



CRITICAL ISSUES OF STREET GARMENTS VENDORS - A CASE STUDY IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT The street garments vendors are one of the constituent pillars of the giant unorganised workforce. They are the self-employed category contributing a significant share to the economy of each country. The street garments vendors face many problems in the daily chores of their vending activities. The present study is conducted to examine the problems of street garments vendors in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. Four hundred and fifty samples were drawn from the universe under simple random sampling method. The results show that women are dominating the street vending trades. The major problems include sexual harassment, physical evictions by the enforcement authorities. There is a significant relationship between the problems faced by the respondents and their overall perception about the street garments vendors. The study concludes that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has implemented more than 75 per cent of the provisions of the street garments vendors Act. The study ends with the concluding note that the Street garments vendors Act is to be implemented in letter and spirit to minimise the problems and issues against the street garments vendors in Chittoor District.

KEYWORDS : Street vendors, Unorganised sector, Unskilled, Sexual harassment, Eviction

INTRODUCTION

The street garments vendors are the unorganised workers offering garments to the public. They are the self-employed category of the unorganised sector and are also the most deprived category self-employed worker category (Debdul Saha, 2011). They sell almost all sorts of garments suitable for men, women and children. Street garments vending has been practised by both men and women all over the world. They face many challenges in their daily vending activities. Though the street garments vendors supply goods and commodities at competitive prices, street vending is viewed as a nuisance (Yatmo, 2008).

CONTRIBUTION OF STREET GARMENTS VENDORS

Street garments vending is an important source of employment for many unskilled men and women from rural to urban backgrounds. It is a very great boon for the rural poor for generating employment. Street garments vending will be increasing and the demand for space will also expand in future. According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, there are approximately 10 million street garments vendors in India. Ramanath Jha (2018) reports that the statistical estimation of street garments vendors are different and conflicting as “The Street garments vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014” calculates a maximum of 2.5 per cent of a city's population as street garments vendors while the National Policy for Urban Street garments vendors (2009) estimates the street garments vendors as 10 million.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Doibale et al. (2019) in their study of socio-demographic profile and causes of street vending in an urban area, Aurangabad, Maharashtra found that one-fourth of the street garments vendors experience health problems associated with their longer work. Parikshit Chakraborty and Samarpita Koley (2018) in their study found that the street garments vendors working conditions and the working environment is very poor. They also face problems in the absence of shelters and storage space (Kurniawati, 2012). Saha (2009) in his study stated that the street garments vendors are typically treated as nuisance of public areas and are considered as unlawful face the harassment of police and enforcement authorities.

Mkhize (2013) found that the street garments vendors are harassed, assaulted and their goods confiscated by urban authorities. Hassan and Alam (2015) felt that hard work and meagre income place dominant roles and thus most of the street garments vendors as indebted. They have been bribing many people to run their business. Channamma (2010) in her study found that women garments vendors are mainly engaged in garments vending like saris, children's dresses and pants, which are sometimes get holes and bring loss if left unsold. Women constitute about forty per cent of the total street garments vendors and thirty per cent of them are the sole earning members of their family

(Government of India, 2009; Geetika et al., 2011).

PROBLEMS OF STREET GARMENTS VENDORS

The street garments vendors in their daily vending activities encounter various problems. The street garments vendors mainly draw from the marginalised illiterate groups. They often migrate to the towns and cities due to poverty and failure to get prospective employment locally. They live in low-cost houses with limited facilities around the vending zones. In some other cases, they reside far from the town limits and depend on the public transport system. Being new to the migrated area the street garments vendors are to adjust with local hooligans and unlawful elements who exhort money from them. It is very hard for them to get loans from the banks due to the several procedures involved in sanctioning loan.

Many street garments vendors borrow money from money lenders and return the principal amount on a daily sales basis on higher interest rates. They are not regulated by the laws until 2014. After a long struggle the “Street garments vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.” was enacted by the Government of India. Street garments vendors were not considered as “worker” as there are no employer-employee relations. Social security measures are not provided to them. Transportation and storage is a big issue for street garments vendors. Now after passing the Act, they are entitled to some social security measures, but the problem is still nagging and now many states in India are not fully implemented the Act. At the implementing stage, many street garments vendors are to be relocated depending on the vending zones which cause inconvenience to continue in the primary zones where familiar consumers depend on the concerned street garments vendor.

Organising the street garments vendors is a big task for the Unions. The working hours are long and they have no toilet facilities. Women vendors are sexually harassed and abused. They are evicted repeatedly by the enforcement and municipal authorities and the confiscated goods are not returned many times. Regular bribing and extortion are part of their occupational hazards. Despite all these problems, street garments vendors cater to the needs of various sects of consumers. Central Unions like CITU and the National Association of Street garments vendors Associations (NASVA) playing a pivotal role in organising them. Despite their initiative, many numbers of street garments vendors are yet to join as a member of the union.

CHALLENGES FACED BY STREET GARMENTS VENDORS

1. Street garments vendors face many problems as they are vulnerable population, who are neither protected by government, NGOs, labour union nor by any labour law. They are deprived by laws made by government in respect of labour union.
2. The street garments vendors always suffer competition with other street garments vendors because of fluctuation in market prices,

insecure and irregular employment. Their incomes are often minimal and their sales fluctuate. Another reason for decrease in income of street garments vendors are that they are forced to pay 15 to 20 per cent of their daily income as bribes to local police.

