



**Study of socioeconomic factors among street vendors of Shahabazar, Aurangabad, Maharashtra - A cross sectional study**

<sup>1</sup>Dr. Shailesh Kharatmol, Junior Resident, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Aurangabad

<sup>2</sup>Dr. Vinod Mundada, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Aurangabad

<sup>3</sup>Dr. Shailesh Palve, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Aurangabad

<sup>4</sup>Dr. M. K. Doibale, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Aurangabad

**Corresponding Author:** Dr. M. K. Doibale, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, GMC, Aurangabad.

**How to citation this article:** Dr. Shailesh Kharatmol, Dr. Vinod Mundada, Dr. Shailesh Palve, Dr. M. K. Doibale, “Study of socioeconomic factors among street vendors of Shahabazar, Aurangabad, Maharashtra - A cross sectional study”, IJMACR- November – December - 2022, Vol – 5, Issue - 6, P. No. 332 – 338.

**Copyright:** © 2022, Dr. M. K. Doibale, et al. This is an open access journal and article distributed under the terms of the creative commons attribution noncommercial License 4.0. Which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

**Type of Publication:** Original Research Article

**Conflicts of Interest:** Nil

**Abstract**

**Background:** Urban centers are not able to provide employment to all workforces in formal jobs. In India, nearly 2-2.5% of the total urban population is involved in street vending. Maharashtra and Delhi are having the largest numbers of street vendors as compared to other states in India. Even though they are the essential factors of the society, they are facing socio-economic instability, infrastructure inadequacies, social security, working instability, lack of awareness about health conditions, lack of awareness about legal rights, overcrowding. The aim of the study is to assess socioeconomic condition of Street vendors.

**Objectives:** 1. To understand socio-demographic condition of street vendors 2. To study factors that leads the persons for street vending

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study design was used. Study utilized a questionnaire which was created and pretested on the street vendors and was administered to participants at the work site.

**Results and Conclusion:** Study concluded that alcohol consumption, monthly and daily income and type of family are significantly associated with socioeconomic class of street vendors. Street vendors deal with major socioeconomic problems daily and struggling for livelihood so there is need to implement new schemes for street vendors.

**Keywords:** socioeconomic factors, street vendors, livelihood

**Introduction**

The population growth leads to a rapid increase in migration from rural areas to urban. Urban centers are not able to provide employment to all workforces in

formal jobs and majority of labors are engaged in informal sectors. The people with low skills and less educational qualification normally got expelled from the organized sectors<sup>[1]</sup>. The informal sector as defined as economic activities, that is, production and distribution of goods and services by the operating units of the households, which essentially differ from the formal sector in terms of technology, economies of scale, use of labour intensive processes, and virtual absence of well-maintained accounts<sup>[2]</sup>. According to the Annual Employment Unemployment Survey 2013-14, more than 90% of the workforce is engaged in the informal sector for their livelihoods. Globally, approximately two billion workers are informally employed and not covered by statutory social and employment benefits.<sup>[3]</sup> Street vending constitutes 14% of total urban informal employment in India. In India, the number of street vendors increased after the economic liberalization policy was initiated in 1991. The industrial cities, such as Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Kolkata saw a decline in the formal sector as large factories closed down.<sup>[4]</sup> A street vendor is a broad term used to represent the entire workforce who works on the streets. They sell a diverse variety of goods ranging from non-perishable to perishable goods. Maharashtra and Delhi are having the largest numbers of street vendors as compared to other states in India. Like other occupations, both men and women are engaged in street vending<sup>[5]</sup>

The hazardous working conditions and sub-standard and unregulated employment result in major problems due to lower socioeconomic class that leads to considerable burden of ill-health and injuries representing substantial costs for individuals, community and health systems<sup>[6]</sup>. Inadequate resources such as no electricity and contaminated water may hamper the implementation of

safe food practices; hence, exposing food to spoilage and contamination that leads to economic loss of vendors<sup>[7]</sup>. Even though they are the essential factors of the society, they are facing socio-economic instability, infrastructure inadequacies, social security, working instability, lack of awareness about health conditions, lack of awareness about legal rights, overcrowding. The aim of the study is to assess socioeconomic condition of Street vendors in Shahabazar area in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

### Objectives

1. To understand socio-demographic condition of street vendors.
2. To study factors that leads the persons for street vending

### Material and Methods

**Study design:** A cross-sectional study design was used.

**Study duration:** The study was done from 20th June 2021 to 18th August 2021

**Study settings:** Shah bazar area which is the field practice area of urban health training center of a government medical college Aurangabad. The study utilized a questionnaire which was created and pretested on the street vendors and used for the study and the questionnaire was administered to participants at the work site.

