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AN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF STREET FOOD VENDORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DURGIGUDI STREET, SHIVAMOGGA CITY

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ABSTRACT

There is a substantial increase in the number of street vendors in the major Asian cities. In India, the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors/Hawkers notes that street vendors constitute approximately 2 per cent of the population of a metropolis. Street vendors have an important role in the informal economy by making a significant contribution. Due to the inception capacity of the modern organized sector to provide employment for the rapidly expanding labor force a large number of persons try to create or find income opportunities. Our 25% of the workers globally operate in the informal sector. Due to constant influx of people from the rural areas, the informal economic activities mobilize 30% to 80% of the workforce especially in the urban regions of the devolving countries. The shortage of productive employment opportunities in the informal sector and the employment growth which takes place at a far lower rate compared to the growth in the informal sector is largely attributed to divergence between the growth in urban population and employment growth in-formal economy. The increasing urban population with limited to meet the needs of housing, food and clothing of themselves and their families generates a significant which can be supplied by informal sector vendors.

KEYWORDS

food street vendors, economics analysis, informal work, socio-economic condition.

INTRODUCTION

Informal work is a universal phenomenon. It has been on rise since 1970. The factors contributing for such expansion are low investment, high profit, no procedural steps either to start or exit, cross-border and rural urban migration, unemployment and poverty in rural areas resulted in the migration of people to cities in search of a better existence. These migrants do not possess proper education and skills to find secure employment in the formal sector. Some of them are workers who were earlier employed in the formal sector, after losing their jobs due to closures, downsizing or mergers in the companies they were working had to seek low paid work in the informal sector in order to survive.

A street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure from which to sell. Street vendors may be stationary in the sense that they occupy space on the pavements or other public/private spaces or, they may be mobile in the sense they move from place to place by carrying their wares on push carts or in baskets on their heads. In this essay, the term 'street vendor' includes stationary as well as mobile vendors and it incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them. In this study, the terms 'street vendor' and 'hawker' have the same meaning and they are often interchanged.

There is a substantial increase in the number of street vendors in the major Asian cities. In India, the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors/Hawkers notes that street vendors constitute approximately 2 per cent of the population of a metropolis. The total number of street vendors in the country is estimated at around 10 million. This number is likely to increase even further. The reports from the Asian countries show that there was a jump in the number of street vendors after the financial crisis of 1998. This crisis had affected the Asian Tigers the most and one does find that there was a sharp rise in street vendors in Thailand, Singapore and Philippines. Thus we can see that many of the workers who lose their jobs in the formal sector take to street vending as an option that allows them to make a living.

At the same time, it should be noted that street vending survives not merely because it is an important source of employment but also because of the services it provides to the urban population. For the urban poor, street vendors provide goods, including food, at low prices. Hence we find that one section of the urban poor, namely, street vendors, subsidises the existence of the other sections of the urban poor by providing them cheap goods, including food. Middle-income groups too benefit from street vending because of the affordable prices offered. These aspects are unfortunately ignored by the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and the police because more often than not, street vending is considered an illegal activity and street vendors are treated as criminals. In fact, the studies and reports quoted in this study show that in almost all the Asian countries, street vendors have no legal status to conduct their business and they are constantly harassed by the authorities. Yet they are popular because they provide the urban population with much needed services that neither the municipalities nor the larger retailing outlets can provide. In the following sections we shall discuss the status of street vendors based on reports and studies conducted in the different countries.

DEFINITION

According to the Draft National Policy for Street Vendor, a street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent build up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (or head load). Street vendors may be stationary by occupying space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or may be mobile in the sense that they move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycle or baskets on their heads or may sell their wares in moving trains, bus etc. In this policy document, the term urban vendors is inclusive of both traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile vendors and incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them, such as, hawker, pheriwalla, rehri-patri walla, footpath dukandars, sidewalk traders etc.

STREET FOOD VENDORS IN INDIA

Studies of food vendors have been conducted by the FAO in some of the cities. These include Pune, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Kolkata. The Kolkata study, conducted by the National Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, was the most important one conducted to date. It looked into all aspects of street food vending situation of the city, namely, type of vendors and consumers; timing of operation, cost and profits, nutritive value, physical, chemical and detailed microbiological analysis of all varieties of foods and water.²⁶ One of its significant findings was that street foods in the city were both cheap and nutritious. A bowl of hot Chinese soup cost Rs 5 and provided 1,000 calories, the cheapest form of calories.

