

Key Vending Risks of Street Vendors in Tiruppur District

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Abstract

Street vending is the major core activities of informal sector. It involves many activities such as selling of fruits, vegetables, food, multiple products, electronic items, utensils, apparels and providing services etc., Hence the street vendors face many risks while starting their vending activities. It includes financial related risk, government related risk, production related risk, space related problem, eviction related risk, health related risk and social status related risk. Within this informal sector, vendors sell their goods in competitive market. So, present study is undertaken to find out the key vending risks that faces the street vendors while operating their vending activities in Tiruppur District. This study has focused vending risks faced by street vendor in Tiruppur District where more number of street vendors are involving in different kinds of vending activities. The study found that most of the respondents are faced risks by (**Work space/place risk, Materials & equipment storage risk and Goods quality reduction risk**). Their risks and possible solutions are also suggested.

KEYWORDS: Street vendor, Risk, Unorganized sector, Problems, Solutions

INTRODUCTION

National Policy on Urban Street Vendors defines “A street vendor is a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanently built structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (or head-load). Street vendors could be stationary and occupy space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or could be mobile, and move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or could sell their wares in moving buses”.

The informal sector encompasses largely unrecognized, unrecorded and unregulated small scale activities including; small enterprises, household enterprises, self-employed sectors such as street vendors, cleaners, shoe-shiners, hawkers etc.

Street vending is the major core activities of informal sector. It involves many activities such as selling of fruits, vegetables, food, multiple products, electronic items, utensils, apparels and providing services etc., Hence the street vendors face many risks while starting their vending activities. It includes financial related risk, government related risk, production related risk, space related problem. Eviction related risk, health related risk and social status related risk. It discuss about the various risks and how they overcome the risks by solving the risks.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF STREET VENDORS

- 1) The street vendors lead a very difficult life, the mode of travel or their working hours, it providing hardly any time for rest and for relaxation, which creates adverse effects on their health.
- 2) Increased traffic affects their mobility on Main Street.
- 3) Pollution is affecting them in many ways, road widening also effect of street vendors.
- 4) Harassment from local authorities or from policemen during vending.

- 5) Uncertainty and insecurity is the basic problem vendors as their profession is considered illegal.
- 6) Vendors are not protected by government, NGO's, labour union by any labour laws.
- 7) They are insecure due to their low income, irregular employment and their sale fluctuation.
- 8) They are not getting easy financial assistance from bank due to their low income and fluctuation in income.
- 9) A vendor needs some market amenities such as water toilet, storage or shades, waste disposal.
- 10) Sanitation and work place security.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bhatt (2013) opined that there is substantial increase in the number of street vendors in the major cities around the world, especially in the developing countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa. As per ILO report 2002 street vendors account for 14.6 percent of total non-agricultural employment in south Africa, 9 percent in Guatemala, 8 percent in Kenya, 6 percent in Tunisia and 1-5 percent in Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico. Bhatt mentioned that, Street vendors represent about 3 percent of total non-agricultural employment in India.

Brata (2010) looked into the vulnerability of street vendors in Java since the time when Java was hit severely by the economic crisis in 1997/1998 and found that food vendors are more vulnerable than non-food vendor or street vendors who provide services. Brata opined that high vulnerability will decrease the ability of street vendors to preserve their survival ability.

Iwuet al. (2017) studied that food vendors play a critical food safety role in the "farm to plate" continuum that is necessary for the prevention and control of food borne diseases and therefore, any lack of its understanding by the food vendors poses a serious challenge to food safety. The main objective of the study is to assess the knowledge, attitude and hygienic practices of food vendors in Owerri town of Imo State, Nigeria. The study was a Cross-Sectional descriptive design that used a proportionate convenience sampling technique to select 200 food vendors from the three Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Owerri town. The study concludes that the public health management of food vending services should involve the development of strategies that will equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills to provide vending services in a hygienic and safe manner.

John Walsh (2010) founded that the common problem faced for vendors involved excess of stock (especially perishable items like fruits and vegetables) at the end of the day. He also pointed out that since some of the goods being traded are seasonal in nature, therefore there is threat of the vendors falling below the poverty line in out of season periods, unless suitable alternatives can be identified and sourced.

