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A Descriptive Study on Local Street Vendors: A Case Study in Dimapur District Nagaland

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Abstract

The term “street vendor” refers to those who are unable to get regular jobs in the formal sector on account of their low level of education and skills. Street vending is an important activity for the urban areas. The study focuses on the street vending of Nagaland State. Nagaland is a mountainous state in northeast India, bordering Myanmar, and it is home to diverse indigenous tribes. It occupies about 70 per cent of the total area under cultivation and constitutes about 75 per cent of the total food production in the state. In Nagaland majority of the street vendors are women, belonging to diverse tribes and sell a variety of products ranging from vegetables to meat, fast food, handicraft, second-hand clothing, etc., to urban consumers. The study population in Nagaland is around 22.8 lakhs and around 30,000, people are street vendors. Street vending gives platform to earn income to the illiterate, low-class, and unemployed to sustain their life.

Keywords: Street vending, street vendor, socioeconomic, population, scope.

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1. Introduction

Street Vendors have been traditionally practiced for many centuries, it has been practiced all across the world, and vendors sell different commodities depending on the place and of the interest of the buyers. Around the world, through street vending, a large growing proportion of the informal sector's workforce operates on the streets, footpaths, sidewalks, and public places without any enclosed premise or covered workspace, street vendors are found to be vending a wide variety of goods like vegetables and fruits, food items, and non-food items like locks and keys, soaps and detergents, clothing and tailoring, barbers, cobblers, garbage collectors, waste recyclers, etc. The majority of street vendors come from the poor or lower-middle-class backgrounds, adopting the trade as either a means of survival or to complement their livelihood. There was

an Act passed down for the street vendors, known as “Street Vendors Act 2014”, this is an Act to protect the

rights of the Urban street vendors and to regulate street vending activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending). The Act mentions vending in, “streets, sidewalk, footpath, public parks, or public and private places”, a minimum vending age of 14 has been prescribed, the act not only provides protection but also imposes regulation on them [1].

There are estimated 50-60 lakh street vendors in India, with the largest concentrations in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad. Most of them are migrants who typically work for 10–12 hours every day on average. According to government estimates, street-vending accounts for 14 per cent of the total (non-agricultural) urban informal employment in the country. The sector is riddled with problems. License caps are unrealistic in most cities – Mumbai for example has a ceiling of around 15,000 licenses as against an estimated 2.5 lakh vendors. Over the years, street vendors have organized themselves into trade unions and associations, and numerous NGOs have started working for them. The National Hawker

Federation (NHF) is a federation of 1,400 Street Vendor Organizations and trade unions are present in all 28 States. According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, there are 10 billion street vendors in India with Mumbai accounting, for 250,000; Delhi has 450,000, Kolkata more than 150,000, Ahmadabad 100,000, and Nagaland with 7221 of street vendors belonging to different tribes selling a variety of products such as vegetables to meat, fast foods, handicrafts second-hand clothing, etc. to the urban consumers. Even though the Street Vendor Act had passed by the Central Government in 2014, not many street vendors are aware of the Act.

According to a “rough survey” conducted by Entrepreneurs Associates (EA), it is estimated that about 30,000 women are engaged in street vending of local products across Nagaland. To uplift this section of women in Nagaland, the EA has been initiating the ‘uplifting women street vendors program’ as part of the series of training and workshops that addresses the needs of local women street vendors, who form a vital part of the chain, of supplying fruits and vegetables to urban households [4].

2. Research Methodology

The study is based on the analysis of primary data and supportive secondary data. The data collection has been done in the month of September 2022 through personnel interview and with the help of a structured schedule. Data have been collected by following simple random sampling method. The total no of sample is 130 which are collected from various street vendors of Dimapur district of Nagaland. Secondary data has been collected from internet, unpublished PhD thesis, Government reports articles and journals. For analysis of the data simple statistical tools like ratio, frequency table, tables, charts and percentage method have been used.

3. Objectives

The study will include following objectives;

1. To study about the socio economic condition of the Street Vendors.
2. To study about the Problems and challenges faced by the street vendors.
3. To study about the income generation through schemes initiated for the Street vendors.

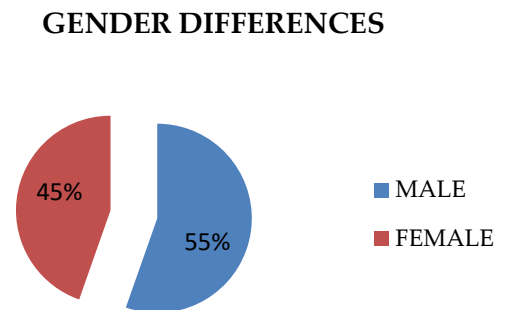
4. Results and Discussion

Street vending is a world-wide practice where a person offers their goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure but with a temporary static

structure, the major sections of self-employed workers are involved in street vending because of low-skills, lack of education and lack of investment, a large number of urban poor survive by working in the informal sector, street vendors is not only a source of self-employment to poor in the cities and towns but also a means to provide affordable goods as well as convenience services to majority of urban population.