### Methods

A cross-sectional study was carried out in street vendors using a pretested questionnaire by taking face to face interviews.<sup>[8]</sup> Following case definition for Street vendor is used given by the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors as “A person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanently built structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (or head-load)”.

### Sample size

All the street vendors who were selling various items in Shahabazar area in the study period, were included in the study.

### Statistical analysis

Data was entered in the master chart by using MS excel. Data was analyzed using SPSS trial version 26 chi-square test was used for qualitative data.

### Results

Among 250 participants maximum participants were in age group of 43 to 47 years i.e., 21%, 76% of the street vendors are male, maximum street vendors were educated up to primary and middle school with joint family, 48% of street vendors were Hindu by religion, 92% street vendors were married. Type of family are significantly associated with socioeconomic status of street vendors. (Table no. 1)

Street vendors sell various type of item for survival it includes fruits, vegetables, fruits & vegetables, clothes, cosmetics & electronics, and food etc. Among all these items about 36 % of street vendors used to sell fruits (Fig no.1). 65% of the participants were having monthly income to be 6000 to 9000 RS and 5% were having monthly income to be 3000 to 6000 RS. 85% Street vendors involved in the study were from lower middle socioeconomic class (IV) and 11 % were middle class (III) according to B G Prasad scale. Most of the street vendors were migrated from rural area for the employment, among the studied vendors 101 (40%) vendors were doing street vending since 6 to 10 years, 38% since 11 to 15 years, 97% working full time, 72% participants were working 8-10 hours daily and getting 100 to 600 Rs daily with 86% having profit of only 151 to 200 Rs. Monthly income and daily income are also

significantly associated with socioeconomic status of street vendors.

Almost all street vendors were having loan for various reasons including for business (71%), housing and deposit (14%) and social security (15%) from various sources such as (i) relatives, (ii) friends, (iii) local vendors or traders, (iv) money lenders, (v) wholesalers, and (vi) banks. They borrow the loan primarily for getting a business started or keeping it running or for expanding the business activity. Among studied participants 35% had taken loan from money lenders and 66% vendors return this loan in three installments (Table no.2). Since street vending is considered as an illegal profession, the street vendors do not have access to institutional credit, an interesting finding is that around 83% of the vendors reported that they save the money in cash not in banks, 20 % had savings per month less than 1000 Rs, 57% had savings 1001 to 2000 Rs, 11% had savings in the range of 2001 to 3000 Rs and only 13% participants were having monthly savings greater than 3001 Rs

Among studied vendors 34% was having addiction of smoking and 26% was having addiction of alcohol which is significantly associated with socioeconomic class of street vendors (P value- 0.03) (Fig no.2) Reasons for choosing street vending was studied including less capital to invest, unemployment (18%), no qualification is needed for startup (10%), common reason to enter women in vending was income by spouse was not sufficient for survival of whole family (20%) and 5% reported that it was a family business and other reasons were (2%). Among studied reasons for choosing it as a profession less capital for investment for new business startup was the most common reason (45%)

As street vending is an informal work and does not have security for monthly fixed payment so vendors have to work daily for survival of own and their family. They have to work in all seasons, in all weather conditions facing problems, such as eviction from one place to another reported by 68% of the participants, lack of capital (8%), harassment by police and public (3%), lack of storage for the items that they are selling that leads to wastage due to exposure to various weather conditions (13%), infrastructural problems (9%) as they are not having any permanent space for vending.

### **Conclusion**

The study conducted on street vendors from Shahabazar concluded that alcohol consumption, monthly and daily income and type of family are significantly associated with socioeconomic class of street vendors. Street vendors deal with major socioeconomic problems daily and struggling for livelihood of own and the family so there is need to implement new schemes for street vendors.

### **Discussion**

A similar Study done in Daily Market at Jamshedpur on Socio-Economic View on Street Vendors by Parikshit Chakraborty et al indicates the poor working conditions of the vendors in terms of working hours in a day, in addition to unhealthy and unsafe conditions in the workplace. The majority of the street vendors were earning low amount daily that affect their standard of living life.<sup>[9]</sup>

A similar study by Anu Varghese analysed the socioeconomic conditions and the critical issues of street vendors. Street vendors contribute significantly to the GDP of an economy, they earn their livelihood through their own efforts, financial resources and sweat equity

but still street vendors have poor socio-economic conditions<sup>[10]</sup>.

A study done in Bangladesh in Dhaka City by Shaiara Husain et al stated that Personal savings is the single most important source of financing the vending business. Selling assets and lending from cooperative society are the two other major sources of financing the business representing the absence of formal credit facilities for these poor street vendors. The work hour of the vendors are not fixed and lack of opportunities of alternative formal employment evident from their fulltime working status even in the presence of political instability, natural calamity or financial crisis<sup>[11]</sup>.