Jurdak and Shahin (1999) have examined the computational strategies of ten young street vendors in Beirut by describing, comparing, and analysing the computational strategies used in solving three types of problems in two settings: transactions in the workplace, word problems, and computation exercises in a school-like setting. The results of this study suggest that word problems are comparable to transactions in the frequency of occurrence of semantically-based mental computational strategies and in the high success rate associated with them.

Michele Companion (2010) has observed that street vending and petty trading activities form the essential core of informal economic sector in developing nations. This study by Michele Companion tries to identify the factors compelling male and female vendors entering the business in Mozambique. Hence the study has direct relevance to the present study in analysing similar problems faced by street vendors in the study area.

Surabhi Singh, Rose Mary Viswanath (2012) have stated many problems of street vendors regarding their social protection, credit accessibility, role of govt. authorities in addressing their problems.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Rapid development of our society, Informal sector has become one of the most dynamic forces in the economy. It is driving the technological boom, which in its turn is driving much of the world's economic growth. This aspect makes informal sector very important from a macro-economic perspective. As the unorganized sector especially street vending business becomes even more widespread, this impact will be felt even more deeply. Street vending requires a vendor to be a person of superior ability who pursues his or her goals despite of obstacles, opposition, setbacks, and failure. He or she must persist in the face of adversity, unknown challenges, and risks and learn from failures, have confidence in his or her capacity to deal with the working place and livelihood, and take practical rational steps in the pursuit of the economic sustainability. The successful street vendor tends to be a visionary, competent, independent, action-oriented, passionate, confident, and virtuous person who uses reason to focus his or her enthusiasm on reality in the efforts to implement street vending activities. In addition, street vendors face many risks in the course of running their vending activities. It is therefore, the focus of this study is to assess the key business risks of street vending in Tiruppur District.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the socio-economic conditions of street vendors in Tiruppur District.
2. To identify the key vending risks that faces the street vendors while operating their vending activities in Tiruppur District.
3. To study the ways to overcome the vending risks faced by street vendors in Tiruppur District.

METHODOLOGY

Tiruppur District was formed in February 2009, out of areas from erstwhile Coimbatore and Erode districts. Tiruppur district lies on the western part of Tamil Nadu bordering the Western Ghats and hence the district enjoys a moderate climate. The district is surrounded by Coimbatore district in the west, Erode district to the North and northeast and Karur district in the east and Dindigul district in the south east. To the south, it is surrounded by Kerala state (Idukki District). The district has an area of 5,186.34 square kilometers. Hence, the details about the study area have been collected and presented. The Population of this around as per estimate and projection, population of Tiruppur District in 2018 is 28.60 Lakhs compared to 2011 census figure of 24.79 Lakhs.

For the purposes of the present study, eight places (clusters), Avinashi, Madathukulam, Palladam, Tiruppur, Udumalpet, Dharapuram, Vellakovil and Kangeyam were chosen in Tiruppur Districts. , Since the total population of the each

of the clusters was unknown, a 'quota' was fixed in order to draw a sample. Therefore, we have randomly chosen sample of 100 street vendors. The study used questionnaires and personal interviews as the tool for collecting data. Researcher explained to every one of respondent the objectives of the study and their permission to ask question of questionnaires. Descriptive research cum diagnostic research design was adopted for this research study. In this research study both primary and secondary data collected and it is used in appropriate manner.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by their age

S.No.	Age	Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 20 years	8	8
2	21-40 years	41	41
3	41-60 years	30	30
4	Above 60 years	21	21
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that majority of street vendors (41%) are in the age between 21-40 years and least (8%) of the street vendors are in the age of below 20 years.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by their Gender

S.No.	Gender	Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	78	78
2	Female	22	22
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that majority of street vendors (78%) are male and remaining (22%) of street vendors are female.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by their Marital status

S.No.	Marital status	Respondents	Percentage
1	Married	74	74
2	Unmarried	26	26
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table inferred that majority of street vendors (74%) are married and (26%) of street vendors are unmarried.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by their type of Family

S.No.	Family	Respondents	Percentage
1	Nuclear	85	85
2	Joint family	15	15
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table indicates that majority of street vendors (85%) are living as Nuclear family and (15%) of street vendors are living with joint family.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents by their educational qualification

S.No.	Educational qualification	Respondents	Percentage
1	No basic education	41	41
2	Primary education	29	29
3	Secondary and Higher secondary education	23	23
4	Diploma/Degree level	7	7
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that majority of street vendors (41%) have no basic education and very few street vendors (7%) have Diploma/Degree level of education.

