

Exploring The Socio-Economic Life of Informal Street Hawkers

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Abstract

In our culture, some people work for the government while others work for private companies. Their pay varies depending on the management's discretion, and they have access to accommodations, transportation, and medical care. Other members of society may not be subject to governmental or nongovernmental oversight. They never become dependent on the government and society due to a lack of academic education or insufficient investment. These people are independent businesspeople who yell at people to buy their items as they pass by on the streets, in public spaces, or on public transportation. Because they offer rapid and simple access to customers at affordable pricing, many customers choose to buy from them. The purpose of the study was to determine the effect of street hawking on the socioeconomic circumstances of independent contractors known as "street vendors," "hawkers," "peddlers," "petty chapmen," "informal workers," and "street traders," or other trading persons. In Pakistani society, these are known by different names: (Rahri wala, pheray wala, theli wala). And sometimes they are known for their products like: (Sabzi wala, Phal wala, and lemon wala). The personal and demographic profiles, company profiles, monthly priority budgets, and consequences of street vending on street vendors' lives are investigated using a descriptive survey and interviews. The study concluded that street vending is vital to the economic survival of street vendors. The magnitude of its influence, however, is just sufficient to meet their bare necessities and provide for their families.

Keywords: Street vendors, Socio-economic Life, Sources of income, Sindh province, Pakistan

INTRODUCTION

The earliest kind of retailers in the world includes street merchants, hawkers, vendors, and peddlers. Urbanization is now recognize as one of the main drivers of societal advancement. As a result, a large number of individuals gather in urban regions and cities in quest of better possibilities and quick cash. A hawker, peddler, petty Chapman, or other trader traveling from town to town is someone who leaves the town where they live, takes a room in the new town,

and sells things that they have brought directly from their hometown, according to Stroud (1903), who discovered the original definition of a hawker in the judicial dictionary of words and phrases interpreted judicially in 1890. (p. 841).

A hawker is a person who roams the streets and moves objects to sell them. They are regularly observed in both small and large cities around the country. They provide services in any situation, "down to dust." Street vendors fall under this category since they offer goods and

services in unrecognized public settings (Vanek et al., 2012). Hawker is a phrase used to describe someone who goes around trying to sell items by knocking on doors or standing on the street, especially when other people find this conduct offensive. Pedlar, tout, vendor, Chapman, and itinerant salesperson are all similar terms (Collins dictionary, n.d). Nonetheless, because they move around, hawkers distinguish themselves from other type of street vendors.

Bhowmik (2005) defined a street vendor as "A person who does business with the public without operating out of a fixed facility." They can be "stationary," taking up space on the sidewalk, or "mobile," pulling a cart or wearing a basket on their head (p. 2256). According to Kwarteng (2020), street hawkers have always been a part of urban street life in developed and developing countries. Although selling goods on the street can be a reliable source of income, many vendors find it unpleasant owing to the low compensation and high risks, especially those who sell fresh fruits and vegetables. Street vendors face fundamental difficulties with instability and unpredictability because their line of activity is seen as illegal (Jaishankar & Sujatha, 2016). The practice of street vending and its effects on the socioeconomic well-being of vendors in Sindh province were examined in this essay. Karachi is Pakistan's largest metropolis, and Sindh has the country's second-largest economy. Throughout this essay, the terms "hawker" and "street vendor" are used interchangeably and have the same meaning.

The decision to engage in street selling or to offer services sometimes extends beyond economic considerations. There are flexible work schedules that enable employees to take care of obligations to their families. Many public spaces with high foot circulation offer a ready market for unofficial goods and services (Ofori, 2007; Suharto, 2003). Also, the term "hawker"

highlights how vulnerable they perceive their circumstance to be. Yet, hawkers and other unofficial vendors are entrepreneurs who certainly assist economic development. Most street vendors operate without access to essential urban infrastructure, such as adequate sites and auxiliary services. This calls into doubt the government's ability to foster an atmosphere that benefits street merchants. The definitions of "street commerce" and "informal activity" provide a significant issue, and it was also clear that the right terminology should be used in certain settings (Racaud et al., 2018).

In particular, in this research 8 items have been taken from the study of Malazarte (1999) to quantify the influence of street selling on the socioeconomic life of the vendors. The following questions are specifically sought answers to in this paper:

1. What are the personal and demographic characteristics of street vendors when classified by the variables listed below:
 - a. Gender
 - b. Marital Status
 - c. Age
 - d. Educational Status
 - e. Number of Dependents
 - f. Vending City
2. According to the following factors, what is the business profile of street sellers in Pakistan's Sindh province?
 - a. Types of Goods Sold by the street Vendors
 - b. Vending Experience
 - c. Distance Covered by the Street Vendors
 - d. Working Hours of Daily street vending
 - e. Other Sources of Income
 - f. Capital invested in street vending

- g. Capital Sources for Street Vendors
 - h. How many individuals work as helpers for street vendors?
 - i. The respondents' daily profits and monthly earnings
 - j. Approach to street vending
3. What motivates the responders to work as street vendors?
 4. What are the respondents' monthly priority budget outlays?
 5. What effects does street vending have on the respondents' socioeconomic lives?
 6. What potential implications may stop street vending have on the respondents' socioeconomic situations?
 7. What are the respondents' top concerns for street vending?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Nature of Street Vending

A social anthropologist named Hart coined the phrase "informal sector" for usage in theoretical literature in a Third World context (1970, 1973). He used the term "informal sector" to describe a section of the urban labour force that operates outside traditional labour markets. Practically all varieties of (small) self-employed persons are now included in Hart's broadened definition of the "informal sector," according to him. According to the study, street vendors' activities generate demand for both formal and informal suppliers/sectors, encouraging them to develop their products primarily for formal businesses while others prefer to purchase them from informal businesses, with the remainder producing the goods they sell. Locally and regionally, street selling is considered as an option for the impoverished; their legal and social standing and market potential vary (Dharejo et al., 2022).