3. Street garments vendors are usually associated with encroachment of public spaces, causes traffic congestion, inadequate hygiene, and poor waste disposal. Safety of food has been increasingly become a concern in regard to street vendors. No Government agency is authorized to verify the content of food as they are not regulated by any government agency.

4. The government does not recognize the contribution of street hawkers towards economic and social well-being of urban population. They survive without government support. But lately, government has passed "Street garments vendors Bill 2013", which protects the rights of street vendors.

5. Negative impact of online shopping on retailers and street vendors- Online shopping is a form of electronic commerce whereby consumers directly buy goods or services from a seller over the internet without an intermediary service. Online shopping has become the trend and the new mode of purchasing. There are around 1000s of online marketing enterprises selling cosmetics, clothes, shoes, accessories, vitamin supplements, etc. literally the entire range of consumer items. The trend is very clear, retail shop demand will fall and even shrunk. Online shopping is indeed having an adverse impact on the retail sector.

6. Uncertainty and insecurity: The basic problems of street garments vendors is insecurity and uncertainty as their profession is considered illegal, but according to government of India assessment around 2.5% of local poor urban population survives by working in this occupation. If government provide license to street vendors, they can be protected by harassment and eviction by local authorities and local police. The problems faced by the street garments vendors are presented in the Table 1.

Table 1 Problems Faced By The Street Garments Vendors

Sl. No.	Problem	High Level	Medium Level	Low Level	Total
1	To access of capital	60 (13.3%)	170 (37.8%)	220 (48.9%)	450 (100%)
2	Social security	130 (28.9%)	150 (33.3%)	170 (37.8%)	450 (100%)
3	Marketing competition	120 (26.7%)	155 (34.4%)	175 (38.9%)	450 (100%)
4	Local rowdies	165 (36.7%)	240 (53.3%)	45 (10%)	450 (100%)
5	Bribes of authorities	75 (16.7%)	225 (50%)	150 (33.3%)	450 (100%)
6	Price fluctuations	105 (23.3%)	160 (35.5%)	185 (41.1%)	450 (100%)

The above table shows that 48.9 per cent of the respondents are facing the problem of access of capital in low level, 37.8 per cent of the respondents are facing the problem of social security in low level, 38.9 per cent of the respondents are facing the problem of marketing competition in low level. 53.3 per cent of the respondents are facing the problem of local rowdies in medium level. Moreover, 50 per cent of the respondents are facing the problem of bribes of authorities in medium level and 41.1 per cent of the respondents are facing the problem of price fluctuations in low level.

Statistical Test

Karl Pearson coefficient correlation was computed and the results are presented in the Table 2.

Table 2 Karl Pearson Co-efficient Of Correlation Test

Sl. No.	Problems	R Value	Statistical value	Inference
1	To access of capital	0.757	0.023 < 0.05	Significant
2	Social security	0.844	0.044 < 0.05	Significant
3	Marketing competition	0.574	0.231 > 0.05	Not significant
4	Local rowdies	0.493	0.768 > 0.05	Not significant
5	Bribes of authorities	0.279	0.435 > 0.05	Not significant
6	Price fluctuations	0.395	0.435 > 0.05	Not significant
	Overall perception about the street garments vendors	2.765	0.145 > 0.05	Not significant

The above table shows that there is a significant relationship between the problems faced by the respondents and their overall perception

about the street garments vendors. Hence, the calculated value is greater than the table value.

SUGGESTIONS

Commercial banks have been empirically proven to be unable to support the informal sector resulting in micro-financing. Grameen Bank is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning microfinance organization and community development bank founded in Bangladesh by Professor Muhammad Yunus. It makes small loans (known as microcredit or "grameen credit") to the impoverished without requiring collateral. Micro-credit loans are based on the concept that the poor have skills that are underutilized and with incentive, they can earn more money.

Management plays an important role in success of any activity. There should be proper management in street vending also. Proper management working environment provide income, health and safety benefits to street vendors. Provide safety at work place: Street garments vendors are not trying only to earn a livelihood but also provide valuable service to urban population. Thus, it is the duty of the state government to protect the right of these segments of population to earn their livelihood since article 39(a) of constitution stated that "any citizen, men and women, have equal right to an adequate means of livelihood"

CONCLUSION

The street garments vendors face various problems in their vending chores. The magnitude and the dimensions of the problem vary from vendor to vendors depending on certain factors of informal sector. Street garments vendors offer goods and services for sale without having a permanent built up structure to satisfy the demands of urban poor's and urban youth. Around 49 per cent of the respondents are facing the problem of access of capital in low level. There is a significant relationship between the problems faced by the respondents and their overall perception about the street garments vendors. They ensure the distribution of benefits in favour of the disadvantaged group. The objective of this paper is to identify the causes behind street vending, challenges faced by street vendors, highlight the importance of street vendors, what measures are taken by the Government to prevent the harassment of street garments vendors by police and other authorities, improvement in the working conditions, social protection and life skill development to improve the level of profitability.

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