

# Street Vendors – A Case Study of Malda Town in West Bengal

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## ABSTRACT

Street vendors are identified as self-employed workers in informal sector are coming from the marginalized section of the society. The paper tries to highlight the working life of street vendors in Malda Town. The study has been conducted to analyze the socio-economic conditions of street vendors in Malda Town of Malda District in the state of West Bengal. The working life of street vendors is explained in terms of their financial conditions, their working hours, and the issue of valuable services, legal status and contribution to the urban economy. The study is based on primary data collected from field survey. 120 street vendors have been randomly selected from six important business centre like Rathbari More near Netaji market, Post Office More near Chittaranjan market, Malda Rly Station, Malda District Hospital and Medical College, Mukdampur market and Sukanta more for the study. The study shows that vendors have been able to increase their financial empowerment regarding income, expenditure, savings and access of credits from different financial institutions. Although, vending is one of the sensitive jobs, vendors always be active and alert with opened eye, ear and mouth and they have extremely a long working hours. It has been further found that vendors are more united to establish their rights at workplace. Now they are facing a lot of problems of opposition from Public, Municipal authority and policemen, but their service contribution to the people in urban economy cannot be ignored.

Key Factors – Vendors, Employment, Economic Empowerment, Problems at Work Place.

## Introduction

Street Vendors are identified as self-employed workers in informal sector who offer their labour to sell goods and services on the street without any permanent built-up structure for livelihood. West Bengal is one of the most populated states in India where majority of the people lives in rural areas and working in informal sector. Various studies have already confirmed that street vendors are the most marginalized section of the urban poor, and migration from rural areas are still continuing as it is one of the easiest way of more earnings. Street vendors are playing a vital role in urban economy by providing every necessary item from safety pin to electronic items mainly vegetables and cloths at cheap. If street vendors are provided adequate funds for better designed shelter and separate place of work with social security, then they will be able to improve their life style and exists for a long time in this profession. Due to poverty, unemployment, high illiteracy rate and uneven distribution of wealth both urban and migrated rural poor try to find job in informal sector like hotel, restaurant, rickshaw pulling, railway hawking, construction labour, transport and domestic services. Among these, street vending is an important one. During mango season, street vendors are dominating mango transaction which plays an important role in the economy of Malda. Sometimes, they are selling goods in door to door – they are also called hawkers or pheriowala. Although there are some opposition from public regarding traffic jam, access to public place, dirty of footpath, bargaining for price etc., but the important role of street vendors can not be ignored in the economic activities of the town. Almost every section of the society buys goods from street vendors. In view of theses discussions, the objectives of the present study can be discussed as follows:

1. To understand the working life of the street vendors in respect of level of income, working hours and reasons behind the selection of this job;
2. To understand the socio-demographic status and previous occupations of the street vendors;
3. To analyze the socio-economic conditions of the street vendors;
4. To examine the living conditions and amenities availed by them;
5. To explore the issues regarding their working conditions and their rights at workplace; and
6. To understand the role of collective bargaining in formulating and realizing their demands at the workplace.

## Background of the study

Malda Town popularly known as 'Mango City', the headquarter of Malda district, situated on the bank of the river Mahananda and the mid-point of West Bengal. Malda has a historical background. It was the ancient capital of Bengal. It has two municipalities; English Bazar Municipality (EBM) and Old Malda Municipality. Besides, a large area including Sahapur, Milky, Kotwali, Mukdampur, Mangalbari and Narayanpur added to this town. Urbanization rapidly developing due to its location and infrastructure facilities. A number of schools, colleges, nursing homes, hospital, medical college, engineering and polytechnic college, Zilla parishad, court, collectorate office and a university (Gour Banga), recruitment office like railway recruitment board, school service commission (NR), BSF training centre and of course Malda Railway Division including Malda Town Station are included in Malda Town. It is the junction point connected with Northbengal to Southbengal, Bihar and Jharkhand by several roads and rail routes. Malda district had a population of 3988845 out of which 2051541 were male and 1937304 were female with a growth of population at 21.22% as per census 2011 as compared to the population of 3290468 out of which 1689406 were male and 1601062 were female with a growth of population at 24.78% as per census 2001. Rural population was 86.42% and urban population was 13.58% as per census 2011. The literacy rate in Malda district was 61.73% out of which male literacy rate was 66.24% and female literacy rate was 56.96% as per census 2011 as compared to the literacy rate in Malda district was 50.28% out of which male literacy rate was 58.80% and female literacy rate was 41.25% as per census 2001. The population of Malda district consists of Hindu 47.99% Muslim 51.27% and Others 0.74% as per census 2011. The density of population was 1069 in 2011 as compared to 881 in 2001. The sex ratio was 944 in 2011 as compared to 948 in 2001. The population of Malda town (English Bazar Municipality) was 205521 out of which 106824 were male and 98697 were female in 2011. Whereas, the population of Malda town (English Bazar Municipality Urban Agglomeration) was 313681 out of which 166756 were male and 146925 were female as per census 2011.

