

UNCOVERING THE MYTH OF STREET VENDORS: A CASE STUDY OF NAVI MUMBAI

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Abstract

The general impression about street vendors is that they are a “nuisance” or an “eyesore” that ruins the image of city and prevents development of city, as elsewhere in India and other developing countries. Navi Mumbai is one of the world’s largest planned cities. The structure plan model of the city is favoured with broad land use zones indicating the uses permitted within each zone, as against the conventional master plan. Though small vendors are considered in commercial zone (such as vegetable/fish market, daily bazaar, opla etc) in all the 14 planned nodes of the city, but despite this the fact shows that there exist huge gap between demand and supply of space for hawkers at affordable cost and for thousands of street vendors in the city, there is no specific zone for hawkers in development plan. The street vending has had a long historical presence in urban cities in India; it provides essential services to a major segment of the population and provides direct self-employment to urban poor. This paper reveals the necessary requirement of street vendors in a city through meticulous understanding of their role at public spaces and socio demographic and economic profile of street vendors.

This paper comprehensively covers the socio-demographic, economic and spatial parameters of matters for the Navi Mumbai city which is based on complete study of seven planned nodes and non-nodal areas located in Raigadh District in Navi Mumbai. An attempt has also been made to compare the situation of street vendors of Navi Mumbai with other Indian Cities in Gujarat, Karnataka and Delhi etc.

The paper further provides recommendations for street vendor’s settlement and the street vending policy of City and Industrial Development Corporation is in line with National Policy on Urban street Vending.

Key words: Street, vendor, urban, vending activities, infrastructure, policy

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I. Introduction

Street vending comprises a significant segment of urban economy. As indicated in the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, 2009, by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, street vendors constitute approximately 2% of the population of several cities from India. From the literature review it has been confirmed that street vendors in urban areas are those with low skills and who have migrated to the cities from rural areas or small towns in search of employment. These people take to street vending when they do not find other means of livelihood. Though the income in this profession is low, the investment also is low and the people do not require special skills or training. Hence for these people, men and women, and even children street vending is the easiest form for earning their livelihood. In addition, they help many small-scale industries to flourish by marketing the products that they manufacture (Bhowmik, 2001; Tiwari, 2000).

There is also another segment of the urban population that has taken to street vending. These people were hitherto engaged in better salaried jobs in the formal sector, such as in the textile mills in Mumbai and Ahmedabad and engineering firms in Kolkata. Formal sector workers in these three cities have had to face large-scale unemployment due to the closure of these mills / industries. Many of them have become street vendors to eke out a living under duress.

(i) National Policy for Urban Street Vendors, 2009

A Street Vendor' is defined as 'a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public in a street without having a permanent built-up structure'

Street vendors could be stationary and occupy space on the pavements or other public / private areas, or could be mobile, and move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or could sell their wares in moving buses. The Government of India has used the term 'urban vendor' as inclusive of traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile vendors. Vending is an important source of employment for a large number of urban poor as it requires low skills and small financial inputs.

Street vendors formed important part of informal sector in the country. Urban street vending provides affordable goods and services to the substantial portion of urban population in the lower

income group. Street vendors earn credit for their contribution to urban economy, though they are considered as illegal entities and are subjected to constant harassment by police and municipal authorities. The National Policy takes note of this incongruity, recognizes the importance of street vendors and lays down a framework for mainstreaming them.

The main purpose of the street vending segment evaluation is to map the different vending activities across trades, capture the socio-economic and business profiles of the street vendors, understand the problems experienced by them and identify possible areas of required development interventions. The perspectives emerging from this evaluation would be helpful in devising policies targeted at street vendors and thereby in formulating implementation guidelines at local level.

Recently in India, the street vendors' issue has received public attention with the Central Government's introduction of the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors, 2009 supported by a bill to be converted into act through the state legislatures. In 2004, the first draft of the policy was made public for wider consultation. Several street vendors' associations, activists, and academics across the country participated in the nationwide debate. Based on the recommendations made on the 2004 policy draft, the 2009 draft of the National Policy was formulated and published. Although many states were initially hesitant to accept the National Policy, wider public opinion has so far been in favour of settling the street vendors' issue through the enactment and implementation of the National Policy.

