

# **A Study of Socio-Economic Aspects and Working Patterns of Street Vendors in Chapainawabganj**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Nowadays, the employment plays a very vital role in the human society. Most people in this country want to be white collar workers but the government and nongovernmental organization are not prepared to provide job for everyone. So, the individual and the group of people are involving in the self employment, especially in the informal sectors. Street trading constitutes a significant part of this sector involving street vendors as the key players. The aim of the study is to know the socio-economic aspects and working patterns of street vendors in Chapainawabganj Municipality. Convenience sampling was used to collect primary data and 70 street vendors were selected to complete the study. The study reveals that poverty, low education, less capital, large family members are the major driving forces of carrying out this business. This paper also reveals the importance of social capital in street vending and the excessive work hour (8-11 hours) of the vendors even in the presence of political instability, natural calamity or financial crisis.

## **KEYWORDS**

*Employment; Informal sectors; Socio-economic aspects; Street vendors; Working patterns.*

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## **1. Introduction**

Poverty is multidimensional in nature, having originated from a diverse range of conditions. The poor exist both in rural and urban areas of developing economies. Rural poverty is in fact directly related to land ownership and control over land. The urban poor consist largely of overflow of the rural who migrate to towns in search of jobs. A major cause for rural-urban migration is surplus labor in the rural agriculture sector and poor economic condition. Land does not expand, while population keeps on growing. They have no place to go but to the cities, hoping to improve their lots. With low skills and in most cases, no education, no ability to find better paid and secured employment in the formal sector, they have to work in the informal sector (Banerjee, 2014). Now a days, the number of street vendor is increasing day by day. Street vending is most prevalent and very regular phenomena in many developing countries like Bangladesh as well as some

developed countries which play a significant role in urban informal sector by providing a wide range of goods and services to the masses and also generating employment and to eradicate poverty (Rahman, 2019).

Street vendor means a person engaged in vending of articles, goods, wares, food items or merchandise of everyday use or offering services to the general public, in a street, lane, side walk, footpath, pavement, public park or any other public place or private area, from a temporary built up structure or by moving from place to place.

Street vendors are a fundamental constituent of urban economies around the world. Street vending is a major means of subsistence for poor city dwellers in developing countries like Bangladesh. It is the easiest form of earning their livelihood as it requires minor financial input and the skills involved are low.

Owen & Hussain (1984) conducted a study on food vendors in the Philippines located the potential role of this type of economic activity in providing relatively good income opportunities, and absorb substantial quantum of agricultural produce (Barth, G. A. 1983). Taking a sample of 550 vendors, the authors show that food selling is a major source of income for those engaged in such activities and in 45 per cent of the cases the only source.

Karthikeyan & Mangaleswarn (2013) conducted the study of the quality of life among the street vendors, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. The authors observe that there is need for revision of their psychological health and physical health area unit appear to be taken care of their business at the moment they are swollen their environmental factors, and social relationship to develop their quality of life.

Husain et al. (2015) conducted a study 'Assessment of the Socio-economic Aspects of Street Vendors in Dhaka City: Evidence from Bangladesh' in where they focus on the street vendors' income levels, access to finance, working hours as well as working status, level of education and impact of social capital in their life. They indicate that poverty, migration from rural area, low education, exorbitant supply of labor and large family size are the major driving forces of carrying out the diversified activities of street vending business. In the Municipality of Chapainawabganj, the large numbers of urban poor survive by working in the informal sector like street vending business. But street vendors are taken as a problem in the development of the city because there are a lot of complexities in this profession as they are occupying space on the pavements or other public/private areas. Sometimes vendors are cheated by the customers or sometimes they are harassed by local leaders and other authorities. They cannot maintain their living standards as they face a number of issues such as health risk, low living standards, illiteracy, poverty and so on. Since hawking and vending could not be stopped even after repeated eviction, this required to be investigated adequately and measures taken accordingly. Because the results of the study will provide a better understanding view of the street vendors and awareness to policy constructors, to design an operative and proficient policy for the improvement of the livelihood of the street vendors. So it is essential to keep the city functioning properly as well allow the vendors to conduct business. The main objective of the study is to know the socioeconomic aspects and working patterns of street vendors in Chapainawabganj Municipality that had to work out by i) to study the distribution of socio-economic status of the street vendors and ii) to study about the working patterns of street vendors.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

### **2.1. Study Area and Respondents**

The researchers used convenience sampling method to select 70 respondents from different places in Chapainawabganj municipality. This study was conducted during the period from 2nd to 28th January, 2020.

