



THE PROBLEMS FACED BY STREET VENDORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE AT COIMBATORE CITY

AUTHOR: Dr. N. Priyadharshini, M.Com., M.Phil., Ph.D., Assistant Professor.

CO-AUTHOR: Aakash. K, Student at Sri Krishna Adithya College of Arts and Science

ABSTRACT

Street vending in Coimbatore, like many urban areas, represents a vital source of livelihood for many, especially marginalized communities. However, this informal sector faces significant challenges that threaten their ability to earn a stable income and maintain a decent standard of living. This study aims to explore the problems faced by street vendors in Coimbatore, shedding light on the difficulties that hinder their ability to operate and thrive. Street vending plays a crucial role in the urban economy of Coimbatore, providing livelihood opportunities to thousands of people while offering affordable goods and services to the public. However, despite their contribution, street vendors face numerous challenges that threaten their sustenance and well-being. The rapid urbanization and expansion of Coimbatore have led to increased pressure on public spaces, resulting in frequent conflicts between vendors, local authorities, and shop owners.

INTRODUCTION

One of the primary issues faced by street vendors is the lack of designated vending zones, leading to frequent evictions and confiscation of their goods by municipal authorities. Additionally, they struggle with harassment from law enforcement, irregular income, and poor access to financial resources. The absence of legal protection under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, or its improper implementation further exacerbates their plight. Furthermore, inadequate infrastructure, such as the absence of proper sanitation, waste disposal, and shelter facilities, adds to their daily struggles. Extreme weather conditions, health hazards due to pollution, and competition from organized retail sectors also contribute to their difficulties. Despite these challenges, street vendors remain an essential part of Coimbatore's economy, catering to the needs of low and middle-income groups.



OBJECTIVES

- To know about socio economic status of the respondents.
- To assess the problems faced by street vendors.
- To analyse the financial challenges faced by street vendors.
- To offer valuable suggestion for further improvement.
- To evaluate the role of financial support systems for vendors.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on examining the various challenges faced by street vendors in Coimbatore city, with special reference to their economic, social, and legal difficulties. The research will cover key commercial hubs and busy market areas where street vending activities are prominent. It aims to analyze the economic struggles vendors face, such as unstable income, competition from formal businesses, and limited access to financial support. Additionally, the study will explore legal concerns, including licensing issues, police harassment, and eviction threats. Social challenges like lack of designated vending zones, poor sanitation facilities, and public perception will also be addressed. The research will involve gathering insights from vendors, local authorities, and consumers to propose effective solutions that enhance the working conditions and welfare of street vendors in Coimbatore. The study's findings are expected to provide valuable recommendations for policymakers, urban planners, and organizations supporting the informal sector.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Street vending is a significant source of livelihood for many individuals in Coimbatore city, contributing to the local economy by providing affordable goods and services. However, street vendors face numerous challenges that hinder their ability to sustain their businesses and improve their living standards. These challenges include legal issues such as lack of proper licensing, constant threats of eviction, and harassment by



authorities. Additionally, vendors struggle with unstable incomes due to fluctuating demand, intense competition from organized retail sectors, and limited access to financial support.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

- **Bhowmik (2022)** Bhowmik's study extensively examined the socio-economic conditions of street vendors across India. Their search highlighted key challenges such as harassment by municipal authorities, lack of legal recognition, and unstable incomes. Bhowmik emphasized the urgent need for policy reforms to improve vendor protection.
- **Roever and Skinner (2022)** This study focused on the contribution of street vendors to urban economies. The authors argued that vendors play a vital role in providing affordable goods and services. However, they face systemic neglect, legal hurdles, and poor access to infrastructure. The study called for inclusive urban policies to support vendors.
- **Anjaria (2022)** Anjaria explored the regulatory challenges faced by street vendors in Indian cities. The research identified licensing issues, frequent evictions, and conflicts with law enforcement as major concerns. The study recommended that municipalities adopt structured vending zones to improve vendor security.



ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

TABLE 1

THE TABLE SHOWING MANAGE YOUR FINANCES WISE
CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

S.no	Finances	Respondent	Simple Percentage
1	Personalsavings	28	28%
2	Loansfromfriends / families	31	31%
3	Formalbanking channels	30	30%
4	Informal moneylenders	11	11%
	Total	100	100

SOURCE:primary data

Interpretation: The data shows that 31% of respondents rely on loans from friends or family, 30% use formal banking channels, 28% depend on personal savings, and 11% turn to informal moneylenders.

