



Provision of Civic Facilities Under The National Policy On Urban Street Vendors: An Imperative Requirement For The Municipal Market Vendors of Puducherry

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ABSTRACT

Markets are the indispensable part of human life from the times of civilizations. It is the place where the act of vending occurs when the buyers and sellers meet together and buyers purchase all kind of day to day needs within a small stretch. In India, the population of unorganized sector constitutes 86 per cent of work force (National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector, 2005). The market vendors fall under this 86 percent of population. The environmental condition of the markets is invariably out of consideration. The markets require a good space with certain civic facilities for a hassle free vending. The provision of certain civic facilities must be provided by the municipality under the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors. The policy insists the state to provide certain civic facilities through town municipality. It includes storage facilities, waste disposals, toilets, electricity, drinking water, protective covers and parking areas. The market environment without basic civic facilities; shows a mess up of place in chaos. Absence of these facilities creates a hindrance while vending and also affects the health of vendors and buyers. Understanding these issues, the current study was conducted at Goubert municipal market by collecting data from 50 market vendors using stratified random sampling. Descriptive research design was used and the study is Quantitative. The findings of the study states that the civic facilities are not properly provided by Puducherry municipality. The municipality should consider it as an imperative requirement and must enable the vendors by providing the facilities for a hassle free vending.

KEYWORDS

Market Vendors, National Policy on Street Vendors, Civic Facilities and Imperative Requirement

Introduction

Markets are the essential components of urban life. The life in urban areas depend more on markets for its day to day needs. Market is a place where varieties of services are provided to the ease of consumers. They function on a daily basis or in weekly basis. The central place theory of Walter Christian also states that the markets were emerged within a near proximity to the people living area to provide variety of services. There are different kinds of market seen in the urban areas. The types may differ according to the products and commodities available to the consumers.

Types of urban markets

Urban markets are majorly two types:-

Principal market

Secondary market

1. Principal market

Principal market is a place in an urban set up where different types of commodities were sold. In other words it can be also called as central markets. The commodities available in these principal markets are farm fresh and sold in a moderate higher price.

2. Secondary market

The secondary markets are those markets which can be seen in many parts of the urban settlements. These markets mainly depend on the central markets for the goods and commodities. The vendors of secondary market buy the commodities from the central market. The commodities available in secondary market may not be fresh as central market and price may be higher than that of central markets.

Goubert market - Puducherry

The Goubert market is the central market of Puducherry, which is located at the heart of the town. The market was

named after former mayor and first chief minister of Puducherry Mr. Edourd Goubert who was in service from 1963-1964 (Banarjea, 2002). It is one of the oldest and biggest market in Puducherry.

Vendors of Goubert market

The vendors of Goubert market welcome the public with their coded cadence voices. Even some vendors attract with their different selling languages. The technique used by the vendors to attract the buyers is very interesting. The market vendors sell the products from 5:00 am to 10:00 pm. The following are the different kinds of vendors in Goubert market. Fish vendors: Puducherry Union Territory is in the coast of Bay of Bengal. Fish and other sea food varieties are the main food items of Puducherry people. The Goubert market has fish and sea food selling vendors who sell the fresh fish and other sea food varieties in the market. Vegetable and Fruit vendors: Vegetables and fruits are the predominant items sold in the Goubert market. The vendors sell many kinds of vegetables and fruits including some rare vegetables and greens which are not available in local markets. Flower Vendors: The enchanting smell of flowers in Goubert market attracts everyone who enters the market. The flower stalls in the west corner of the market stays busy for the whole day, especially much crowded in the evening. The flower vendors display their flowers with different colours under different light settings to attract the buyers. Grocery vendors: The aroma from the grocery stalls of Goubert market are the best illustrative for south Indian spices. The grocery stall vendors display their various spices and grocery items in a decorative manner in the traditional style of keeping it in open sacks and big glass containers. Meat Vendors: Meat stalls are displayed in the west corner of Goubert market. The meat vendors sell mutton and chicken in the market. The meat items other than mutton and chicken are not found inside the market premises (South Indian Traditional

Arts Society, 2012).

