

A STUDY ON IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STREET VENDING

Mr. Murthy*

Abstract

Street vending is a profession chosen by a set of people who unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative sectors because of their low level skills. So they choose street vending as a profession to sell vegetables, home appliances, decorative etc., to door to door. They play a major role to distributing the commodities urban as well as rural areas. There are around 4.5 Lakhs Street vendors are there in the state. In Bangalore there may be around 25000 street vendors are there (1.5 lakhs street vendors are there as per BBMP) out of which only 7000 members have got ID cards from BDSVF (Bangalore District Street Vendors Federation)

The COVID-19 coronavirus burst has affected inhabitants across the globe. Instantly we were exposed to a life-threatening situation, confronted with several medical, socio-economic and political challenges. While the medical fraternity has focused on developing successful vaccine and medical treatments, many countries have introduced extensive restrictions on day to day life to control and prevent the spread of the virus. This resulted in a complete shut-down of wholemunicipalities, states, and even countries. This resulted for changes to the patterns of street vending.

The present study comprehensively extended to cover the depth views of COVID19 effect on their daily vending. The present researcher's effort to explore the impact of pandemic on hucksters profession.

Keywords: COVID-19; hucksters, remunerative sectors, street vending, extensive restrictions

*Asst. Prof. Dept of Commerce, St. Joseph's Evening College Bangalore. Email : m886776@gmail.com

Introduction:

Unorganized trading is a traditional form of trading where trader will sell the stock in unsystematically. Street vending is a part of this unorganized trading. Street vending means a person will sell his inexpensive commodities to the public in an unsystematic way. Street vending plays a major role in the distribution of commodities to consumers especially vegetables.

COVID19 pandemic is the major reason for many people who have lost their jobs and it affected a lot on the purchase behavior and decision making process of individual consumers. Most of the people avoided to buy from street sellers and they started to buy the commodities and other requirements from the organized markets. Most of the commodities reach to the residents of Bangalore through the street vendors. The COVID19 lockdown restricted the vendor's movement in the street. Because of which most of the street vendors lost their work.

Bangalore is a city with more than twelve crore population and a city where more than 1, 50,000 street vendors are trading in various commodities and vegetables. The COVID19 affected a lot on their regular lifestyle. This research paper is mainly focused on the COVID19 impact on the street vendors.

Review of Literature

Extensive research has been done on the theme street vending for instance [1] a research paper titled “Socio-Economic View on Street Vendors: A Study of a Daily Market at Jamshedpur” provides a comprehensive view of street vendors socio economic view and throws a light on street vendors life.[2] Education Level of Street Vendors and Its Impact on Performance of the Activity: A Case Study of Hyderabad, Telangana provides

a clear view on the education level of street vendors and its impact on the performance on activity [3]Access To Finance - Street Vendors' Dilemma In Two Towns Of Southindia research paper authored by Sindu A R, Vijayasomasundaram and Mohhamed Syed Ali A, comprehensively describes the micro finance requirement of individual hawkers and there struggle to get the requirements. [4] “Socio-Economic Condition among the Women Street Vendors: Anthropological Study on a Street at Jamshedpur” research paper authored by parikshith chakraborty and samarpithakoley describes the socio economic profile of women street vendors. [5] “Behind Street Vendors Stall - A Case Study on How Organizations Plays Role on Implementing Policies” research paper authored by Dani Mohammed Ramdan and Rina Hermavathi provides information on organizations roles in formulating and implementing policies in the street vending. It's clear from the referred research papers that most of the street vendors facing a difficulty to lead there life and a minor change in the economy may lead major disturbance in the life of individual street vendor

Objectives of the Study:

1. To study the effect of COVID19 on street vending
2. To offer findings based on the analysis

Research Methodology

Research design followed for the study is Descriptive research. This type of research deals with quality of responses from the respondents' attitudes, comforts, perceptions, technical skills, understanding, behavioral, beliefs and values, emotions, personality, self-concept etc., sources of data are as under

- Primary data was collected by using a framed questionnaire (survey method).
- Secondary data was collected from the published sources such as journals, magazines, standard text books, and articles and internet to present conceptual background of COVID and street vending

Data Collection Procedure:

A “survey” study method was adopted for the present study. Questionnaire was used as an instrument for collecting data. The questionnaire was constructed keeping in mind the objectives of the study. And also secondary data collected for theoretical contents from published sources.