Inference : The majority of them manage your finances loans from friends/ families (31%)



CHART 1

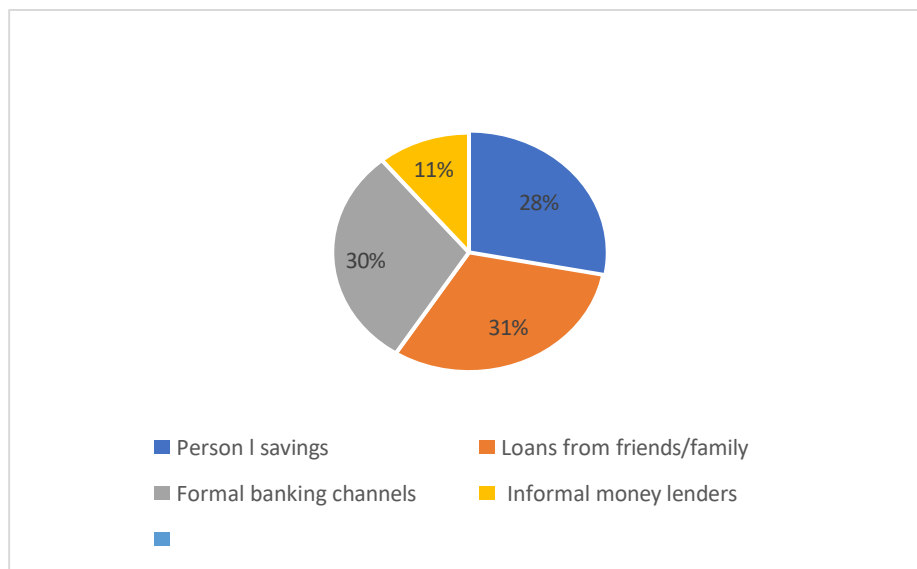




TABLE 2

THE TABLE SHOWING BIGGEST INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED CHALLENGES YOU FACE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

s.no	Biggest infrastructure	respondent	Simple percentage
1	Lack of proper stalls/ sheds	29	29%
2	Inadequate lighting	19	19%
3	Insufficient waste management	37	37%
4	Limited access to clean water and sanitation	15	15%
	Total	100	100

Interpretation : The biggest infrastructure issue identified by respondents is insufficient waste management, with 37% of people highlighting this problem. The second most common concern is the lack of proper stalls or sheds, reported by 29% of respondents.

Inference: The majority of them showing insufficient waste management (37%)

CHART 2

THE CHART SHOWING BIGGEST INFRASTRUCTURE-RELATED CHALLENGE YOU FACE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

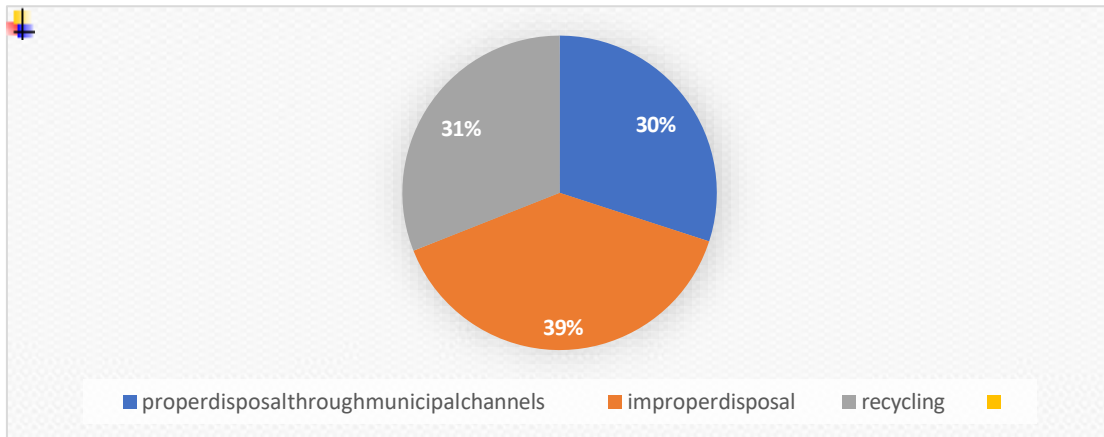


TABLE 3

THE TABLE SHOWING STORAGE FACILITIES FOR GOODSWISE CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

s.no	Storage facilities	Respondents	Simple percentage
1	Yes	66	66%
2	no	34	34%
	total	100	100

