)	1(50)	51(42.5)
No	34(65.38)	26(50.98)	8(53.33)	1(50)	69(57.5)
Total	52(100)	51(100)	15(100)	2(100)	120(100)

**Source:** Field Work (Figures in parentheses show percentage)

Table 15 explains debt of vendors. 42.5 per cent of the vendors have debt and remaining do not have any debt during the time of the study however, they stated that they previously had debts. They have

taken loan from money lenders, friends, relative and colleagues with high interest rates. 49.02 per cent for BC and 46.67 per cent for SC per cent vendors are more prone to borrow than the other caste. This is so because this group don't have financial support from their families and relatives.

## CONCLUSION

The informal sector plays a vital role in rural and urban areas providing employment and income security. The street vendor is one of the important part of the informal sectors. This study examines the issues and challenges faced by street vendors to operate their activity. The study found that they do not have adequate infrastructure facilities at their working place. The government supports to encourage their activity and does not treat this occupation as an illegal activity. The social security programs of the government do not reach them properly and they were not aware of those programmes. The Vending activity are not recognised or recorded by any law and they have not yet been issued vending licence identity cards under the street Vendor Act-2014. It is in the nascent stage in Hyderabad. Therefore, they were not getting any formal credit and were not depending up on the informal credit with exorbitant interest rate. As they are harassed by police and municipality authority, the government should legalise and organise the vending activity. Then, they will be given a formal credit social security and dignity of work.

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