The National Policy identifies street vending as an integral part of the urban retail trade and distribution system. It aims at giving street vendors a legal status. Each street vendor will be registered under the supervision of a Town Vending Committee (TVC), headed by the respective Municipal Commissioner, and given an identity card with a code number and category.

The National Policy recommends that the municipal or development authorities in the cities provide for the street vendors civic services such as provisions for solid waste disposal, public toilets, electricity, water, and storage facilities. In exchange, "the Town Vending Committee (TVC) will collect a registration fee and a monthly maintenance charge, depending on the location and type of business of the street vendor".

The policy is at the national level and implementation at the state level has been a challenge. Some of the important issues that have been highlighted by the organisations of street vendors are the impact that multinational retail chain and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have on the traditional retail sector in India, including the street vendors. Protection of their right to livelihood is perhaps one of the most important issues. The draft legislations are currently focused on ensuring adequate livelihoods and protection for street vendors.

(ii) Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2012:

On September 6, the Lok Sabha passed the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation

of Street Vending) Bill, 2012. While the bill is aimed at empowering poor people to earn a livelihood with respect, it will also give illegal street vendors a chance to encroach on more public space than they already do. Street vendors are required to maintain cleanliness and public hygiene in vending zones and around and not to vend in “no-hawking zones”.

Thus, over the past few decades we can observe that there is substantial increase in the number of street vendors in the major Indian cities. The total employment provided through street vending becomes larger if we consider the important fact that they sustain certain industries by providing markets for their products. A lot of goods sold by vendors such as clothes, recycling of old clothes, hosiery, leather and plastic goods and household goods, are manufactured in small scale or home-based industries. These industries employ a large number of workers. In this way they provide a valuable service by helping sustain employment in these industries and help to bolster backward linkage increase the economy of the cities across the country though street vending is considered as illegal activity.

Navi Mumbai is one of the dynamic cities with large proportion of funds allocated for infrastructure and housing project by City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. A study was conducted on “Socio Economic Survey of Street Vendors” in Raigarh District of Navi Mumbai area with the following main objectives:

II. Objectives

The main objectives of paper is to reveal factual status of vendors with the support of in depth result findings from the socio economic profile of street vendors to map the different vending

activities across the various nodes of in Raigadh District in Navi Mumbai. To understand the type of street vending, employment / income generated and their contribution to city economy and to understand various issues faced by the street vendors and identify the need for developmental interventions. The evaluation will likely to give perspective that would guide the policy process and implementation mechanism at local level.

The paper further compares the situation of street vendors of Navi Mumbai with other Indian Cities like Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Delhi and Bangalore.

III. Methodology

After the extensive consultations with relevant agencies special questionnaire was prepared by the research team for street vendors' survey in selected nodes from Raigadh district in Navi Mumbai. The census study was conducted by City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO 2014). The pilot study has been conducted in the selected nodes of Navi Mumbai. The aim of the pilot study was to observe space occupied by street vendors, type of commodities sold, location and ways to accommodate street vendors in such or nearby areas. The survey team initiated the pre survey work which includes mapping of boundaries of selected nodal areas, scanning of main markets, main roads, inner roads, weekly markets from Raigadh District in the jurisdiction of Navi Mumbai. The maps of select nodes were collected to map the boundaries. The data was collect through designed questionnaires, biometric process, digital photo with geo reference camera to identify the location and video-grapy. This software package includes GIS as well. The on line portal is especially designed for street vendor's survey is also available on website so that each street vendor and others can have access to it. After the completion of data collection, on the basis of master copy, data of street vendors from select nodes of Raigadh district in Navi Mumbai was analysed by generating simple tables, cross tabulations and corresponding charts with various variables.