Moreover, the study found that cooking in the open (in front of the consumers) ensured that the food was fresh and unadulterated. There are a few other studies that deal with important aspects of street food vending. Mini Bhattacharyya Thakur's²⁷ doctoral dissertation on street food vendors in Guwahati in north-east India highlights their role in providing cheap food to the people and their employment potential. She notes that the food vendors face the problem of capital. They depend mainly on loans from friends, family or moneylenders to run their business. Even those that are licensed rarely approach banks because of the huge paper work involved in getting loans.

STREET FOOD VENDORS IN KARNATAKA

Looking at the history of our country, street vending has been a part of our culture and tradition. Traditionally, during the times of the Vijayanagar Empire, street vending mostly in the form of selling of gold and silver ware. The folk tales told to children also speak of vending on streets in one form or the other. More recently, street vending includes selling of eatables, to vegetables, to even carpets. Street vendors form an important part of the socio-cultural and economic life since time immemorial. Traditionally, these vendors have been a part of our lives, which till date continues. And nowhere in history have they been considered as obstructions to public spaces till colonial rule entered the country.

The study looked at the socio-economic background of the vendors, further highlighting the problems they face in their day to day life. There are many different reasons that have made people leave their homeland and come to the city to try their luck in making a fortune. While most of the street vendors have come to Bengaluru looking for better prospects and standard of living, a few have come because they were left with little choice due to less employment opportunities. This was especially prominent in physically challenged, who were not given jobs in their villages cause of handicap. Others lost their land in villages to big dam projects or to highway development projects. A few took debts with enormous interest rates and lost their land cause of inability to pay their debts. While a few have been able to create some savings, most are barely able to make their ends meet.

In Karnataka Bengaluru is the main commercial city for street vending, because of Industries and tourism places. Main places for Street vending is Industrial areas like Peenya, Yashwanthpur, Yekahanka, Hebbala. Other places are KR Market, Majestic, MG Road, Brigade road, Avenue road, Lalbagh etc. Mysore city will takes second place in Karnataka in street vending business. As pre the recent survey there are nearly 6500 street vendors are in Mysore city. Other main commercial districts for street vending are Davanagere, Hubli-Darvad etc.

STUDY AREA PROFILE (DURGIGUDI, SHIMOGA)

Durgigudi is comes under Mahanagara Pakike (Municipal council) of Shivamogga and its ward No. is 20. One old Durgamma temple is comes under this area so called Durgigudi. It contains 9 major circles.

Durgigudi is one of the main commercial area in Shivamogga city, according to Akhila Karnata Street Vendor Association (AKSVA) there are 1300 Street vendors this area. There are 7000 voters in this area and it contains Hotels, Hospitals, Theatres, Schools and colleges, banks, Malls and also Commercial complexes named as India Gandhi, Devaraj Arus, J H Patel and Subhash Chandra bose.

There are 12000 students studying in this area and main schools / colleges are named below:

- Kamala Neharu Girls Degree College.
- Govt. First Grade Girls Degree College.
- Kasthura Baa Girls PU College.
- Mahathma Gandhi English Medium Primary School.
- Durgigudi English Medium School.
- Urdu and Tamil Schools.

There are two major Food courts (46 Street Food Vendors) near Mallikarjuna Theatre and it comes under Durgigudi area

1. Vegetarian Food Court: 28 Street Vendors.
2. Non – Vegetarian Food Court: 18 Street Vendors.

Before establishing these two Food court those vendors are done vending business near Kamala Neharu and Kasthura Baa Girls College. Then under the instruction of Mr. Ponnuraj District Commissioner of Shivamogga in March 2011 these two Food Courts are established and also "Title deed" issued for all Street Food Vendors. They are registered vendors and have license for vending.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The proposed study is focused on an economic analysis of Street Food Vendors with special reference to Durgigudi Street, Shivamogga City. Many researchers have been done or taken on economic status of Hotels and Restaurants in Shivamogga City but study concerning on economic status and problems of Street Food Vendors has not been done. For this reason, I am concentrating on Street Food Vendors particularly of Durgigudi Street.

OBJECTIVES

The major objective of the study is to analyze the socio-economic position of Street Vendors Durgigudi Street, Shivamogga City.

- To make a detailed study on socio-economic condition of Street Food Vendors.
- To study the problems of Street Food Vendors.
- To analyze the infrastructure facilities of Street Food Vendors.
- To know about the standard of living of Street Food Vendors.

HYPOTHESIS

- Significantly Street Food Vendors have been carrying better conditioned life style in their Socio-Economic life.
- Regularly, un-official roll-call and basic required water problems are the main difficulties appears as problems in Street Food Vendors.
- Infrastructure facilities are obstacle for income of Street Food Vendors.