According to Kemal and Mahmood (1998), Pakistan's "informal sector is big and rising swiftly" and its potential for creating work opportunities should be promoted by removing barriers to entry. The phrase "informal economy" is typically used to refer to illegal activities like the selling of drugs or prostitutes, paying bribes, or tax evasion. If government policies or a lack of them contribute to the establishment of the informal economy, it is possible to view it as a state-produced good, even if this is by default (Chen, 2005). According to Khan (2012), Pakistan's informal economy is a synthesis of several elements, including social, political, and environmental aspects, just like the economies of other developing countries. In addition to other job shortages and difficulties, Pakistan's informal sector is characterized by a lack of long-term employment, working poverty, gender-based discrimination, workplace rights, child labor, and bonded labor.

Street vending is type of economic transaction that occurs at a selling location and is distinguish by the unpredictable use of public space and the mobility of dealers or clients, claims Monnet (2006). Street trading competes with other urban services including traffic flow, access to buildings, and other commercial activities in the city since it takes place in public areas that are not particularly allocated for trading. The term "street vending" is frequently used interchangeably with "street dealing," "hawking," "peddling," etc. 72% of all workers in Pakistan's informal sector are employed in Karachi (Hasan, 2021). According to Zulfiqar and Butt (2021), the phenomenon of street vending is not unique in Pakistan but present in different ways all over the world. There are several levels and types of street vending, including fixed and mobile (Chabri and Pheri) (kiosks and Khokas).

Local authorities continue to refuse to acknowledge street selling despite its popularity and (supposed) contribution to reducing economic and social marginalization (Chen et al., 2016; Lyons & Snoxell, 2005; Skinner, 2008). Although it has historically been associated with the poor, there are still regional and national variations in the legal, social, and commercial possibilities of street vending (Bhowmik, 2005). Street vending is a crucial vocation, according to Williams and Gurtoo (2012), who evaluate it as "street entrepreneurship" rather than "street vending" since street merchants are recognized as "street entrepreneurs." According to Bhowmik (2009), a person selling goods to the general public on the street does not have a fixed building from which to do so. Hence, the informal sectors of the economy also include street sellers.

Street Vendors in Pakistan

A hawker is a peddler, and in the local language they are referred to as "thelay walay." By bringing the market to their customers' doorsteps, these street sellers provide a significant service ("1st and 5th Working Group Meeting Street Vendor Project," 2019). Hasan and Alam (2015) refer to all street vendors, including stationary street vendors who set up kiosks, semi-permanent street vendors who set up folding tables, collapsible stands, or wheeled pushcarts overnight to sell their wares, and mobile street vendors who use bicycle, pushcarts, or walk through the streets to do so.

The city's informal sector, which unquestionably provides work and income for a bigger percentage of the population, includes the city's tiny salons, roadside barbers, and street vendors (Butt & Zulfiqar, 2021). Street vendors in Pakistan are the backbone of the economy and an essential link in the supply chain for goods and services since they not only provide goods

and services to consumers directly at reasonable costs, but also sell their goods and services to wholesalers and retailers. Street sellers, in contrast to many stores, swiftly adjust to changing circumstances (flexible timings and moving between sites), which is advantageous to their customers. The genuine heart of Pakistan, its history, and its culture are represented by the street economy. Urban environments have a particular liveliness thanks to street sellers (Javed, 2022).

Govt to Enact Law to Give Legal Cover to Street Vendors

The government will pass legislation to control the street economy and grant legal standing to the roughly one million sellers who are significantly boosting the country's economy (Iftikhar, 2022). The government has been drafting laws to give street sellers legal protection, according to Bakhatwar (2020). Dr. Sania Nishtar, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM), presented on Tuesday's webinar to those in attendance at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). The first-ever legislation about street vendors would catalyze the preservation of their rights, recognize their contributions to society, and provide them with incentives and a procedure for addressing their grievances.

The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the Centre of Street Economy (CSE), and the Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation Division all contributed to the creation of the bill's text. Due to their ability to serve the middle- and lower-income mass portions of society with a variety of goods and services, street vendors have remained a crucial component of metropolitan economies all over the world. Although a policy was created in 1986 for the Islamabad Capital Territory and a special committee was subsequently formed in

2015 and 2017 for the Municipal Corporation of Islamabad, nothing has been accomplished in Pakistan to fully use the potential of street vending. But street vendors of Sindh province claim that the Sindh government and welfare organizations do not help us we manage our business owns their own. Further, they say that if authorities did not help with our work-related problems and health problems, the government should set up special medical camps or clinics that meet health and cleanliness (physical, mental, and emotional health) standards.

