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Street vending and urban public space: A study of street vendors in Beltola Market, Guwahati

Dr. Kughatoli V. Aye

Assistant Prof. Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology, Techno City, Killing Road, Baridua, 9th Mile, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya-793101

Barnali Sarma

Research Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Science & Technology, Techno City, Killing Road, Baridua, 9th Mile, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya-793101

Abstract---Street vending is a worldwide phenomenon, found in all countries and it has been practicing in different ways. Street vendor as a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure. Urban Public Space has historically been described as "open space", meaning the streets, parks and recreation areas, plazas and other publicly owned and managed outdoor spaces, as opposed to the private domain of housing and work (Tonnelat:2010:1). This study is concentrated on Beltola Market which is one of the oldest market in Guwahati city of Assam where Street Vendors undertake their everyday business and provided services to the large number of people through access urban public space. The Socio-Demographic status of street vendors identified that majority constituted of male against female vendors. Majority of the respondents revealed that they have allotted space for vending whereas few of them do not have proper vending space in the market. 71 per cent respondents have permanent space and rest of vendors have occupied temporary space. It was observed through field study that vending space is very congested and vendors often faced infrastructure related issues, such as parking, waste management, and congestion.

Keywords---Beltola Market, livelihood, street vending, street vendors, socio-demographic, urban public space.

Introduction

Street vending is a worldwide phenomenon, found in all countries and it has been practicing in different ways. Street vending may be practiced full-time, part-time, seasonally or occasionally. Street vending is an important economic activity and it

plays a significant role in urban informal economy through providing employment and survival for urban poor. The National Policy for Urban Street Vendors, 2004 defines a street vendor as “a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (or head load). Street vendors may be stationary by occupying space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or may be mobile in the sense that they move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or may sell their wares in moving trains, bus etc. The term urban vendor in the policy includes both traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile vendors and incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them, such as, hawker, pheriwalla, rehri-patriwalla, footpath dukandars, sidewalk traders etc. Street vending has been played an important role in informal economy since a long time. Street vendors provide their contribution to the economy and also their potential to build meaningful livelihoods that can shape the well-being of locals and cities alike (Sinenhlanhla Patience Hlengwa: 2016:24).

According to the National Policy, there are three categories of street vendors: Firstly those Street Vendors, who carry out vending on a regular basis with a specific location and those Street Vendors who carry out vending not on a regular basis and without a specific location, for example, vendors who sell goods in weekly bazaars during holidays and festivals and so on as well as thirdly the Mobile Street Vendors (Sunderam: 2008). The Parliament of India passed a legislation called “Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act in 2014. According to this Act, 2014 defines street vendor as a “person engaged in vending of articles, goods, wares, food items or merchandise of everyday use or offering services to the general public, in a street lane, side walk, foot path, pavement, public park or any other public place or private area or by moving from place to place and includes hawker, peddler, squatter and all other synonymous terms which may be local or region specific”. Street vendors constitute a subset of those engaged in retail trade, even a subset of those who are self-employed in retail trade. These self-employed vendors can be considered as micro-entrepreneurs (Shashikala.T: 2018:152).

.The British anthropologist Keith Hart observed the term ‘informal sector’ in the early 1970s, from his research study of low-income activities among unskilled migrants from Northern Ghana to the capital city, Accra, who could not find wage employment (Hart 1973). Chen: 2012:2. The term ‘informal sector’ gained widespread acceptance after the ILO used it with reference to Kenya Mission in 1972 and observed that the informal sector included a range of activities from marginal survivalist work to profitable enterprises (ILO: Employment Policy Department).

Urbanization is closely related to modernisation, industrialisation and the sociological process of rationalisation and which enhances the employment opportunities, living standard better transportation education of the people. Singh: 2012:294. Urban cities face many challenges due to migration of people from rural to urban areas for better employment opportunities as compared to rural areas. There is a close relationship between urbanization and development

and urban areas plays a significant role in continuing liberalization of economy. Singh: 2012:295.

In urban planning, public space has historically been described as "open space", meaning the streets, parks and recreation areas, plazas and other publicly owned and managed outdoor spaces, as opposed to the private domain of housing and work (Tonnelat: 2010:1). Social Space contains a great diversity of objects, both natural and social, including the networks and pathways which facilitate the exchange of material things and information (Lefebvre: Donald Nicholson-Smith: 78). Urban space accumulates crowds, acts, symbols and products in the markets. Urban space is also a centre and centrality, and it does not matter whether these are actual or merely possible, saturated, broken up or under fire, for we are speaking here of a dialectical centrality (Lefebvre: Donald Nicholson-Smith: 100). According to Drummond, 2000, "urban public spaces are places that are provided by the public authorities for the use by all, regardless of personal, social or cultural differences (Sinenhlanhla Patience Hlengwa: 2016:44). Street vendors are significant component of urban economy as well as public space. Guwahati as the gateway to Northeast India became a major trade and commerce hub because of its geographical location. Street vendors of Guwahati have been a part of the city's informal economy. This study concentrated on Street vendors in Beltola Market which is one of the oldest markets in Guwahati city of Assam was run by vendors, small traders and farmers who came with food grains, vegetables and poultry items on bullock carts and boats. Some of them come to the markets with their produce, and after their sale go back to their villages. The vendors of this market provided services to the large number of people through access urban public space. Mahadevia et al.: 2016:3

Objectives

1. To know about the demographic profile of street vendors in Beltola Market.
2. To know about use of public space by street vendors and their challenges to access public space in Beltola Market.

Research Questions

1. How street vendors undertaken their business in public space?
2. What are the major challenges faced by the street vendors to access their livelihood in urban public space?

Review of Literature

Sharit k. Bhowmik (2005), has undertaken a study on "*Street Vendors in Asia: A Review.*" This article is to examine recent research done on street vendors in Asia as well as assess the magnitude of street vending in different countries. The author states that there is a considerable increase in the number of street vendors in major cities of Asia. In India, the National policy of urban street vendors notes that street vendors constitute approximately two per cent of the population of a metropolis. The various studies outlined that there was a sharp rise in street vendors in Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines and many of the workers were not able to get their job in the formal sector to carry out street

vending as an option for survival. The author has discussed the status of street vendors based on reports and studies conducted in different countries. The author reveals that countries like Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, and Korea have increased in the number of street vendors after the monetary crisis of 1998 and that countries like Malayasia, Philippines and India have policies for regulating and protecting street vendors.

Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria (2006), conducted a study on *Street Hawkers and Public Space in Mumbai* discussed that Mumbai has had a historical existence of Street Hawking that provides essential services to the most of the population as well as to make the people employed through this activity. This article depicts from the field research conducted from June 2004 to September 2004 and from June 2005 to March 2006 with unlicensed street hawkers in Mumbai. The study discussed about hawking license and hawkers struggle in the Mumbai city. Even though large numbers of hawkers in Mumbai since 1978, there was no new hawking licenses have been issued. These hawkers used public space for hawking but police blamed and tried to evict from public space. However the author revealed that Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has taken violent action against hawkers of Mumbai to remove encroachments on streets, footpaths and from the spaces permanently around their business without warning. The author also found from the study that new hypermarkets have paid large bribes to the police and BMC to evict hawkers from the nearby footpaths. After that the author also talked about the Bombay High Court judgments 2003, where the court suggested that cooking food on streets as well as hawking within 150 meter of railway stations, municipal markets, colleges, schools, hospitals and residential areas should be prohibited in the city. The author further identified that most of the hawkers paid bribes to the police every year and faced harassment from the authorities due to lack of sales, working condition and constant fear of demolitions.

C. N. Ray and Assem Mishra (2011), carried out a study on “*Vendors and Informal Sector: A Case-Study of Street Vendors of Surat City*” and discussed that Street vending provides job opportunity and means of livelihood to the urban poor but Urban Local Bodies consider it as an illegal activity. The present study comprehensively covers the social, economic and spatial issues for Surat City and an attempt has also been made to compare the situation of street vendors of Surat to other Indian Cities like Ahmadabad, Vadodara, Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, Patna, Pune etc. The condition of Surat street vendors was found more or less the same in comparison to other cities. The majority of the vendors of Surat were Hindu by religion and others Muslims. Through their study, it is observed that the majority of vendors were living without family in Surat. Most of the vendors of Surat city were found to be illiterate as well. Migration is found to be strongly correlated as almost three fourth of vendors have migrated to Surat from outside Gujarat or from places within Gujarat. A large number of vendors migrated from rural areas. Among the migrant vendors, one-third of them were sending remittances to homes whereas, half of the migrated vendors don't have enough savings to send remittances to their families. The study also proves that the migrant's vendors working conditions and infrastructure of work are not well in destination places.

Solomon-Ayeh et.al (2011), conducted a study on Street Vending and the Use of Urban Public Space in Kumasi, Ghana. The study talked about urban public space has become the place of work of the urban poor. This study tried to examine how street vendors use public space for their livelihood and the response by the Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly to control street vending. The authors conducted this study in the Kumasi metropolis, a nodal commercial centre, of street vending activities. Street vendors of Kumasi Metropolitan operated their business on pedestrian walkways and on streets. It was found from the study that vendors have faced evictions in their operations by city authorities, where their goods are seized as well as huge sums of monies collected from them. This study suggested that location is very important to their operation of business and require such a location that convenience to buyers as well. It was also recommended that street trading areas must be integrated in urban planning schemes and to ensure that the activity is accommodated adequately in the urban spatial environment.

Rocio Rosales (2012), discussed in his thesis on "Hidden Economies in Public Spaces: A study of fruit vendors in Los Angeles about Los Angeles' fruit vendors' families in Mexico and how they earn their livelihood through informal work. On the one hand, It was estimated that there were 61 per cent undocumented informal workers working in the streets of Los Angeles and how undocumented migrants with very little capital, limited skills were struggling to do their business and on the other, how these migrants were unable to return to their place of origin. The author also discussed about the use of urban public space and the right to the city focusing on policy implications in local levels to inform and modify country ordinance, health department policies and public space use policies. The implementation of the Municipal body of Los Angeles rules included the prohibition of fruit vendors to cut, peel and prepare food in public space and operating street vending without public health license for their carts. Further, based on the four examined areas such as standardization, performance of hygiene, solicitation and familiarity the first three areas were dependent on interpretations of external signs that vendors is to present themselves in such a way that their product, operational model is recognizable and accessible, While the fourth area is cultivated across time through interactions between customers and vendors. The author observed that Street vendors have experienced limited gains and continuous losses and minimal to no mobility. The study suggests that instead of confiscated the street vendors the health department should regulate status where operating practices can be supervised and greater certification of street vendors to facilitates them to operate this informal work at the pubic space.

Aparajita Sharma and Dipjyoti Konwar (2014), undertaken their Study on "Struggles for Spaces: Everyday Life of a Woman Street Vendor in Delhi" where women street vendors faced struggles everyday for vending activity in Delhi city. Street vendors are largest occupational groups and a part of informal economy found in the public space 'street'. The study discussed that women street vendor engage in street vending in west Delhi due to lack of exposure in the formal economy and the job market. It was found from the study that women faced harassment like having to pay illegal 'taxes,' facing social discrimination and invisibility, and their work was restricted and insulted by their community. Women vendors also suffer from severe health problems, face social, economic and cultural discrimination which force some of them to retire from street

vending.

Brayan C Winter (2017), conducted a study on “*Re-appropriating Public Space in Nanchang, China: A study of Informal Street Vendors*”. The author discussed in this thesis about practices experiences and agency of informal street vendors who work in Nanchang china. The study depicted that street vending is an old practice in the cities of china and street vendors had a complicated relationship with state and public spaces since dynastic period into today’s era. Street vendors played a significant role in informal economy as well as provided employment opportunities for marginalized groups of people. As a result, Street vendors had chosen Nanchang’s neighbourhood and occupied sidewalks, street corners, commercial places like in front of malls parks, train stations and hospitals for vending. The study also highlighted another places of china like Sanjingwuwei, Aiguo and Wuwei streets were the most popular places for vendors to sell their goods. The study revealed that most of the vendors were mobile in nature and faced work related issues in the streets. The author revealed from the study on the basis of narratives of vendors that most of the male vendors from outside of the city and majority of the female street vendors resided in Sanjingwuwei and neighbourhoods of Nanchang, and they have faced challenges in terms of inappropriate public space for vending in the streets. However, large number of urban livelihood relied on Street vending activities in urban china. Therefore, urban public spaces are necessary for street vendors to continue their work in china.