METHODOLOGY OF DATA COLLECTION

Data are facts, figures and other relevant information, past and present servicing as bases for the study and analysis. The data services as the basis for analysis Data is collected from primary and secondary sources for this Study.

SOURCES OF DATA

- a) **Primary data:** Survey on the sample basis was conducted to ascertain the information about the economy of street vendors. For this purpose street food vendors were selected as sample and they were interviewed with the help of questionnaires and personal interviews to elicit the valuable information from them.
- b) **Secondary data:** Secondary data is the data which was earlier collected, analyzed and published in the form of statistical statements, reports, publications, journals and magazines. Secondary data may be used for current study based on suitability of time period, geographical area, suitable sectors, population size and other situations with some limitations. The major sources of secondary data are books, journals, magazines, news papers, annual reports, publications and also information from websites.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study is limited to street vendors of food court Durgigudi Street, Shivamogga City. The study is related to analysis of income of street vendors, their standard of living, it also includes making of necessary arrangements for the problems faced by the vendors by reporting it to the higher authority, Akhila Karnataka Street Vendors Associations (AKSVA).

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- This study is limited to street vendors of food court Durgigudi Street, Shivamogga City.
- Here we cannot contact all types of street vendors because of time constraint.
- This study is limited to economic analysis of Street Food Vendors.
- Lack of support and response by some of the vendors during survey.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

This study focuses on some substantial needs, those are mentioned below:

- ❖ It helps to understand the social, economic conditions of Street Food Vendors.
- ❖ It helps to understand the problems faced by the Street Food Vendors.
- ❖ It helps to understand the standard of living of Street Food Vendors.
- ❖ It helps us to study about their past and present status of Street Food Vendors.

DATA AND INTERPRETATION

Informal sector is divided into two categories based on their previous work history. The first category namely low skilled rural migrants exist in Asia and are more prevalent in the poorer countries such as India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia and Vietnam. These countries do not have a strong industrial base. The second category namely workers who were earlier in the formal sector, exists in countries such as Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and India. The reason is large scale unemployment in these countries due to closure of several industries.

SHARE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN INFORMAL WORKFORCE

Informal workforce can be subdivided into agricultural employment and non agricultural employment. The data pertaining to the share of non-agricultural employment and agricultural employment in informal workforce is presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1: SHARE OF NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN INFORMAL WORKFORCE

Region	Agricultural employment	Non-Agricultural employment
Africa	22%	78%
Latin America	43%	57%
Asia	55-15%	45-85%

Source: Kristina flodman becker, Fact finding study, Sida, March 2004, info@sida.se

It is evident from the table 1 that the non agricultural employment share of the informal workforce is 78 percent in Africa, 57 percent in Latin America and 45-85 percent in Asia.

SHARE OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT IN INFORMAL WORKFORCE

The activities in the informal sector can be categorized into two sections, the self-employed and casual (non-permanent) labor /salaried. The data related to the Share of self-employment in informal workforce is presented in table 2.

TABLE 2: SHARE OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT IN INFORMAL WORKFORCE

Region	Self-employment	Salaried
Sub Saharan Africa	70%	30%
North Africa	62%	38%
Latin America	60%	40%
Asia	59%	41%

Source: Kristina flodman becker, Fact finding study, Sida, March 2004, info@sida.se

The data shows that in all developing countries, self-employment comprises a greater share of informal employment than wage employment. Table 2 reveals that specifically self-employment represents 70 percent of informal employment in Sub Saharan Africa, 62 percent in North Africa, 60 percent in Latin America and 59 percent in Asia. Therefore, appropriate policy framework and strategies aimed at the informal economy must be developed for job creation and economic growth.

GROWTH OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND STREET VENDING

A street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure from which to sell. Street vendors may be stationary in the sense that they occupy space on the pavements or other public/private spaces or, they may be mobile in the sense they move from place to place by carrying their wares on push carts or in baskets on their heads. In this essay, the term 'street vendor' includes stationary as well as mobile vendors and it incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them. In this study, the terms 'street vendor' and 'hawker' have the same meaning and they are often interchanged. In India, the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors/Hawkers notes that street vendors constitute approximately 2 per cent of the population of a metropolis. The total number of street vendors in the country is estimated at around 10 million. This number is likely to increase even further. Thus we can see that many of the workers who lose their jobs in the formal sector take to street vending as an option that allows them to make a living.

