

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN STREET VENDORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES TO MYSORE CITY

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**Abstract:** Urbanisation is the most significant all India phenomena of our times. The city has today become an engine of growth, the main job provider. Street Vendors are provided to the community to facilitate a safe, convenient and defined means for pedestrian movement alongside roadways and to link public spaces. But the traders situated in these place for selling their products without cost or very cheap cost of rent place. This article contains the explanation of concept of footpath trading and socio-economic condition of women Street Vendors in the case study region. This paper also gives some suggestions to policy making on the basis of research findings.

**Keywords:** Women, Street Vendors, Socio-Economic, Government.

**Introduction:** Every social system must cater to the needs of its members to enable them to survive; it must have effective means of allocating and distributing resources. The vendors provide a wide array of goods to the urban populace at reasonable prices and convenient locations. The type of goods they sell makes an interesting study –from daily needs like vegetables, fruits, fish, meat and snacks to occasional needs like flowers and readymade garments. A survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Health and Hygiene counted 300 types of eatables sold by the hawkers of Calcutta. It would be hard to find an urban Indian who doesn't purchase something from a vendor.

**Objectives:**

1. To understand the concept of street vendors in general.
2. To know the socio-economic status of women street vendors in particular.

**Methodology:** This paper has been developed on the basis of both primary and secondary data. The primary data has been collected through survey method with the help of questionnaire. In this study 50 women street vendor are considered. However, secondary information is also collected by Journals, books, manuals and internet sources. Some statistical tools like percentage method, pie chart and bar diagram have used in analysis of data of socio-economic variables.

**Concept of Street Vending:** Vending has been a profession since time immemorial, with street vendors an integral part of our urban history and culture. Shopping and marketing, in a traditional Indian sense, has primarily been informal. Vendors exhibit remarkable entrepreneurial skills. Purchasing of commodities is no easy task with constant market fluctuations. As most street vendors deal in perishables, the goods have to be sold at the right time.

The above table shows that the age factors of selected respondents from the community of women footpath

**Challenges of Street Vendors:** A vendor starts early in the morning with the day's purchase. The marketing place is invariably far from his residence. Bringing large sacks of vegetables and fruits and loading them in a rickshaw cart is a tedious job. Vendors are regularly subjected to mental and physical pressure by city officials. At times this has led to riotous situations, loss of property or monetary loss.

The vendors have to deal with multiple authorities—the municipal corporation, police, regional development authorities and local panchayaths, so on. This leads to exploitations and extortion.

**Case Study:** Mysore City is headquarter of Mysore district of Karnataka state, India. Mysore district is consist of seven taluk. Mysore, officially renamed as Mysuru, is the third largest city in terms of population in the state of Karnataka, India, which served as the capital city of Mysore Princely Kingdom for six centuries, from 1399 until 1947. Mysore is located at 12.30 ° N 74.65 ° E and has an average altitude of 770 meters. it is spread across an area of 128.42 km<sup>2</sup>. Mysore is the southern region of Karnataka, and is a neighbouring city of the states of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in the south. According to census report of 2011, the population of Mysore is 887446. Mysore city Corporation is responsible for the civic administration of the city. Mysore is the cleanest city of India.

**Age Factor of Respondents**

Age Level(Years)	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage
20 to 25	7	14
25 to 30	10	20
30 to 40	21	42
40 to 50	12	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

traders. The 42 percent of traders belongs to age group of between 30 to 40. Similarly, 14 percent of respondents have the age of 20 to 25.

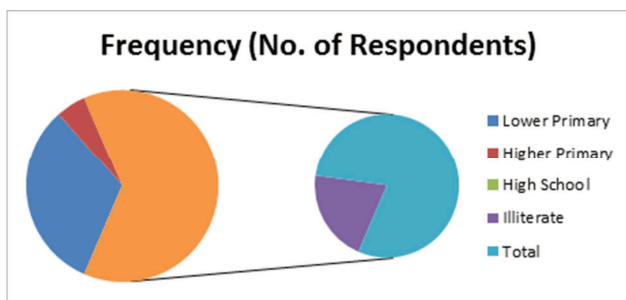
**Nature of Selling Products**

Products	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage
Vegetables	16	32
Fruits	12	24
Flowers	10	20
Play Toys	5	10
Mat	7	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table and pie chart are explained that the respondents are involving in trading of various products. Among these more number of traders is selling vegetables and fruits.

