



## A STUDY ON UNORGANISED WORKERS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO HAWKERS IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY

### KEYWORDS

Hawkers, street food, socio ethnic, nostalgia, flavourful, economic status, urban life.

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### ABSTRACT

The informal sector/unorganised sector work is called as black market before 1971. The word 'informal sector' was first used by Keith Hart. Informal sectors are involved in small self-employed individual works. Generally, the individuals in voiced in informal sector works in urban areas, majority of the workers migrated from rural to urban areas. Hawkings is one such informal sector where the people are hawkers, hence their working pattern is very different and they have lack of facility for carrying out their business. Hawkings normally invest small money in their business. Hawking is the major business of the middle and lower income group of people in Tiruchirappalli. Both the urban and the rural, illiterate and educated youngsters' involved in hawking. The present study was carried out to assess the hawkers' life in their hawking business. This paper has driven out the results by direct Interviews which were structured by the random choice of the researcher. The result of the interview has been classified by the author under different topics of hawkers' life, their social, economical, and other conditions in hawking. This research paper includes the direct Interviews of the Hawkings. This reveals that the life style of the Hawkings and their sufferings from social, physical and economical status. This study is conducted from 2nd Feb 2016 to 3rd March 2016.

### Introduction

Their Voices rings in to my ears as an alarm. Their repetitive voices announces me that a new day awaits for me. Their warm smile starts my day. They are the machines with blood and bone, brain and heart. They function from early morning to till late night. Their restless work ends restlessly in the mid night. They are none other than the self employed workers of Tiruchirappalli. In particular this research paper tries to focus on the 'Hawker' who is selling food in the streets and in busy places of Trichy city. Hawkings have their own place in the history. It is record and generally believed that small fried fish were sold in the street of ancient Greece. This custom was held by Theophrastus (He is called the Father of Biology). Street foods were largely consumed by the poor urban residents of ancient Rome whose rented house did not have ovens or hearth. (Artemis, 2000)

#### 1.1.1 Objectives of the study

To study, the socio-economic conditions of the Hawkings in Tiruchirappalli city.

To study, the problems of hawkings in Tiruchirappalli city.

### 1.2 Definitions

#### 1.2.1 Hawkings

The verb 'Hawk' is defined in the oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary 7th ed as, "to try to sell thing by going from place to place asking people to buy them" (715). The Noun Hawker means a "person who makes money hawking goods" (715).

#### 1.2.2 Street food

The term "Street food" describes a "wide range of ready-to-eat foods and beverages sold and sometimes prepared in public places, notably Streets." (Winarno, 7). Street foods are low in cost compared with restaurant meals. Street foods are found to be an alternative to home-cooked food in many urban areas. (Winarno, 7)

### 1.3A bird eye view on Hawker and Street food

Street food is ready-to-eat food or drinks sold by a hawker in a street or other public places, such as in market or in busy places like bus stand and railway stations. It is often sold from a portable food booth, food cart or food truck or sometime even in two wheelers and bicycles. It is made for immediate consumption. Some street foods are regional, but many have spread beyond their region of origin. According to a study conducted in 2015 from Food and Agriculture Organisation, 3 billion people consume street food a day. People buy or consume street food for a number of reasons.

To get flavourful food.

To adopt to the social ethnic

To get nostalgia of old food culture.

The sellers who engage themselves in going around the town, city and village selling goods without any permanent place are known as "Hawkings". These Hawkings earn their livelihood depending on their skills and selling things to the appropriate consumers. We have two types of Hawkings according to their movability. They are 'movable hawkings' and 'stationary hawkings'. (Kumar, 109)

They develop interpersonal relationship with their customers in order to generate good business. Those who within a particular place and sell things are called 'Stationary Hawkings'. Hawkings are playing an important role in rural and urban economy of India. More than 50 percent of the labour forces in urban areas of major cities are illiterates and educated youths become hawkings. The unemployment of youth forces them to prefer hawking. In cities hawking is considered as an illegal activity.

### 1.4 Hawkings in Tiruchirappalli

In Tamilnadu, Trichy is one of the cleanest cities. Trichy District has a good percentage of population hailing from all 3 sections of economy. They are lower, middle and the upper section of the economically divided society. Trichy is the one of the busy city. Which comprises of many Educational Institutions,

Hospitals, Government Establishments', Airport, Railway Junction and Private Companies most importantly we have BHEL. Which is located on the Highways of Trichy to Thanjavur. We have many devotional Temples like Rock Temple, Srirangam Temple, Vekkaliamma Temple, and we have many tourist spots like Mukkambu, Kalaanai and so on. All these places are occupied by the Hawkers. The Hawkers are of various types according to their product. They are, Florist, Photographers, Icecream Hawkers, Juice Hawkers, Toy Hawkers, Tea, Coffee Hawkers, Sweet sellers, Fruits and vegetable sellers, Tender coconut sellers, Bangle sellers, Book sellers. Among these the researcher would like to concentrate on food Hawkers alone.