Sample Design:

Primary data was collected with the help of the questionnaire which was distributed to individuals of different age group who are in street vending. The questionnaire consisted of close ended and multiple choice questions to analyze the impact of COVID on street vending. The sample consisted of 30 respondents from different demographic profiles. Simple random sampling method was used to select the sample.

Tools and Techniques

The following statistical tools and techniques are used to present and analyse the data

- Simple percentage analysis is used to compute the percentage of responses.
- Tabulation.
- Arithmetic mean

Area of the Study

A study of this nature required the selection of a suitable place. Therefore, Bangalore was selected for the study since the researcher belongs to this area. Moreover, the street vendors affected more in Bangalore.

Limitation of Study

- ❖ Time-this study is conducted in a short span of time
- ❖ Sample- the sample of this research is restricted to 30 only
- ❖ Geographical location- this study is Limited to Bangalore only

Data Analysis

Profile of the Respondents

Table -1
Demographic Profile of the Respondents.

Profile variables	Particulars	No of Respondents	%
Gender	Male	25	83.33
	Female	5	16.67
Age	18-25	3	10.00
	26-40	17	56.67
	41-60	8	26.67
	60 &above	2	6.67
Marital status	Married	28	93.33
	Unmarried	8	26.67
Nature of Labor	Migrant	28	93.33
	Immigrant	2	6.67
Educational qualification	Below 10	29	96.67
	Graduate	1	3.33
Monthly income	Below 5000	8	26.67
	5000-10000	15	50.00
	10000-15000	6	20.00
	15000 & above	1	3.33

Source- primary data

Table 1 describes the demographic profile of the individual respondents, gender of the respondents is as follows 83.33 % of respondents are male and rest 16.67% of respondents are females, marital status of respondents as follows 93.33% of respondents are married and 6.67% of respondents are unmarried. Age profile of respondents as follows 10% of respondents are aged between 18 to 25 years, 56.67% of respondents are aged between 26 to 40 years, 26.67% of respondents are aged between 41 to 60 years and rest of 6.67% respondents are aged above 60 years, and the nature of labor, 96.67% of them are migrants and rest 6.67 are immigrants, the educational background of respondents is as follows 96.67% of respondents are studied below 10, 6.67% of respondents are graduates and also most of them are not educated, monthly income of respondents is as follows 26.67% of respondents monthly income is below 5,000, 50% of respondents monthly income is ranged between 5,000 to 10,000, 20% of respondents monthly income is between 10,000 to 15,000 and rest 3.33% respondents monthly income is above 15000 per month.

Level of Impact of Covid19 on Street Vending

The COVID19 has an impact on street vendors business hence the researcher collected the response relating to the level of impact of COVID19 and the response as under

Table - 2
Impact of COVID19

Level of impact of COVID19	No of respondents	%
High	28	93.33
Moderate	2	6.667
Not Impact	0	0
Total	30	100

Source- primary data

Table 2 describe the level of impact of COVID19 pandemic on the street vendors life, 93.33% of individual street vendors are highly affected by the street vending and 6.67% of street vendors has a moderate because of COVID19 pandemic and it's also clear from the above chart that all the street vendors are affected by the Pandemic.

Availability of Commodity

The COVID19 affected on movement of goods hence the researcher is collected the response relating to the availability of Commodities from the producers/farmers

Table 3 showing Availability of commodities

Table - 3
Availability of commodity

Availability of commodity	No of Respondents	%
Yes	5	16.67
No	15	83.33
Total	30	100

Source-Primary Data

Table 3 depicts the availability of commodities for door to door trading, 16.67% of street vendors were able to get there vegies from the producers/farmers and 83.33% of street vendors are faced difficulty to get vegies for door to door trading.

