

Ensuring Legal and Social Protection for Street Vendors: Overcoming Economic, Regulatory, and Institutional Challenges

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Abstract

Street vendors are a key component of the informal economy, providing essential products while generating jobs in low-income regions. The study's goal is to examine the challenges that street vendors face while also highlighting the wide range of services they offer to the community. The research also tries to analyze the issues that street vendors create to government authorities and the general public. Street vendors use vending systems to distribute their local products, creating jobs not just for themselves but also for the state's low-income people. The study focuses on different markets of Peshawar to interview street vendors. The survey covers 100 street vendors, 20 police officials of 6 different police stations in Peshawar, 4 assistant commissioners, 2 deputy commissioners and 8 traffic police, 10 civil society members and 30 individuals (general public). The area which has more street vendors gets more importance as compared to other markets. As a result, the research focuses on the Board bazaar market, Qissa-Khwani bazar, Bacha-Khan Chowk, and Sadar bazaar. The selection of these markets is due to its flourishing informal economy, numerous street markets, and the important role street vendors play in the city's everyday business. As a major urban center, Peshawar provides a good environment for investigating the issues that vendors face, their economic contributions, and the influence of street hawking on government and public spaces. The primary data were collected through a questionnaire from street vendors in different markets across Peshawar. The results of descriptive analysis show that most of the street vendors are married and educated (i.e. F.sc) and having their own stall or cart to operate their businesses while offering different products. Furthermore, the study showed that 90% of street vendors lived in rented houses. During vending these street vendors face several challenges like harassment, bribes or pressure from different government authorities. The main reason for this unfair treatment is encroachment, cited by 61.9% of vendors. while, 9.5% face mistreatment for refusing illegal taxes, another 9.5% for resisting enforcement, and 19% due to other challenges. Similarly, street vendor also creates many problems for the general public and government authorities. According to the data, 47.6% of respondents say street vendors create challenges, most likely as a result of congestion and interruptions in public places, crowding, traffic congestion, and waste management issues. However, the study highlights that there are no clear rules or regulations or even vendor Act for the rights of street vendor. Based on a survey from different official authorities it confirmed that there is no law for street vendors but they follow the direction from high authorities to deal with them. Therefore, based on our findings and observations, the study proposes a comprehensive administrative structure to regulate vending across Pakistan, including legal recognition, vending zones, licensing, and a vending council.

Keywords: Street vendor, Government authorities, Peshawar, Board bazar market, Qissa-Khwani bazaar, Bacha-Khan Chowk, and Sadar bazaar, informal economy.

Introduction

Street vending is a vital activity for informal/unorganized sectors in low-income and developing countries (Baliyan & Srivastava, 2016). It is the group of people that do not fall under any governments or non-government administration due to no academic knowledge, experiences or enough investment (Dharejo et al.). Street vending is an easily accessible way to poor as well as lower-income individuals to do their businesses in central urban as well as in rural areas. Their income is enough and uncertain. These people are self-run businessmen who sell their products in public places or transport and shout in the streets. They neither enjoy their safety nor security at their workplace while they face harassment consistently from local administration. These self-run businessmen are called Hawkers, Peddlers or Street Vendors (Saha, 2011). In the Pakistani community, these are known by different names: (Rahri wala, pheray wala, theli wala). And sometimes they are known by their products like: (Sabzi wala an Phal wala).

Pakistan is a developing nation which has a greater street economy run by street vendors, across the country in both rural as well as urban areas. It is the informal economy that helps to provide income opportunity and livelihood to poor and unskilled labor to provide social and economic benefits to the economy (Martínez, Short, & Estrada, 2018). The street economy has a strong influence with the supply chain as compared to the formal and informal sector. Street vendor is just the part of complicated supply chain as retail stores which are widely used in urban areas without knowing the economic impact or supply chain in Pakistan (Iqbal, Nawaz & Anwar, 2022). In Pakistan, the street vendor population is estimated to be at one million, generating roughly PKR 900 billion in yearly sales. Millions rely on this industry for a living, with an estimated 4 million people directly or indirectly involved in street vending across the nation. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), over 150,000 street vendors work, generating income for roughly 600,000 individuals (human rights commission of Pakistan, 2023). It is necessary to evaluate the contribution of the Street economy in the whole economic scenario of the state due to the overwhelming presence of individuals and small enterprises. Due to Pakistan's informal nature, there are no clear estimates on the amount of street economy. Global studies indicate that the informal economy has grown strongly, impacting the daily lives of 5 billion people and surpassing \$30 trillion ((Sirkeci, 2020). According to a PIDE report, street vending provides over 20 million job opportunities all over Pakistan. Also, labor force surveys mention that newly graduated students have one-third of a chance of getting jobs in the informal sector and generated over 36-43 billion revenue (Labor Force Survey, 2020-21).

Street vendors are the most efficient factor of the developing economies, but they continue to face challenges due to their lack of formal recognition. They endure raids, public criticism, and harassment from authorities, leading to exploitation and mistreatment. Many are compelled to pay shop owners for space in front of their stores and bribe the police to avoid eviction. However, under elite and local administration pressure, police can still evacuate them, seize their goods or damage products. Government failed to recognize them as businesses resulting in loss in the government economic earnings from fees, licenses, and taxes. Also, there is no legal framework for vendors to obtain proper documentation, yet they are penalized for operating outside the law. Street vendors are often seen as troubles by residents and elites that encourage Assistant Commissioners and police to engage in anti-encroachment campaigns, resulting in increasing harassment. This issue is primarily linked to Pakistan's difficult political environment, which has resulted in informal industries such as street selling without appropriate authorization or management. Despite being unregulated and unregistered, street selling continues to be vital to Pakistan's local economy, providing a living for millions of people.

The main aim of this study is to explore the main challenges faced by street vendors through a comprehensive survey of street vendors in Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. We also study the

economic contribution of street vendors to the economy from different street vending market places like board bazar, Qissa-Khwani bazar, Saddar bazar and Bacha khan chowk. These markets are under different administrative structures. Based on the survey this study would provide legal framework and policies recommendations for street vendors in Peshawar.