3.1 Gender Differences among the Street Vendors of Dimapur in Nagaland.

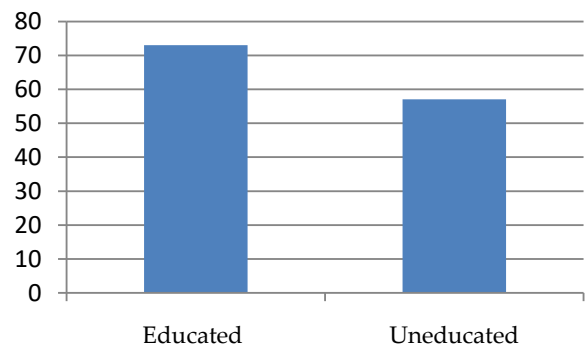
As per the data collection of 130 samples, majority of the street vendors were male with 55 per cent and women were 45 per cent with the difference of 10 per cent. We can see that no matter what the gender is street vending is done both by man and women. This can be depicted by a pie diagram given below:



Sources: Collected through survey method 2022.

3.2 Educational qualification of the Street Vendors of Dimapur in Nagaland.

According to the 130 sample collected, it shows that even educated group of people are street vending due to unemployment. Whereas the uneducated people are tend to street vending as less jobs will be allocated for them in the formal service sector.

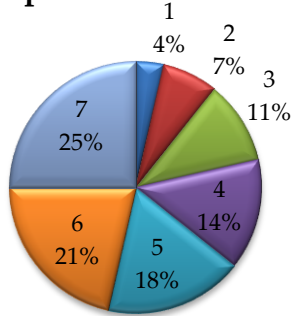


Sources: Collected through survey method 2022

3.3 Number of days spent in street vending in Dimapur District, Nagaland.

From 130 samples collected, most of the street vendor’s works for the whole week to sustain their livelihood, 25 per cent of the vendor’s works for the whole week, 39 per cent of the street vendors working for 5-6 days a week and only 4 per cent one day street vending. It can be seen in the chart given below:-

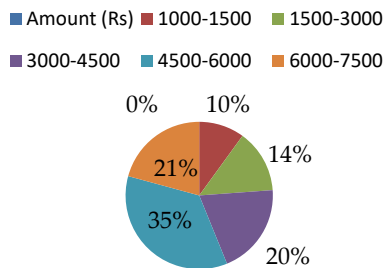
Days spent in street vending



Sources: Collected through survey method 2022.

3.4 Income Earn in a Week through street vending in Dimapur District, Nagaland.

Income Earn in a Week



From the 130 survey sample collected, we see that the incomes of the street vendors are from around 1000-7500. 35 per cent of the street vendors are earning around 4500-6000 at the max, 21 per cent earning 6000-7500 and less than 10 per cent earning 1000-1500 in a week, this is depicted below in the pie chart given below:-

Sources: Collected through survey method 2022.

4.5 Problems faced by the street vendors

The study reveals that the problems faced by the street vendors despite its growing importance, infrastructural facilities , policies, regulations, financial, are not adequately available for this profession, the street vendors faces many obstacles and hurdles during the course of vending.

Table 1. Distribution of Respondents According to Transportation Cost Incurred

Transportation cost	No. Of Respondents	Perc entage
No cost	14	11%
Up to 50	31	24%
50-150	32	24%
150 and above	53	41%

Sources: Collected through survey method 2022

Street vendors need to purchase goods and take their vending place to carry out their business. While for some, who sell in close proximity from the place of purchase, no transportation cost is incurred. But the vendors who sell their goods or purchase at a far distance, they normally spend a high amount on transportation cost which significantly reduce their profit margin.

Table 2. Distanced travelled for procurement of goods to the vending place and Location

Distance	Respon dents	Type of location	Respond ents
(in mins/hours)			
0-25	24	Rent	62
25-45	17	Permanent	35
Above	36	Tax	33
(In kms)			
1-10	22		
Above	31		

Sources: Collected through survey method 2022

The study reveals that 47 per cent of respondents stays in rent and about 25 per cent stays in tax and the other 26 per cent are in their permanent home and for nearly 23 per cent vendors vending place is at a distance of 10 kilometres, and around 27 per cent vendors travels for more the 45 minutes to reach their vending place which cost them more than the other vendors who travels 25 minutes and less, which is loss of time also for their vending to start as they have to stay extra hours and travel back late.

