

A Study On Work Condition And Risks Among Road Side Food Vending Entrepreneurs In Chennai City And Suburban Areas

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Abstract: Urbanization has resulted in an increase of road side food vendors and hawkers as the movement of people from rural to urban areas has led to the need to feed large number of people away from their place of residence. In many foreign countries, street vendors prepare the first meal of the day for people belong to low income. Statistics reveals that approximately 30% of house hold food expenditure were devoted to purchase readymade meal from outside, also reports says that, upto 20% of the households budget is spent in this way. Since food industry is an emerging as well as evergreen field, by which it can able to create and provide employment opportunities to many, on the other hand it can able to serve large number of people who are travelling a long distance, and this is the main advantage of food industry.

Keywords: Road Side Vendors, Food Industry, Informal Sector, street vendor, Economic Growth

I. INTRODUCTION

Road side food vending is known as a best form of entrepreneurship, as it does not require more investment. Road side food vending is considered as an important element in the urban food production and consumption and employment sector for over a decade. Many national and international organizations examined the quantum of employment generated in the street food sector, particularly for women. Hence, the street food vending is considered as an important module of business which enables the entrepreneurs to earn a reasonable income. On the consumer point of view road side food vending is a dependable source of cheap foods, often economies of scale in preparation mean that they can be a cheaper than food prepared at house hold level and thus constitute a significant portion of nutritional intake for the urban as well as rural poor.

Most of the road side foods vending entrepreneurs are not dependent on any organization structures to find their live hoods. Their enterprises evolve exclusively around their own individual capability and the support extended to them by their immediate social networks such as family members and their close associates. The earnings from their business enterprise are a means of living for the vendors themselves and their dependent family members, as such, these economic activities of the road side food vendors have not only provided a source of live hood to the vendors and their dependent family members but also have reduced the difficulty of their becoming an social burden on the state.

II. Research Methodology

2.1 Study Area

The present work was confined with the street food vending entrepreneurs carrying out their business activities in the suburban areas of chennai.

2.2 Methodology Adopted

The present study was exploratory research work, as it explores the business conditions of street food vending entrepreneurs in suburban area of chennai city

It also explores the occupational risks that were faced by the street food vendors.

2.3 Sampling Technique

There were about 100 questionnaire was distributed among these road side food vendors in and around pallavaram, tambaram west , chrompet, sholinganallur, padur, kelambakkam, vandalurand gudvanchery.

Among 90 respondents were considered for the pilot study. For data collection structured interview schedule is used to collect the date and the basic statistical tools like percentage, mean, median and standard deviations were employed.

Table-1: incumbent population personal details – age

Variable	No of respondents	%
Age		
20 – 30	03	3
31 – 40	46	51
41- 50	21	23
51 – 60	13	14
60 – above	07	7
Total	90	100
Mean	40.9	
Standard deviation	9.3	

Source: primary data

Table – 1 represents that the general details on distribution of street food vendors, it shows that most of them belongs to the middle age group (31-40 yrs: 51%) with their mean age 40.9years and standard deviation is 9.3.

Table- 2: incumbent population personal details - gender

Variable	No of respondents	%
Sex		
Male	43	47
Female	47	52
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

Table-2 represents the road side food vendor by their gender show that absolute majorities 52% of them are female and minority 47% of them was male. Hence, it shows road side food vending is a business was most common among women who want to support economy of their family.

Table - 3: incumbent population personal details - educational qualification

Variable	No of respondents	%
Educational qualification		
Illiterate	13	14
Primary	22	24
Secondary	31	34
Higher secondary	19	21
Graduate	05	5
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

Table-3 represents the educational qualifications of the respondents showed 24% of the respondents were primary, 14% of them were illiterate, 21% had completed higher secondary and 5% among them are graduates.

Table - 4: incumbent population personal details - marital status

Variable	No of respondents	%
Marital status		
Married	63	70
Unmarried	18	20
Widow/ widowed	04	4
Separated	05	6
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

The majority 70% of the respondents got married and 20% of the respondents do not married and 6% of the respondents were separated.

Table - 5: incumbent population personal details – family size

Variable	No of respondents	%
Family size		
2 -3 members	17	19
4 -5 members	49	54
6 – above members	24	27
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

The majority of these road side food vendors's family size is 4-5 members and among the whole population only 19% of the respondents have 2-3 members in their family setup.

