

## Study of Socio Economic Condition of Female Street Vendors in Patna

Varsha Rani (Research Scholar), Department of Economics, Patliputra University, Patna.

Prof. Anjali Prasad, Department of Economics, Patliputra University, Patna.

[ranivarsha735@gmail.com](mailto:ranivarsha735@gmail.com).

### **Abstract**

*The study focuses on the socio-economic condition of female street vendor in Patna. Special emphasis has been given on reasons of entering female vendors into vending jobs and there problems. The present study is based on the primary survey of 50 female street vendors to through light on their socio-economic conditions. On the basis of this survey the study has found that the socio-economic condition of female street vendors is very poor. The study reveals that the income of female street vendors is very low because most of female vendors belongs to SC, ST and OBC families. They have a very less capital to invest in their business. Female street vendors choose their business because of poverty, family background, widows and also because male members of the family do not have any job and even if they earn money, they spend those money mostly on liquor. Their no income, durable burden of having to work on street and look after the home and low level of unionization makes them the invisible section of street vendors. Less or no public toilet in the street of Patna has an adverse effect on female street vendor's health and many suffer from various infective diseases. Female street vendors also face security issues.*

**Keywords :** Female street vendors, their socio-economic conditions and problems.

### **Introduction**

A 'Street Vendor' is broadly defined 'as a person who offers goods for sale 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 carrying their wares on push carts or in baskets on their heads. In India the street vending are largest employment opportunities created in the informal sector. Hence, it has a greater significance and is considered the backbone of the Indian economy. More than 94 percent of the work forces are engaged informal sector wherein there is higher participation of women workforce than men similar to other developing nations. Mean while, the increased informalisation of the formal sector, the impact of globalization and demographic dividend in India, has become a great challenge to provide 'decent work' to its masses besides widening the workforce in the informal sector. And now, it is high time for the nation to think over the informal sector as the one which brings about a quality of life to its people. On the other hand, the people who are working in the informal sector are subjected to indebtedness and bondage followed by a poor human capital base, unregulated and competitive markets, small scale operation, ease of entry, reliance on locally available resources, labor- intensive, absence of access to institutional credit and protection. The people are engaged in different forms of employment among which street vending has been in existence since time immemorial. It has been playing an integral part in urban economics. It is one of the survival strategies of the urban poor, who are categorized by the Ministry of labor as self-employed under the service category. According to the National Policy for street vendors, 2009, about 2.5 percent of the urban population is involved in street vending in which women constitute about 40 percent. The women street vendors are facing lots of struggles and hardships and live a life full of compromises despite inclusive growth being one of the central concerns of the nation's growth process. However, women are playing a significant role in urban

society.

### Review of Literature :

1. Dr. Shyamali Banerjee 2014, " A study of socio-economic condition of vegetable Street Vendor in Ranchi" Vegetable vendors make an important contribution to the urban economy. The street vendors deserve support, not only because they are part of the poor and the weak, but they serve an economic purpose as such they are productive urban assets.
2. Dr. Veena K.N. & Prof. Amrita Mukherjee 2015, " Issues and concerns of women street vendors in Karnataka" This study focuses on the issues and concerns of women street vendors across various locations of Bangalore. These women street vendors still face a lot of issues and concerns i.e. working hours, public toilets, awareness about organizations that work for them and their rights on street vending.
3. S.C Andrew Michael 2021, " Street vendors in Larger Markets : Occupational difficulties of the women street vendors from Koyambedu and Kothuvalahalli market in Chennai". Women from time immemorial are being oppressed and not treated equally with male counterparts irrespective of their family contribution both physically and economically which continues to persist even at the workplace. Women come out to work, not for their financial interest but to supplement their family and surroundings such as women are facing numerous challenges and difficulties both at home and workplace.
4. Kamla Kanta Mohapatra 2012, "Women workers in informal sector in India : Understanding the occupational vulnerability". The present study aims at understanding the degree of vulnerability of the women workers in the informal sector in India. Unorganized sector work is characterized by low wages that are often insufficient to meet minimum living standards including nutrition, long working hours, and hazardous working conditions, lack of basic services such as drinking water and sanitation at the work sites.
5. R. Karthikeyan & R. Magaleswaran 2017, " Problems faced by the street vendors in their workplace : A study with special reference to Tiruchirappalli City, Tamil Nadu, India". Street Vendors are contributing to the wellbeing of the well-being of the urban and rural population by providing the goods and products at cheaper rates. The contribution of street vending is important to the overall economy and labor market. The study found that most of the respondents are faced with problems by police personnel, climate change and health conditions. Government provides street vending policies for street vendors; however the street vendors are not aware of such policies.
6. Anjali Yadav 2020, "Ramifications of fundamental rights of vendors vis a vis Street Vendors Act". India is a developing economy and is inclusive to different kinds of sectors which includes a mixture of both formal and informal sectors. The street vendor Act is a very prominent step taken for the guarding of the fundamental rights of the street vendors as it now recognizes and gives a legalized status to them which as a result would help to safeguard their persons and property from arbitrary behavior of the authorities and harassment.

