
INTEGRATION OF STREET VENDOR IN PUBLIC SPACE WITH CONTEXT TO SMART CITY NAGPUR

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Abstract: The development of a city in terms of Physical & Social Infrastructure is very fast and they are essential elements of Smart City Concept. The Development of City may include Infrastructure, Social Spaces, Residential Buildings, Malls and Commercial buildings. The street shopping culture act as Get-together spaces, Activity generators, fulfilment of daily needs, we can even negotiate, to save time and money, Visual attraction and solution to Parking space. The share of informal sector in Urbanization is very high which is directly related to Economic growth. Informal sector or economy, sometimes also titled shadow, hidden, black, parallel, second or underground economy. Street markets were particularly important social hubs.

Informal vendors may include variety of Food stalls, Repairing of Goods, Service Providers, Products, and Artefacts and so on. Some Activities may run Seasonal, Weekly, and Daily throughout the day or may be for few hours. Few Vendors are only seasonal specific like Ganesh Pooja, Dassera and Diwali. The importance of Informal sector in Urban Life plays a vital role. Smart Urbanism development policy needs to incorporate Informal Sector in Design proposal. As users are directly or indirectly depend on same.

The Paper will give focus on Urban Life, its need, demand and supply with Integration of Informal sector in Public space to enhance life style of Smart City users. To identify socio-economic and environmental impact of street vendors. Challenges faced by Street vendors at different levels. The changing skyline and cross section of streetscape plays a vital role in Urban Design. The different sizes, shapes, colors of different street vendors act as vibrancy in Urban Life.

Keywords: Economy, Informal Sector, Public Spaces, Smart Urbanism.

Introduction: The cities are the main centre for human activities. The overall development is towards technology, social and physical infrastructure. The quality of life is being achieved through mixed land use proposals for Neighbourhood and city level also. In day to day life people directly depend upon the street vendors. Urban design is the process of designing and shaping the physical features of cities, towns which includes five elements like Buildings, Landscaping, Opens Spaces, Public spaces and Streets. Public space is all around us, a vital part of everyday urban life: the streets we pass through on the way to work places, the places where children play, or where we can enjoy nature, landscaping elements, flora and fauna. In other words, public space is our open-air living room, our outdoor leisure centre.

Street Vendors and Public Space: Street vendors are usually considered as threat or ugly sight in public spaces. A hawker is a vendor of merchandise that can be easily transported; the term is roughly synonymous with peddler or costermonger. In most places where the term is used, a hawker sells

inexpensive items, handicrafts or food items. Whether stationary or mobile, hawkers often advertise by loud street cries or chants, and conduct banter with customers, so to attract attention and enhance sales. The street has always been the arena of possibility: of social interchange, of movement, of commerce, of leisure, of political action. Those who wield social power, however, tend to see them as sites of chaos and unrest. As automobiles demand additional lanes and parking space, sidewalks are being eroded; vendors and pedestrians are being squeezed out of our streets. Bureaucrats, policymakers and planners seem to struggle to come to terms with the dense and visually confusing streetscapes of Indian cities. The solutions they churn out are based on prioritising automobiles, separating functions and designating uses. Everything in its 'rightful' place. But is this how our streets work?

Public Space: The place making principles are based on the following points

1. Sociability
2. User and activities
3. Comfort & Image
4. Access & linkages

Sociability – Street life, evening use, neighbourly, friendly and interactive

Streetscape Elements: Streets are not for the vehicular movement but at the same it includes sidewalk, streetscape elements, and frontages of different building typology. In Indian context street vendors play a vital role in day to day life. In smart city proposal the consideration of street vendors should be mandatory.

Nagpur As A Smart City – Smart Cities Improve Lives: Nagpur has immense potential to explode as a Smart City and has also started to gear up for this process. It is one of few cities, identified by Government of India to have a makeover. Efforts have been made by the city to improve livability, sustainability and economic development with following measures like, quality of life, Administrative efficiency, swot, strategic focus, city vision and goals, citizen engagement, etc.

Amongst the smart city characteristics, few relate to urban form which includes public spaces, mixed use, open spaces, walkability, etc. Street vending, the most prominent subsector of informal economy, is a common feature of any public space. They fill an unmet consumer need. Thus, the vendors are not just a part of informal economy but the interests of consumer-pedestrians.