## Methodology

The study is based on primary data. To achieve the objectives of the study, primary data has been collected through the well tested structured questionnaire and personal interviewed from 120 street vendors in the chosen areas in Malda Town during October 2012 to March 2013. On the basis of volume of people movement and economic importance, six important areas are selected for the study. Malda Town Railway Station (always busy for railway passengers), Rathbari More (Crossing point, Netaji market and Malda college situated), Post Office More (Chittaranjan Market, D.M. office and court), Malda District hospital & Medical College, Mukdampur (Nursing home & diagnostic centre) and Sukanta More (Crossing point of Rly. Stn. road & approach road towards Raiganj and Balurghat). In each area by using random technique 20 street vendors are selected. Thus, 120 street vendors have been selected for the study. After collecting data, it has been tabulated and analyzed using descriptive statistics to find out the findings of the present study.

## Results and Findings

Most of the street vendors are belonging to Muslims; 56.7% as shown in Table-1. Malda had a Muslim population of 51.27% as per census 2011 and 49.7% as per census 2001. It has been found that about 46.7% of the street vendors are fallen in the age group between 30 to 45 yrs and about 28.3% in between 15 to 30 years. Only 5% are in above 60 yrs and 20% in between 45 to 60 yrs. Since this occupation requires more physical energy and labour, therefore percentage of aged street vendors is very low.

About 65% of the street vendors are belonging to SC, ST and OBC category; only 35% belonging to general category, 76.7% are male and 23.3% are female. It is also found that 36.7% of the street vendors are migrated from rural areas or and from neighboring districts and states.

**Table: 1.**

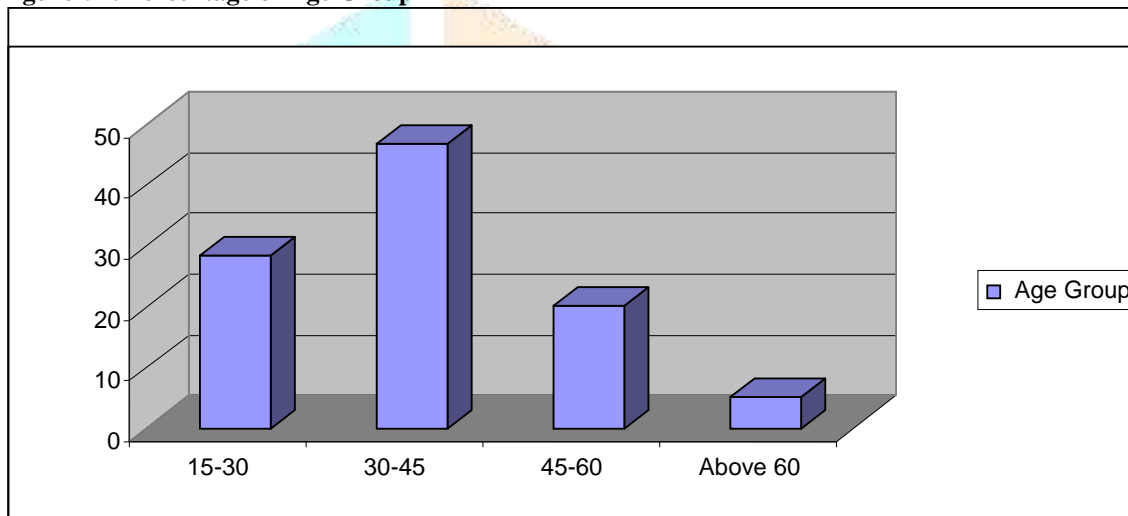
**Socio-demographic profile of the Respondents (N=120)**

Indicators		Frequency	Percentage
Religion	Hindu	44	36.7
	Muslim	68	56.7
	Christen	8	6.6
Sex	Male	92	76.7
	Female	28	23.3
Age Distribution (in years)	15-30	34	28.3
	30-45	56	46.7
	45-60	24	20
	Above 60	6	5

Marital Status	Married	94	78.4
	Unmarried	19	15.8
	Widowed	7	5.8
Category (Caste)	General	42	35
	SC	28	23.3
	ST	12	10
	OBC	38	31.7
Education Level	Illiterate	36	30
	Can sign only	19	15.8
	Up to primary	35	29.2
	Up to class VIII	21	17.5
	MP pass	7	5.8
	HS pass	2	1.7
	Graduate	0	0
Migration	Migrated	44	36.7
	Not Migrated	76	63.3