### Objective :

- (i) To know the socio-economic status of female street vendors.
- (ii) To know the reasons of entering women into vegetable vending.
- (iii) To know the problems which women face in the vending job.
- (iv) To provide some suggestion to remove their problems.

### Study Area :

## Study of Socio Economic Condition of Female Street Vendors in Patna

The study area is Patna Municipal Corporation area which is located at 25degree37'N latitude and 82degree12'E longitude. Patna, the capital city of Bihar, is situated on the southern levee of river Ganga backed by a curvilinear depression. It is the administrative, judicial and legislative focus of the state with various essential services. The total area of PMC is 57sq.k.m. having population of 14,42,992(Census 2001), and is the largest city of the State. The PMC is divided into 72 Wards which has been further re-grouped into three zone-West, central and East Patna in accordance with the three erstwhile assembly constituencies with the city boundaries.

### Methodology :

The methodology used for this study consist of both primary and secondary data collection. Secondary data has been collected from literature review, case studies, municipal authorizes, books, journals and Bihar urban livelihood mission. Primary data was collected through a questionnaire survey. The survey was conducted on 50 female street vendors in two markets of Patna namely Anta Ghat and Musllaspur. Data has been analyzes with the help of excel.

**Table -1**

**Socio-Economic Characteristics of female street vendors.**

Sl. No.	Variables	Frequency (N=50)	Percentage(%)
1.	<b>Age :</b>	14	28
	Below 20 Years	08	16
	21-30 Years	17	34
	31-40 Years	09	18
	41-50 Years	02	04
	Above 50 Years		
2.	<b>Gender</b>	50 Female	100
3.	<b>Education:</b>	27	54
	Illiterate	14	28
	10 <sup>th</sup>	09	18
	12 <sup>th</sup>	NIL	
	Graduation		
4.	<b>Religion :</b>	29	58
	Hindu	16	32
	Muslim	05	10
	Christian		
5.	<b>Community :</b>	05	10
	General	11	22
	OBC SC	20	40
	ST	14	28
6.	<b>Material Status :</b>	35	70
	Married	05	10
	Unmarried	10	20
	Widow		
7.	<b>Type of family :</b>	20	40
	Single	30	60
	Joint		
8.	<b>Type of house :</b>	10	20
	Hut	40	80
	Concrete		

### Study of Socio Economic Condition of Female Street Vendors in Patna

9.	<b>House Status :</b>	12	24
	Own	38	76
	Rent		
10.	<b>Types of Goods :</b>	30	60
	Vegetable	20	40
	Fruits		
11.	<b>Monthly Income :</b>	07	14
	2001-3000	15	30
	3001-4000	24	48
	4001-5000	04	08
	5001-6000		
12.	<b>Monthly Expenditure :</b>	15	30
	2001-3000	26	52
	3001-4000	05	10
	4001-5000	04	08
	5001-6000		
13.	<b>Monthly Saving :</b>	30	\
	501-1000	14	60
	1001-1500	06	28
	1501-2000		12

Source: primary data based.