Objectives of the study

1. To obtain information about the many services that street vendors provide.
2. To study challenges or struggles faced by street vendors.
3. To evaluate the contribution of hawkers towards the economy and problems of street vendors in Peshawar.

To provide sound policy recommendations to help them solve their issues

Research questions

1. What are the primary problems and challenges that are faced by street vendors during street vending?
2. What kind of services do street vendors provide to the people and how do they contribute to the economy of the country?

Significance of the study

Street vending is a vital component of the economy, providing low-cost commodities and job opportunities for many low-income people. This research is important because it investigates vendors' economic contributions while addressing the legal and social challenges they face. Informal businesses, such as street vending, are critical to urban life, particularly in emerging nations with limited legal opportunities for employment (Bhowmik, 2005). This research focuses on the regulatory gaps and enforcement issues that street vendors deal with in Peshawar. Because of unclear policies, many vendors operate without licenses and permits, resulting in harassment and evictions (Roever & Skinner, 2016). The study underlines the need for organized solutions, such as authorized vending zones and waste management, for managing problems like congestion and cleanliness while ensuring equal competition with legal businesses (Cross & Morales, 2007). The objective of the research is to support policy makers develop a sound framework that involves street vending into urban planning, which means supporting economic growth and sustainable development.

The rest of the study was organized in four sections. The literature review section looked at previous research on street vending, policy gaps, and problems with cities. The Methodology section describes the data collecting and analysis techniques. The Results and Discussion section presents essential results about what challenges vendors face and their contributions to the economy. Finally, the Conclusion and Recommendations update insights and provide practical suggestions. for better legislation and city development that will benefit both vendors and city government.

Literature review

Street vending is an essential component of the informal urban economy. Although repeated official efforts to ban street sales, they continue to thrive in many places because of significant demand from a huge low-income population looking for affordable goods. In developing nations, street selling is an important source of employment and income for people in urban areas. Street vendors can operate from permanent sites or travel around high-traffic areas, carrying wares that attract customers.

While analyzing these characteristics of the street vendors, it is clear that the street economy not only reflects informal financial characteristics but is uniquely defined by its reliance on public spaces for survival (Brown, Lyon & Dankoco, 2010). Businesses in this sector operate on streets, sidewalks, and other accessible locations, therefore public space is a key component of their operations. This fundamental reliance on shared urban spaces immediately incorporates the street

economy into the larger context of public space dynamics (Low & Smith, 2013). This resilience on public spaces makes a little support for street vendors from other users. Based on this street vendors are categorized into two types such as stationary and mobile type. Mostly when people migrate, it has low capital, no skills and experience, so they can easily get into street vending. The transient nature of the enormously street vendor population lowers their political impact and value to local officials. As earlier discussed, Because of the benefits of gathering, urban areas remain the primary points for street vendors worldwide (Rogerson, 2017, 2019). Street vendors exhibit spatial time flexibility, allowing them to operate in many places at different times (Huang, Xue, & Wang, 2019; Sun, Bell, Scott, & Qian, 2020; Swai, 2019).

Food sales provide a raise in a significant portion of local street vendor income. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) acknowledges street sellers' contributions to providing low-cost food possibilities to the public. However, there are concerns particularly about hygiene, because street sellers sometimes operate under poorer proper circumstances than established food facilities. Also, street vendors make a pressure creating more traffic or congestion in public areas which are mostly the important routes of cities. As more street vendors come, they create more pressure and the issue becomes more and more critical. According to the FAO (2007), more than 2.5 billion people globally eat street food every day. It is an important source of affordable food, particularly for low-income populations in developing countries. In Pakistan, the street vendor population is estimated to be at one million, generating roughly PKR 900 billion in yearly sales. Millions rely on this industry for a living, with an estimated 4 million people directly or indirectly involved in street vending across the nation. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), over 150,000 street vendors work, generating income for roughly 600,000 individuals (human rights commission of Pakistan, 2023).

Street vending is a widespread phenomenon that has been studied in a variety of academic disciplines not only in economics (Bhowmik & Saha, 2013) but also investigates its financial effect, anthropology (Barthelmes, 2015) focuses on cultural elements, and sociology (Vargas, 2016) explores its social dynamics. Urban planning (Sung, 2011), geography (Turner & Oswin, 2015), development studies (Nirathron, 2006), and gender studies (Cohen, 2010) all offer distinct perspectives. The extensive interest in street selling originates from its importance in producing revenue for the urban poor and providing inexpensive food alternatives for the lower middle class. Also, literature suggest that small firms can deliver cost-effective services to the urban poor (Yasmin, 1996; Tinker, 1997 & Murdiansyah, 2005). The street vending phenomena is very hard in producing the final products from the raw materials by adding value under a very small scale of income and running the business on few human labors rather than business owners. This flexible nature of the business makes a business opportunity to deal with market changes without any proper infrastructure development, education or new employees (Sirkeci, 2020).

A set of literature on street vending explores economic importance and greater financial impact, with a focus on its significance as a critical source of income for many urban poor households (McGee, 1978 & Iyenda, 2005). More and more research reveal that small, local businesses play an important role in promoting healthy and engaged communities. They keep more money flowing through the local economy by procuring from local suppliers and investing in their personnel. When local companies succeed, communities gain not just financially, but also from stronger social relationships, more civic activity, and a higher overall quality of life.

Legal and social issues that are faced by street vendors

The following section examines important legal and social challenges confronting street sellers in South Asia, East Asia, South America, and African countries.

1) Social capital

For street vendors, social capital might be more important than human capital because many problems are challenging to solve alone. Social networks assist suppliers overcome hurdles by navigating legal, financial, and operational challenges (Babb 1998). In Spain, immigrant vendors are

supported by close friends, frequently through shared housing and living expenses, which helps them handle financial difficulties (L'Hote and Gasta, 2007). Research indicates that social capital is crucial for both starting and maintaining a successful street selling company (Agadjanian, 2002; Bhowmik & Saha, 2012; Peña, 1999; Reid et al., 2010).