SURVEY ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**1. AGE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS**

S. No.	Age Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	18 - 30 Years	4	16%
2	31 - 40 Years	4	16%
3	41 - 50 Years	9	36%
4	Above 50 Years	8	32%
	Total	25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

Age factor is an important especially in the adoption of innovation and the ability to vending business. The X-Axis represents the street vendors ages in years. The above table and graph shows the 16% (4) of Street vendors are in aged between 18 – 30 Years, 16% (4) are aged between 31 – 40 Years, 41% (9) are aged between 41 – 51 Years and 32% (8) are aged between above 50 Years. So finally we can conclude from this graph is maximum number of street vendors are above 40 years (nearly 70%).

2. GENDER WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Gender	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Male	23	92%
2	Female	2	8%
	Total	25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The above table and pie chart shows the 92% (23) of street vendors are male and 8% (only 2) of street vendors are female. So we can finally conclude from this chart is males are shows more interest than females.

3. EDUCATION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Education Level	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Primary	8	32%
2	High School	10	40%
3	PUC	4	16%
4	Graduation	3	12%
Total		25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

Education is an important especially in the adoption of innovation and the ability to vending business. The X-Axis represents the street vendor’s education level. The above table and graph shows the 32% (8) of Street vendors are have Primary level, 40% (10) are having High school level, 16% (4) are having PUC level and 12% (3) are having Graduation level. So finally we can conclude from this graph is maximum number of street vendors are having School level (Primary and High school) education (nearly 70%).

4. ANNUAL INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Annual Income INR	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Below 50,000	1	4%
2	50,000 - 1,00,000	2	8%
3	1,00,000 - 2,00,000	13	52%
4	Above 2,00,000	9	36%
Total		25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The above table and graph shows the 4% (1) of street vendor earning annual income of below 50,000INR, 8% (2) of street vendors are earning annual income of 50,000 to 1,00,000 INR, 52% (13) of street vendors are earning annual income of 1,00,000 to 2,00,000 INR and 36% (9) of street vendors are earning annual income of above 2,00,000 INR. So we can finally conclude from this chart is 85% of street vendors are earning good annual income level.

5. NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	No. of Family Members	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	3	5	20%
2	4	13	52%
3	5	6	24%
4	More than 5	1	4%
Total		25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

This is the main factor for the Socio-economic condition for the street vendors so it will affect directly to Annual Saving. The above table and graph X- Axis represents the no. of family members of the respondents. In this 20% (5) of street vendors are having 3 members in family, 52% (13) of street vendors are having 4 members in family, 24% (6) of street vendors are having 5 members in family and 4% (1) of street vendors are having more than 5 members in family.

6. FOOD WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Type of Food	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Vegetarian	13	52%
2	Non - Vegetarian	12	48%
Total		25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The above table and pie chart shows the 52% (13) of street vendors are doing Vegetarian and 48% (12) of street vendors doing Non-Vegetarian business.

7. RATION CARD WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Ration Card	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	APL	6	24%
2	BPL	17	68%
3	Do Not Have	2	8%
Total		25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The above table and graph shows the 24% (6) of street vendors are holding APL card, 68% (17) of street vendors are holding BPL card and 8% (2) street vendors are did not have ration cards. So finally we can conclude from this graph is almost 90% of street vendors are having ration card and 65% of street vendors are having BPL card facility.

8. BENEFITS FROM SELF-HELP GROUPS

S. No.	Benefits from Self-Help Group	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	18	72%
2	No	7	28%
Total		25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The above table and pie chart shows the 72% (18) of street vendors are having memberships in self-help groups and gaining knowledge, suggestions and financial help from them. 28% (7) of street vendors did not having membership in any of the Self-help groups.

9. SOCIO - ECONOMIC CONDITION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Socio - Economic Condition	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Excellent	9	36%
2	Good	13	52%
3	Satisfactory	2	8%
4	Poor	1	4%
	Total	25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

Socio-Economic condition is an important especially in the adoption of innovation and the ability to vending business. The X-Axis represents the street vendor's socio-economic condition levels. The above table and graph shows the 36% (9) of Street vendors are have Excellent, 52% (13) are having High good, 8% (2) are having Satisfactory and 4% (1) are having Poor level. So finally we can conclude from this graph is maximum number of street vendors (nearly 90%) are having good Socio-Economic condition.

10. EFFECTIVE PLACE FOR BUSINESS

S. No.	Effective Place For Business	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Previous Place	5	20%
2	Present Place	20	80%
	Total	25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The above table and pie chart shows the 80% (20) of street vendors opinion is present place (Durgigudi Street) is the best place for vending and 20% (5) of street vendors opinion is previous place (near Kasthura Baa and Kamala Neharu College) is the best place for vending.