Table : 1 provides a picture of socio-economic Characteristics of female street vendors. On the basis of primary survey 34% female vendor are of 31-40 years and 64% are illiterate, 28% have primary education. The average monthly income of female street vendors are Rs.4001-5000/-. Women Vendors are not able to arrange loans because they have less capital to investment and devote much time as they have to look after small children and perform all household jobs. The percentage of married vendors is more than unmarried and widows. They adopted mostly nuclear family and lives in rental house. There monthly savings are very low that is Rs. 500-1000/- .

**Table 2 :**  
**Reasons of joining women in street vending :**

Sl. No.	Reasons	Frequency	Women %
1.	Poverty	16	32
2.	Husband is drunkard no support from him and Jobless	08	16
3.	Husband is dead or no grown up male member to support her	08	16
4.	Lack of skill to adopt other job	06	12
5.	Illiteracy	07	14
6.	Family Background	05	10

Source: primary data based.

Table : 2 gives the reasons of joining women in vending job. From the table 2 it can be reveals that due to poverty 32% highest percentage of women entered in to this profession. Secondly 16% of women said that as because the male members in the family do not have any job/jobless and even if they spend money mostly on liquor 16%. 14% of opinion that they have to choose this vending job because lack of education, Skilled Training 12%. 10% of women have entered due to family background. 16% is bound to

choose this vending job as their husband is dead or and there is no grown up male member to support their families. The female vendors face various problems as they are women and as well as they are vendors. Most of them have no education, no capital for further investment, no skill and no support from family.

**Table 3:**

**Problems faced by women street vendors.**

Sl. No.	Problems	Frequency	% of Women
1.	Physical & Mental Strain	07	14
2.	Double Burden	06	12
3.	Lack of Capital	09	18
4.	Lack of civic amenities	10	20
5.	Harassment from Municipal authorities and Local bodies	11	22
6.	Exploitation	07	14

Source: primary data based.

Table 3: depicts the problems faced by female street vendors. 22% of female are of opinion that harassment from municipal authorities and Local bodies are the most critical problems faced by female street vendors. Physical and Mental strain 14% are major problem and 12% have said that double burden is responsible reason. 20% of women feel that due to lack of basic civic amenities, they suffer from various infection. 14% of women think that as they have no social support and no government support.

1. **Physical and Mental Strain** : Female street vendors often face significant physical and mental strain. They endure long hours standing or walking, often carrying heavy loads of goods. The mental strain can come from the uncertainty of income, the constant need to balancing work with family responsibilities.
2. **Double Burden** : The double burden faced by female street vendors refers to the simultaneous challenges they experience as both workers and caregivers. Not only do they have to contend with the physical demands and economic uncertainties of their jobs, but they also often bear primary responsibility for household chores and childcare. This dual role can lead to exhaustion, stress, and limited opportunities for rest or personal time.
3. **Lack of Capital** : The lack of capital is a significant challenge for many female street vendors. Limited access to financial resources hampers their ability to invest in their businesses. Without sufficient capital, they may struggle to expand their operation, improve their products, or adapt to changing market conditions. Access to microloans or other forms of financial assistance can play a crucial role in empowering these entrepreneurs and helping them build more sustainable.
4. **Lack of civic amenities** : Female street vendors often face a lack of basic civic amenities, such as clean and safe vending spaces, access to sanitation facilities, and proper waste disposal services. The absence of these amenities not only affects their health and well-being but also undermines their ability to operate their businesses effectively. Inadequate infrastructure can expose them to safety risks, environmental hazards, and harassment. The absence of proper facilities can deter customers and limit the growth of their businesses.
5. **Exploitation and Harassment** : Female street vendors are unfortunately vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and harassment. They may face verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and

## Study of Socio Economic Condition of Female Street Vendors in Patna

---

physical violence while working in public spaces. They may be subjected to unfair treatment by authorities, such as extortion or confiscation of goods. This exploitation can exacerbate the already challenging conditions in which they operate and further marginalize them economically and socially. This issue requires comprehensive efforts, including legal protections, awareness campaigns, and support services to ensure the safety and dignity of female street vendors.