2) Financial capital

Street vendors always struggle to get credit from formal financial sectors (Khawaja & Iqbal, 2019). Formal credit is normally available through microfinance initiatives, but many street sellers fail to obtain these loans since they frequently need business plans, which vendors may lack the ability to construct (Martinez, 2018). According to Goldmark, street vendors face barriers to financing due to a lack of collateral and a bias against small firms. Instead, they use rotating credit schemes in which a trusted manager collects and distributes payments to members (Agadjanian, 2002; Tinker, 2003). This demonstrates that official banks mainly reject street vendors, forcing them to seek alternative financial options.

3) Competition with Established vendors

Cohen et al. (2000) found that street sellers face competition from established businesses in the formal sector. Retailers believe that street vendors have a disadvantage over established retailers since they do not have to pay for costly business premises or pay a low rent. According to Wongtada (2014), street sellers may be disruptive to retail shops by blocking entrances and making noise to attract consumers. Keeping in view Retailers urge for an end of street vendors, viewing them as competitors or a nuisance. Small business owners consider them as direct competitors, but bigger retailers see them as disruptive and unattractive (Wongtada, 2014).

4) Economic recessions

Economic downturns can also allow in a new generation of vendors. According to Bhowmik and Saha (2012) who discovered that many manufacturing workers in Ahmedabad, India, shifted to street hawking once their factories closed. Similarly, Walsh (2010) observed that extensive job losses during Thailand's 1997 economic crisis prompted many to enter the informal market as street sellers. Also, during an economic crisis, firms face greater competition as consumer demand falls (Cohen, 2010).

5) Assault and Rent Acquisition by Government Authorities

Street vendors in Asia are frequently harassed by police and government officials since they are perceived to be exploiting public places illegally. Many people pay racketeers for protection. These pressures limit their profitability, prompting some to leave the company (Hiemstra et al. 2006). Kusakabe, K. (2012) found that street vendors in Cambodia face frequent harassment, including confiscation of goods and unclear tax demands. Despite paying various unofficial fees, authorities exploit legal loopholes. Licensing is an option but involves complex requirements, making it difficult for small vendors, while larger ones manage to secure permits. Similarly, Corruption is common at worldwide street markets, and traders are frequently forced to pay bribes to officials. According to Cohen et al. (2000), these donations are so prevalent that they go by local labels such as "private fees for public space" in Nepal, "speed money," "routine offerings," or even "friendship fund" elsewhere. This pervasive bribery, along with confusing taxes and licensing requirements, increases the financial strain on street merchants.

Critical literature review and Research Gap

The existing literature on street economy has focused on different barriers and challenges that are faced by street vendors across many countries. In the context of Pakistan, limited research exists on this topic. However, there is a significant gap in the literature on informal street markets, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Several studies have examined challenges to the establishment of small enterprises in Pakistan. For example, see Aftab and Rahim (1989). According to Afraz et al. (2013) and Hussain et al. (2019), there is inconsistent interpretation and application of laws and policies across government departments regarding licensing, labor, and

taxation. Based on the Investment Climate Assessment (ICA) survey (2007) electricity and gas are the main issues that are regularly faced by firms in markets. William, Shahid and Martinez (2014) investigate the factors that make a decision regarding switching from formal markets to informal markets. Similarly, Khawaja and Iqbal (2019) studies the main factors which help in advancing the small and micro firm in Pakistan.

To the best of our knowledge there is no study on street vendors that face several challenges while vending in Pakistan especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar. This study aims to investigate the main challenges that are faced by street vendors in Peshawar. The reason to investigate the challenges faced by street vendors due to their essential role in the local economy of the state. They offer livelihoods for many low-income families and help small-scale producers, farmers, and home-based businesses. Additionally, legal and legislative limitations lead vendors to harassment, eviction, and financial instability. Concerns about urban planning, such as traffic and public space management, underline the importance of doing study on their influence. Furthermore, street selling has a direct relationship to local culture, customer behavior, and interpersonal connections. Understanding the issues that vendors face, such as limited finance and competition from formal firms, and help to establish stronger rules and support systems and recommend some sound policies for this critical sector.

Research methodology

This study is based on primary data that gathered through a questionnaire from street vendors in different markets across Peshawar. The questionnaire was designed following the same procedure of Iqbal, Nawaz, and Anwar (2022), who conducted a similar survey in Islamabad and Rawalpindi as part of the "PIDE Street Economy Survey" to explore the street vending sector. The survey covers 100 street vendors, 20 police officials of 6 different police stations in Peshawar, 4 assistant commissioners, 2 deputy commissioners and 8 traffic police, 10 civil society members and 30 individuals (general public). The area which has more street vendors gets more importance as compared to other markets. As a result, the research focuses on the Board bazaar market, Qissa-Khwani bazar, Bacha-Khan Chowk, and Sadar bazaar. The questionnaire was also digitized using Microsoft Forms to collect data. After completing a pre-test survey in Khyber Bazar, we modified the questionnaire appropriately. In Peshawar, we collected data from SVs in important commercial locations to get insight into their economic operations, problems, and market dynamics.

The study contains certain limitations that should be addressed. The sample size is limited to 174 responders due to time restrictions and the scattered nature of their activities. A bigger sample size may have yielded more diverse and thorough results. Due to the unstructured nature of vendor operations, solutions to different quantitative queries rely on estimates. Furthermore, respondents were questioned about sensitive issues, such as bribes paid to local officials, which may have prompted some to alter their responses.

Our study used a structured questionnaire to gather detailed information about the lives of street vendors (SVs), including their socioeconomic background, business activities, supply chain networks, financial accessibility, economic role, and the challenges they face when dealing with administrative authorities. The survey results show that the average age of street vendor is 26.33 years, and 61.1% are married. According to Smith and Metzger (1998), a lack of education is a major factor in the development of informal businesses, including street selling. But The study results show that the average household size among street sellers is 7, which is significantly higher than the national average. According to our results almost 60% of the street vendors has intermediate level of education. Based on the findings, nearly 90% of street sellers live in rented lodgings.

Results and Discussion

We use descriptive statistics to examine and report our findings, classifying the data into many major aspects:

1. General Characteristics of Street Vendors

General characteristics include age, marital status, family size, and living conditions. Street vendors are an important aspect of urban economies, providing inexpensive goods and services while making a living through informal businesses. The research's results provide significant insights into their demographics, business activities, and challenges as well. The table 1 summarizes the overall characteristics of the street vendors.