Source: Based on Primary Survey

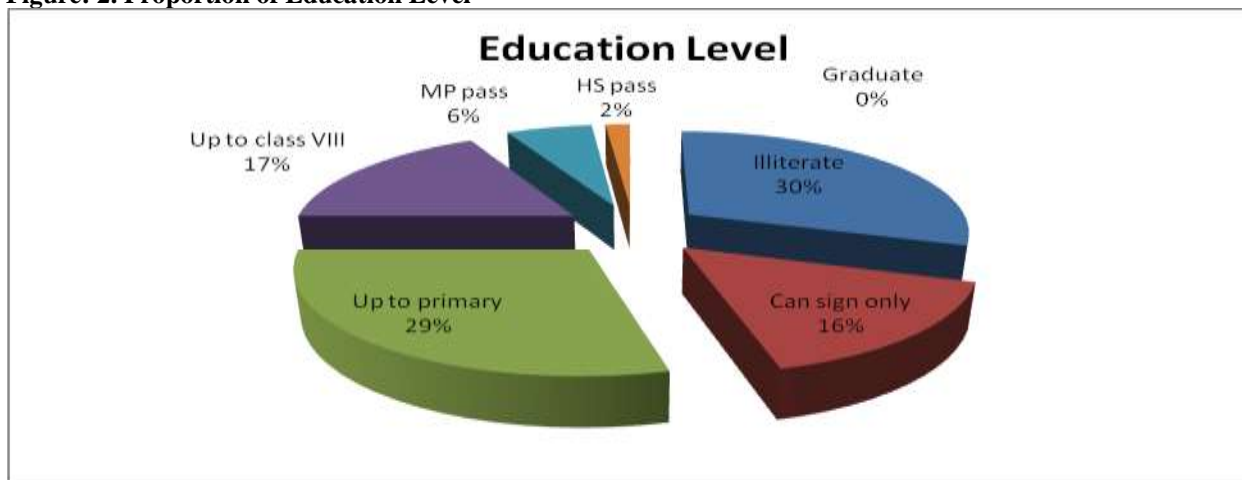
Figure-: 1. Percentage of Age Group



Source: Based on Primary Survey.

Education is an important indicator to determine the status of the people in the society. The education level among the street vendors is alarming. About 30% is illiterate 15.8% can sign only. Only 5.8% of the street vendors have completed MP, 29.2% up to primary and 17.5% up to class VIII as shown in Fig: 2.

Figure: 2. Proportion of Education Level



Source: Based on Primary Survey.

Most of the street vendors are belonging to nuclear family (63% cases) and the size of the family is medium (43.3% cases) as shown in Table- 2. About 30% of the street vendors have a large family size. The number of family members is very high among the street vendors about 43% cases 3 to 4 children and about 30% cases more than 4 children due to lack of education and consciousness.

**Table: 2.**  
**Type of Family and Family Size of the Respondents (N=120)**

Type of Family	frequency	Percentage
Joint	38	31.7
Nuclear	82	68.3
Family Size		
Small (up to 2 children)	32	26.7
Medium (up to 4 children )	52	43.3
Large(more than 4 children)	36	30

Source: Based on Primary Survey.

To know the socio-economic conditions of the street vendors it is important to analyze the previous occupation of the street vendors. 35% of them have a previous occupation of agricultural labours and 20% of the street vendors have others occupation as shown in Table- 3. It indicates that most of the migrants are shifted from agricultural laborers to urban street vendors.

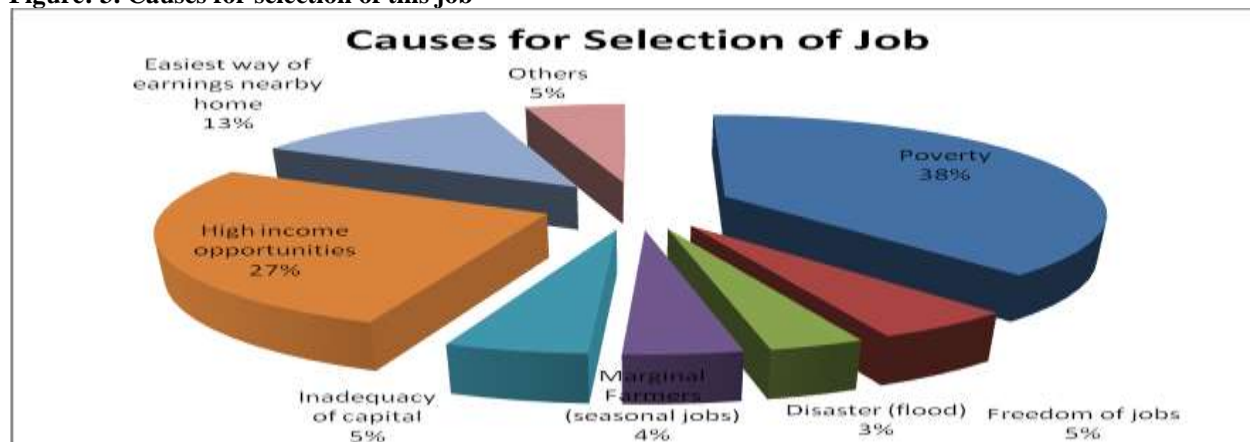
**Table: 3**  
**Previous Occupation (if any) of the Respondents (N=120)**

Occupations	Frequency	Percentage
Agricultural labours	42	35
Farmers	8	6.7
Fishermen	10	8.3
Coolie	3	2.5
Rickshaw Pullers	7	5.8
Night guard	6	5
Construction labours	12	10
Helpers in Hotel, Restaurant	8	6.7
Others	24	20

Source: Based on Primary Survey.