Table 6: Distribution of respondents by their Religious

S.No.	Religious	Respondents	Percentage
1	Hindu	67	67
2	Muslim	24	24
3	Christian	9	9
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table indicates that majority of street vendors (67%) are hindu and least (9%) of street vendors belongs to Christian.

Table 7: Distribution of respondents by their type of vending

S.No.	Type of vending	Respondents	Percentage
1	Food	24	24
2	Apparels	7	7
3	Multi- Products	19	19
4	Fruits & Vegetables	30	30
5	Flower	15	15
6	Services	5	5
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table indicates that majority of street vendors (30%) vending activities are Fruits and Vegetables (5%) street vendors are providing services like cobbling, tailoring, watch repairs, mechanical work etc.,

Table 8: Distribution of respondents by their type of vendors

S.No.	Type of vendors	Respondents	Percentage
1	Stationary vendors	28	28
2	Mobile vendors	72	72
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that type of street vendors, 72% of the street vendors are mobile vendors which indicates most of the street vendors do not have permanent places for vending and rest (28%) of the street vendors are stationary vendors.

Table 9: Distribution of respondents by their Income

S.No.	Income (Per Year)	Respondents	Percentage
1	Less than Rs. 50,000	9	9
2	Rs. 50,000 – Rs.1,00,000	34	34
3	Rs. 1,00,000 – Rs.1,50,000	15	15
4	Above Rs.1,50,000	42	42
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table indicates that majority of street vendors (42%) have above Rs.1, 50,000 p.a. income and (9%) of street vendors have below Rs. 50,000 p.a. income.

Table 10: Distribution of respondents by their vending experience

S.No.	Experience	Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 5 years	8	8
2	6 – 10 years	10	10
3	11-15 years	65	65
4	Above 15 years	17	17
	Total	100	100

Sources: Primary Data

The above table shows that majority of street vendors (65%) have 11-15 years of vending experience and (8%) of street vendors have below 5 years of experiences.

Table 11: Distribution of respondents by risks associated with street vending

S.No.	Vending risks	High	Medium	Low	Total
1	Finance arrangement risk	48%	44%	8%	100
2	Work space/place risk	86%	10%	4%	100
3	Amenities related risk	10%	68%	22%	100
4	Hard physical work risk	28%	46%	26%	100
5	Customer bargaining risk	18%	60%	22%	100
6	Health related risk	26%	40%	34%	100
7	Goods quality reduction risk	60%	34%	6%	100
8	Fines & Bribes risk	20%	48%	32%	100
9	Materials & equipment storage risk	76%	24%	0%	100

Sources: Primary Data

HIGH:

Based on the above table, out of 100 street vendors (86%) opinion is that work space/place related risk is the highest vending risk faced by street vendors, followed by materials & equipments storage risk (76%), Goods quality reduction risk(60%), Finance arrangement risk (48%), Hard physical work risk(28%), Health related risk(26%), Fines & Bribes risk(20%), Customer bargaining risk(18%) and amenities related risk(10%).

MEDIUM:

Most medium level vending risk of street vendors(68%) was amenities related risk followed by Customer bargaining risk(60%), Fines & Bribes risk(48%), Hard physical work risk(46%), Finance arrangement risk (44%), Health related risk (40%),

Goods quality reduction risk (34%), Materials & Equipments storage risk (24%) and work space/place risk(10%).

LOW:

Lowest level vending risk of street vendors was health related risk (34%), followed by Fines & Bribes risk (32%), Hard physical work risk (26%), Amenities related risk(22%), Customer bargaining risk (22%), Finance arrangement risk (8%), Goods quality reduction risk (6%) and work space/place risk (4%).