A considerable proportion of street sellers, 61.9%, are married, while 38.1% are unmarried. Their average household size is 7.1, which is significantly greater than the national average. This implies that many street sellers bear significant financial burdens, frequently sustaining big families with limited money sources. Street vendors have different educational backgrounds. Around 33.3% completed schooling up to Class 10, whereas 57.1% hold an F.sc (Higher Secondary Education). Fewer proportions, 9.5%, have a bachelor's degree. Despite having a formal education, many vendors decide to continue street selling due to a lack of public job possibilities, financial limitations, or other socioeconomic considerations.

Table: 1 General Characteristics of Street Vendors

Marital status	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Married	61.9	61.9	61.9
Unmarried	38.1	38.1	100.0
Education			
class 1 to 10	33.3	33.3	33.3
Fsc	57.1	57.1	90.5
Bachelor	9.5	9.5	100.0
Is your stall?			
Owned	81.0	81.0	81.0
Rented	9.5	9.5	90.5
share partner	9.5	9.5	100.0
Vending Location			
Infront of shop	38.1	38.1	38.1
side walk	47.6	47.6	85.7
Infront of plaza	14.3	14.3	100.0
Type of vending			
Cart	61.9	61.9	61.9
Table	33.3	33.3	95.2
Sheet	4.8	4.8	100.0
What did you offer?			
Clothes	14.3	14.3	14.3
food/snacked packed	14.3	14.3	28.6
household utensils and stationery	9.5	9.5	38.1
dry fruits	19.0	19.0	57.1
electrical items	9.5	9.5	66.7
plastics and cosmetics	9.5	9.5	76.2
Garments	14.3	14.3	90.5
medical products	9.5	9.5	100.0

-
- **Percent (%):** The proportion of a category relative to the total sample, including missing data.
 - **valid Percent:** The proportion of a category relative to only valid (non-missing) cases.
 - **Cumulative Percent:** The running total of valid percentages, showing the accumulated proportion up to each category

Based on results, 81.0% of street vendors have private and own stalls, indicating a high level of flexibility in their business activities. Meanwhile, 9.5% rent out their stalls, while another 9.5% share their vending priorities with business partners. Their choice of vending locations is critical to their success. The large quantities, 47.6%, work on sidewalks and get benefit from street walk activity. Others put up stalls in front of stores (38.1%) and plazas (14.3%). While these sites allow access to potential consumers, they also put sellers at danger of eviction, penalties, and legal issues. The types of vending structures they use depend on mobility and cost. The majority of vendors (61.9%) use carts to easily move their businesses as required. Tables are used by around 33.3% of users, providing a more solid yet still flexible structure. A smaller quantity, 4.8%, sell their products on sheets, which need little investment but give little safety from outside agents such as the environment. Street vendors sell an enormous variety of goods, responding to various consumer needs. Clothing (14.3%), food and packaged snacks (14.3%), home utensils and stationery (9.5%), dried fruits (19.0%), electrical items (9.5%), plastics and cosmetics (9.5%), clothing (14.3%), and medical products (9.5%). This diversity demonstrates their significance in offering cheap alternatives to conventional retail outlets, particularly for lower- and middle-income consumers.

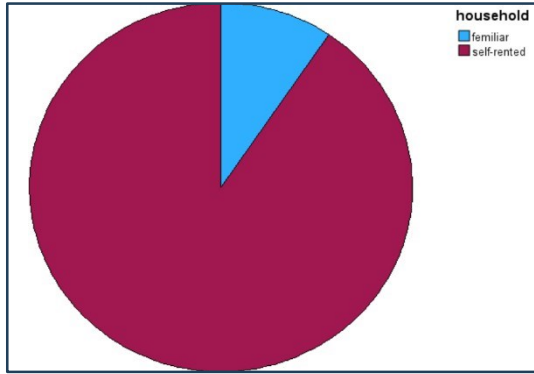
2. Household, Income, Vending Experience, & Status

Street hawking is an important part of the informal economy because it provides a reliable source of income for people who do not have access to formal work alternatives. The descriptive analysis shows the household status, income levels, vending experience, and street vendor status, which sheds insight on their economic circumstances.

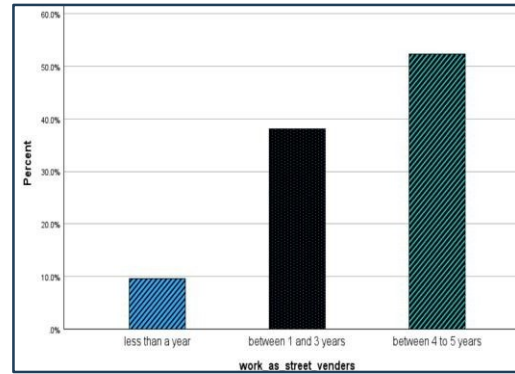
Figure (a) shows that almost all of the vendors (90.5%) live in rented homes. This living arrangement increases their financial load because they must have a consistent salary to cover their daily needs. Regarding vending experience, figure (b) shows that 52.4% of vendors have been street vending for four to five years, while 38.1% have been doing so for one to three years. Only a tiny percentage (9.5%) have less than a year of experience, implying that most vendors have developed the skills and techniques required to sustain their operations over time. Figure (c) indicates different levels of family involved in selling business activities. While 61.9% of vendors recognize support from family members, 33.3% manage their businesses alone. Only 4.8% indicate complete family participation in street vending. This suggests that, while vending contributes to household income, it does not necessarily need the entire family's work.