There are two factors for which they have chosen this job; one is push factor i.e. poverty and another one is pull factor i.e. high income opportunities. Due to poverty 38% of the street vendors have chosen this job and for high income opportunities about 27% of the street vendors have chosen this job as shown in Fig: 4. This profession is also an easiest way of earnings near by home in 13% cases. Therefore, they have nothing alternatives, but to accept it.

**Figure: 3. Causes for selection of this job**



Source: Based on Primary Survey

There has been a variety of jobs among the respondents. About 26.67% of the respondents engaged in selling garments, followed by handmade street foods and vegetables seller 10% in each case and toys seller and egg/fish/meat seller and utensils seller 8.33% in each case as shown in Table-4.

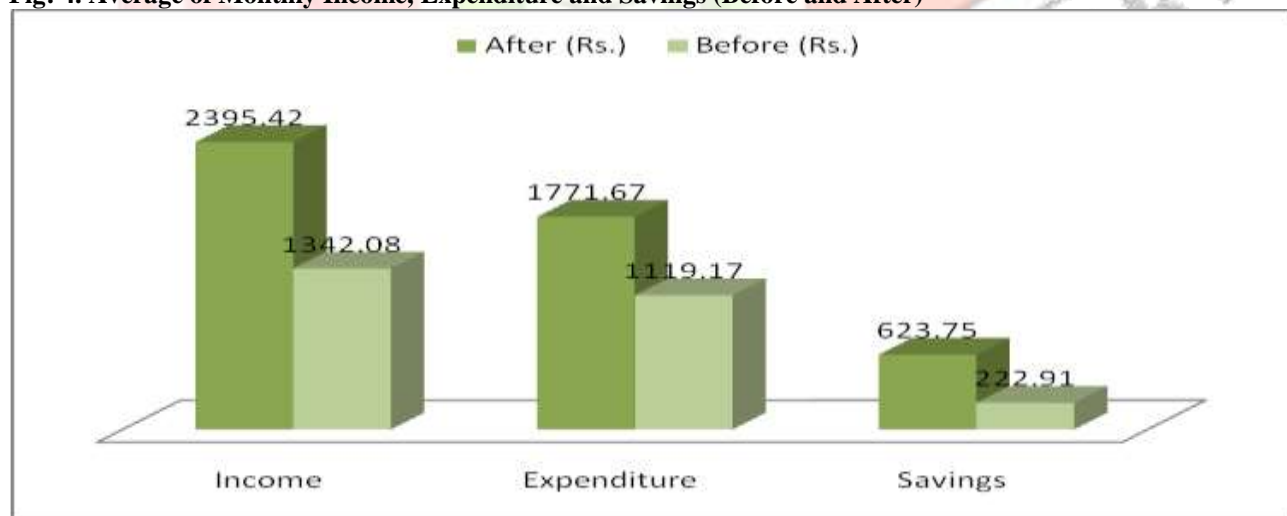
**Table :4.**  
**Present Occupation of the Respondents (N=120)**

Occupations	Frequency	Percentage
Handmade street foods	12	10
Garments	32	26.67
Toys	10	8.33
Vegetables sellers	12	10
Egg/Fish/Meat sellers	10	8.33
Fruits sellers	8	6.67
Flowers seller	4	3.33
Shoes sellers	6	5
Electronic items	8	6.67
Utensils sellers	10	8.33
others	8	6.67

Source: Based on Primary Survey

The status of the street vendors in the society can be assessed only after the assessment of income, expenditure and savings of the street vendors. The average monthly incomes of the vendors before and after joining of this job are Rs.1342.08 and Rs. 2395.42 respectively as shown in Fig:4. The average monthly expenditure of the vendors before and after joining of this job are Rs.1119.17 and Rs. 1771.67 respectively. The average monthly savings of the vendors before and after joining of this job are Rs.222.91 and Rs.623.75 respectively. Although, there has been an increase of average monthly income, expenditure and savings, the amount of savings is very low. Therefore, it can be argued that poverty still exists among the street vendors.

**Fig: 4. Average of Monthly Income, Expenditure and Savings (Before and After)**



Source: Based on Primary Survey

### Impact on Income of the Vendors

Income is an important indicator for economic empowerment of rural poor. Vending helps to involve in economic activities resulting raising of level of income. In Table –5 presents data in this connection. Here we have worked out the level of income of the Vendors of the study area before and after joining this job.