"In Pakistan, street vending has remained a much-neglected topic among government, academia, society, and donor's circles," Vice Chancellor PIDE Dr. Nadeem-ul-Haque stated. Authorities have prioritized creating car-centric cities at the expense of eliminating the underprivileged, particularly street sellers, from public spaces. Every year, 2 million young people in Pakistan enter the labor force. The government's problem of employment creation will be greatly reduced if chances for street vending are created. According to Dharejo et al. (2022), the brokers in the Sabzi Mandi wholesale market are not giving us vegetables at the prices fixed by the government, then how can we sell vegetables at officially designated rates, but the police only arrest us because you are not selling vegetables on official rate, although we buy at a high price, then how can we sell cheap, it is impossible."

Legal Basis and Policies in Relation to Street Vending in the Sindh Province

The Sindh Local Government Act, 2013, Section 139 is defined as Picketing, parking animals, collecting carts, or automobiles on any roadway, or utilizing any street as a stopping point for vehicles or animals, or as a location to encamp. Without the local government's consent, it is unlawful to open or operate a restaurant or a food stand on a public street, sidewalk, road,

drain, or any other property that is under its management, control, or maintenance. A sufficient number of public restrooms for separate use by each sex must be provided and maintained at appropriate locations, and they must be kept and maintained in the proper order of cleanliness, according to the Act of 2013's definition of public toilet. Corporations, municipal committees, and town committees may also provide and maintain restrooms as required by the government. The Town Committee, however, is accused by street vendors of failing to provide clean water and public toilet. The Ministry of Sindh's Directorate of Urban Policy and Strategic Planning claims that a reconnaissance investigation demonstrates that hawkers and merchants illegally trespass on the streets and sidewalks and put their assets there. Hence, project-related interventions may affect the assets of project-affected people (PAPs). As a result, this policy is implemented. The implications and measures to avoid decrease, or make up for the loss of PAPs will be covered under the Resettlement Policy Framework and subprojects RAPs and ARAPs.

Impact of Street Vending to the Lives of the Vendors

The low start-up costs of street vending, the lack of access to credit facilities, the lack of suitable and affordable trading outlets or shops, the desire for independence, the need to provide for one's family, and the lack of opportunities to work in the formal sector are the main factors that drive people into the sector (Berhanu, 2021). Because they can support their families, take care of their basic requirements, acquire credit, and get social security, the majority of street sellers choose to work for themselves always disorganized and frequently unseen, the poor (Bhowmik, 2010). The tiny enterprises of many street vendors are passed down from one generation to the next by their offspring. A report indicates that street vendors make up a

relatively modest portion of Pakistan's economy. Their 1,000-2,190 rupees daily income and they are contributing million rupees annually. Pakistan's culture is greatly influenced by street vendors, who should receive the same level of support as other enterprises (Rehman, 2017).

The majority of street vendors use their primary source of income to feed their families and pay for their kids' education. These unorganized workers have ties to the official economy (Roever, 2016). The majority of street vendors originates from lower social classes and entered the industry to augment or replace their income from more respectable employment (Moosvi, 2021). There are more street vendors in the state due to its expanding population, lack of economic opportunities, and rural poverty (Banerjee, 2014). According to Almendral (2014), the majority of street vendors operate their businesses to improve their socioeconomic standing and meet their daily demands for food and other necessities. Unfortunately, their employment and business are insecure due to threats from the local and federal governments.

Framework exploring the socio-economic life of street

Exploring the socio-economic life of street vendors can be complex and multifaceted, and requires a comprehensive framework that considers various factors that affect their livelihood. Here is a possible framework for exploring the socio-economic life of street vendors:

Legal and Regulatory Environment: This includes policies, laws, regulations, and by-laws that govern street vending activities. Understanding the legal and regulatory environment is crucial for assessing the level of

protection, formalization, and inclusion of street vendors.

Socio-economic Characteristics: This includes demographics, education, household composition, and income of street vendors. This information helps in identifying the social and economic conditions that shape the livelihoods of street vendors.

Livelihood Strategies: This includes the type of goods or services sold location, mobility, and the level of competition in the local market. This information helps in understanding the coping strategies and opportunities that street vendors use to sustain their livelihood.

Social Networks and Relationships: This includes the social networks and relationships that street vendors have with their customers, suppliers, and other vendors. This information helps in understanding the social capital and supports that street vendors rely on to conduct their business.

Access to Resources: This includes access to credit, financial services, infrastructure, and public services. This information helps in identifying the barriers and opportunities that street vendors face in accessing resources to improve their livelihoods.

Risks and Vulnerabilities: This includes the risks and vulnerabilities that street vendors face such as harassment, eviction, health risks, and natural disasters. This information helps in identifying the protective measures and support that street vendors need to mitigate risks and vulnerabilities.

Participation and Representation: This includes the level of participation and representation of street vendors in decision-making processes, local governance, and civil society organizations. This information helps in identifying the level of voice and agency that street vendors have in shaping policies and programs that affect their livelihoods.