IV. Results and Discussion: Street Vendors in Navi Mumbai

Navi Mumbai is one of the world's largest planned city. Navi Mumbai is one of the dynamic cities with large proportion of funds allocated for infrastructure and housing project by City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra. City developers have made an attempt to indicate the broad land uses permitted within each zone. Navi Mumbai has a population of

approximately 20 lakh out of which Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has about 11 lakh population. Out of the 14 nodes of Navi Mumbai, 6 nodal areas (Kharghar, Kalamboli, Panvel (East and West), Jui Kamothe, Dronagiri and Ulwe) and 2 non – nodal areas (Taloja and Kalundre) have been selected for the present study. The remaining 7 nodes (Airoli, Ghansoli, Vashi, Koperkhairane, Sanpada, Nerul and CBD Belapur) are under the jurisdiction of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation. The findings are summarized as follows:

- i. Number of vendors :** There exist in all 4529 street vendors and each of them was covered in the survey conducted in 2014. Of the 4529 street vendors surveyed, about 89% having fixed place of business and 11% are mobile vendors (CIDCO 2014).
- ii. Gender :** Out of total surveyed 4529 street vendors', 3146 (69.46 %) are male which have outnumbered the females 1383 (30.54%).
- iii. Age Distribution:** Majority of the street vendors belong to the age group of 26–35 years. Male street vendors have been found to start business during an early age of 20, while female vendors start at an age of around 26 years.
- iv. Religion:** Of the 4529 street vendors, 84.83 % of them are Hindus, 14.77% of them are Muslims, 0.18 % of them are Christians and 0.15% of them are Sikh. Only 0.07% belongs to Buddhism.
- v. Caste:** From the 4529 street vendors, 83.26 % of them belong to General Category, 8.77 % of them belong to Other Backward Class (OBC), 6.45 % of them belong to Scheduled Cast (SC), and 1.37 % of them belong to Scheduled Tribe (ST). The rest 0.15% street vendors did not share their caste information.
- vi. Literacy level:** Out of the 4529 street vendors, 3697 vendors are literate (81.63 %) and the remaining 832 vendors are illiterate (18.37%). The level of literacy of the surveyed street vendors is up to Post Graduation. Majority of the literate street vendors have attained secondary education (25.50%) and Middle school education (24.31%).
- vii. Differently-abled:** Of the 4529 street vendors, 226 street vendors are differently-abled street vendors.
- viii. BPL category:** A very few street vendors, about 4.39 % of the total 4529, fall under the category of Below Poverty Line (vendors with BPL cards were considered under BPL category).

- ix. **Marital Status:**The marital status data revealed that out of 4529 street vendors, 83.82 % of them are married, 14.95% of them are unmarried, 0.18% of them are divorced and 0.13% of them are separated. 0.93 % of the total street vendors are widow/widower.
- x. **Family Size:**The average family size of the surveyed street vendors was 4.22. The family structure of the street vendors constitute 23.89% of children below the age of 14 years, 37.01% of male members and 31.49% of female members. There were 17,607 family members in the households of 4529 interviewed street vendors, 3350 family members are into the same profession of street vending.
- xi. **Migration pattern:** Around 64.30% of the street vendors (2912) migrated from other places and the rest 35.70% of them are original inhabitants of Navi Mumbai city.
- xii. **Previous Occupation:** An attempt is made to capture the information about previous occupation of street vendors, it is reported that 52.64% vendors are in same profession, 15.37% were house wives, 16.30% street vendors were into various jobs and services such as Government, Railways, Press and Police, before becoming vendors. About 7.31% street vendors were students, 3% were farmers and rest of them are in other professions or unemployed.
- xiii. **Experience in Street Vending:** The survey reported that 87.87% vendors have experience of about 15 years, 11.35 % of the vendors have 16 – 30 years of experience and 0.64% of the street vendors are in to street vending from 31 – 45 years.
- xiv. **Frequency of street vending :** When asked about the frequency of street vending, majority of the street vendors i.e. 97.33% of them replied they are daily vendors and conduct their business every day. Around 1.94% of them go for street vending on more than two days in a week and 0.49% of them go for one or two days per week. 0.18% of them said they do not follow any such fixed pattern. 0.04% of the street vendors go for street vending once in a month and 0.02% of them go fortnightly.
- xv. **Location of street vending:** Regarding location of street vending, only 0.6% street vendors are using designated places (as designated by authority) for street vending, 94% have their business on footpath, nearly 3% have it on open plots within premises and 2% have their business activities on main roads / lanes / chowks. The rest 0.4% street vendors are on service roads/areas and 5 vendors encroached the private property plots.