**Z- test for the Difference in Income of Vendors (Before and After):**

Here we have attempted to examine whether the observed difference in income is statistically significant or not. For this purpose Z-test is used. In Table –5 presents these details:

**Tabl: 5.**

<b>Z- test on Average Monthly Income Differences of Vendors (Before and After)</b>	
<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Value</b>
$\bar{X}_1$	2395.42
$\bar{X}_2$	1342.08
$nx_1$	120
$nx_2$	120
S.D $x_1$	1795.33
S.D $x_2$	911.17
<b>Calculated value of 'Z'</b>	<b>3.43</b>
<b>Table value of 'Z' at 1% level of significance</b>	<b>±2.33</b>
<b>Null Hypothesis</b>	<b>Rejected</b>

Where  $\bar{X}_1$  = Average Income of Vendors after joining this job.

$\bar{X}_2$  = Average Income of Vendors before joining this job.

S. D $x_1$  = Standard Deviation of Income after joining this job.

S.D $x_2$  = Standard Deviation of Income before joining this job.

$nx_1$  = Number of Vendors after joining this job.

$nx_2$  = Number of Vendors before joining this job.

**Null Hypothesis; H<sub>0</sub>:**  $\bar{X}_1 = \bar{X}_2$  i.e. there is no significance difference in the average income before and after joining this job.

**Alternative Hypothesis; H<sub>1</sub>:**  $\bar{X}_1 > \bar{X}_2$  i.e. average income of the Vendors is more after their participation in this job. (Right tailed test).

$$Z = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S.Dx_1^2}{nx_1} + \frac{S.Dx_2^2}{nx_2}}}$$

Table-5 reveals that the calculated 'Z' value is greater than the table value at 1% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. It implies that observed difference in income is statistically significant. Thus there is difference in average income earned by the Vendors has increased after joining this job.

**Impact on Expenditure of the Vendors**

Expenditure is also an important indicator for economic empowerment of rural poor. Vending helps the poor to involve in economic activities resulting raising of level of income as well as expenditure of its members. Keynes argued that when income of a consumer increases its consumption also increases. In table –6 presents data in this connection. Here we have worked out the level of expenditure of the Vendors of the study area before and after joining SHG.

Observation reveals that the average expenditure of the Vendors has been increased after joining this job. We have seen that the average monthly expenditure which was Rs. 1119.17 before their joining to this job has been increased to Rs. 1771.67. The increase in average monthly expenditure is Rs.652.50.

**Z- test for the Difference of Expenditure of Vendors (Before and After):**

Here we have attempted to examine whether the observed difference in expenditure is statistically significant or not. For this purpose Z-test is used. In table – 6 presents these details:

**Table: 6.**

Z- test on Average Monthly Expenditure Difference of Vendors (Before and After)	
Characteristics	Value
$\bar{Y}_1$	1771.67
$\bar{Y}_2$	1119.17
$ny_1$	120
$ny_2$	120
S.Dy <sub>1</sub>	709.15
S.Dy <sub>2</sub>	463.13
Calculated value of 'Z'	8.44
Table value of 'Z' at 1% level of significance	±2.33
Null Hypothesis	Rejected

Where  $\bar{Y}_1$  = Average Expenditure of Vendors after joining this job.

$\bar{Y}_2$  = Average Expenditure of Vendors before joining this job.

S.Dy<sub>1</sub> = Standard Deviation of Expenditure after joining this job.

S.Dy<sub>2</sub> = Standard Deviation of Expenditure before joining this job.

$ny_1$  = Number of Vendors after joining this job.

$ny_2$  = Number of Vendors before joining this job.

**Null Hypothesis; H<sub>0</sub>:**  $X^{-}_1 = X^{-}_2$  i.e. there is no significance difference in the average expenditure before and after joining this job.

**Alternative Hypothesis; H<sub>1</sub>:**  $X^{-}_1 > X^{-}_2$  i.e. average expenditure of the Vendors is more after joining this job. (Right tailed test).

$$Z = \frac{\bar{Y}_1 - \bar{Y}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S.Dy_1^2}{ny_1} + \frac{S.Dy_2^2}{ny_2}}}$$

Table-6 reveals that the calculated 'Z' value is greater than the table value at 1% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. It implies that observed difference in expenditure is statistically significant. Thus there is difference in average expenditure incurred by the Vendors has been increased after joining this job.

**Impact on Savings of the Vendors**

Savings is also an important indicator for economic empowerment of rural poor . Vending helps the poor to involve in economic activities resulting raising of level of income, expenditure as well as savings of its members. Savings can fulfill the future needs of the people and asset creation also be possible by it. In Table–7 presents data in this connection. Here we have worked out the level of savings of the Vendors of the study area before and after joining this job.

Observation reveals that the average savings of the Vendors has been increased after joining this job. We have seen that the average monthly savings which was Rs. 222.91 before their joining to this job has been increased to Rs. 623.75. The increase in average monthly savings is Rs.400.84.