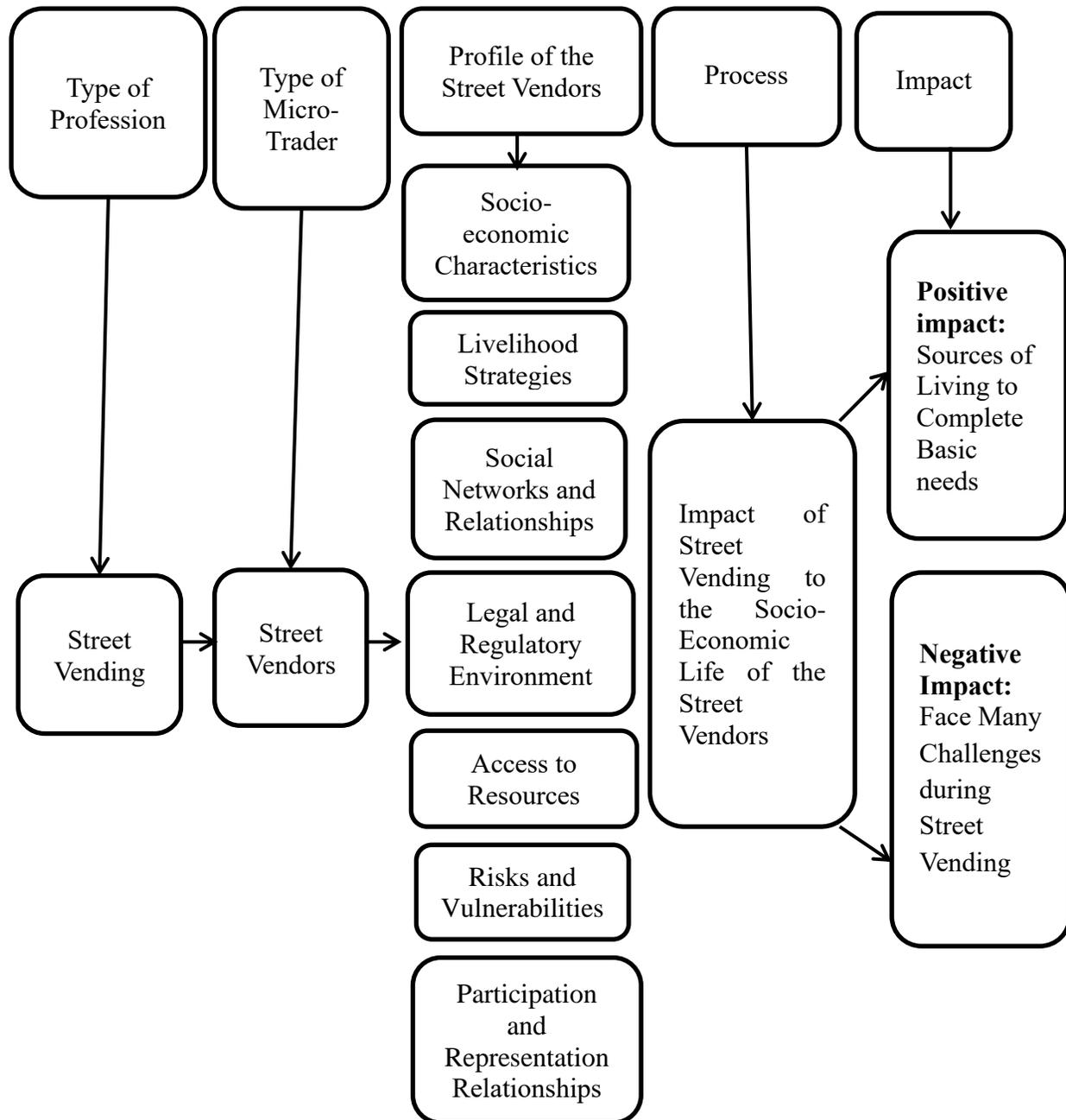


Figure 1: Framework for exploring the socio-economic life of street vendors

This framework provides a systematic way of exploring the socio-economic life of street vendors and can be adapted to different contexts and research questions.

METHODS

Research Area

According to Hashmi (2015) street vendors frequently find consumers in this area and engage in a variety of activities, the Sindh province was chosen for this study based on the availability of numerous street hawkers and varied categories. Sindh is Pakistan's third-largest province by population and it's second-largest after Punjab in terms of land area. Sindh province was chosen because of its ethnic variety, cultural diversity, and economic activity. Accurately estimating the number of street vendors is difficult. Although street vendors may be observed in urban public spaces all throughout the world, figures on their numbers are exceedingly difficult to come by (Roever & Skinner, 2016).

Targeted Population

All conclusions drawn from a sample only apply to the specific population from which it was carefully chosen, may call them the target audience (Banerjee & Chaudhury 2010). The units for which the survey's results are to be generalized are determined by the target population. Establishing the study objectives is the first step in survey preparation, and identifying the target audience is the next (Cox, 2008). The population is the total number of participants in the research (Combes, 2019).

In a research setting, sampling is the practice of choosing a portion of a population's items to be included in a study. We refer to them as "items" since not all the things you should include in your investigation are actual persons (Guest et al., 2017). The research population consisted of all varieties of street vendors who were chosen from Karachi, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Sukkur, and Ghotki, among five cities in the Sindh province, based on their density and

accessibility. The participants of this study are the 30 Street vendors selected from the Sindh province of Pakistan.