Lila Oriard Colin (2018), discussed in the study on “*Street vending from the Right to the City Approach: The Appropriation of Bhadra Plaza*”. The author outlined in her study about the Street vendors incorporated in Bhadra Plaza of Ahmedabad city after its renovation. The author also used the Henry Lefebvre’s concepts of the ‘right to the city’ approach which highlighted that the street vendors used the vending place after the renovation of the Bhadra Plaza and ‘production of space’ concept used to identified the relationship between street vending and public space. From, the study it was observed that the marginalized groups are excluded from city planning, design and development process. Thus the author used the theoretical concept of right to the city to specific group of vendors who specifically took up their business in public space and expressed their different views. The author revealed that vendors have the right to take part in the city making process because they were dominated by the other group of people. The author discussed that after renovation of the Bhadra Plaza the public space is more valuable for Street Vendors successful running of profitable business activities. According to author the street vendors act was not useful for vulnerable street vendors because most of the women vendors were still harassed by other people. Thus, the author identified that right to the city approach will be useful for the implementation of street vendor’s protection law at local level.

Martha Chen et.al (2018), undertaken paper on “*Inclusive Public Spaces for Informal Livelihoods: A Discussion Paper for Urban Planners and Policy Makers*” where the authors indentified how street vendors faced challenges to securing their livelihood in urban public space. The first section of this paper discussed about Space which can be created, designed, managed, planned and regulated to shape social relations and activities of informal workers. Urban public spaces are

important resource for informal workers to earn their livelihood in different cities. The authors mentioned in this study that most of the informal workers are not able to access the public space because to lack of sufficient policy attention. This study revealed from different case studies that the street .Here in this study observed that street vendors offered goods at suitable locations and accessed their space in central locations with heavy pedestrian traffic. Street vendors faced struggles in daily life for public space and Public services. Therefore, this study recommended that the informal workers should participate in the governance process through which they take decisions on urban planning as well as the allocation of public space.

Ramanath Jha's (2018), article on “*Strengthening Urban India's Informal Economy: the Case of Street Vending*” depicted about legislative dimension of vendors in India and millions of people involved in this activity. Here, the author talked about street vending policy and how this policy regulate street vendors in terms of work, vending zones, public space etc. The author discussed about the informal sector where large number of people earn their livelihood and thus government should try to strengthening the informal workforce. The study also mentioned about urban planning that consist of master plan, development plan, zonal plan, and Land allotment for accommodating street vendors in the designated vending zones. The vending spaces can be made available for vendors as well as vendors should have access to facilities such as safe drinking water, hygienic toilets, and electricity and storage facilities in the markets. This way the urban designing would be able to reduce the complexities of urban poverty and generate increased opportunities for the urban poor.

Prithvi Deore and Saumya Lathia (2019), undertook a study on “*Street as Public spaces: Lessons from street vending in Ahmedabad, India*”. This article focused on the role of street vending in creating good public spaces. The authors discussed on the global status of street vendors in general and Ahmadabad's street vendors perceptions on street hierarchy, public space. The five case studies undertaken by the authors helped them to identify the positive aspect of street vending but mentioned about the infrastructure related issues such as parking, waste management and congestion. In this study the authors mentioned about the streets as the engines of economic activities, social hubs and platforms for civic engagement. This study revealed that street vending enhanced the experience of space and street vendors made the street more vibrant by engaging in this activity and inclusive in the sense that, people from different backgrounds participate in exchange of goods and services. The authors recommended that there should be a fair representation of all stakeholders including residents, shopkeepers, business associations, street vendors, advocacy groups etc. in town vending committee in order to solve the conflicts in public space.

Theoretical work

The Henry Lefebvre's idea of 'right to the city' is considered in this study as a theoretical work for understand how street vendors access their public space in the Guwahati city. The "right to the city." was originally circulated by French philosopher Henry Lefebvre (1968) who was advocating for a better control of inhabitants over the production of their own daily spaces. (Stephane Tonnelat:

2010:6) The right to the city is a right of individual or group access to the resources that the city embodies that right to change and reinvent the city more after our hearts' desire. It is also a collective rather than an individual right, since reinventing the city inevitably depends upon the exercise of a collective power over the processes of urbanization. David Harvey: 2012:4. Street Vendors of Guwahati city largely depends on street because they are deprived of their ability to access and utilize public space. As a result Lefebvre's right to the city concept is appropriate right to access, use and resolve their challenges and survive their life in the urban space.

The Henry Lefebvre's work on Production of Space: French Marxist philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre's "Production of Space" is a unitary theory to discover or construct a theoretical unity between different fields. Lefebvre initiated three concepts in order to understand the production process of space. According to him, spatial practice must have certain cohesiveness, but this does not imply that it is coherent. It incorporates an association between daily reality and urban reality (the routes and networks which link up the places set aside for work, 'private' life and leisure). Representations of Space is "conceptualized space, the space of scientists, planners, urbanists, technocratic sub dividers and social engineers all of whom identify what is lived and what is perceived with what is conceived" whereas Spaces of Representation are the space of the lived social relations of inhabitants and users. (Lefebvre: (1991: 38).

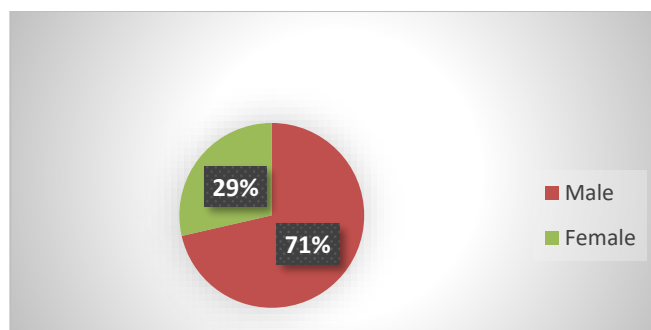
Research Methodology

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. The information is collecting through Primary and secondary sources. Primary data are collected from respondents with the help of interview schedule. 70 respondents are selected through using Stratified random sampling to represent vendors from all the parts of Beltola Market. Secondary data are collected from various journals, research reports and Government reports etc. Simple statistical analysis techniques and qualitative methods were used to analyse the data.