It is found that majority of street vendors’ high level of vending risk is work space/place related risk, Medium level of vending risk is amenities related risk. Low level of vending risk is health related risk.

Chi-Square Test:

Age wise classification of street vendors & Vending risks faced by street vendors

Hypothesis:

H0: There is no significant relationship between age wise classification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

H1: There is significant relationship between age wise classification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

S.No.	Vending risks	X2 value	Table value	DF	S/NS
1	Finance arrangement risk	6.3893	12.592	6	NS
2	Work space/place risk	7.5693	12.592	6	NS
3	Amenities related risk	14.4514	12.592	6	S
4	Hard physical work risk	9.7127	12.592	6	NS
5	Customer bargaining risk	14.2297	12.592	6	S
6	Health related risk	10.7566	12.592	6	NS
7	Goods quality reduction risk	10.0998	12.592	6	NS
8	Fines & Bribes risk	13.2548	12.592	6	S
9	Materials & equipment storage risk	3.7155	12.592	6	NS

Sources: Primary Data

Note: DF-Degree of freedom (r-1)* (c-1)=6, S= Significant, NS=Not significant, Significance @ 5% level.

The above table shows that the highest not significant risk relating to age is health related risk and significant risk is fines & bribes risk.

Gender wise classification of street vendors & Vending risks faced by street vendors

Hypothesis:

H0: There is no significant relationship between gender wise classification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

H1: There is significant relationship between gender wise classification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

S.No.	Vending risks	X2 value	Table value	DF	S/NS
1	Finance arrangement risk	1.0735	5.991	2	NS
2	Work space/place risk	5.7548	5.991	2	NS
3	Amenities related risk	22.8155	5.991	2	S
4	Hard physical work risk	8.9800	5.991	2	S
5	Customer bargaining risk	2.0749	5.991	2	NS
6	Health related risk	6.4485	5.991	2	S

7	Goods quality reduction risk	4.2468	5.991	2	NS
8	Fines & Bribes risk	4.1804	5.991	2	NS
9	Materials & equipment storage risk	0.9736	5.991	2	NS

Sources: Primary Data

Note: DF-Degree of freedom (r-1)* (c-1)=6, S= Significant, NS=Not significant, Significance @ 5% level.

The above table concluded that the highest not significant risk relating to gender is materials & equipments storage risk and significant risk is amenities related risk.

Marital status wise classification of street vendors & Vending risks faced by street vendors

Hypothesis:

H0: There is no significant relationship between marital status wise classification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

H1: There is significant relationship between marital status wise classification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

S.No.	Vending risks	X2 value	Table value	DF	S/NS
1	Finance arrangement risk	3.4617	5.991	2	NS
2	Work space/place risk	1.9241	5.991	2	NS
3	Amenities related risk	4.3163	5.991	2	NS
4	Hard physical work risk	2.0948	5.991	2	S
5	Customer bargaining risk	1.6655	5.991	2	NS
6	Health related risk	2.8788	5.991	2	NS
7	Goods quality reduction risk	7.2518	5.991	2	S
8	Fines & Bribes risk	5.9193	5.991	2	NS
9	Materials & equipment storage risk	0.4455	5.991	2	NS

Sources: Primary Data

Note: DF-Degree of freedom (r-1)* (c-1)=6, S= Significant, NS=Not significant, Significance @ 5% level.

The above table concluded that the highest not significant risk relating to marital status is materials & equipments storage risk and significant risk is goods quality reduction risk.

Educational qualification wise classification of street vendors & Vending risks faced by street vendors

Hypothesis:

H0: There is no significant relationship between educational qualification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

H1: There is significant relationship between educational qualification of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

S.No.	Vending risks	X2 value	Table value	DF	S/NS
1	Finance arrangement risk	5.5160	12.592	6	NS
2	Work space/place risk	9.3052	12.592	6	NS
3	Amenities related risk	18.2972	12.592	6	S
4	Hard physical work risk	17.0219	12.592	6	S
5	Customer bargaining risk	18.5583	12.592	6	S
6	Health related risk	12.8305	12.592	6	S
7	Goods quality reduction risk	27.2134	12.592	6	S

8	Fines & Bribes risk	17.9614	12.592	6	S
9	Materials & equipment storage risk	3.4930	12.592	6	NS

Sources: Primary Data

Note: DF-Degree of freedom $(r-1) * (c-1) = 6$, S= Significant, NS=Not significant, Significance @ 5% level.