Data Collection

Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were used in this study. Data about the profiles of the respondents were gathered through the use of a standardized questionnaire. To understand the street sellers' motivations for doing business on the street and to assess the effect of their enterprise on their socioeconomic standing, the study also included a case study approach and structured interviews with them. Most significantly, the respondents practiced ethical considerations, such as maintaining the privacy of their identities.

Instruments and Procedures

The three-part questionnaire used in this study was based on Malazarte's research (1999). Nonetheless, the researcher made adjustments to fit the respondents' present circumstances. The respondents' individualized and demographic profiles made up the first section. Age, gender, marital status, level of education, city of residence, and the number of dependents are among the data it includes.

The second section of the survey asks about the respondents' businesses, including the types of goods sold by street vendors, their experience with street vending, the distance they travel each day, the hours they work each day, other sources of income, the amount of capital they use to fund their street vending operations, the people who assist them, their daily profits, and their monthly earnings. The third part of the questionnaire contains the income and expenditures of the street vendors in their business.

Data Analysis

The survey utilised the following statistical analysis: frequency and percentage were used to describe the respondents' personal, demographic, and professional profiles. The respondents' income and expenses were determined using frequency, percentage, and rank.

RESULTS

This section provides data based on the findings in relation to the problem sought in this study.

Table No: 1
Personal and Demographic Profile of the Respondents

| Profile variables | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Gender | | |
| Male | 24 | 80.00 |
| Female | 6 | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Marital Status | | |
| Single | 8 | 27.00 |
| Married | 19 | 63.00 |
| Widow/Widower | 3 | 10.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Age | | |
| 18–28 | 9 | 30.00 |
| 29–39 | 12 | 40.00 |
| 40–50 | 6 | 20.00 |
| 51–60 | 3 | 10.00 |
| Above 60 | none | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Education Level of the Street Vendors | | |
| Illiterate | 4 | 13.00 |
| Signed Only | 6 | 20.00 |
| Primary School | 8 | 27.00 |
| Middle Education | 5 | 17.00 |
| Secondary education | 4 | 13.00 |
| Higher Secondary | 2 | 7.00 |
| Graduated Degree | 0 | 00.00 |
| Join University | 1 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Number of Dependents | | |
| 0 | 0 | 00.00 |
| 1-3 Members | 6 | 20.00 |
| 4-6 Members | 15 | 50.00 |
| Seven or above | 9 | 30.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |

| Vending City | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| Karachi | 6 | 20.00 |
| Hyderabad | 6 | 20.00 |
| Jamshoro | 6 | 20.00 |
| Sukkur | 6 | 20.00 |
| Ghotki | 6 | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |

Gender studies revealed that 80% of participants were men and only 20% were women. Women experience far greater challenges than men while trying to sell items on the street. Crimes such as rape, sexual harassment, and eve-teasing frequently cause harm to women (Diwakar & Anand, 2014). Although males still make up the majority of street vendors, there are now a lot more women selling their wares (Bhowmik, 2001; Saha, 2009). It was found that 63% of people operating in the field of street selling were married, 30% were single, and only 10% were divorced based on the respondents' marital status.

The bulk of the responders were between the ages of 29 and 39. There were 9% of people under the age of 18, 6% between the ages of 40 and 50, 3% between the ages of 50 and 60, and no one beyond the age of 60. According to Hanewald (2015), street vendors over the age of thirty tend to be the most driven by necessity since, despite their best efforts, manufacturers will not hire them. Typically, firms prefer to hire people under the age of 30, since they believe older workers are more expensive and less productive than younger ones. So, one of the only means of support for the "older" workers is street selling.

The study's findings show that 13% of street vendors are illiterate, 20% of all vendors can only sign, 27% of street vendors went to primary school from grades 1 to 5, 17% went to middle school from grades 6 to 8, 13% went to secondary school from grades 9 to 10, 7% went to higher secondary school, 0% of street vendors finished graduate school, and 1% had just started college. As the majority of people with bachelor's degrees want white-collar, respectable employment, they frequently work in the same industries and are employed in both the public and private sectors. Similar to local experts, street workers have a constrained viewpoint.

Early survey results show that despite having very high levels of poverty, street vendors (both male and female) have large families because they do not think about family planning. Street sellers make up 20% of families with 1-3 members, 50% with 4-6 members, and 30% with seven or more. Women are also unable to spend a lot of time at work due to the size of the family and the ongoing responsibilities of running the home and the vending machine. Finally, the researcher chose six respondents from each of the selected cities, such as Karachi, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Sukkur, and Ghotki, for the vending location section.