- xvi. **Type of Surrounding Area:** Nearly 45% of street vendors have their stalls in residential areas, about 40% have stalls around commercial areas and market places, about 4% have near institutional areas such as schools and colleges had around and same proportion (4%) have in and around Railway Stations and remaining present around open spaces and gardens.
- xvii. **Type of vending business:** Majority of the street vendors sell fruits and vegetables (32.15%), fast food items and drinks 20.38%) and readymade garments both old and new (10.91%). Many of them are different service providers (5.37%). Some of them also sell paan/cigarette/beedi/tobacco products (4.95%), dairy and poultry products (4.08%). All the nodes have street vendors selling fruits and vegetables. The least selling commodities by street vendors are bakery products, stationary products, CDs and DVDs and cosmetic products.
- xviii. **Types of Structure used for Business Activities:** It is very important for street vendors to have a strong and safe business structures for both mobile and stationary vendors to be able to withstand the various seasons and their effects. Around 89.47% of the street vendors have kachha type of structure for carrying out their business making them more vulnerable to the nature. These types also include mobile vendors. Around 8.43% of them have semi-pakka type of structures. Only 2.10% of the street vendors, i.e. 95 of 4529 street vendors have a pakka structure for their business.
- xix. **Rent Details for Street Vending:** Nearly 98% do not pay any rent for carrying out their business in different places. The remaining @% street vendors pay rent for their business places. The average daily rent being paid is Rs. 58.91 and the average weekly rent paid is Rs. 1758.75.
- xx. **Types of Markets for Street Vending:** Though the majority of the vendors have their business in daily markets, some of them also conduct their business at multiple places and at different timings such as Weekly markets and Evening/Night markets. Occasionally, some of them also have their business at Festival markets and Holiday markets.
- xxi. **Average Monthly Household Income:** The average monthly household income of the street vendors is around Rs. 8362 with minimum Rs 5250/month to maximum Rs. 11958/month.

xxii. Satisfaction with the kind of Work Selected and vending place: When asked about work satisfaction about street vending activity, 4331 of the street vendors i.e. around 95.60% of them said they were satisfied with the kind of work they are involved in. Only 4.40% of them i.e. 198 street vendors said they are not satisfied with their work and environment. The various reasons the vendors have mentioned for the satisfaction level with vending place are e.g. nearby their house making it convenient to travel, crowded place for attracting customers, and no local interference and good relations with the people in this area helps them in conducting their business easily and peacefully. Around 98.03% of the total vendors across all the nodes are very much satisfied with the location they have chosen for their business.

xxiii. Status of licenses: Licenses provided by an authorized body gives a lot of assurance to street vendors who face a regular threat from Police, Traffic Police, Encroachment Department of the concerned authority etc. When asked about any kind of having such licenses 98.76% of the vendors admitted of not having any such licenses. Whereas, 0.86% of the vendors said they have been given cabin license, 0.33% of the vendors were given licenses for mobile type of vending and around 0.04% of the vendors were given licenses for stationary vending.

xxiv. Access to Basic Amenities:

Drinking water:

It was observed that 4225 of the total 4529 street vendors (93.29%) do not have access to free drinking water. Only 304 street vendors (6.71%) have access to free drinking water. The street vendors without having access to free drinking water are spread across all the selected nodes of Navi Mumbai.

Toilet facility:

It was observed that around 4277 of the total 4529 street vendors (94.44%) do not have access to toilet facility. Only 252 street vendors (5.56%) have the access to any toilet facility. The street vendors without having access to toilet facility are spread across all the selected nodes of Navi Mumbai area.

Disposal of Garbage:

When asked about the method of collection and disposal of the garbage generated by their business activities, 92.36% of them said they use municipal bins to dispose of garbage generated during their work activity. Around 7.04% of the street vendors said they use private garbage bins to dispose of the waste. Only 5 street vendors in the Kharghar node said they have a door to door collection system in their business area through which they dispose of the generated waste.