Civic facilities in market

Civic facilities are those which are the basic requirements for the market vendors to perform their vending activities without any hassle. The town municipal authorities need to provide these facilities under the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors.

Provision of Civic Facilities

1. Municipal Authorities need to provide basic civic facilities in Vendors' Markets which would include: Provisions for solid waste disposal;
2. Public toilets to maintain cleanliness;
3. Aesthetic design of mobile stalls/ push carts;
4. Provision for electricity;
5. Provision for drinking water;
6. Provision for protective covers to protect wares of street vendors as well as themselves from heat, rain, dust etc;
7. Storage facilities including cold storage for specific goods like fish, meat and poultry; and parking areas.

The Vendors' Markets should also provide for crèches, toilets and restrooms for female and male members (National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, 2009).

Statement of Problem

Civic facilities are the basic requirements for the vendors of Goubert market. The provision of civic facilities enables the vendors to perform vending without any hindrance. They require waste disposal to dispose their wastages, storage facilities to store the commodities and cooler facilities to store perishable commodities. They need protective covers to avoid rain, sun and dust. Drinking water and toilet facilities are essential in vending place. Parking places and electricity in the vending place is also necessary. They also require crèches for the women vendors who have children. These basic civic facilities must be provided by the town municipality. The current study makes an attempt to know the facilities provided by the Puducherry municipality to the Goubert market vendors and also it aims to know about the condition of available civic facilities and how it is effectively helping the vendors to perform a hassle free vending.

Objectives

1. To find out the availability of civic facilities in the Goubert municipal market of Puducherry
2. To find out the condition of civic facilities in the Goubert municipal market of Puducherry
3. To offer suggestions and recommendations to the Puducherry municipality in order to improve the civic facilities in Goubert market.

Review of Literature

The literature regarding the street vendors and market vendors states about the workplace condition, occupational hazards, child care and lack of facilities. A study conducted on workplace environment of street vendors **William. M, Ross. M and Yasmin. D et al (2006)** states that the women who are working in the informal sector face lots of risk in the work place. Around 24 percent of study respondents mentioned that they don't have proper shelter and they suffer in dirt and the permanent shelters are in poor condition. The municipal authorities and town vending committee should consider these work place challenges of vendors and proper provisions shall be made for hassle free vending. A study conducted on hazards and workplace environment of street vendors **Bhowmik. K & Saha. D (2011)** states about the hazards faced by the street vendors in vending place. The threat from municipal authorities and bribing from police personnel for the eviction of vending place is considered as premier hazard. The vendors also face the hazard of health problems due to pollution and climatic conditions. A study conducted among the informal food sellers in the street of Ghana **Alfers. L (2012)** says that the street vendors sell their food products in the midst of unhygienic conditions. They are not provided with enough water

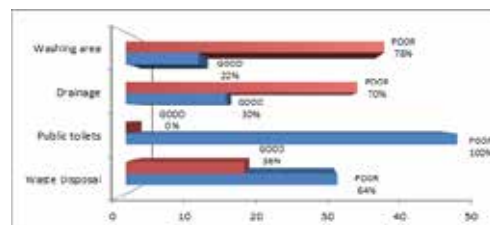
facilities, removal of wastages is not done in daily basis and even the toiletries are not maintained properly. The private concern which has taken the outsourcing activity of maintaining the hygiene in the city is not up to the mark. So the food sellers in the street are forced to a situation to sell the foods in an unhygienic environment. The failure of Municipal Corporation in not providing a hygienic environment in the streets results in ill health conditions to street sellers and to their customers. A study on impact of investing in equality for working poor women **WEIGO (2011)** states about the impact on various aspects such as policy making, market support, organizational strength, fair trade for women products and the occupational health and safety. The study comes with the finding that the information available on occupational health and safety has to be improved. The understanding about occupational health and safety is very poor among the women street vendors. The study also further states that women street vendors require support to articulate their needs to the policy makers. A study on the initiatives taken by municipal corporation and non government organization **Randhir. K & Arbind. S (2009)** states that the initiative taken by Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) in association with National Association for Street Vendors (NASVI) is very humongous. It acts as a model for all the cities in India to turn the street vending as a profit earning business for the entrepreneurs and to the city corporation. BMC and NASVI constructed a public market by including the investment of street vendors in Bhubaneswar city. The constructed market stays as a shelter and permanent place for the vendors and it generates revenue to the municipal corporation. An impact of permanent market shelter the street vendors were allotted vending zones in the city and so the city is beautified in terms of cleanliness. The BMC was awarded by the state government for beautifying the city.