Table No: 2
Business Profile of the Respondents

| Profile Variables | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Types of Goods Sold | | |
| Foods and Beverages(Vegetables, Fruits, Bargur, Samosa, Pakora, chaat and drinks) | 24 | 80.00 |

| | | |
|--|----|--------|
| Dry Goods (Toys, House Displays) | 6 | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Vending Experience | | |
| Less than five years | 8 | 27.00 |
| 5 to 10 years | 13 | 43.00 |
| 11 to 20 years | 5 | 17.00 |
| 21 to 30 years | 3 | 10.00 |
| 31 years or above | 1 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Distance Covered by the Street Vendors | | |
| 1-2 Km | 8 | 27.00 |
| 3-4 Km | 10 | 33.00 |
| 5-6 Km | 6 | 20.00 |
| 7-8 Km | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9-10 Km | 0 | 0.00 |
| 11 or above | 6 | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Working Hours of Daily Street Vending | | |
| 1-3 Hours | 2 | 7.00 |
| 4-6 Hours | 5 | 17.00 |
| 7-9 Hours | 10 | 33.00 |
| 10 and above | 13 | 43.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Number of Persons Helping in the Business | | |
| None | 8 | 27.00 |
| One | 12 | 40.00 |
| Two | 7 | 23.00 |
| Three | 2 | 7.00 |
| Four | 1 | 3.00 |
| Five | 0 | 0.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| With Others Sources of Income | | |
| Yes | 6 | 20.00 |
| No | 24 | 80.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Amount of Capital Used by the Respondents | | |
| Below 5,000.00 | 2 | 7.00 |
| 5,000.00 – 10,000.00 | 2 | 7.00 |
| 11,000.00 – 20,000.00 | 9 | 30.00 |
| 21,000.00 – 30,000.00 | 10 | 33.00 |
| 31,000.00 – 40,000.00 | 6 | 20.00 |

| | | |
|--|-----------|---------------|
| Above 41,000.00 | 1 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Sources of Capital | | |
| Loans/Borrowings | 18 | 60.00 |
| Personal Savings | 12 | 40.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Daily Profits of the Respondents | | |
| Less than 500.00 | 2 | 7.00 |
| 500.00 - 1000.00 | 6 | 20.00 |
| 1100.00 - 2000.00 | 13 | 43.00 |
| More than 3000.00 | 9 | 30.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Monthly Earnings of the Respondents | | |
| Less than 15,000.00 | 2 | 7.00 |
| 15,000.00 – 30,000.00 | 7 | 23.00 |
| 31,000.00 – 40,000.00 | 12 | 40.00 |
| 41,000.00 – 50,000.00 | 8 | 27.00 |
| 51,000.00 and above | 1 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |
| Method of Vending | | |
| Head-carried Hawkers | 2 | 7.00 |
| Hands-carried Hawkers | 4 | 13.00 |
| Hand Pushcart Hawkers | 18 | 60.00 |
| Vehicle Venodrs | 6 | 20.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |

Table 2 displays the professional profiles of the respondents. According to the table, the majority of street vendors in Pakistan's Sindh province sell goods intended for immediate consumption by the general public, such as vegetables, fruits, burgers, samosas, pakora, chaat, biryani, and beverages. The prices of these items are frequently less expensive than those found in metropolitan malls since everything is fresh and street vendors don't utilise frozen goods. The general population will most benefit from this since they may save time and money due to their limited resources. The majority of responders have experience working in this industry and vending, having done so for between five and ten years. The results of the interview showed that street selling is crucial to their way of life,

particularly in terms of surviving and sending their kids to school only to finish their education. Thus, they already live a life of street peddling.

They go some distance to get to the neighborhood market. They visit the marketplace to buy goods for sale; the majority (33%) of street sellers report walking 3–4 kilometers on foot. Several street sellers move their goods from the market to the villages they visit more regularly using their autorickshaws. They usually complain that traveling more than five kilometers from home is too stressful for them. The survey found that women travel less distance than men. The table also reveals that the majority of respondents put in more than 10

hours per week working as street vendors. According to one of the street vendors, they begin getting up at 5:00 in the morning to get ready for the items and commodities that they will offer at approximately 7:00 in the morning. The outcome thus implies that the majority of responders must put in a lot of overtime each day. The chart also reveals that the majority of responders use one assistant for their street vending.

Meanwhile, the majority of the street vendors do not have any other source of income. The results reveal that street vending is the only source of income for most of the responders. Also, it can be gleaned from the table that the average capital used by the responders in their street vending ranges from 21,000.00–30,000.00. This suggests that most of the street vendors had a very small amount of capital to start their enterprises. It is also important to note that most of the responders accumulated their capital to start their businesses through loans and borrowings. Eight of the responders stated that they must borrow a specific amount of money

from usurers in exchange for some interest since they lack personal funds to launch their businesses. Also, four respondents exclaimed that they were paying the interest on their loan and that sometimes they did not have any income or savings because they had no choice but to pay off their debts.

The vast majority of responders earned between Rs/=1100.00 and Rs/=2000.00 per day in revenue and earnings. This implies that because they have a small quantity of money, it is also predicted that they will make a small amount of profit as a result. The vast majority of responders claimed that their daily income barely covers their essential expenses, including food, shelter, power, and water. The chart also reveals that the street sellers' average monthly income ranges from Rs/=31,000 to Rs/=40,000.00. Finally, when it comes to selling techniques, hand-pushcart hawkers are used by the majority of street sellers.