11. OWN HOUSE HOLDING WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Own House Holdings	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	14	56%
2	No	11	44%
	Total	25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

This is the main factor for the Socio-economic condition for the street vendors so it will affect directly to Annual Income. The above table and pie chart shows the 56% (14) of street vendors are having own house and 44% (11) of street vendors are having rented house.

12. OTHER PROPERTY WISE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS

S. No.	Other Properties	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	16	64%
2	No	9	36%
	Total	25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

This is the main factor for the Socio-economic condition for the street vendors so it will affect directly to Annual Income. The above table and graph shows the 64% (16) of street vendors are having other properties and 36% (9) of street vendors are depending on this business only.

13. SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEMS AT VENDING STREET

S. No.	Seriousness of Problem	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Extreme	1	4%
2	Much	2	8%
3	Little Better	16	64%
4	No	6	24%
	Total	25	100%

Source: Collected through primary data.

Analysis and Interpretation

The above table and graph shows the 4% (1) of street vendors opinion is extreme problems facing at vending street, 8% (2) of street vendors opinion is much problems facing at vending street, 64% (16) of street vendors opinion is little better problems facing at vending street and 24% (6) of street vendors opinion is no problems facing at vending street.

FINDINGS

1. In the study area 56% of Street Food Vendors are having own house, 52% of Street Food Vendors earning annual income of 1Lakh to 2Lakhs and 36% of Street Food Vendors earning annual income of above 2Lakhs. 64% of Street Food Vendors have other properties. From these analyses we can found that the better socio-economic status of the Street Food Vendors.
2. In the study are regularly, un-official roll-call and basic required water problems (only 1 hour in a day) and timings (4 PM to 10 PM) are the main difficulties for the Street Food Vendors.
3. The 80% of the Street Food Vendors have an average opinion about infrastructure facility. So it leads to attract only few customers to the shop.
4. In the study area, the women participation in Food Street Vending is lower than male participation.
5. Age factor is an important especially in the adoption of innovation and the ability to vending business. In the Study area maximum number of street vendors is above 40 years (nearly 70%). This shows only a very low percentage of youngsters are involving in Food Street Vending.
6. The education level is relatively very low, 32% of Street Food Vendors are having primary level of education and 40 % of Street Food Vendors have high school level of education.
7. In the study area 52% of Street Food Vendors have a small family not exceeding 4 members. This shows the awareness of the family planning has grown among the minds of the Street Food Vendors.
8. In the study area almost equal no. of Vegetarian (52%) and Non-Vegetarian (48%) Street Food Vendors are doing their business.

9. 72% of respondents are having membership in Sri Dharmasthala Self-help group, Women's self-help groups and gaining knowledge, Suggestions and loan facilities from them.
10. The 80% of the Street Food Vendors have better opinion for effective business in the study area. This shows the self satisfaction level of the Street Food Vendors.
11. Lack of knowledge about Govt. scheme like National Alliance of Street Vendors of India (NASVI).

SUGGESTIONS

In the light of the foregoing analysis and findings the following suggestions can be made to improve the conditions of the Street Food Vendors.

1. Sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health and employment conditions of the Street Food Vendors. The government can create a separate ministry or a special cell under the Ministry of Labor to look after the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector under which the street vending falls.
2. Street Food Vendors can be trained in food preservation methods. And they can be provided with a common chilling warehousing to preserve their unsold articles.
3. The government can assist them financially for their business activities at free rate of interest. And government can extend the subsidy to the Street Food Vendors.
4. A market place can be allotted specially for street vending where the Street Food Vendors may be charged a very nominal rent.
5. Government can provide a job in government sector to at least only one member from the vendor's family.
6. The state run housing board can allocate low cost houses to Street Food Vendors with proper toilet, water and drainage facilities.
7. Awareness programmes on environment and waste disposal management can be given to the Street Food Vendors.

CONCLUSION

The increasing urban population with limited to meet the needs of housing, food and clothing of themselves and their families generates a significant which can be supplied by informal sector vendors. Food Street vending is a part of the informal economy. It is a growing share of the informal workforce in developed and developing countries. Street vendors include all those selling goods or services in public spaces with a temporary built up structure. In developing countries millions of people depend on street vendors for their daily requirement as the goods are more economical than those available in the formal sector. It is difficult to estimate the exact number of people employed as street vendors, due to their high mobility and the marked seasonal variation in work. Recent study by the official labor force statistics states that there are about 10 million street vendors. The informal economy can no longer be considered as a temporary phenomenon. It is clear that the informal economy has a significant job and income generation potential. Therefore, in order to intervene in the best way to stimulate sustainable economic growth and job creation, the informal economy needs to be better understood both by governments and the other stakeholders.

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