## 2.2. Tools for Data Collection

The primary data related to the present study was collected through structured questionnaire interview schedule through face-to-face interview.

## 2.3. Analytical Technique

The primary data has been analyzed in SPSS 16.0 version and descriptive statistics was used to analyse and interpret results of socio-economic aspects and working patterns of street vendors.

## 3. Results and Discussion

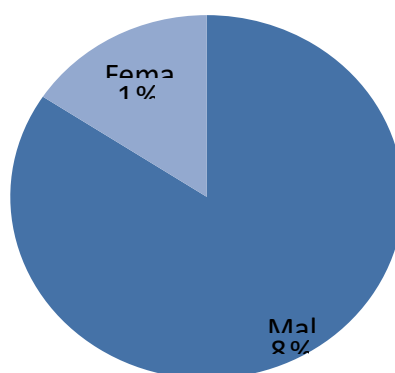
### 3.1. Socio-economic Status of Street Vendors

**Table 1.** Distribution of the respondent's age

Age	Frequency	Percent
15-25	8	11.40
25-35	37	52.90
35-45	12	17.10
45-55	4	5.70
55+	9	12.90
Total	70	100.00

From the Table 1, it is seen that the total of 70 street vendors, 8 (11.40%) of the street vendors belong to 15-25 age groups, 37 (52.90%) belong to 25-35 age groups, 12 (17.10%) belong to 35-45 age groups, 4 (5.70%) belong to 45-55 age groups and 9 (12.90%) belong to 55 and above age group. The average age of the distribution is 25.57 years. This suggests that the economically active age group takes part in street vending reflecting the high levels of unemployment in the country.

From the Figure 1, it is observed that 84% of the street vendors are male and 16% are female, since vending profession is looked down upon by the society. People do not prefer the female members of the family to sit on the roadside, selling goods.



**Figure 1.** Pie chart for the respondent's gender.

It is found that 4 (5.70%) of the respondents are illiterate, 23 (32.90%) are literate but they can sign only. 32 (45.70%), that is, most of the street vendors have only primary education (class 5-10) where many of them are drop out from the school due to poverty or many other reasons. This indicates that the low-educated

people chose street vending as an occupation. Only 11 (15.70%) street vendor from the study has their higher education which starts from SSC level to upper degrees.

### 3.2. Working Status of Street Vendors



**Figure 2.** Pie chart for the respondent's earning members.

From the Figure 2, it is seen that 74 %, that is, more than half of the street vendors have only earning member. In this situation, it is very difficult to meet the basic needs for their livelihood and 26% have another earning member in their family.

### 4. Conclusion

Our field survey was a small effort to understand the significance of the informal sector in Chapainawabganj municipality for a decent standard of living. Street vendors play an important role to the subsistence economy and to the local communities. This study reveals that age and education are key criteria for potential employment but they have no ability to find better paid and secured employment in the formal sector by the low education in the active age group. The street vendors are working in the open places and they are working long hours in a day. So, they are affected by some diseases like body pain. Their income and expenditure indicates that the standard of living is significantly lower and most of the street vendors are not able to save money from their business. The present study is to recommend the following topics.

- i. The economically active age group (25-35 years) is participating in street vending reflecting the high unemployment levels in the country. So, government should take necessary steps to skill this age group.
- ii. Majority of the street vendors are drop out from the school due to poverty or many other reasons. So, government should take necessary steps to give stipend for the poor students.
- iii. As they live in slum and road side area, so the municipal corporation has to provide pure drinking water and proper sanitation to their living area.
- iv. As income and expenditure suggests that the standard of living is significantly lower, so they have to motivate to join other resourceful job.
- v. Micro credit scheme can be offered by government or NGO or different commercial banks at low interest rate to change their profession.
- vi. Majority of the respondents are working in the business is whole day so local government can provide uniform for the vendors.

- vii. Recognition and proper assistance of this sector will improve their economic and social status significantly.
- viii. Municipalities should update their policies for the management of vendors which will be helpful to tackle the social and economic problems associated with vendors.

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