Profile of Street Vendors in Beltola Market

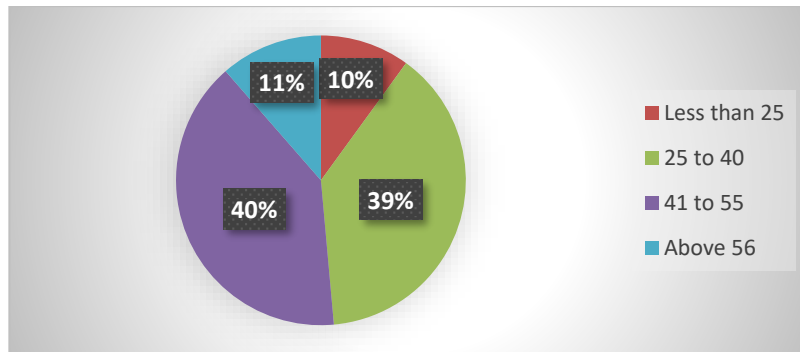
Below are the figures of all the variables analyzed separately based on the socio-demographic Profile and their livelihood status in Beltola market, Guwahati.

Figure: 1. Gender profile



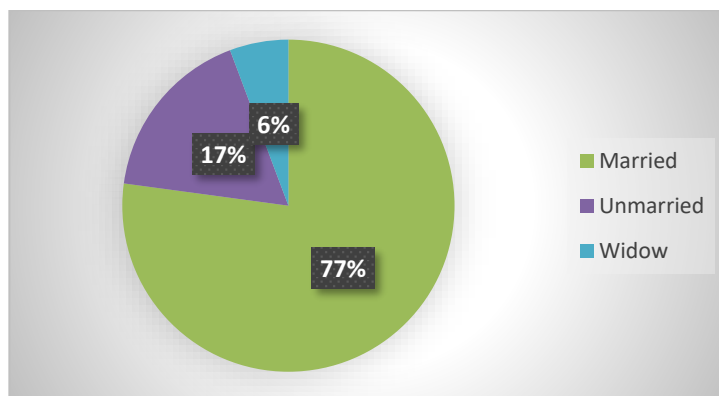
The above figure shows the proportion of male and female vendors in Beltola market. Thus the proportion as shown indicates that male vendors constitute the majority with 71 per cent and female vendors constituted 29 per cent. Source: primary.

Figure: 2.Age distribution



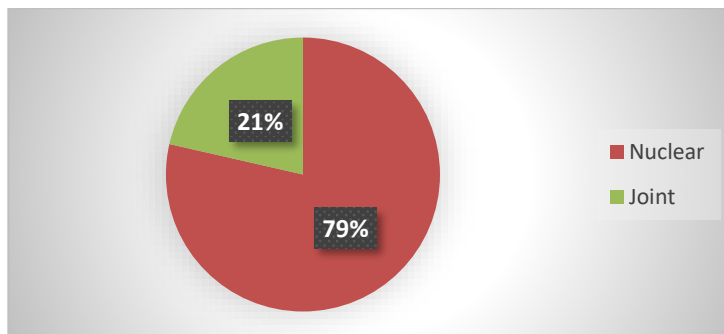
The above figure shows the result of street vendors in the universe of study whereby, 10 per cent street vendors are from the age group of less than 25 years whereas, 39 per cent of street vendors are under age group of 25-40, 40 per cent street vendors belonged to the age group of 41-55 and rest 11 per cent are in the age group of above 56 years. Source: primary.

Figure: 3.Marital Status



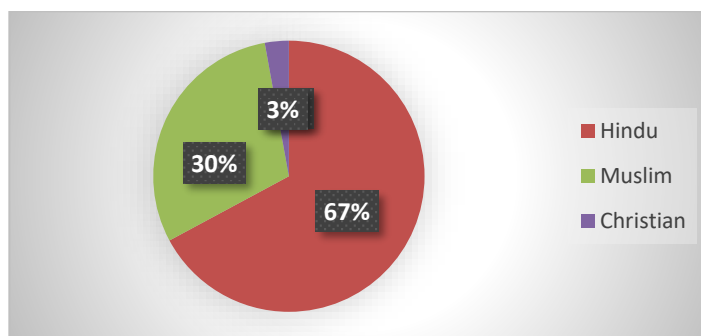
The figure on marital status of vendors indicates that majority of the vendors are married i.e., 77 per cent whereas 17 per cent of street vendors are unmarried and only 6 per cent street vendors were found widowed. Source: primary.

Figure: 4.Family type



The above figure shows the result on the type and structure of family the vendors belong. Results reveal that majority of respondents are from nuclear type i.e. 79 per cent whereas 21 per cent of street vendors are from joint families. Source: primary.

Figure: 5.Religion



The above figure indicating the religious status of respondents reveals that majority of the respondents are Hindus i.e. 67 per cent whereas 30 per cent are Muslims and only 3 per cent are Christian. Source: primary.