Storage facility:

In response to access to storage facility at their place of work, around 4379 of the total 4529 street vendors (96.69%) said they do not have access to storage facility at their place of work. Around 83 street vendors (1.83%) of them said they do not require a storage facility for their kind of business. Only 67 street vendors (1.48%) of the total street vendors said they have a storage place at their place of work for keeping their belongings safe.

Type of Light Source Available:

Majority of the vendors (65.58%) are dependent on the street lights being provided and as many as 2.56% of the vendors do not have any source of light. Other than street lights, some of the vendors also use battery operated lights (22.45%), have gas/oil lamps (2.50%) and generators (4.08%). Around 2.48% of the vendors have a paid electricity connection and of the vendors also solar light.

xxv. Awareness towards Street Vending Policy: When asked about the awareness on the Government's initiative towards street vendors and the National Street Vendors Policy, 2009, only 1.21% of the total street vendors surveyed admitted of being aware about the initiatives and the policy. The majority of them, around 98.79%, are not aware of the said policy. When asked about the awareness on The Street Vendors Bill, 2012, only 7.68% of the total street vendors surveyed admitted of being aware about the said Bill showing an improvement in their awareness generation from the year 2008 to 2013. The majority of them, around 92.32% said they are not aware of the said policy.

xxvi. Willingness to shift to new place provided by Authority: The Street Vendors have to be provided with designated places and for carrying out their business in hassle-free manner. Therefore, the survey tries to understand the willingness of street vendors in this

regard and table 34 shows the information. It was observed from the study that, majority of the street vendors appear to favour the system of providing a specific vending zone provided by the authority and cooperate with them.

- xxvii. Willingness to Shift to New Place:** It was noted that out of the total street vendors, 4150 street vendors i.e. 91.63% of the street vendors are willing to shift to a new place if authority provides a vending place elsewhere in the same sector or any other sector. The rest 8.37 % of the street vendors i.e. 379 vendors are not willing to shift anywhere from their current business area and would like to carry out their business activity from the same location.
- xxviii. Willingness to obtain a license under the National Policy:** The study also captured information on the willingness of the street vendors to obtain a license under the National Policy. Around 97.95% of the street vendors were willing to obtain a license and 2.05% of the street vendors showed their unwillingness towards obtaining the license.
- xxix. Willingness to pay for the license fee:** Apart from the willingness to support to obtain the license, it is also very important for the street vendors to feel the ownership and accountability of the license and hence it is important for them to contribute to the license fee. The survey captures information on the willingness to pay for the license fee and as well as the amount that they can afford to pay on monthly basis. Of the 4529 street vendors surveyed in the nodes of Raigarh District in Navi Mumbai, 2248 of the street vendors (49.64%) are willing to pay anything between Rs. 51 to Rs. 100 as license fees. 25.28 % of the street vendors (1145) are willing to pay above Rs. 100. 21.64 % of the street vendors (980) are willing to pay between Rs. 21 to Rs. 50. The rest 1.39 % of the street vendors are willing to pay between Rs. 1 to Rs. 20 per annum as license fees.
- xxx. Membership of Committee and Associations:** As per the survey carried out, 0.73% of the street vendors (33) are members of Area Level Committee As per the survey carried out, 13.47% of the street vendors (610) are members of the street vending unions or associations.

V. Experience of Street Vending in other Cities

a. Ahmedabad

The municipal law in the state of Gujarat do not permit the hawking of goods without a license . In Ahmedabad, the Municipal Corporation is also authorized to remove any encroachments and obstruction made on the public streets. The Bombay Police Act 1950 empowers the police to arrest hawkers for obstructing free flow of traffic under sections 102 and 107. A natural market is a place where vending activities take place, due to the profitable location aspect. There are 142 Natural markets in Ahmedabad. Most of the markets are located in the eastern part of the city, as it is the old city. Vendors tend to concentrate at places with high traffic and high residential densities. The spatial dimensions at the macro level are guided by forces of factors, which create demand at particular locations, extent of demand, and the reasons for choices of location. According to Kulkarni (2010) the location map of Ahmedabad city shows approximately 142 natural markets and illustrates that street vending is not related to one specific location in the city. In fact the natural markets are distributed all over the city. This is because street vendors cater a variety of demands at many diverse locations such as residential neighbourhoods, squares, parks and other nodes.