Figure 1:

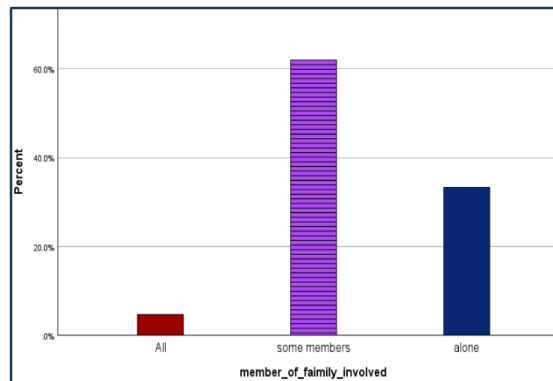
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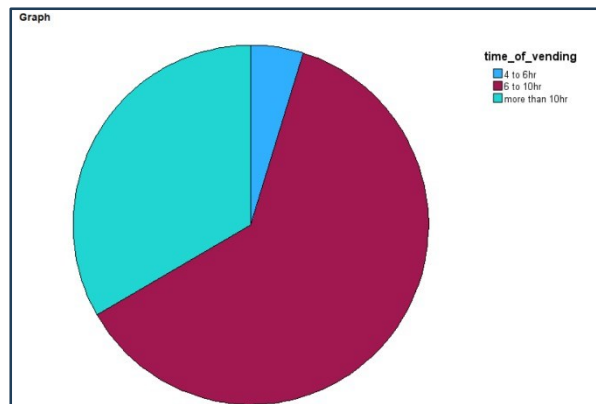


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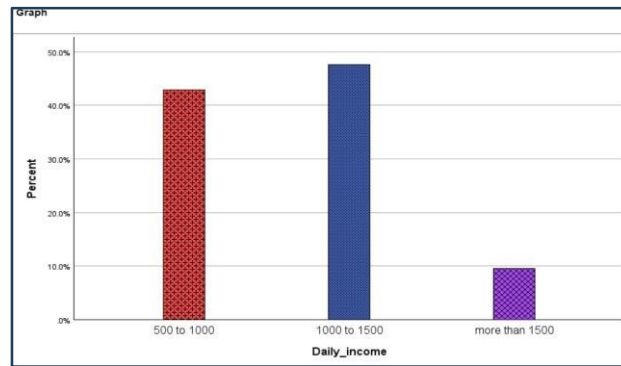
based on results the working hours of street vendors reflect the demanding nature of their trade. A significant percentage of vendors as 61.9% of them work from six to ten hours each day, while 33.3% spend more than ten hours per day on their business. Only 4.8% of vendors work smaller shifts, between four and six hours every day. The extended working hours reflect the effort necessary to continue sales and provide a consistent revenue in an extremely competitive sector.

Figure: 2



Street vendors' income levels differ according to their location, product humanity, and the customer flow. Most people (47.6%) earn between 1,000 and 1,500 PKR per day, while 42.9% earn 500 to 1,000 PKR. Only 9.5% of sellers make more than 1,500 PKR every day, which highlight the majority's financial hardships. These revenues are frequently unpredictable and depend on various factors such as weather, municipal legislation, and seasonal demand swings.

Figure:3



In the context of employment, the majority of street sellers (61.9%) work for themselves. However, 9.5% work for shops, while 23.8% are employed by other vendors. A small percentage (4.8%) corresponds to other employment categories, demonstrating that while many vendors manage their own businesses, others rely on informal work.

Table:3 vending status of vendors

	Vending status	
	Percentage	Cumulative Percent
self-vendor	61.9	61.9
employee of shopkeeper	9.5	71.4
employee of vendor	23.8	95.2
Other	4.8	100.0

- **Percent (%):** The proportion of a category relative to the total sample, including missing data.
- **Cumulative Percent:** The running total of valid percentages, showing the accumulated proportion up to each category.

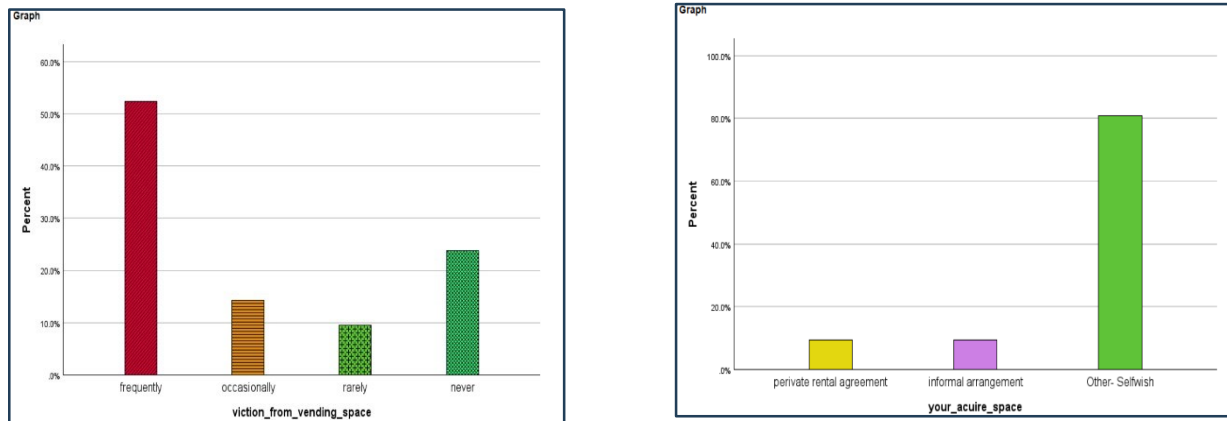
3. Challenges Face by Street Vendors

This section focuses on the challenges that street sellers face, such as financial limits, supply chain concerns, lack of legal recognition, administrative barriers, and harassment. These issues affect their capacity to sustain and build their enterprises.

a) Displacement from Vending Places

The issue of eviction from vending places is a major challenge for street sellers, affecting their economic stability and livelihood security. The study shows that 52.4% of vendors suffer constant evictions, emphasizing the unstable nature of their employment situation. Furthermore, 14.3% of vendors are evicted on occasion, while 9.5% are evicted just rarely, showing various degrees of fluctuation in the sector. Notably, just 23.8% of vendors have never been evicted, suggesting that 76.2% will face eviction at some time throughout their business's activities.