Table No:3
Reasons of the Respondent for Joining in Street Vending

| Reasons | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| Due to Poverty | 12 | 40.00 |
| Due to Unemployment | 9 | 30.00 |
| Lack of Education | 5 | 17.00 |
| Traditional Profession | 2 | 7.00 |
| Lower Barriers to Starting Up | 1 | 3.00 |
| Not Wait for Money at the End of Month | 1 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |

The respondents' justifications for joining the street vending industry are shown in Table 3. It was discovered that their major motivation for engaging in this line of business is poverty. This implies that street sellers operate in this way to meet their fundamental requirements and live in this world. Many street vendors work as street

vendors because they lack the education necessary to pursue a respectable profession. The majority of responders claimed that even though the government views them as hawkers and illegals, they are unable to stop operating because they lack other sources of income and, more importantly, because the government does

not provide them with any other options or programs to support their way of life. The fact that it is easy to maintain and run and that there are few obstacles to the entrance since street

sellers do not wait for money at the end of the month is also noteworthy as the least persuasive reasons for them to engage in street selling.

Table No: 4
Monthly Priority Budget of the Respondents

| Expenditures | Frequency | Percentage | Rank |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------|------|
| Basic Needs | 28 | 93.00 | 1 |
| Medical Care | 16 | 53.33 | 2 |
| Cart Payment | 15 | 50.00 | 3 |
| Children's School Expenses | 14 | 47.00 | 4 |
| House Maintenance | 14 | 47.00 | 4 |
| Transportation | 10 | 33.00 | 5 |
| Personal Care | 6 | 20.00 | 6 |
| Social Security | 5 | 17.00 | 7 |
| Recreation | 3 | 10.00 | 8 |
| Cigarrates | 2 | 7.00 | 9 |

The respondents' monthly priority budget is shown in Table 4. The research found that essential necessities, including food, drink, shelter, and clothes, takes priority in street sellers' finances. As they base their expenses on their street vending revenue, it is implied that street vending is a crucial part of their daily existence and survival. They depend on street vending to cover their housing expenses because they do not yet have a permanent place to live. It

was also crucial to note that half of the respondents prioritized their budgets for paying cart fees, their children's education, and house upkeep, in addition to the fact that half of the vendors paid for their own medical care. It's also significant to note that at least 50% of respondents gave priority to transportation expenses. Most crucially, it was found that cigarettes, personal care, and leisure are the street sellers' least important demands.

Table No: 5
Impact of Street Vending to the Socio-Economic Lives of the Street Vendors

| Impact | Frequency | Percentage | Rank |
|--|-----------|------------|------|
| Payment of Household Expenses and Basic Needs (Food, Water, Shelter, and Clothing) | 28 | 93.00 | 1 |
| Payment of debts and loans | 16 | 53.33 | 2 |
| Education of the Children | 15 | 50.00 | 3 |
| Can buy Properties (Cart Fees, Token Fees, Product Puraches for Sell and House Maintenance) | 15 | 50.00 | 3 |
| Sending money to the Village | 4 | 13.33 | 4 |
| Personal Savings for Emergency and Future Use | 2 | 7.00 | 5 |

The effects of street vending on the socioeconomic circumstances of the respondents are shown in Table 5. It was discovered that the main benefit of street selling is that it gives the

vendors a means to meet their fundamental requirements. In terms of the vendor's priority budget expenditures, the data supported Table 4. Most of the respondents claimed that street

selling had a significant positive impact on their lives. They can purchase their daily necessities to ensure their survival and cover their home costs, but occasionally, due to budgetary constraints, they are unable to purchase their wants, such as cell phones, fashionable clothing, and leisure activities.

It's also crucial to remember that street hawking enabled the merchants to repay their loans and debts. Also, they were able to take their kids to school because of street selling. This indicates that they continue to prioritize education as a part of their everyday lives despite their poverty and lack of revenue. Five married respondents claimed that they needed to run this type of company to support their kids' education.

Moreover, they aim to eventually put a stop to this type of business so that their children may pursue more respectable careers after graduating from college.

Having a personal savings account for emergencies and future usage is the last contribution made by street vending to the respondents' lives. This suggests that the respondents depend on street selling for their daily livelihood. Because their income could barely cover their fundamental necessities, the respondents' income could not support their desire for personal savings.

Table No: 6
Effects of Discontinuance of Street Vending

| Effects | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Unable to complete basic needs | 11 | 37.00 |
| There will be no source of income | 7 | 23.00 |
| It would be hard to pay medical expences | 5 | 17.00 |
| It would be hard to pay children to school | 4 | 13.00 |
| Unemployment | 2 | 7.00 |
| We cannot buy what we want | 1 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 30 | 100.00 |

Table 6 shows that if local governments restrict street vending in their city, street vendors will be unable to meet their basic needs, let alone earn a living. Also, they struggle to pay for their

children's tuition and medical costs. They struggle with unemployment and financial limitations. The results demonstrate once more how crucial street vending is to street sellers' livelihoods.

Table No: 7
Priority Problems of the Respondents with Regards to Street Vending

| Priority Problems | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|-----------|------------|
| Space and Place for Vending | 12 | 40.00 |
| Token fees, Cart Fees and bribes payment | 6 | 20.00 |
| Social Security (considered as illegal) | 6 | 20.00 |
| Lack of Capital (without intrest) | 3 | 10.00 |
| Clean Water and Washroom | 2 | 7.00 |
| Weather | 1 | 3.00 |
| TOTAL | 30.00 | 100.00 |

Table 7 shows that the respondents' biggest issue with street vending is obtaining space and a location for their operations. They find it difficult to transfer them from one area to another and pay daily cart fees, token fees, and bribes—even though they are all deemed unlawful. After learning that street vendors in Pakistan's Sindh region had set up their shops illegally, the interview's findings caused several of the participants to ask for social security. Delegated for unobstructed access to money, clean water, and bathrooms close to their vending places. Also, street sellers describe how the weather affects their goods. Additionally, because street hawking is their only means of support, the majority of sellers expect that the government will be understanding and permit them to settle down near their houses.