Some 65 per cent of the vendors were over 35 years old, and 84 per cent were married, particularly women, suggesting that most vendors have family responsibilities and dependents. For 80 percent of those interviewed, vending was their main job, and 69 per cent were from Ahmedabad. This evidence belies the common view that street vending is an entry -level urban job for young people and new migrants. Access to state benefits and a legal identity was by no means assured. All 200 vendors answered the question that asked if they had a voting card -only available to those with an address -71 per cent did, but 29 per cent did not. Only 121 vendors answered questions about ration cards; of these 81per cent had an APL ration card, but only 23 per cent had a BPL ration card. This confirms earlier studies that the poorest and most vulnerable find it difficult to get a BPL card. Many of the markets exhibit complex links to other economic sectors in Ahmedabad. At the time of the survey there were around 8,750 vendors working in 3,500 business enterprise in Bhadra; their combined average turnover could thus be around US\$ 43.75 m3a year(Jajoo 2011)

Relations with the state are almost always conflictual. All the areas visited were regularly patrolled by the eviction squad or police, whose visits resulted in demands for free snacks or goods, hafta (inducements), confiscations and fines, or eviction. The amount ranges from Rs.400/- to Rs.2,500/- a month. A standard fine for reclaiming goods is Rs.500/-

b. Vadodara

According to Dalwadi (2004) there is actually nothing much to speak about the licensing of street vendors in Vadodara. The last time vendors were issued licenses by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) was in 1992, when a national street vendor-licensing scheme was taken up and since then no more licenses have been issued. These licenses too were issued only to *larry wallahs* selling eatables. About 1500 licenses were issued at that time. There are more than 5000 such eatable selling vendors in Vadodara at present. Licenses that had been issued earlier than 1992 were all revoked.

The VMC has divided the city into 10 wards and each ward comes under the purview of one ward officer. According to ward officer of ward office no.10, about 150 licenses were issued per ward. The procedure at that time was quite simple (for a change), in which the applicant was simply required to submit an application to the ward officer along with two passport size photographs.

There was an attempt of Regulation Street vending in Vadodara through declaration of 'Hawking and Non-Hawking Zones' scheme in 1987. The Supreme Court of India passed an order dated 2-5-1986 in Writ Petition No. 657 of 1986 filed by the Hawkers' Association of Vadodara and others against the Municipal Corporation of Vadodara, directing the Municipal Corporation to formulate a scheme for 'Hawking and Non-Hawking Zones' in each ward of the city of Vadodara.

c. Delhi

According to Ray and Mishra (2011), although, Delhi Master Plan, perspective 2001 & 2021 provide planning norms for accommodating hawking in various use zones of Delhi, yet the implementation mechanism and a disposal procedure for these norms are unclear. The courts are unaware over the existence of plan norms, which has resulted into no

judicial enforcement of these norms, on the municipalities as yet. Although Supreme Court and lower order courts have held hawking as a fundamental right subject to reasonable restrictions by civic agencies yet, the courts have also held hawking as a nuisance to public life, and directed authorities to frame Hawking and No- Hawking zones in Delhi. Moreover, the *Tehbazari* licensing policy followed by Municipalities to give licenses to hawkers, has not allotted adequate licenses to all, and has prompted the rise of illegal channels like bribes and extortion from hawkers, by police and Municipal officials (Sharma, 2008). It appears that *Tehbazari* licensing regime is inadequate, restrictive and not integrated with Master Plan provisions. Licensing system discriminates against hawkers with no *Tehbazari* licenses, and leads to the rise of illegal channels like bribes and extortion by police.

d. Bangalore

According to Sruthi and others (2010) the advent of Information technology to Bangalore city, has been associated with infestation of infrastructure projects. Street vending is not as widespread as in other similar cities. A reason could be that alternative employment opportunities are available in the city. The city has an estimated number of 30,000 street vendors. Street vending in the city centre is done by vendors who squat near the main markets. Since hawking is not a licensed activity in Bangalore, street vendors face harassment from the police and the municipal authorities. Vendors operating in the suburbs or as mobile vendors are less harassed. Those working in the city centre most harassed. This harassment is reflected through continuous eviction by the police and fines paid by the vendors which range from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 (Ray & Mishra , 2011).