Methodology

The field of study is Goubert municipal market of Puducherry Union Territory. Descriptive research design is used as the design for the study. Stratified random sampling method has been used to collect data from 50 respondents. A structured interview schedule has been used to collect data. The researcher used the primary and secondary methods to collect data for the research. Primary data was collected through interview schedule in the field area. Secondary data was collected from books, journals and electronic resources.

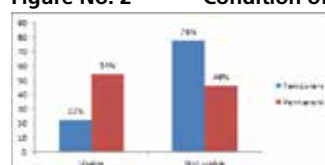
Analysis & findings of the study

Figure No: 1 Condition of waste disposal, public toilet, drainage and washing area



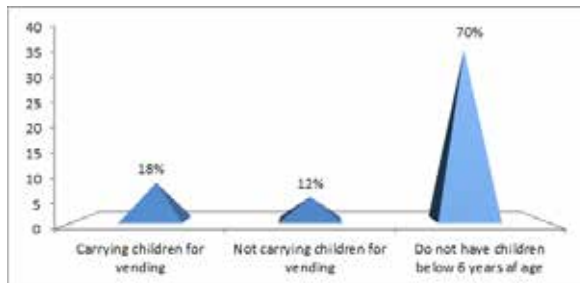
The above table shows the condition of civic facilities in the Puducherry Goubert market. Around seventy eight percent of respondents said that the washing area is in a poor condition. Seventy percent of respondents said that the drainage is poor. All the respondents said that public toilet in Goubert market is not in a usable condition. Around sixty four percent of respondents said that the waste disposals are not in a good condition.

Figure No: 2 Condition of shelter



The above figure states that fifty four percent of permanent shelters are in usable condition and forty six percent of permanent shelters are not in a usable condition. Twenty two percent of temporary shelters are in usable condition and seventy eight percent of temporary shelters are not in usable condition.

Figure No: 3 Carrying children while vending



The above figure shows that eighteen percent of vendors carry their children (below 6 years of age) to the market. Twelve percent of vendors don't carry their children and they leave back the children at home in the care of family members.

Condition of drinking water

The Goubert market vendors who are using mineral water can are ninety percent. They use mineral water because of the poor and unhygienic condition of municipal water in the Goubert market.

Storage facility

The study findings states that around seventy four percent of respondents require bigger storage facilities. Twenty six percent of respondents are satisfied with the storage facilities.

Requirement of crèche

Majority of the respondents who carry children while vending requires crèche facility nearby Goubert market.

Conclusion

The vendors of Goubert market face difficulties due to lack in certain civic facilities such as waste disposal, drinking water, washing area and public toilets. The national policy on street vendors insists the municipalities to provide the above mentioned provisions to the market vendors. Apart from civic provisions the vendors require crèche facilities for their children in the nearby proximity of market area. The Goubert market is located within the jurisdiction of Puducherry municipality. The municipal authorities should take necessary steps to full fill and maintain the civic provisions in Goubert market. This will enable the market vendors to perform hassle free vending. The non government organizations, government bodies and civil societies have a vital role to play in meeting the needs of Goubert market vendors. In regard to the lack of civic facilities in Goubert market, social work researches must be done in order to implicate appropriate social work interventions.

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