Table 3. Storage facilities

Storage facilities	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	42	32
No	88	68

Sources: Collected through survey method 2022

Lack of storage facilities is another problem. This is a common phenomenon for all sectors and especially the storage of perishable goods is very sensitive in comparison with the others.

4.6 Study about the income Schemes initiated for the Street vendors.

In the informal economy, workers are unprotected, exploited and have a very low quality of living. The works are characterized by low wages, long working hours, unsafe working conditions, most of the poor in the informal sector suffers from quite a lot of limitation in raising their living standards by their own efforts and thereby requires for support. Therefore schemes were allocated to the street vendors such as, MGNREGS on 29th January 2020; the total number of job card issued has increased by 0.93 per-cents from 4.32 lakh in the previous year to 4.36 lakh with 7.26 lakh registered workers. During 2019, 95.55 lakh person days have been generated against the approved Labour Budget of 1125.5 lakh person days. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), under the Centrally Sponsored State Managed components of PMKVY, the State has been providing since July, 2018 till date to 6861 youths to be trained, currently 2034 youths are undergoing training in various training centre across the country. PM Street Vendor’s AamNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs aim to empower Street Vendors by not only extending loans, but also for their holistic development and economic uplift. The scheme intends to facilitate collateral free working capital loans of up to INR 10,000/- of one year tenure to approximately 50 lakh street vendors to help resume their businesses in the urban areas including surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas. This scheme was launched on 1st June 2020, for providing affordable, Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihood that was been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown. The duration of the scheme was till March 2022 but has been extended till December 2024, with the focus to enhanced collateral free affordable loan corpus, increased adoption of digital transaction and holistic socio-economic development of the street vendors and their families.

Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) approved by the Government of India was the merging of two schemes that were in operation till 31/03/2008 namely as Prime Minister RojgarYojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for generation of employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as

well as urban areas. PMEGP will be a central sector scheme to be administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). This scheme will be implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Minister of MSME as the single nodal agency at the National level. This scheme is a Government of India-backed credit-linked subsidy scheme under the scheme beneficiaries can get a subsidy amounting to 15-35% of the project cost from the government.

Levels of funding under PMGEP

Table 4. Levels of funding under PMGEP

Categories of beneficiaries Under PMEPPG	Beneficiary's Contribution (of project cost)	Rate of Subsidy (of project cost)	
		Urban	Rural
Area (location of project/unit)		15%	25%
General category	10%	15%	25%
Special (including SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Women, Ex-servicemen, Physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas etc.	05%	25%	35%

Sources: Collected from guidelines of PMGEP [3]

Note: (1) The maximum cost of the project/unit admissible under manufacturing sector is Rs. 25lakh.

(2) The maximum cost of the project/unit admissible under business/services sector is Rs. 10lakh.

(3) The balance amount of the total project cost will be provided by banks in term as loans.

5. FINDINGS

1. The study found that men were seen more in street vending with 55 per cent compared to women with 45 per cent.
2. The study revealed that most of the street vendors were educated with an average of 56 per cent.
3. It has shown that 46 per cent spend 6-7 days street vending to earn livelihood income, earning approximate of rupees 4500-7500.
4. The study reveals that about 41 per cent of respondents spend more than Rs.150 on transportation per day.

5. The study shows that about 68 per cent of the street vendors lack storage facilities, and thus has to re-sale the products at a cheaper rate which incur losses.
6. The study found that 30 per cent of street vendors were sponsored by Entrepreneur Associations of Nagaland to promote the standard of living.

immemorial, erosion of the rural livelihood base, growing informal and unabated urbanisation have suddenly increased their numbers in Indian cities.

6. <https://www.researchgate.net> : Bhowmik(2005) made an attempt on problems of vendors in different countries in Asia.

7. Conclusion

Street vending is a common phenomenon found across different States of India. With the increasing population street vending is also known to be profession for the poor and lower middle class family to earn incomes for their livelihood. The Government should take initiative in building market shed for the street vendors and build drinking water facilities which can ease their problems. Many street vendors are unaware of the central and state schemes, therefore Government should organise such awareness programmes to let the street vendors take fully and efficient utilisation of the fund to promote themselves. The study also show that due lack of storage facilities the vendors resell their goods at a lower rate and also cause most of their goods to be damaged, also some street vendors buys their goods from hamlet which also delays the goods to arrive which the vendors cannot sell, this is due to road conditions, the government should also invest in building the roads.

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5. Kumar (2015) street vendors has always provided goods and services to millions at affordable rate on their doorsteps since time