CONCLUSION

As to the personal and demographic profile of the street vendors, the majority of them are male and married, with an age range of 29–39 years old. According to the research findings, 27% of street vendors attended primary school from levels 1 to 5. Since most bachelor's degree holders favor white-collar, socially acceptable jobs, they often work in the same sectors and are employed in the public or private sector. Similarly to this, local professionals who work on the streets have a limited perspective. 50% of people have 4-6 dependent family members. According to their company profiles, the majority of street vendors offer food and beverages, have been working the streets for five to ten years without having any other sources of income, travel 3 to 4 kilometers every day, and work more than ten hours a day. The respondent uses between 21,000 and 30,000 in loans or borrowings, making daily and monthly profits of between 1100.00 and 2000.00, and selling with a hand-pushing cart.

Due to their financial situation, street sellers seek to operate their businesses in urban areas where there are more consumers. Last but not least, street vending is critical to street sellers' financial survival. As a lack of saving habits is at the core of many issues, street vendors should be encouraged to save more money and spend less, especially when they have extra money. Nonetheless, the magnitude of its influence is just sufficient to meet their minimal requirements.

Through the exploration of the socio-economic life of informal street hawkers, it is evident that these individuals face numerous challenges in their daily lives. The study revealed that street hawkers often work long hours in difficult conditions, with little job security and low pay. Moreover, they face constant harassment from law enforcement officials and often have to navigate complex bureaucratic regulations to operate their businesses. Despite these challenges, street hawkers play a vital role in the economy of many developing countries, providing affordable goods to low-income consumers and contributing to the informal sector's growth. Additionally, many street hawkers exhibit entrepreneurial qualities, such as adaptability, creativity, and resilience, which enable them to thrive in a challenging business environment.

The study also identified several policy recommendations to improve the socio-economic conditions of informal street hawkers. These include providing them with access to finance, training programs, and legal protections. Furthermore, efforts should be made to integrate street hawkers into the formal economy through initiatives such as business incubation programs and urban planning policies that incorporate their needs. In conclusion, the study highlights the importance of recognizing and addressing the challenges faced by informal street hawkers while also acknowledging their

valuable contributions to the economy. By implementing policy solutions that support street hawkers, governments can help to promote inclusive economic growth and reduce poverty and inequality

IMPLICATIONS

This research will help the street hawkers become better and more respectable, and it will inspire future planning to help them feel at ease, healthy, and motivated, get respect from customers, receive moral support, and compete cheerfully in the market. The contribution of the hawker to economic growth is not given much attention by the federal government, state and municipal governments, local governments, educational institutions, or provinces. After this study, the government or the appropriate parties will take the necessary action to inform street sellers about the laws and regulations that benefit them. Due to its focus on vending infrastructure and facilities, this study would also be beneficial to street sellers in Sindh, Pakistan. This research will also establish the foundation for further investigation.

FINDINGS

- The majority of responders work in vending, To provide for their fundamental requirements,
- Both male and female sellers encounter issues regularly when selling.
- All of the street vendors are operating without a business license.
- Token fees and bribes are paid daily by all street sellers to the police and municipal government.
- The vast majority of respondents launched their businesses alone, without support from any organizations.
- If the street vendors stop selling their wares, they won't be able to pay their bills and won't have any revenue.

- Street merchants don't save very well.
- Although they work long hours, they make less money.

LIMITATIONS OF RESEARCH

Research on the socio-economic life of informal street hawkers may face several limitations, including:

Sampling bias: It was challenging to obtain a representative sample of informal street hawkers due to the lack of a centralized database or directory of these individuals. Researchers may have to rely on convenience or snowball sampling methods, which can result in a biased sample that does not accurately reflect the population.

Data collection challenges: Informal street hawkers may be reluctant to participate in research, especially if they perceive it as a threat to their livelihood or privacy. Language barriers may also pose a challenge, as many informal street hawkers may speak a language different from that of the researcher.

Generalizability: Findings from research on informal street hawkers in one location or context may not be generalizable to other locations or contexts. Factors such as the political, social, and economic climate can significantly impact the experiences of informal street hawkers.

Access to informal street hawkers: Informal street hawkers may operate in areas that are difficult to access or unsafe for researchers, especially if they operate in informal settlements or areas with high crime rates.

Bias in interpretation: Researchers may bring their own biases and assumptions to the interpretation of the data, which can influence the findings and limit the validity of the study.

Ethical considerations: Research involving vulnerable populations such as informal street hawkers

FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR THE RESEARCH

- In future sample size should be expanded at country level rather than the focused city.
- Future studies should utilize different collection techniques.
- For future scholars other most important factors will be examined like Domestic Worker, Home-Based Workers (including Garment Workers) and Waste Pickers.

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