**Z- test for the Difference in Savings of Vendors. (Before and After):**

Here we have attempt to examine whether the observed difference in savings is statistically significant or not. For this purpose Z-test is used. In Table –7 presents these details:

**Table: 7.**

Z- test on Average Monthly Savings Difference of Vendors (Before and After)	
Characteristics	Value
$\bar{X}_1$	623.75
$\bar{X}_2$	222.91
$nx_1$	120
$nx_2$	120
S.Dx <sub>1</sub>	485.27
S.Dx <sub>2</sub>	167.46
Calculated value of 'Z'	4.78
Table value of 'Z' at 1% level of significance	±2.33
Null Hypothesis	Rejected

Where  $\bar{X}_1$  = Average Savings of Vendors after joining this job.

$\bar{X}_2$  = Average Savings of Vendors before joining this job.

S. Dx<sub>1</sub> = Standard Deviation of Savings after joining this job.

S.Dx<sub>2</sub> = Standard Deviation of Savings before joining this job.

$nx_1$  = Number of Vendors after joining this job.

$nx_2$  = Number of Vendors before joining this job.

**Null Hypothesis; H<sub>0</sub>:**  $\bar{X}_1 = \bar{X}_2$  i.e. there is no significance difference in the average savings before and after joining this job.

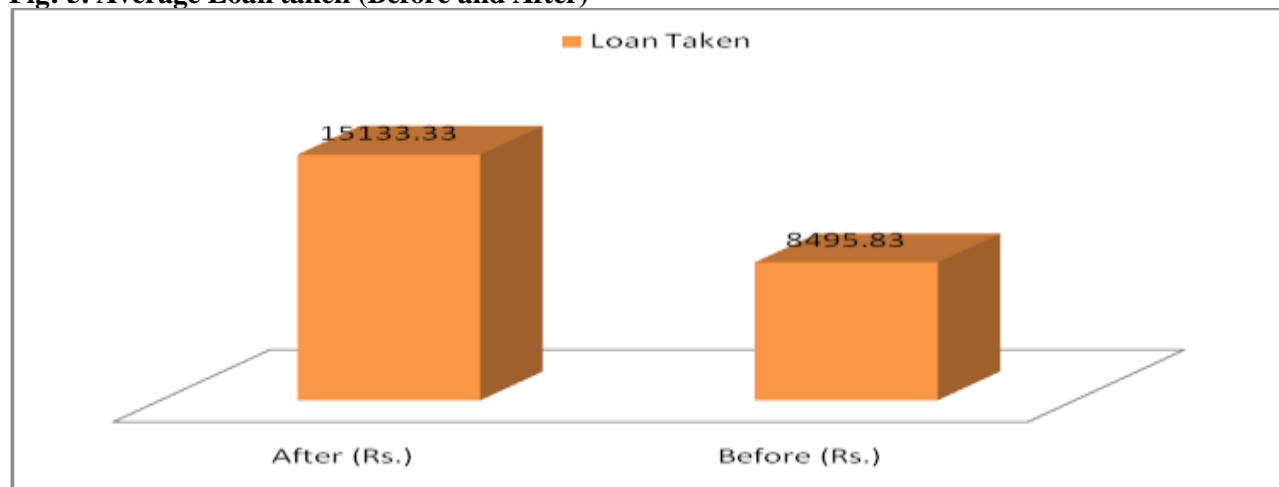
**Alternative Hypothesis; H<sub>1</sub>:**  $\bar{X}_1 > \bar{X}_2$  i.e. average savings of the Vendors is more after their participation in this job. (Right tailed test).

$$Z = \frac{\bar{X}_1 - \bar{X}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S.Dx_1^2}{nx_1} + \frac{S.Dx_2^2}{nx_2}}}$$

Table-7 reveals that the calculated 'Z' value is greater than the table value at 1% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. It implies that observed difference in savings is statistically significant. Thus there is difference in average savings made by the Vendors has been increased after joining this job.

**Impact of Loan of the Vendors**

Access to loan is an important indicator for the formation of capital assets and income generating activities. Average loan taken by the vendors before and after joining this job are Rs. 8495.83 and Rs., 15133.33 respectively as shown in Fig. 5 .

**Fig: 5. Average Loan taken (Before and After)**

Source: Based on Primary Survey



**Z- test for the Difference in Loan taken (Before and After):**

Here we have attempt to examine whether the observed difference in Loan taken is statistically significant or not. For this purpose Z-test is used. In Table -8 presents these details:

**Table: 8.**

Z- test on Average Loan taken Difference of Vendors (Before and After)	
Characteristics	Value
$\bar{Y}_1$	15133.33
$\bar{Y}_2$	8495.83
$ny_1$	120
$ny_2$	120
S.Dy <sub>1</sub>	7320.61
S.Dy <sub>2</sub>	4394.65
Calculated value of 'Z'	8.13
Table value of 'Z' at 1% level of significance	±2.33
Null Hypothesis	Rejected

Where  $\bar{Y}_1$  = Average Loan taken of Vendors after joining this job.