Sandeep Baliyan et al found that female street vendors faced more problems rather than the male street vendors. They are living in worst condition as compared to male. In comparison with the other trades, it is easy way of trading for the poor people as well as lower level of income groups living in the metro and non-metros cities<sup>[12]</sup>.

A study done by Joseph Kweku Assan et al in Delhi to understand street vendors livelihoods. Vendors face persistent challenges including forced removals, exploitation and extortion. The study argues that although diverse forms of labour organisation exist it is often reactive and limited to areas with a well-established vending community. It is proposed that more attention should be given to labour in the informal sector and that those in such occupations should be recognized and protected by national and state laws as workers with labour rights<sup>[13]</sup>.

Study on Street vendors in Mumbai done by Debdulal Saha shows that the street vendors borrow from moneylenders not merely for their economic activity but also for social security purposes at an exorbitant rate of

interest, which, in turn, leads them to fall into a debt-trap situation. The current working hours of the vendors and the safety and security conditions in their workplace, together with extensive rent-seeking by local authorities, contribute to a deteriorating working environment as well as economic deprivation for street vendors<sup>[14]</sup>.

In the study by Shyamali Banerjee found that the socio-economic condition of both male and female is very poor but, if a comparison is made between them, condition of women vendors is more vulnerable than male vendors. The income of women vendors is lower than that of male vendors, they have a very less capital to invest in their business. Women vendors choose this trade because of poverty and male members in the family do not have jobs and even if they earn money, they spend those money mostly on liquor. The mobile women street vendors also face security issues<sup>[15]</sup>.

A Study on the Street Vendors of Kathmandu Municipality by Neera Shrestha stated that migrants from rural areas arriving in the city in search of employment. Among women, street vending is the secondary work whereas among the men, it is the primary work. The main expenditure of the vendors is on fulfilling the basic needs of the family. Street vendors do cause some traffic problems such as obstructing roads meant for pedestrians and vehicles; this suggests that a proper management system of street vendors needs to be put into place<sup>[16]</sup>.

A study on socio-Economic and Psychological Condition of Street Vendors of Barishal City, Bangladesh by Md. Sadeq Ur Rahman stated that working environment of the street vendors are not well furnished and even don't have any roof of itself, the place is always unhygienic and unhealthy so health of the street vendors is affected by this. The study has

revealed that majority of these vendors actually chose this profession for requiring less capital. Their lack of education as well as lack of knowledge can be identified as the significant most challenge.<sup>[17]</sup>

### Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Professor and Head, Department of Community medicine, Aurangabad Dr. Doibale for their patient instructions, passionate support and constructive criticisms. I would also like to thank Dr. Mundada and Dr. Palve for the guidance and help me keeping my development on track.

### Legend Tables and Figures

Table 1: Distribution of street vendors according to socio-demographic determinants

Socio-demographic parameters	Group	Total	(%)	P value
Age	18-22	12	5	0.89
	23-27	10	4	
	28-32	51	20	
	33-37	24	10	
	38-42	0	0	
	43-47	53	21	
	48-52	37	15	
	53-57	22	9	
	58-62	20	8	
	63-67	12	5	
	68-72	08	3	
	73-82	01	0	
Gender	Male	189	76	0.18
	Female	61	24	
Religion	Hindu	119	48	0.01
	Islam	99	40	
	Buddhist	26	10	
	Sikh	4	2	
	Others	2	1	

Type of family	Three generation	16	06	0.001
	Nuclear	102	41	
	Joint	132	53	
Marital status	Married	230	92	0.96
	Unmarried	7	03	
	Widowed	13	05	
Education	Primary	72	29	0.34
	Middle	73	29	
	Intermediae	10	04	
	High school	39	16	
	Illeterate	56	22	

Table 2: Street vendors showing parameters related to the loan

		Frequency	(%)
Source of getting loan	Bank	8	3
	Friends	42	17
	Local vendors	9	4
	Money lenders	88	35
	Relatives	36	14
	wholesalers	67	27
Amount of loan	1000 to 5000 Rs	209	84
	5001 to 10000 Rs	29	12
	Greater than 10000 Rs	12	5
Reasons for loan	Business	178	71
	Housing and deposit	35	14
	Social security	37	15