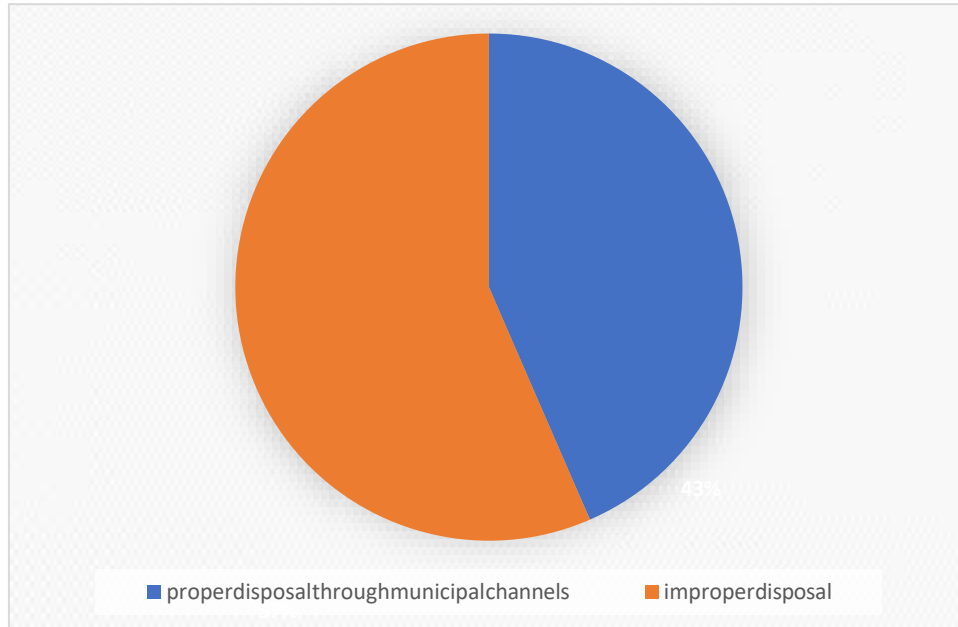
SOURCE:primary data

Interpretation : A majority of respondents (66%) have access to storage facilities, while 34% do not.

Inference:the majority of the data showing yes (66%)

CHART 3

THE TABLE SHOWING STORAGE FACILITIES FOR GOODSWISE CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS



FINDINGS

- The majority of them manage your finances loans from friends/families (31%)
- The majority of them showing insufficient waste management (37%)
- The majority of them data showing yes (66%)

SUGGESTION

- Clear and supportive regulations.
- Creation of designated vending zones
- Access to credit and financial support
- Formal training and skill development
- Improved health and sanitation facilities
- Weather protection measures
- Collaborative partnerships with local retailers
- Awareness campaigns and social inclusion



- Use of technology for sales and marketing
- Regular interaction with authorities

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, street vendors in Coimbatore, like in many other urban center, face a multitude of challenges that hinder their livelihood and business sustainability. One of the primary issues is the lack of proper infrastructure, which includes inadequate spaces for vending and poor sanitation. Despite the growing population and the increased demand for affordable goods, street vendors often operate in congested, unregulated environments that pose risks to their health and safety. Another significant challenge is the absence of legal support and formal recognition. While many vendors have licenses or permits, a large number do not leading to issues of harassment and bribery by authorities

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. **Cross, J.C.** (1998). *Street Vending in the Global South: The Politics of Informality*. University of California Press.
 - This book offers a comprehensive overview of street vending in cities across the Global South, exploring political and economic factors influencing the sector.
2. **Hardoy, J., & Satterthwaite, D.** (1989). *Street Foods: The Globalization of a Local Phenomenon*. *Urban Studies*, 26(1), 77-96.
 - This work discusses the role of street foods, which is an essential part of street vending, and examines how street food practices have evolved globally.
3. **Bakker, E.** (2012). *The Street Economy: Globalization, Informality, and the Political Economy of Street Vending*. *Critical Perspectives on International*



Business.

- This book looks at the economic aspects of street vending, particularly focusing on the impact of globalization and informality.