Table – 6: incumbent population business position details -initial investments

Variable	No of respondents	%
Initial investment		
1000 – 5000	47	82

5001 – 10000	21	23
10001 – 15000	16	17.7
15001 - 20000	06	6.6
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

Majority 82% of the respondents initial investment was rs.1,000-rs.5,000, and 23% of the respondents initial investment was about rs.5001- rs.10000, 17.7% of the respondents was invested rs.10001- rs.15000.

Table- 7: incumbent population business position details - profits per day

Variable	No of respondents	%
Profits per day		
500 – 1000	13	14
1001 -2000	57	63
2001 - 2500	20	23
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

The majority of the respondents' profits per day is between rs.1001-rs.2000 and only 23% of the respondents yields rs.2000and above for a day.

Table- 8: incumbent population business position details - time spending

Variable	No of respondents	%
Time spending		
4 – 8 hrs	40	44
8 – 10 hrs	28	32
10 – 12 hrs	14	15
12 hrs and above	08	9
	90	100

Source: primary data

The 44% road side food vendors spends their time about 4 to 8 hours, 32% of them spends 8 to 10 hours per day and among them only 9% respondents spends more than 12 hours per day.

Table -9: incumbent population business position details - savings per month

Variable	No of respondents	%
Savings per month (after all expenses)		
5000 -10000	47	53
10001 – 15000	19	21
15001 - 20000	13	14
20000 and above	11	12
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

The street food vendors by their monthly level of savings show that, majority 53% of the respondents had savings per month

abouts.5000-rs.10000, 21% of the respondents had rs.10001- rs.20000, around 14% of the respondents had earned above rs.15000 and none of them earns above 40000.

Table- 10: incumbent population employment condition details - years of business

Variable	No of respondents	%
Years of business		
1 – 5	36	40
6 – 10	18	20
11 - 15	14	16
16 – 20	13	14
20 – 30	09	10
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

The years of business as road side food vendors in chennai suburban area showed 40% has more than 3 years of business. 20% had 6-10 years of business, 16% had 11-15 years of business and among the whole population only 10% of the respondents have 20-30 years of business.

Table - 11: incumbent population employment condition details - location of workplace

Variable	No of respondents	%
Location of workplace		
Designated	16	18
Un designated	49	56
Mobile / variable	25	27
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

The location of their business respondents that around 56% of road side food vendors are doing their business in undesignated natural market, and 27% of them were carried out as mobile / variable location for their business activities.

Table - 12: incumbent population employment risk details

Variable	No of respondents	%
Income risk		
Local govt. Eviction	62	69
Seasonal variation	18	20
Competitive pressure	10	1
Sanction risk		
Legal sanction	24	27
Social sanction	66	73
Health risk		
Operates near open drainage	14	15
Open space	52	57
Multi lifts and heavy loads	24	27
No health hazards	0	0

Source: primary data

Occupational risk among road side food vendors revealed that 69% had the risk of local government eviction, 20% of them having the risk of seasonal variations and 1% had competitive pressure. 73% of the people facing social sanction and 27% of the respondents were facing legal sanction problems. Moreover the study related to health hazards reveals that 57% have risk due to doing business in open space and none of the respondents said that consuming the road side food is safe for their health, but it is known as an evergreen field.

III. Conclusion

Road side food business plays an important role in contemporary sub -urban areas of chennai city. It represents a viable employment opportunity for vulnerable groups and ensures food assess for a large part of the middle- low- income working classes. Majority (52%) of the respondents was females and 48% belongs to males. Majority of the respondent's initial investment was rs.1000- rs.5000 absolute majority 53% of the respondents had savings per month was rs.5001-rs.10000. The years of business has street food vendors in chennai city sub-urban areas showed had 21 to 30 years of business. The location of their business represents that, 56% of them were carrying out in undesignated natural market. The employment perspective of street food vendors showed that, nearly half 44% of the respondents working as a part time. Even though the road side food vendors are classified under unorganized food retailing sector, but they can able to yield as par while comparing with organised food retailers. Since food industry is an emerging as well as evergreen field, by which it can able to create and provide employment opportunities to many, on the other hand it can able to serve large number of people who are travelling a long distance, and this is the main advantage of food industry.

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