Figure: 4



This significant issue highlights the vulnerability of street sellers, who sometimes operate without legal protection or authorized vending areas and vending in different areas by their own self wishes. The study shows that almost 80% of the street vendors selling their goods on their own acquire spaces. However, the constant threat of eviction not only damages their capacity to make a consistent income, but also traps vendors in a pattern of uncertainty, lowering their total financial strength.

b) No Legal Framework

The table 4 show that 90.5% of vendors believe there is no legal framework that allows street selling, while 9.5% are don't know about any legal framework for street vendors. This shows a large empty space in legal framework, with most vendors lacking legal security, perhaps resulting in problems such as frequent evictions and economic instability. Therefore, they do not apply for any legal framework and even do not know about any administration to authorized their vending business activities.

Table 4: legal framework for street vendors

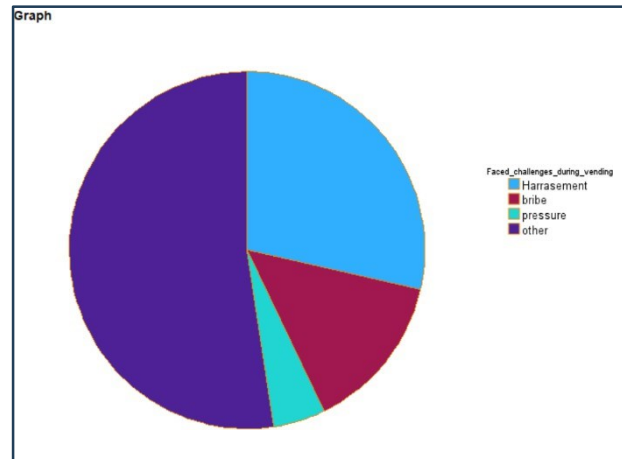
Percent		Cumulative Percent
No	90.5	90.5
Don't Know	9.5	100.0

- **Percent (%):** The proportion of a category relative to the total sample, including missing data.
- **Cumulative Percent:** The running total of valid percentages, showing the accumulated proportion up to each category

c) Challenges faced during vending

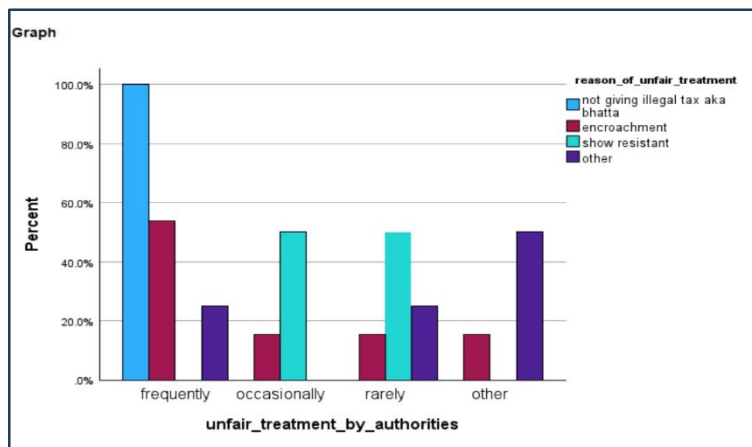
The findings show that street vendors face several kinds of challenges which affect their business operations such as harassment which show 28.6% of the total while bribe demands as 14.3% which are substantial challenges, frequently imposed by authorities or enforcement agencies. Additionally, 4.8% of vendors face pressure, which might be due to financial restrictions or rivalry. The majority (52.4%) describe additional hardships, such as evictions, poor working conditions, and economic insecurity.

Figure 5:



This unfair treatment or harassment faced by street vendors every time. Based on the results, unfair treatment by authorities is a common problem among street vendors. 47.6 percent of vendors report frequently receiving such treatment, indicating ongoing administrative and enforcement challenges. Furthermore, 14.3 percent suffer occasionally, while 19.0 percent do so rarely, indicating that the significance of the problem fluctuates by the vendor. Another 19.0 percent are in the "other" category, which might involve indirect abuse or unexpected penalties. These findings highlight the risky circumstances of street vendors, who sometimes do business without legal protection and are subject to random strategies by authorities.

Figure: 6



The primary cause for this unfair treatment is encroachment as stated by 61.9% of vendors, suggesting that authorities frequently target vendors for occupying public places. Furthermore, 9.5 percent suffer mistreatment for refusing to pay illegal taxes, sometimes known as "Bhatta," and another 9.5 percent for resisting enforcement measures. The remaining 19.0 percent are in the "other" group, which might include a variety of additional issues contributing to their difficulties.

d) Support and protection from Government

The street vendor has no support and protection that are provided by the government. It means that there is no government initiative for street vendors but in some local market there is a temporary road line that are proposed by police officers to avoid traffic cognition and road blockage i.e. Board bazaar. Based on the result 52.4% of the vendors say that there are no such governmental initiatives and the remaining respondents say that they do not know about any governmental initiative. However, the survey shows that there is no governmental initiative for vendors.

Table 5: Satisfaction from government

	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
very satisfied	14.3	14.3	14.3
Satisfied	4.8	4.8	19.0
Neutral	71.4	71.4	90.5
not satisfied	9.5	9.5	100.0

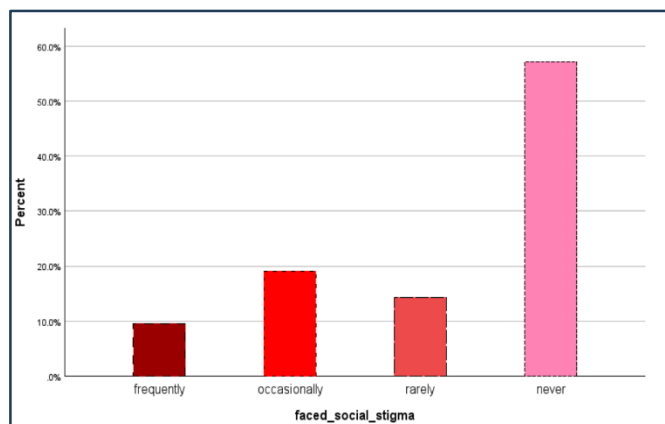
- **Percent (%):** The proportion of a category relative to the total sample, including missing data.
- **valid Percent:** The proportion of a category relative to only valid (non-missing) cases.
- **Cumulative Percent:** The running total of valid percentages, showing the accumulated proportion up to each category