Figure: 6.Social category

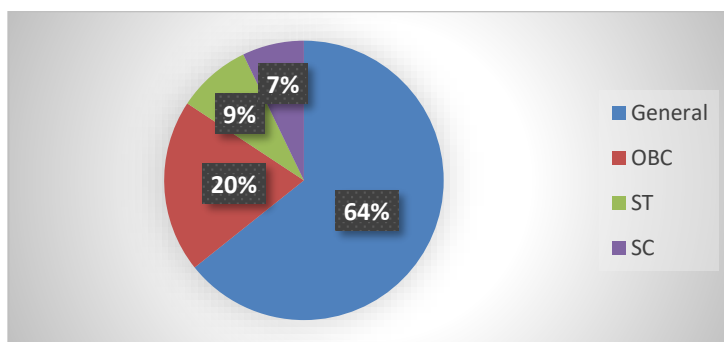
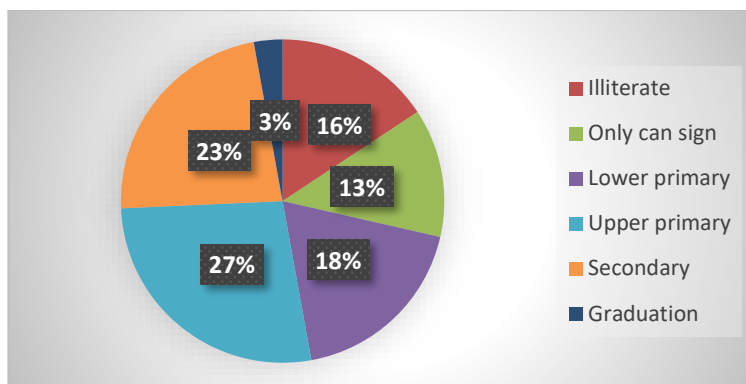


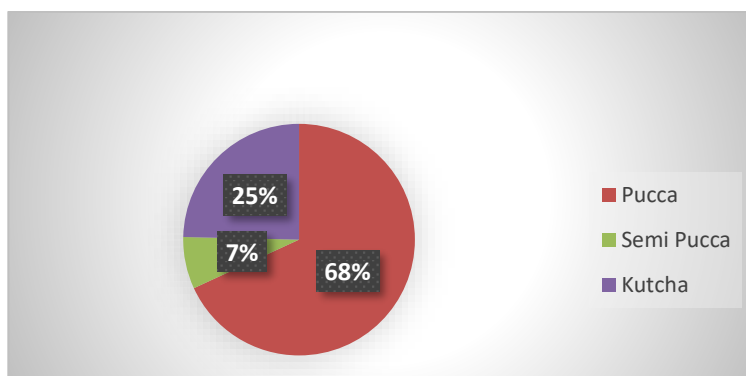
Figure on Social Category of street vendors show that 20 per cent belonged to OBC category, 9 per cent belonged to the ST category and 7 per cent SC category. Thus, majority of the street vendors in the study area were from General Category. Source: primary.

Figure: 7.Educational Qualification



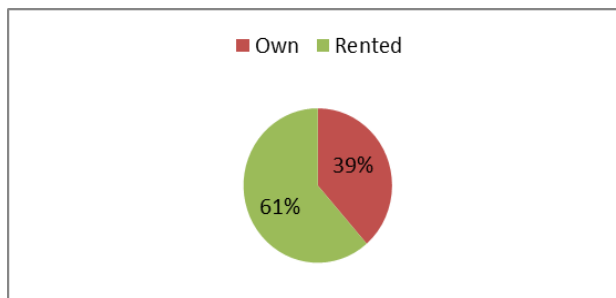
The Educational status of street vendors shows that 16 per cent are illiterate whereas 13 per cent vendors can only write their names and 18 per cent studied up to lower primary level. 27 per cent vendors studied up to upper primary whereas, 23 per cent completed secondary level of education. Remaining 3 per cent completed their graduation. Source: primary.

Figure: 8.Type of house



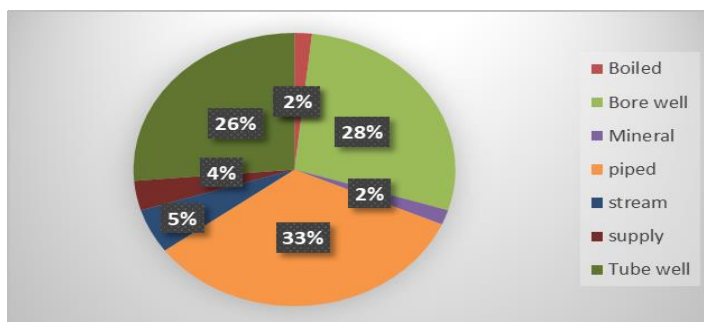
The type of houses that respondents live in as shown in the above figure shows that majority of them i.e. 68 per cent are live in pucca houses and 7 per cent live in semi pucca houses whereas, 25 per cent live in kutcha houses. Source: primary.

Figure: 9.Ownership of house



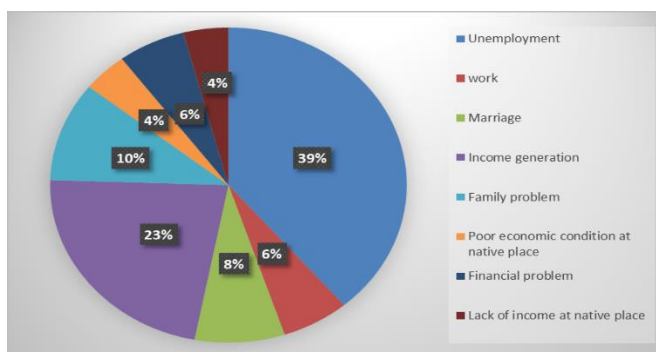
The results in the above figure regarding the ownership of houses show that majority of the respondents i.e.61 per cent come from rural areas and stay in rented houses whereas 39 per cent live in their own houses. *Source: primary.*

Figure: 10.Source of Drinking water



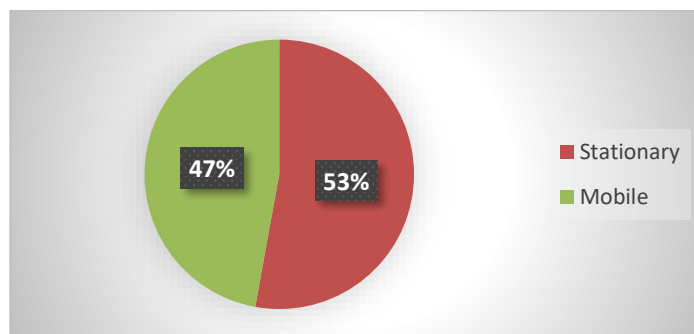
As shown in the above figure, reveals that majority of the respondents i.e. 33 per cent used piped water, 28 per cent of street vendors use drinking water from bore well, 5 per cent vendors use stream as a source of drinking water, 4 per cent use supply water, 26 per cent street vendors use drinking water from tube well, 2 per cent use boiled water and the rest 2 per cent use mineral water at their work place. *Source: primary.*