$\bar{Y}_2$  = Average Loan taken of Vendors before joining this job.

S.Dy<sub>1</sub> = Standard Deviation of Loan taken after joining this job.

S.Dy<sub>2</sub> = Standard Deviation of Loan taken before joining this job

$ny_1$  = Number of Vendors after joining this job.

$ny_2$  = Number of Vendors before joining this job.

**Null Hypothesis; H<sub>0</sub>:**  $X_1 = X_2$  i.e. there is no significance difference in the average Loan taken before and after joining this job.

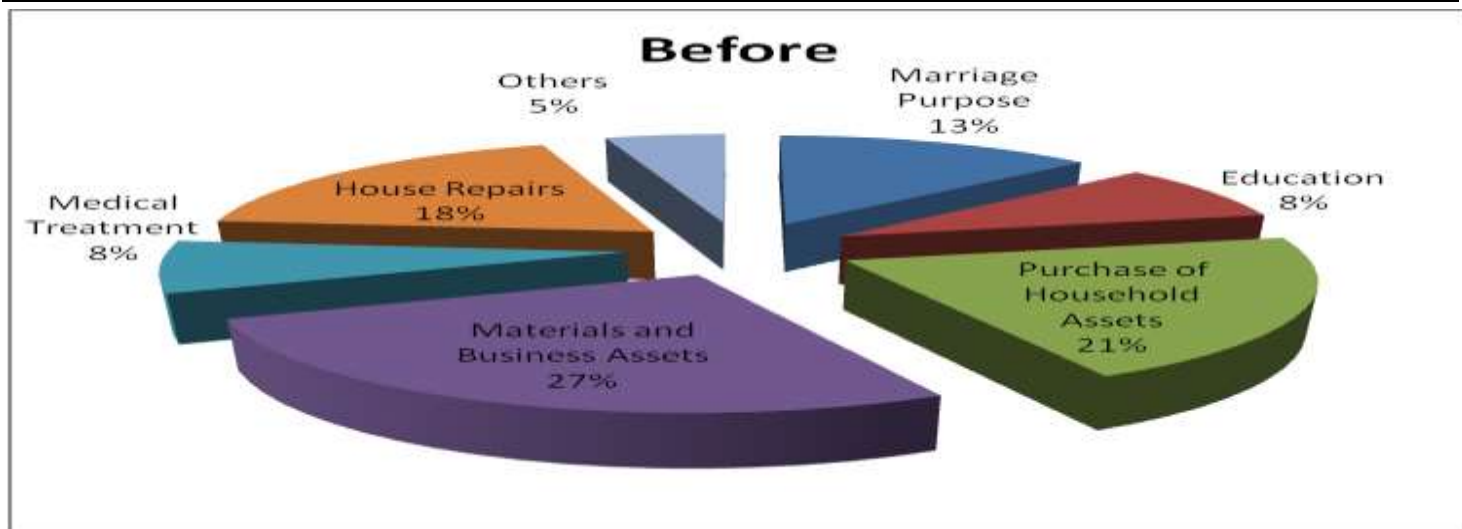
**Alternative Hypothesis; H<sub>1</sub>:**  $X_1 > X_2$  i.e. average Loan taken of the Vendors is more after their participation in this job. (Right tailed test).

$$Z = \frac{\bar{Y}_1 - \bar{Y}_2}{\sqrt{\frac{S.Dy_1^2}{ny_1} + \frac{S.Dy_2^2}{ny_2}}}$$

Table-8 reveals that the calculated 'Z' value is greater than the table value at 1% level of significance. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected. It implies that observed difference in Loan taken is statistically significant. Thus there is difference in average Loan taken made by the Vendors has been increased after joining this job.

Before joining this job, Vendors availed loan for purchase of materials and business assets 27% cases followed by purchase of household assets 21% cases and for house repairs 18% cases. Besides, for marriage purpose they availed loan 13% cases and for education and medical purposes 8% in each case as shown in Fig:6 .

**Fig:6. Purpose of Loan taken (Before)**



Source: Based on Primary Survey

After joining this job, Vendors availed loan for purchase of materials and business assets in 47% cases followed by purchase of household assets 12% cases and for medical purposes in 10% cases. Besides, for marriage purpose, house repairs and other purpose they availed loan 8% in each case and for education 7% cases as shown in Fig:7 .

Fig:7. Purpose of Loan taken (After)



Source: Based on Primary Survey

Most of the street vendors have working hours of (5 to 8) hrs. in 54.2% cases as shown in Table-9. As this occupation requires more physical energy and labour, a few percentage of street vendors are working 8 hrs. to 12 hrs. or more to earn more money and even if at mid-night too.

**Table: 9.**  
**Working Hours per Day of the Respondents (N=120)**

Working Hours	Frequency	Percentage
2-5	37	30.8
5-8	65	54.2
8-12	14	11.7
Above 12	4	3.3

Source: Based on Primary Survey.