**Educational Status of Respondents**

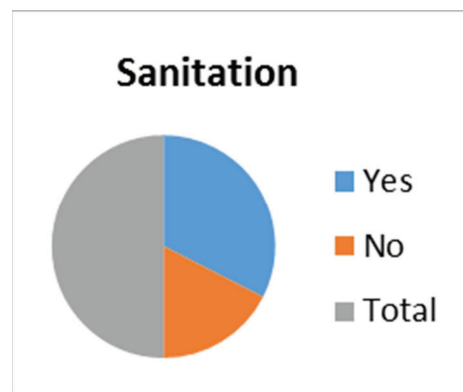
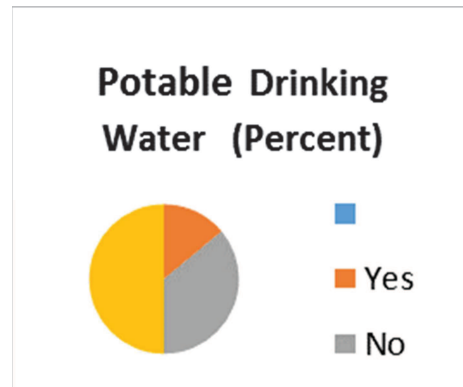
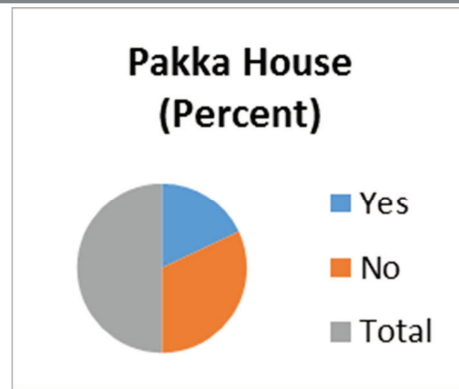
Educational Level	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage
Lower Primary	32	64
Higher Primary	5	10
High School	00	00
Illiterate	13	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>



This table and diagram states that the educational status of respondents. The majority numbers of respondents are having only 64 percent. No one respondent is getting high school education. Tragedy of our society is existence of illiterate which is 26 percent in this sample study.

**Infrastructure Facility**

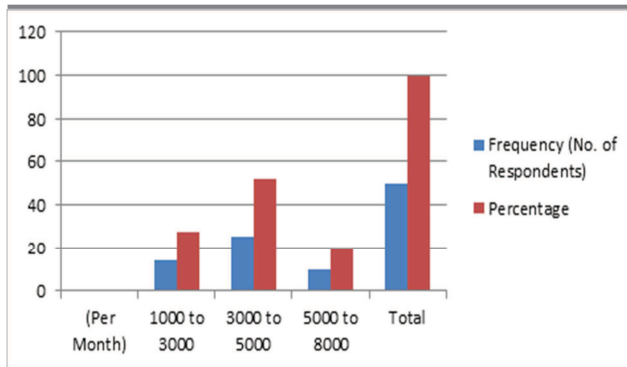
Response	Pakka House (Percent)	Potable Drinking Water (Percent)	Sanitation (Percent)
Yes	36	28	65
No	64	72	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>



The above table and pie charts shows that the basic infrastructures of respondents enjoying in daily life. The 64 percent of respondents are not having pakka house. Only 28 percent respondents are enjoying good drinking water facility and 35 percent of women vendors are not having any sanitation facility.

**Income Earnings**

Level of Income (Rs.) (Per Month)	Frequency (No. of Respondents)	Percentage
1000 to 3000	14	28
3000 to 5000	26	52
5000 to 8000	10	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>



The above table and bar diagram states that 52 percent of women vendors are having earnings between 3000Rs to 5000Rs monthly. Similarly only 20 percent of respondents are getting the earnings 5000Rs to 8000Rs monthly. The all group of earnings level mentioned above table indicates that very meagre amount earned by them which is not possible to getting good standard of living.

**Major Findings:** Some major findings are mentioned below are

1. Majority of women vendors are in the age group of 30 to 40 years old.
2. More number of selling products is perishable products.

#### References:

1. Population Census Report, Mysore City Manual, DSO, Mysore, 2012.
2. "Reclaiming the city for street vendors", The Hindu, Nov 3, 2012.
3. Ruddar Datt, "Indian Economy" Chand Publication, New Delhi, 2014.

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3. Highest numbers of women street vendors are getting lower primary education and illiterates.
4. They are suffering from lack of good shelter, drinking water and sanitation facility.
5. The earnings of these respondents are very less.
6. Lack of associations or federations relating to these vendors in this area.

**Policy Suggestions:** Some suggestions of this paper are

1. Government should provide storage facilities to these vendors to protect the perishable products for long time.
2. Municipal Corporation or State Government should provide the basic necessities of shelter, water and sanitation to these vendors.
3. The Government authorities should control middlemen to exploit the street vendors.
4. The street vendors should form the federations at local level to protect themselves and survive in their trading activities.
5. State Government should control the police and other local development authorities to exploit the women street vendors.