Table 5 shows data on citizen satisfaction with the government. The data show that 14.3% of respondents were very satisfied, while 4.8% reported satisfaction. A majority (71.4%) remained neutral, bringing the total percentage to 90.5%. Finally, 9.5% of respondents reported being dissatisfied.

e) Issue of social stigma

Street vendors experience social stigma with many being seen as illegal or disruptive. This results in discrimination, harassment, and eviction, affecting their incomes, social standing, and access to legal rights and support. The analysis on social stigma among vendors demonstrates various perspectives. A small percentage, 9.5%, reported frequently facing stigma, indicating Strong discrimination in their everyday work. Meanwhile, 19.0% reported experiencing it occasionally, indicating that stigma is situational and varies based on the circumstances. Furthermore, 14.3% reported rarely encountering stigma, meaning that, while it exists, it won't be a significant challenge for people. Notably, the majority, 57.1%, said that they had never experienced social stigma, indicating either more social acceptability or fewer contacts with discrimination in their community.

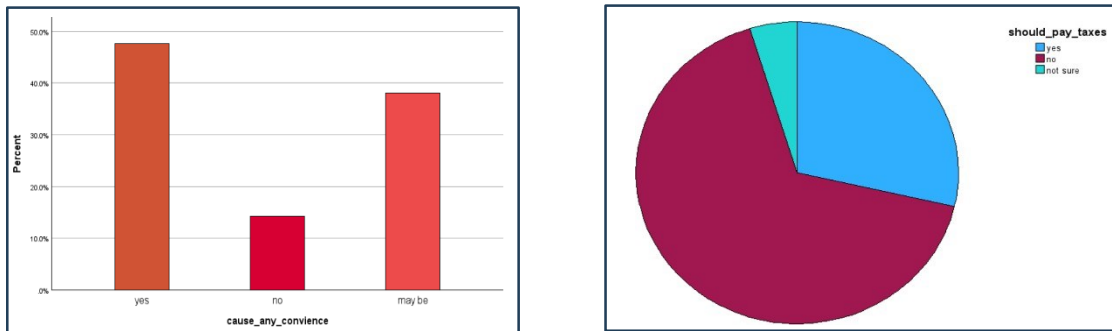
Figure 7:



4. Challenges create by Street vendors

Street vendors may cause issues in public places. They sometimes block sidewalks, cause pollution, and even cause traffic problems. In high-traffic vending areas, waste and hygiene issues might arise. Furthermore, disagreements can arise with shop owners who believe them as unfair competition and even do not pay any taxes or rent like regular businesses. However, street vendors provide several benefits, including affordable goods, easy access to everyday needs, and job opportunities for individuals that have limited means.

Figure 8:



According to the data, 47.6% of respondents say street vendors create challenges, most likely as a result of congestion and interruptions in public places. In contrast, 14.3% believe that the vendors do not cause any challenges, suggesting that they notice no significant disturbances. Meanwhile, 38.1% are uncertain, suggesting that the impact of street vending is contingent on specific conditions. Based on the results, the majority of the vendors, such as 66.7%, agree that vendors do not pay any taxes, likely because of their informal sector, low income and their role in offering low-cost goods. In contrast, 28.6% suggest that vendors pay taxes to the government. Meanwhile, 4.8% are unclear, indicating a lack of understanding about the effects of taxing on merchants and the economy.

5. Challenges for legal Administration

Regulating a street vendor provides significant challenges for legal authorities. One major difficulty is the lack of defined and clear policies, which make it difficult to identify between legal and illegal vendors. Enforcement is frequently inconsistent with some vendors receiving charges while others continue their business without restrictions. There is no specific law for government authorities to deal with street vendors. Even after an arrest, senior officials or authorities may allow vendors to be released. Local people also support them because they provide affordable products. Some people act like they are sick, crippled, or orphaned to avoid paying penalties. Also, corruption makes the process even more complicated since certain vendors use bribes to avoid charges or eviction. However, authorities struggle to keep public order without disturbing the daily lives of low-income people who depend.

Based on the survey, street vending phenomena are very common everywhere, which create many challenges such as sidewalk crowding, traffic congestion, and waste management issues. They may also have problems with authorities and store owners as a result of their illegal activities. Results show that PDA's Vigilance Department and Town (I, II, III, IV & V) is primarily responsible for managing street vending issues, which includes regulating vendor regulations and dealing with associated challenges. However, there is no specific law for these departments to deal with street vendors but have some SOP's and follow the direction of administration. Police are not directly involved in dealing with street vending but only interfere when the vendors disturb public order or break administrative limitations, such as entering prohibited areas or refusing regulatory business operations. Based on interviews with high authorities' police only interfere in the direction of relative departments. Police arrest these vendors under the section-188 of Pakistan panel court (PPC).

Conclusion and recommendations

The financial and economic analysis of street vendors in Peshawar shows a large number of insights for policymakers, businessmen, market associations, legal authorities and administrative bodies. The survey-based analysis of 100 street vendors that are vending in different markets of Peshawar indicate that less formal education and unemployment lead the people to choose street vending as a source of income and profession. These small-scale business owners, often known as street vendors, moved from rural and low-income areas in pursuit of better business

opportunities in urban areas. These small-scale entrepreneurs set up carts or tables on sidewalks and in front of stores to sell a variety of products, including food, fruits, vegetables, apparel, cosmetics, purses, and gadgets. Most street vendors work more than 10 hours a day without taking breaks, emphasizing their difficult working conditions. Street vendors play an important role in urban marketplaces by working long hours without breaks and putting up carts or tables to offer a variety of items. However, they face significant challenges due to a lack of legal protection, which leads them to fines, forced evictions, and harassment, and making their living even more uncertain. The study finding shows that almost all of the street vending operates without any legal protection and permission in the markets. Street vendors face constant challenges due to the informal nature of their business and a lack of legal protection. Over 52.4% are frequently evicted, and 28.6% face harassment. Furthermore, 14.3 percent are forced to pay bribes, while 4.8 percent experience pressure from authorities. A survey found that 47.8 percent of vendors face these issues frequently. According to 61.9 percent of vendors, authorities attempt them because they violate public places (encroachment). Furthermore, 9.5 percent experience harassment for refusing to pay unlawful taxes, sometimes known as "Bhatta," while another 9.5 percent suffer for challenging enforcement measures. Legal framework is one of the important factors of the state to operate any business activities. According to the results of the survey 90.5% of the vendors have no information about any legal framework or any governmental initiative that motivates their business activities. Similarly, these vendors also create problems for the general public and administration. They sometimes block sidewalks, cause pollution, and even cause traffic problems. In high-traffic vending areas, waste and hygiene issues might arise. Furthermore, disagreements can arise with shop owners who believe them as unfair competition and even do not pay any taxes or rent like regular businesses. Regulating a street vendor provides significant challenges for legal authorities. One major difficulty is the lack of defined and clear policies, which make it difficult to identify between legal and illegal vendors. Based on the analysis, following recommendation and implication are noted;