To analyze the working life of the street vendors; it is necessary to know the legal status and rights of the street vendors in the society. Rights must be achieved to fulfill any demand. 65% as shown in Table-10 of the street vendors are residing in EBM (English Bazar Municipality), i.e. 35% of the street vendors are coming from neighboring Panchayet or rural areas. As far as registration with a trade union is concerned 93.3% of the street vendors are registered with a trade union. Therefore, it is easy to say that unauthorized urban and rural street vendors are registered themselves with a trade union in view of selling of goods in English Bazar Municipal area. Only 26.7% of the street vendors sell goods at fixed price showing price chart, i.e. street vendors demand higher price from buyers regularly. Demands for permanent place in 76.7% cases, i.e. 23.3% of street vendors are unwilling to change the present place of work. There has been a lack of interest among the street vendors for bargaining to achieve common goals like license, social security, accidental benefit and medical benefit etc.

**Table: 10.**  
**Legal Status, Demands and Bargaining Powers of the Respondents (N=120)**

Parameters	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Residing in EBM	78	65	42	35
Registered with a Trade Union	112	93.3	8	6.7
Goods sold at fixed price and chart	32	26.7	88	73.3
Demand for permanent place	92	76.7	28	23.3
Demand for Licence from EBM	66	55	54	45
Demand for Social Security	56	46.7	64	53.3
Demand for Accidental Benefit	32	26.7	88	73.3
Demand for Medical Benefit	48	40	72	60

Source: Based on Primary Survey.

There are several problems faced by the street vendors at work place. Problems like blaming for occupied public place, police threatening for entering highway, bribes to policemen, challenges from Shopping mall and bribes to local boss or leader etc. Blaming for public place occupied in 76.7% or more cases as shown in Table-11 and bribes to policemen in 80.8% cases. Now street vendors are facing a challenge from Shopping malls 73.3% cases as they are capturing their market share. Street vendors are working in unorganized sector, no permanent place of work, working in a large area and their counterpart is unknown to them for these reasons they are facing these types of problems.

**Table: 11.**  
**Type of Problems at Work Place faced by the Respondents (N=120)**

Problems	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Blaming for occupied public place	92	76.7	28	23.3
Bribes to local boss	65	54.2	55	45.8
Threatening from Police entering Highway	84	70	36	30
Bribes to policemen	97	80.8	23	19.2
Harassments from other Trade Union	26	21.7	94	78.3
Challenges from shopping mall	88	73.3	32	26.7
Blaming for dirty place	83	69.2	37	30.8

Source: Based on Primary Survey.

There are several health problems faced by the street vendors. About 31.7% of the street vendors have at least one disease as shown in Table-12. Major diseases faced by the street vendors are back pain in 11.7% cases, mussel's pain and asthma both in 7.5% cases, diabetes in 15% cases, and digestive problem in 20% cases and others in 13.3% cases. Long working hrs, irregular food, working in open sky, tobacco smoking, bad condition of road and emission of smoke from vehicles are some of the reasons behind their health problems. As they are struggling for survive, they have no time to take rest and take medicine at the right time.

**Table: 12.**  
**Type of Health Problems faced by the Respondents (N=120)**

Diseases	Yes		No	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
At least one Disease	38	31.7	82	68.3
Back Pain	14	11.7	106	88.3
Mussel's Pain	9	7.5	111	92.5
Blood pressure	7	5.8	113	94.2
Diabetes	18	15	102	85
Digestive problem	24	20	96	80
Eyesight problem	6	5	114	95
Asthma	9	7.5	111	92.5
Others	16	13.3	104	86.7

Source: Based on Primary Survey.

### Conclusion

The study reveals that street vendors have come from the marginalized section of the society. Both urban and rural poor have chosen this job as it is an easy way of earnings. A large number of street vendors have migrated from rural areas for livelihood. At present there are several super markets, shopping mal etc., but the role of street vendors especially for sale of goods at lower price and fresh even if door to door sales. It has a significant effect on our national economy and it is a way of transferring money from the middle class to the poorest class. Although they are facing a lot of problems from different corner like hawking zone from EBM, opposition from public for footpath occupied, competition from shopping mal and super market, dirty place, permanent place etc. But it is the only occupation where varieties of works have been noticed – in summer mango dominates, in winter vegetables dominate and during puja festivals fast-food items dominate. As this occupation requires more physical energy and power therefore, it does not make their life economically sufficient in long run. Hence, financial stability of the street vendors has not been achieved so far. EBM, Govt. and NGOs should take steps to improve this sector and make attention to those people who are involved in this sector by providing licence, coverage of Insurance and PF, healthcare, microfinance, vending shed, accidental benefit, old age pension etc. Awareness programme like control of tobacco use, lottery ticket purchase, gambling, savings in chit fund, family planning etc. may help them to develop their life in the society.

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