Fig 1: Distribution of study participants according to type of street vending

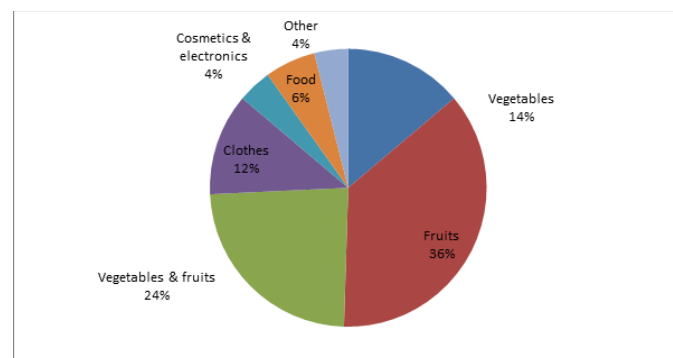
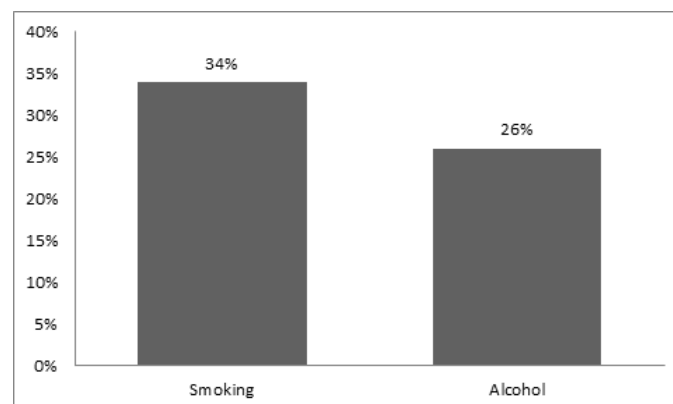


Fig 2: Distribution of street vendors according to addiction



## References

1. Amrutha P, Cholakkal. Socio-Economic and Health Conditions of Street Vendors in Kozhikode. International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews. 2021; 2(10):381–387.
2. Adhikari D. B. Income generation in informal sector: A case study of the street vendors of Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Economic Journal of Development Issues. December 2012;0–14:1-2
3. Ko T. K, Dickson-gomez et al. Informal workplaces and their comparative effects on the health of street vendors and home-based garment workers in Yangon, Myanmar: a qualitative study. BMC Public Health. 2020; 20:1–14.
4. Bhowmik Sharit. Street Vendors in Asia: A Review. Economic and Political Weekly. 2005;2256–2264.



5. Ghatole P, Maher S. A study of common health problems and utilization of healthcare facilities among self-employed street vendors of Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. *International Journal of Community Medicine and Public Health*.2020;7(7):2782-2789
6. Singh S. Occupational Health and Safety of Street Vendors of Delhi and Hyderabad: A case for Universal Health Coverage. January. 2019
7. Nkosi N. V etal. The food safety knowledge of street food vendors and the sanitary conditions of their street food vending environment in the Zululand District, South Africa. *Heliyon*.7July 2021.
8. Rahman M, Mukta F. A et al. Socio-Economic Condition of Vegetable Street Vendors: A Study on Dhaka City. *International Journal of Multidisciplinary Informative Research and Review*. 2021; 1(1): 35-48.
9. Chakraborty Parikshit, Koley Samarpita. Socio-Economic View on Street Vendors: A Study of a Daily Market at Jamshedpur. *Journal of Advanced Research in Humanities and Social Science*.2018; 5(1 ):14-20
10. Varghese Anu. Socio economic condition of street vendors. *International Education & Research Journal*. 2016; 2(11):111-113
11. Husain S, Yasmin S et al. Assessment of the Socioeconomic Aspects of Street Vendors in Dhaka City: Evidence from Bangladesh.2017;11(26), 1–10.
12. Baliyan Sandeep, Srivastava Vikas. Socio-economic condition of street vendors from the gender perspective. *Journal of Economic & Social Development*. 2017;2:66-75
13. Joseph Assan, Thomas Chambers. India's street vendors and the struggle to sustain their livelihoods and informal enterprises: Unionization, political action and sustainable development. *International Journal of Development and Sustainability*.2014; 3(11): 2140-2161
14. Saha D. Working life of street vendors in Mumbai. *The Indian Journal of Labour Economics*. 2011; 54 (2): 301-325
15. Banerjee Shyamali. A study of socio-economic condition of vegetable street vendors in Ranchi. *Jharkhand Journal of Social Development*.2014: VII (1 & 2)
16. Shrestha n. A study on the Street Vendors of Kathmandu Municipality. *Social sciences & humanities*. 2013; 21(2): 725 - 734.
17. Rahman S. Exploring Socio-Economic and Psychological Condition of Street Vendors of Barishal City: Evidence from Bangladesh. *American Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*.2019;1(7):1-15.