### Findings :

1. In this study mostly female street vendors whose age 31 to 40 year are more in street vending.
2. Most of women street vendors are illiterate and others are primary educated.
3. Most of the women street vendors who are engaged in street vendors are married.
4. Women street vendors are mostly belong to SC, ST and OBC.
5. Women street vendors who are engaged in street vending most of them have family background and widows.
6. Most of the women street vendors sell vegetables and fruits.
7. Women street vendors feel that vending environment is insecure because exploitation and harassment by local bodies.
8. Most of the women street vendors work for 06-08 hours.
9. Most of the women street vendors live in rented house.
10. One of the most important finding is that women street vendors are not aware not their basic rights and most of them are not aware about license and they are not licensed.

### Suggestions :

1. Most of the women street vendors are uneducated and they should need to develop the capacity when municipal commission delivering any message.
2. Government should train women street vendors health precaution measures while street vending.
3. For the sake of finance, most of the women street vendors are taking loan from merchants at high interest then from merchants they can take loan from banks.
4. Women street vendors need to educate on who bank works, what are the schemes available for providing loans and the facilities enjoyed by a bank account holder.
5. Women street vendors need to educate on basic facilities and policies provided by government of India.
6. The state run housing board can allocate low cost houses to women street vendors with proper toilet, drainage and drainage facilities.
7. There are no such special basic rights and policies allotted to women street vendors there is a need for it.
8. Women street vendors need to educate how to get a license for street vending as most of them are not licensed.
9. Regular health check can be initiated by the government for women street vendors.
10. Pension scheme can be implemented by government of India for aged vendors.

### Conclusion :

Women from time immemorial are being oppressed and not treated equally with male counterparts irrespective of their family contribution both physically and economically which continues to persist even

at the workplace. Women come out to work, not for their financial interest but to supplement their family and surroundings such as women are facing numerous challenges and difficulties both at home and workplace. Especially the women employed in occupation that have lower status and sanctions in the social experience more hurdles than other working women. The street is one such place where a woman vends for her livelihood who encounters and tackles all such challenges posed because of occupation and continue to sustain in the same occupation. The lack of recognition of their contribution to the economy, poor administrative support, and protective measures towards street vendors expose them to various challenges that they face today. The situation like pandemic has made their condition adverse hence it is the response of the society to regulate and respect women in all occupations whose contribution is always essential for survival.

### References :

1. **Shyamali Banerjee, (2014);** "A study of Socio-Economic condition of vegetable street vendors in Ranchi" Jharkhand journal of social development.
2. **Bhomik K Sharit, (2005);** " Street Vendors in Asia: A Review". Economic and Political Weekly. May 28- June 4.
3. **S.C. Andrew Michael,(2021);** "Street vendors in the larger markets: Occupational difficulties of the women street vendors from Koyambeduand Kothuval Cahvadi Markets in Chennai". A quarterly International Multilateral Thamizh journal.
4. **Bhowmik, S.K.,(2010),** "Street Vendors in the Global Urban Economy", Rutledge, New Delhi.
5. **Dr. Veena K.N, (2015);** "Issues and concerns of women street vendors in Karnataka."
6. **R.N. Sharma ; 'Census of Hawkers on BMC Land'** Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai 1998, 'Study of Street Vendors in Mumbai', Report of the study conducted by SNTD Women's University and ILO.
7. **Raman Rakesh(2012), "Agony and Angst on the streets; Women Fruits and Vegetable Vendors in Northern India".** The Indian Journal of Labor Economics.
8. **Nidan(2010).** Study on Street Vendors at Patna(Bihar), New Delhi, Centre for Civil Society(CCS).
9. **Jha, Ramnath(2018);** "Strengthening Urban India's Informal Economy: The case of Street vending" ORF Issue Brief, Issue No. 249, July.
10. **Garg V., Panwar M. |(2015);** " Issues and challenges faced by vendors on urban streets" A case study of Sonipat city, India.