1. Legal framework and protection:

Legal framework/recognition one of the main challenges that are frequently face by every street vendor during vending, which leads them to eviction, harassment, and exploitation. Governments should;

- Develop a legal framework that formally recognizes street vending as a proper economic activity.
- Implement an affordable and easier licensing system.
- Establish a **Vendor council** that should be vendor-friendly that can register a complaint of street vendors.

2. Vending/Smart Zone

Informal vending frequently results in conflicts over the use of public areas, making it essential to establish a balance between economic opportunity and government order.

- To address this, authorities should establish designated selling zones where street vendors may operate without restriction.
- To provide a clean and functional environment, these zones should have important facilities such as trash disposal, sanitation, and electricity.
- Proper monitoring system or refine admirative mechanism.

The previous government initiatives about vending zones are just symbolic vending zones. There are no specific facilities such as no electricity, waste management or sanitation. Even there is an issue of TMA, NHA and Developmental authorities about revenue generation and location allotment.

3. Fair enforcement and regulation

Due to the lack of clear policies and regulation, street vendors are frequently harassed by authorities. To provide vendors with fair treatment, it is proposed that governments should

- establish clear laws to prevent misuse of power by authorities.
- Instruct authorities about vendor rights, and
- Create independent agencies or improve the existing department of vigilance to oversee enforcement and avoid challenges.

4. Encouraging Financial Equality

Empowering street vendors with enhanced banking access can help them expand their businesses and increase their income. It proposed that governments and banks should

- Provide reasonable loans, small-business finance, and simple digital payment opportunities.
- Provide financial literacy to vendors, which will help them money management and business skills as they develop and enter the formal economy.
- Reduce documentation requirements (sludges) to facilitate street vendors.

5. Space and registration for street vendors

The city municipality should provide proper space for street vendors by constructing small shelters in which they can operate their activities without restriction. A systematic registration system should also be designed to officially recognize vendors and ensure their legal secure activities. This strategy will provide stability, prevent frequent evictions, and encourage an ordered economy.

6. Ensure a Better Future for Street Vendors

To improve street sellers' livelihoods, authorities must address the problems presented by city corporations, law enforcement, and traffic control authorities. Implementing fair requirements limiting excessive harassment, and promising legal recognition will allow vendors to operate without fear of eviction or abuse of power. Strengthening protects and promoting their rights would result in a more secure and fair working environment, allowing people to make significant contributions to the economy.

7. Communities and Associations

A cooperative policy approach is vital for supporting street vendors. Establishing vendor committees and organizations can help traders and authorities communicate more effectively, while NGOs can help with mapping and stakeholder engagement. This concept has been effective in India, supporting vendors in negotiating fair conditions, maintaining health care, and preventing evictions. Pakistan's Street Vending Bill aims to establish exact panels, promote vendor rights, and develop a more organized and secure environment.

8. Recognizing as street vendors as Revenue Sources

By implementing a fair and transparent licensing structure, the government can transform street vending into a consistent source of revenue. This would allow vendors to operate lawfully while paying registration fees and reasonable taxes. Instead of removing them, authorities should develop an organized system that provides necessary services to their enterprises. Introducing vendors into the official economy would not only increase tax collection, but will also encourage local development and create a well-organized business climate that benefits both vendors and the community.

9. Empowering Street vendors

The government should clearly define street vendors' rights, including financial assistance and financial support. It needs to provide funds to vendor communities for free legal assistance in disputes and the cancellation or suspension of license.

10. Facilitating Administrative Regulations

Street vendors have trouble managing government procedures due to their lack of education and low finance. Dealing with different departments might be challenging and costly for them. A single-window system would improve the process, allowing them to manage all legal and business issues in one place. This may reduce problems, remove unnecessary difficulties, and make it easier for vendors to conduct their businesses without additional pressure.

About National Influencers

In a society which prefers beliefs over facts and dogmas over ideas, ‘climate of opinion’ remains murky. Theories presented remain devoid of historical context and “wish lists” are presented in the name of policy recommendations. In this situation, the battle of ideas can only be won by clear arguments, effective communication and strategic outreach. The importance of evidence based on empirically grounded knowledge takes a whole new level of importance. This battle of ideas is usually fought through think tanks - institutionalized forms of research and communication - which aim at influencing the climate of opinion in the long run for the benefit of society at large. National Influencers is a public policy think tank that endeavors this goal. It is a non-partisan independent entity in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — the intellectual capital of Pakistan.

National Influencers aims to become a primary pillar of the political and intellectual movement in Pakistan to play its role in overcoming the entrenched difficulties and increasing the demand for policies in the direction of structural reforms, free enterprise, and individual freedom.

National Influencers has conducted this research to examine the challenges that street vendors face while also highlighting the wide range of services they offer to the community. Moreover, this research emphasizes the importance of free enterprise, individual freedom, and equality before the law in several ways i.e, entrepreneurial spirit, economic inclusion, autonomy and self-determination, freedom from harassment, legal Recognition and protection and reduction of Corruption and discrimination. By addressing these aspects, this research highlight that protecting and enabling street vendors is not merely about economic benefits but also about upholding fundamental principles of human dignity. Ensuring that street vendors can operate within a framework of free enterprise, individual freedom, and equality before the law is essential for their empowerment and the overall health of the local economy.

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