Figure: 11.Reason of migration



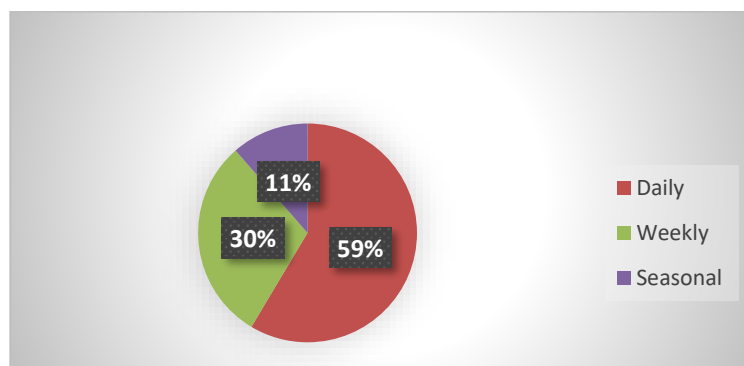
The analysis on the reason of vendors for migrating as shown in the above figure shows that most of the people migrated from rural areas to undertake street vending in urban areas. The majority of respondents i.e. 39 per cent migrated due to lack of employment opportunities in their place of origin, 6 per cent migrated in search of work, 8 per cent vendors migrated due to marriage especially women and 23 per cent migrated for income generation in urban areas. 10 per cent have shared that the reason for migration in urban towns and cities is because of family problems and 4 per cent have the poor economic condition at their native place which compelled them to migrate to urban areas. 6 per cent have migrated due to financial problems and 4 per cent respondents migrated for lack of enough income in their place of origin. (Source: primary).

Figure: 12. Category of Vending



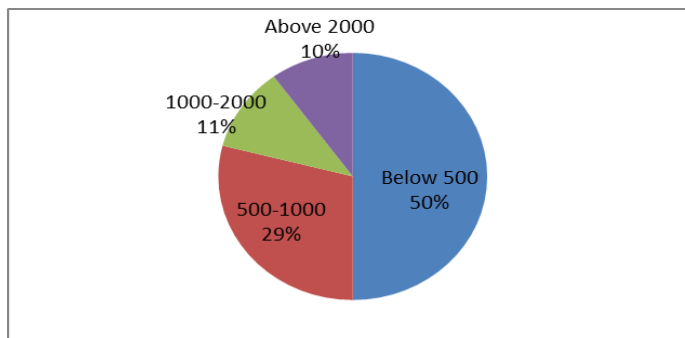
The above figure shows there are two categories of vendors found in the Beltola market whereby, 53 per cent constitutes stationary and 47 per cent are mobile vendors. Source: primary.

Figure: 13. Mode of Vending



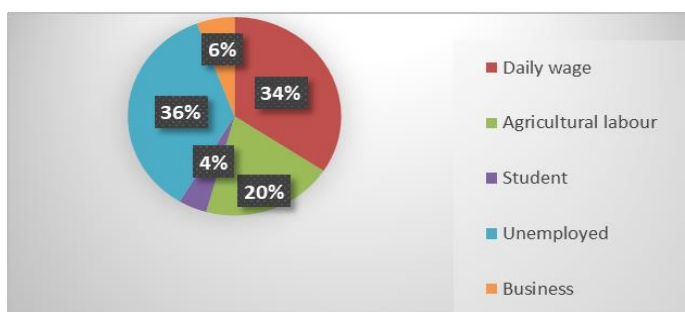
The figure above shows that 59 per cent undertake their business on daily basis whereas 30 per cent are found as weekly vendors and 11 per cent vendors are found as seasonal vendors. Source: primary.

Figure: 14.Payment of Tax



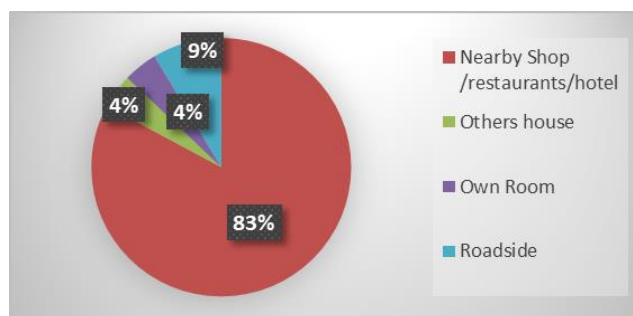
The above figure clearly reveals that all vendors pay tax to the committee members but the amount paid as tax varies from vendor to vendor. Thus, 50 per cent of vendors pay below INR 500 in a month and 29 per cent pay 500-1000 rupees, 11 per cent of vendors pay monthly 1000-2000 rupees and 10 per cent of vendors pay above 2000 rupees to the tax collectors. Source: primary.

Figure: 15.Previous Occupation



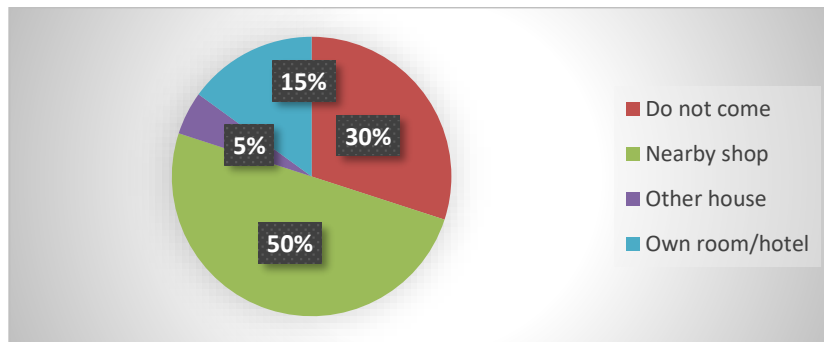
The respondents engaged in prior to vending activity were, 34 per cent worked as daily wage earners and 20 per cent were agricultural labourers. Most of them i.e.36 per cent were unemployed, 6 per cent were running petty businesses. 4 per cent were Students. Source: primary.