They are, Ice cream Hawkers, Dates Hawkers, Idly/Putu Hawkers, Banana & Fruit Hawkers Tender coconut Hawkers, Tender Palm Hawkers, kool& borage Hawkers, Pickle Hawkers, Edible oil Hawkers, Snack/ Sweet Hawkers, Noodles Hawkers and Panipoori Hawkers.

**1.5 Methodology**

This study is made with the combination of both primary and secondary data. The former is collected directly with the hawkers themselves and the later is from books and articles. The Interview is conducted with 50 selected Hawkers. The Interview is conducted with a random choice of questions. Based on these questions the findings are classified into many sectors.

**1.6. Data Analysis and Interpretation**

**1.6.1. Work Based on Caste**

| S.No | Caste            | Respondents | Percentage |
|------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1    | General category | 10          | 20         |
| 2    | OBC              | 28          | 56         |
| 3    | Scheduled caste  | 12          | 24         |
|      | Total            | 50          | 100        |

Source: Primary data Table-1: Work Based on Caste

The above table shows that 20 percent of the hawkers belong to general caste. 24 percent are from scheduled castes and remaining 56 percent are in OBC. The largest group of hawkers are in the backward class, because the research area population is coming under the economical reconstruction.

**1.6.2 Gender Based Hawkers**

| S.No | Gender | Respondents | Percentage |
|------|--------|-------------|------------|
| 1    | Male   | 43          | 86         |
| 2    | Female | 7           | 14         |
|      | Total  | 50          | 100        |

Source: primary data Table-2: Gender Based Hawkers

**1.6.3 Literacy Level of the Hawkers**

| S.No | Literacy level    | Respondent | Percentage |
|------|-------------------|------------|------------|
| 1    | Illiterate        | 5          | 10         |
| 2    | Primary education | 26         | 52         |
| 3    | Middle school     | 11         | 22         |
| 4    | High school       | 8          | 16         |
|      | Total             | 50         | 100        |

Source: primary data Table-3: Literacy Level of the Hawkers

According to the above table Literacy level of the hawkers in Tiruchirappalli 10 percent are illiterate, 16 percent are high school level, 22 percent are middle school goes while 52 percent primary education. Thus it shows clearly that the educational status of the most of respondents is very poor.

**1.6.4 Income of the Hawkers**

The average income of the hawkers are 100-150Rs per day. e. the monthly average income is around 3500 to 4500. In season days it goes up to 4000 to 6000Rs.

**1.6.5 Investment mode of capital**

| S. No | Source of capital                 | Respondent | Percentage |
|-------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1     | Moneylenders                      | 30         | 60         |
| 2     | Self help groups, family, friends | 17         | 34         |
| 3     | Whole sale traders                | 3          | 6          |
|       | Total                             | 50         | 100        |

Source: primary data Table-4: Investment mode of capital

The above table shows that most of the hawkers raise their working capital from the moneylenders who charge high rate of Interest. 60 percent of Hawkers dependant on money- lenders, 34 percent rely on self help groups, family and friends. The remaining 6 percent depend on the whole sale traders. They give the net cost of the product and take away the profit daily.

**1.6.6 Problems for Hawkers**

Many Hawkers are from other states belonging to Indian Nationality. But they stay in and around Trichy and its locality. Most of the Hawkers stay from the travelling distance of 20km from the city. They start their work around 5am and end it by 10pm or 11pm. Most Hawkers are found to be in Market area, N.S.B Road, Rock Fort and in Teppakulam. The Hawkers of Trichy suffer a lot with economic, social, cultural and legal problems. Due to unrest work, standing long time in Sun creates Urinary problem, Skin diseases, Headache, Stress, are very common to the Hawkers. In some cases the local authority demand money from the Hawkers due to this they lack heavy loss of income.

**1.7 Conclusion**

**1.7.1 Suggestions and Findings**

This research paper has in own strength and weakness. The researcher has spent Just one month to create a logical and Reasonable field work in the busy places of Trichy. We customers should encourage the Hawkers hard work by buying all the food particles from the Hawkers. The important thing is that, the government has to provide Licence to the Hawkers. They should give free health care support once in a year by conducting free health care camp. They should be given permission to create their own union. Under which they can meet and promote their own claims and recommendations.

Self help groups and other N.G.O should bring awareness on health care and economic aspects. The Government should help the Hawkers in financial failures and Business losses. Banks should give loans and give less interest on capital. This research paper has given a bird eye view of the Hawkers life and their socio-economical conditions involved in their daily Hawking life.

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