The above table concluded that the highest not significant risk relating to educational qualification is materials & equipments storage risk and significant risk is goods quality reduction risk.

Income wise classification of street vendors & Vending risks faced by street vendors

Hypothesis:

H0: There is no significant relationship between income of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

H1: There is significant relationship between income of street vendors and vending risks faced by street vendors.

S.No.	Vending risks	X2 value	Table value	DF	S/NS
1	Finance arrangement risk	14.1673	12.592	6	S
2	Work space/place risk	6.4929	12.592	6	NS
3	Amenities related risk	10.0434	12.592	6	NS
4	Hard physical work risk	8.9727	12.592	6	NS
5	Customer bargaining risk	4.1306	12.592	6	NS
6	Health related risk	16.4294	12.592	6	S
7	Goods quality reduction risk	6.0522	12.592	6	NS
8	Fines & Bribes risk	10.6138	12.592	6	NS
9	Materials & equipment storage risk	2.3928	12.592	6	NS

Sources: Primary Data

Note: DF-Degree of freedom $(r-1) * (c-1) = 6$, S= Significant, NS=Not significant, Significance @ 5% level.

The above table concluded that the highest not significant risk relating to income is materials & equipments storage risk and significant risk is health related risk.

SUGGESTIONS

1. The Government agencies at the district level can conduct street vending business programs, like talk by successful street vendors, their success stories, the risks faced by them and how bravely they overcome etc. It will create the confidence among the street vendors to face the vending risks.
2. The finance arrangement risk is major risk of many street vendors in Tiruppur District. Government shall play active role in providing business loan to needy street vendors through nationalized, cooperative banks and micro finance providers. Bank loan procedures shall be less complicated and less time consuming. All the required documentation should be in regional language. So that, even, illiterate street vendors will feel that it is appropriate and trusted source of mobilize finance.
3. Street vending associations, Trade associations, Voluntary and social organisations can be joined so as to help street vendors in fulfilling their requirements of financial assistance, vending place, health assistance, evictions, raw material assistance, feasibility counseling, follow up guidance etc..

4. To solve materials & equipments related risk of street vendors, Government should provide commercial building to street vendors for monthly low rent to hold street vendors materials, equipments and their street vending vehicles.
5. To solve fines & bribes risk of street vendors, the proper management of street vending policy should be implemented for this effectiveness the cooperation between municipalities and the police is necessary.
6. Authorities should update national policies (Street vendors Act) of street vendors which will be helpful to tackle the vending risks associated with street vendors.

CONCLUSION

Nowadays street vendors are needed to society to increase the economic value of the country and to provide self employment and economic sustainability for their own arrangements. Street vendors should be positive and open-minded and he or she must have enough awareness and they must be ready to face any risks in their vending place.. Street vendors face various risks while starting a business. And there are solutions for almost every risk but it does not mean that street vendors will never face any risk by knowing the solutions for every hidden risks. They must have enough strength to face the risks and get sustain their livelihood. According to this study, it has been concluded that the key risks faced by the street vendors in Tiruppur District are Finance arrangement risk, Work space/place risk, Amenities related risk, Hard physical work risk, Customer bargaining risk, Health related risk, Goods quality reduction risk, Fines & Bribes risk and Materials & equipment storage risk. The way which they used to overcome the risks are through applying experiences and skill. This study investigated the 100 respondents of street vendors selected in Tiruppur district to address the risks faced by them. Through direct interview, the study found that most of the respondents are faced risks by **(Work space/place risk, Materials & equipment storage risk and Goods quality reduction risk)**. Apart from the Government policies, Municipalities, NGOs and street vending associations could provide the necessary support to street vendors for solve their vending risks and do the vending activities with peace.

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