Street vending in Bangalore is regulated by certain acts of the Karnataka Government (Bangalore being the capital of the state). The Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964 states that municipal councils / corporations in the state are obliged to make adequate provisions for constructing, altering and maintaining public streets and markets and provide suitable places for vegetable vending. The Karnataka Municipalities (Regulating the conditions of which permission may be given for temporary occupation) Bye-laws, 1966 make a special provision that in certain streets or public roads, as specified by the

municipal council/corporation sale of goods such as vegetables, fruits etc. may be permitted temporarily and a monthly or daily fee may be charged.

In 2000, as a result of a High Court judgment, the Bangalore Mahanagarpalika (Municipal Corporation) had issued a draft notification stating that hawking can be carried on only in the hawking zones between 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. Hawkers are not permitted to sell their goods at busy circle intersections. Besides only one hawking license per family was to be issued for a fee of Rs.150/- per month payable in advance amounting to Rs.3,600/-. The license may be renewed at the discretion of the commissioner. Though there are provisions in the law for granting licenses, most street vendors in Bangalore are denied this (Ray & Mishra , 2011).

The experiences of street vendors taught them not to fear a regulatory state, but a predatory one, a state that constantly demands bribes called “Hafta”. The condition of Navi Mumbai street vendors was found somewhat different because 98% street vendor need not pay any rent amount. In general vendors do not have access to drinking water, toilet facilities garbage disposal and storage facilities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- We must recognise the vital role of street vendors in social and economic life of an urban agglomeration. Local bodies must realise the importance of street vending by urban poor who are self employed and contributing to the economy;
- A vending place is usually in a crowded locality having sufficiently wide roads and wide footpaths;
- Space may be provided at bus stands, Railway stations, Institutions etc. For e. g. at central park or any garden, vendor may be provided a designated space for their activity in the evening hours of the day. The popular road where the on - street assimilation of these hawkers is visible. The cities such as Bhubaneswar, Patna and Kolkata have taken similar initiatives successfully;

- The vending place is also near to their house making it convenient for the vendor and other family members to travel to the vending site without having to depend on public or private transport.
- Invariably, the footpaths of the busy thoroughfares are vendors' natural choice provided there is no interference from local body / Police.
- At each designated location that has been provided for the vending activity, appointment of a representative of Health department of authority preferably a food inspector particularly for on sale of food items, who will maintain the health and hygienic condition in those areas after giving them licence
- Most of the vendors have been in business at the same place for the last 15 – 20 years and earning on an average of little over Rs.8000/month and somehow maintaining their family with this meagre earning. They are classified mostly as EWS category as per national classification.
- Virtually, there are no overheads at the present site. There is no license fee and no payment for utilities. The street lights are helping them to do business even at night.
- Vendors are willing to carry out their business at an alternative site if offered by authority since this may provide a shield against threat from Police, Encroachment Department, etc.
- However the selection of new venue for carrying out future business may have to be done carefully without denying the location values so that their main business activities are not in any way affected in future rather allowing them to grow.
- Vendors are also willing to pay fees for licenses / ID Cards which may be issued by the local authority, and also willing to pay necessary charges for doing business, for maintaining cleanliness in the area. They like to have community facilities like community toilets (Sulabh Souchalaya), drinking water stand posts, etc.
- Based on the survey findings 2014, Policy should identify all 'vending places' throughout the city, and protect vending in these areas. This is the main role of the Town Vending Committee (TVC) established to implement the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors in Navi Mumbai.
- It is suggested to display the hoardings or identify Hawking and Non hawking Zones

- By appointing agency/ NGO the license may be issued to vendors and a nominal Maintenance vending fee may be collected
- Clean and hygienic environment should be the motto and in fact vendors should be roped in “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ” cleanliness drive.
- Street vending should be allowed at other places subject to the condition that it does not cause problems for public safety and environment.
- The vending spaces may be beautifully redesigned in nominal cost. A simple design competition may be organised where students of architecture may participate

VI. References

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