Figure: 16.Avaling toilet facility



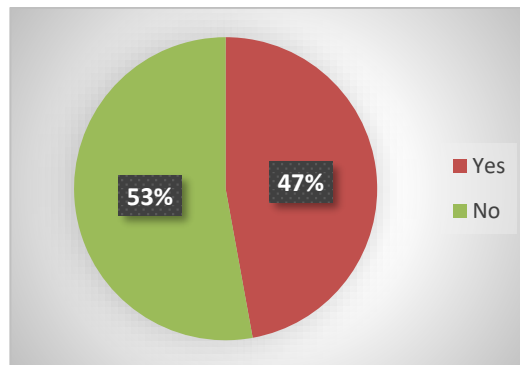
From the above analysis, found that there is no toilet facility in the Beltola market. As a result, 83 per cent vendors use toilets from nearby restaurants, shop and hotel's, 4 per cent vendors use other people's house washrooms, another 4 per cent vendors used their own rooms and rest 9 per cent vendors used by roadside toilets. Source: primary.

Figure: 17. Availing toilet facility during menstruation



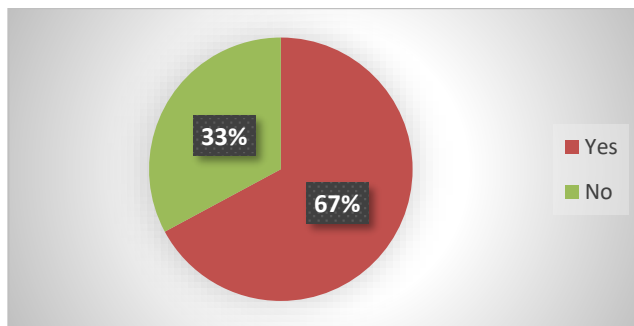
The above figure reveals that women specifically are faced with problems especially during the menstruation cycle due to the non-availability of a public toilet in the market. Most of the women stated that i.e. 30 per cent of women don't come to the market during their cycle incurring a loss of income and 50 per cent of women use nearby shops. 5 per cent of women use other houses and 15 per cent of women close their business during a certain part of the day to use the toilet in their own room and return. Source: primary.

Figure: 18. Sheds in vending Zone



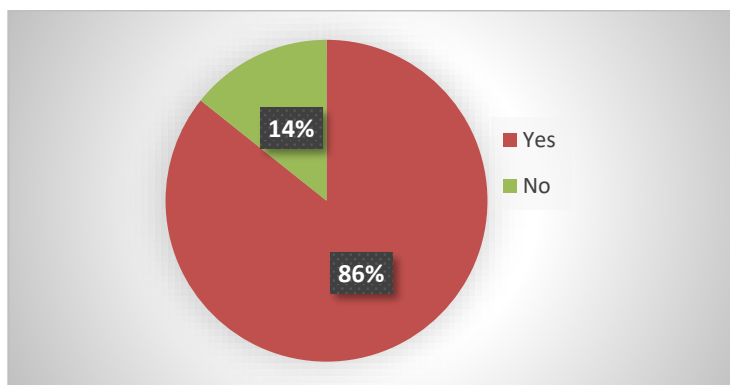
The above figure shows that 53 per cent vendors do not have proper shed in their vending zone whereas 47 per cent vendors have proper shed to run their vending activity. Source: primary.

Figure: 19. Dustbin facility



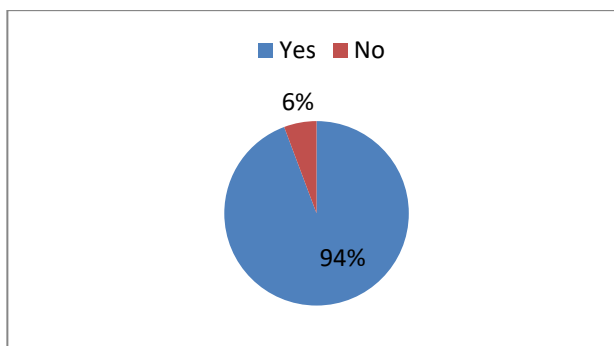
The above figure shows that 67 per cent vendors are not provided dustbins to throw wastes in the market whereas 33 per cent vendors do make use of dustbins in the market. Source: primary

Figure: 20. Cleaning the Garbage from the market



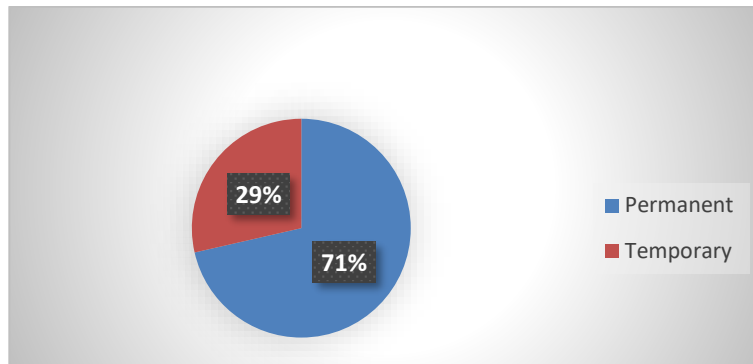
The above figure shows that 86 per cent vendors clean up their wastes from the market after their days work whereas 14 per cent vendors told that they do not clean their wastes. Source: primary

Figure: 21. Space allotted in the market



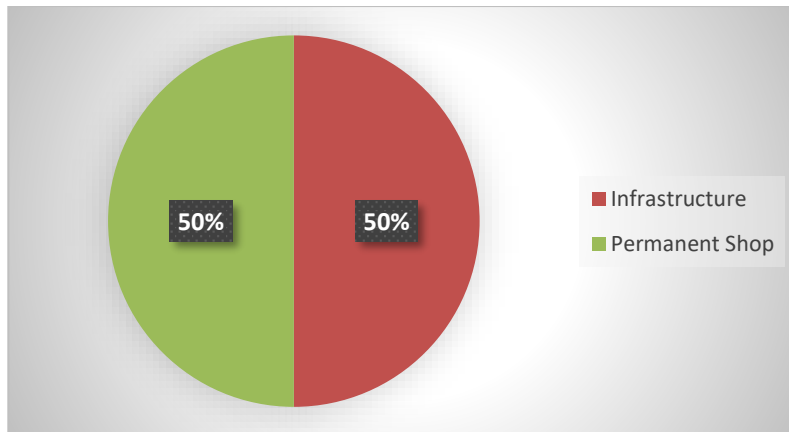
As interviewed with the vendors during fieldwork reveals that 90 per cent of vendors have been allotted space in the market for vending but 6 per cent of vendors do not have proper vending space in the market. Source: primary.