Profitability of Commodity While Selling

Few of the street vendors are trading there vegetables in open space/ door to door hence the researcher collected the data relating to the profitability of such trading

Table - 4
Profitability of Commodity While Selling

Profitability of commodity while selling	No of Respondents	%
Highly Profitable	27	90
No Change in the Profit	3	10
total	30	100

Source- Primary data

Table 4 describes the profitability of commodity sales during the pandemic, 90% of the street vendors got an high profit with the sales they're made and 10% of hawkers profitability doesn't affected because of the pandemic.

Concessional Price from Suppliers

Most of street vendors purchase there commodities at a concessional price from the suppliers/farmers hence the researcher collected information regarding the concessional price from the suppliers during the pandemic

Table 5 Concessional Price Form Suppliers

Concessional prices form your suppliers	No of Respondents	%
Yes	4	13.33
No	26	86.67
Total	30	100

Source- Primary Data

Table 5 describes that 13.33% of street vendors have got the regular concession even in the pandemic and 86.67% of street vendors doesn't received such sort of regular benefits from the suppliers/farmers.

Level of Satisfaction from Sales

It is a tough time for the hawkers to sell there commodities during COVID19 lockdown days hence the researcher collected information about the level of satisfaction regarding the sales.

Table - 6
Level of Satisfaction

Level of satisfaction	No of respondents	%
Very satisfied	2	6.67
Satisfied	8	26.67
Dissatisfied	14	46.67
Very dissatisfied	6	20.00
Total	30	100.00

Source- Primary data

Table 6 describes that 6.67% of street vendors are very satisfied from sales and 26.67% of street vendors are satisfied from sales and 46.67% of street vendors are dissatisfied with the sales and 20% of street vendors are very dissatisfied with the sales.

Major Difficulty During Lockdown

Most of the street vendors faced lot of hiccups because of lock down hence the researcher collected a response relating to the major difficulty that was there for the vendors during the lockdown.

Table - 7
Major Difficulty during Lockdown

Major difficulty during lockdown	No of respondents	%
Transport	13	43.33
Availability of stock	10	33.33
Buyers Availability	5	16.67
Other	2	6.67
total	30	100.00

Source- Primary data

Table 7 describes the Major difficulty during the lockdown it's found that 43.33% of street vendors faced difficulty with the transport and 33.33% of respondents (street vendors) faced difficulty with the availability of stock and 16.67% of street vendors faced major difficulty with the availability of buyers and rest 6.67% of street vendors faced major difficulty from other reasons

Findings

1. It's been observed that covid19 has highly effected the lifestyles of street vendors
2. It's found that most of the individual hawkers hasresponded that there was no proper availability of commodities.
3. It's also found that the sales whatever the individual hawkers made, it was highly profitable.
4. It's found that there was no regular concession on the purchases they have made because of COVID19.
5. It's also found that Most of the hawkers are not satisfied with the sales they've made.
6. It was also found that major difficulty of the street vendors is that there was no transport facility for them to trade.
7. It was also found that major street vendor's nature of labor was migrants.

Conclusion

The present study represents the impact of COVID19 on the street vendor's life. Most of the sectors of the economy are affected a lot by the COVID19 pandemic but the worst affected group is migrant workers and street vendors. Most of the individuals preferred to buy from the organized retail stores because of the safety measures that are offered by them. On the other hand the street vendors are the loyal group of traders with the less safety measures hence their business was worst affected by the COVID19 Pandemic.

Based on the analysis it is observed that the street vendors and their regular trading was worst affected because of Pandemic and to conclude COVID19 pandemic has an insignificant and adverse effect on the life of street vendors and it will be settled only after invention of vaccine or after the complete removal of lockdown.

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