Current Issues: Challenges faced by Street vendors at different levels

Urbanization refers to the growth of towns and cities, often at the expense of rural areas, as people shift to urban centres in search of jobs and a better life. These migrated people are absorbed in formal and informal sectors in various development works in urban settlement for earning their livelihood. These people with lack of skills and level of education required for the better paid jobs in the formal sector are left with work in informal sector for their survival. There are three categories of street vendors:

1. Those Street Vendors who carry out vending on a regular basis with a specific location
2. Those Street Vendors who carry out vending not on a regular basis and without any specific location, for example, vendors who sell goods in weekly bazaars during holidays and festivals.
3. The Mobile Street Vendors

Street vendors constitute an important segment at the bottom of the pyramid of the informal economy in cities. Street vending provides a source of self-employment, and acts as a measure of urban poverty alleviation. Street vending also has a prominent place in the urban supply chain, and provides inexpensive and convenient access to goods and services to all segments of the population including the poor. Street vending is therefore an integral part of the economic growth process in urban areas.

Low levels of education and skills, limited access to formal credit and micro enterprise support constrain street vendors' ability to access upcoming market opportunities. On account of being unorganized and self-employed, street vendors and their families often lack in any linkage to social security, welfare and

assistance schemes and initiatives of the Government. This makes street vendors and their families vulnerable in difficult times, or when they may require assistance for unforeseen expenses.

In this context, the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) seeks to address the concerns of urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces for vending, institutional credit, improved skills and social security linkages. The Support to Urban Street Vendors Component of NULM sets out the strategy and operational guidelines with regard to this component with the objective of making Street vendors a special component of the urban development/zoning plans by treating them as an integral and legitimate part of the urban distribution system.

London street, a 4.5/5 km stretch from Nagpur city has been identified as the study area for identifying the core issues associated with the street vendors.

Case Study: Orange city street (London Street,) Nagpur Stretch –Radisson Blue Square to Indraprastha Nagar (Sarnath) Square and Length – 4.5 Km

The civic body approved the ambitious commercial-cum-residential Orange City Street Project, also known as London Street Project, on BOT basis. London street project is in a stretch of 5.5km starting Radisson Blu, Wardha Road to Jaitala T-Point. The stretch is covered with Residential, commercial, institutional landuse. A round of the ‘Orange City Street’ project from Jaitala to Hingna T-Point revealed that it would be a herculean task for Nagpur Municipal Corporation to turn the ‘dream project’ into reality. The bitter truth is that the area is dotted with illegal constructions and encroachments of all kinds. The encroachers include kabadi (scrap) shops, dairies, bus-van-truck parking, garages, refugees and their cattle shade, religious places, Aapli Bus Depot and others. Mobile and stationery vendors. Impact of Informal sector on public space – Positive or negative, Culture & Context – Traditional based occupation



Image 1: Showing The Google Image of London Stretch of Weekly Market



Image 2: Showing The Tentative Demarcation of Various Street Vendors



Image 3: Street Vendor-Earthen pots



Image 4: Street Vendor-Fruits & Vegetables

Conclusion: Street vendors being part of informal economy hold great importance in developing nations. But at the same time they are excluded in the process of development and ignored in cities. The interaction of street vendors with the street is in relation with the type of streets. The streets are important in determining the nature of vendors - mobile or stationary as well as the way they 'arrange' themselves and form markets. Street elements like tree shade and sidewalk, urban wall also become an important determinant for street vendor's location. Their contribution to economy is through serving the residential areas by providing required goods and services, useful products that can be even on regular, weekly or on seasonal basis. The Street vendor plays an important role in making streets active and safe public spaces. It gives vibrancy to urban life. Street vendors provide a platform where people from different income groups, age groups, communities and gender can come and buy. They are the 'eyes on the streets'. They are people attracting magnets. While moving towards the urbanization and smart city proposal we need to concentrate on the policy framing or guidelines at grass root level. Street vendors act as a part of society, depicting the culture of street shopping. All development gives inclination towards quality of urban life.

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