Figure: 22. Space is permanent or temporary



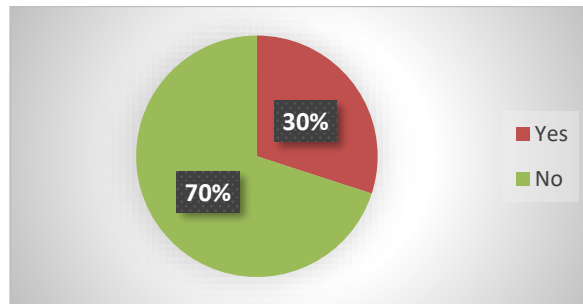
From the study it was revealed that 71 per cent vendors have permanent space and rest 29 per cent vendors occupy temporary space for vending activity. Source: primary.

Figure: 23. Interest to expand the business



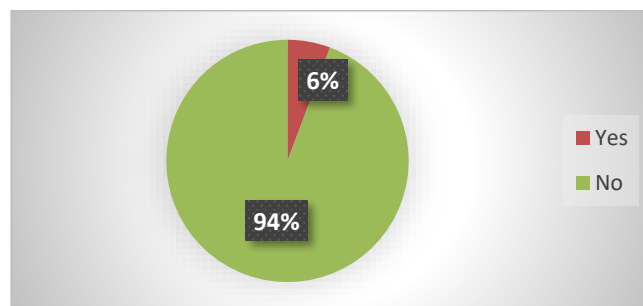
The above figure shows that half of the vendors' i.e. 50 per cent tried to enhance their business through the improvement of infrastructure and again 50 per cent of vendors need permanent shop in the market. Source: primary.

Figure: 24. Choice of Alternate markets to sell the goods



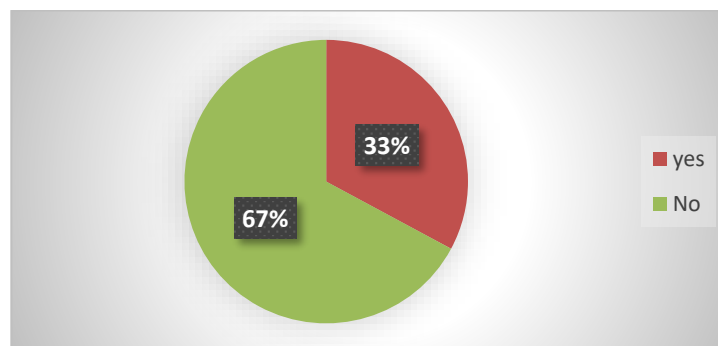
The study also reveals that 30 per cent vendors sold the goods in alternative market except Beltola and 70 per cent vendors did not sell the products in alternative market. Source: primary.

Figure: 25. Confiscation of products



The study shows that only 6 per cent vendors' products have been confiscated by the police authority whereas 94 per cent vendors stated that their products have so far not been confiscated by any government authority. Source: primary.

Figure: 26. Problem of storing of products



In the Beltola market, the vendors have a huge problem relating to the storing of their products. It was observed that 67 per cent of vendors have not faced the

problem of storage whereas 33 per cent of vendors have faced the problem of storing their products. Source: primary.

Conclusion

The study identified the demographic profile and use of urban space in the Beltola market. Vendors of the Beltola market sell their goods on footpaths and roadside. The socio-demographic status of street vendors constituted the majority of male against female vendors. The marital status of vendors indicates that most of them are married. The majority of vendors belong to the nuclear type of families whereas the rest are from joint families. Hindu vendors are the highest in the market rather than Muslims and Christian. The Social Category of street vendors shows that 20 per cent belonged to OBC, 7 per cent belonged to SC, 64 per cent belonged to General and 9 per cent belonged to ST. The Educational status of street vendors shows that 16 per cent are illiterate whereas 13 per cent of vendors can only write their names and 18 per cent studied up to the lower primary level. 27 per cent vendors studied up to upper primary whereas, 23 per cent completed secondary level of education. The remaining 3 per cent completed their graduation. The above results show the majority of respondents are lived in pucca and the rest of them are lived in semi pucca and kutcha houses.

The study shows that the majority of vendors come from rural areas and stay in rented houses whereas the rest are lived in their own houses. The drinking water facility of their destination places shows that the majority of the respondents i.e. 33 per cent used piped water, 28 per cent of street vendors use drinking water from bore wells, 26 per cent street vendors use drinking water from a tube well, 4 per cent use supply water, 5 per cent vendors use the stream as a source of drinking water, only 4 per cent use boiled water and mineral water at their workplace. The majority of vendors availed ration card, Voter card BPL card and very few vendors have availed PMAYG scheme from the Government and 26 per cent have bank accounts. There are two categories of vendors found in the Beltola market. The majority constitutes mobile vendors and the rest are stationary vendors. Most of them undertake their business on a daily basis whereas the rest of them are found as weekly vendors and seasonal vendors. The majority of vendors have undertaken this activity for a whole year whereas some of the vendors have undertaken their business seasonally. In the rainy season, they have engaged in agriculture activity and after the rainy season, they have come to the urban areas to engage themselves in the vending business. The various types of commodities have been selling in the Beltola market i.e. 40 per cent of vendors have been selling vegetables whereas 7 per cent of vendors have been selling fruits. Very few vendors have been selling electronics goods, stationeries, cosmetics, and jewellery and pottery items. 14 per cent of vendors have been selling garments and 7 per cent of vendors have been selling leather products. 16 per cent have been selling cooked food and 7 per cent of vendors have pan shop. The vendors have paid a high amount of tax to the tax collectors but the amount paid as tax varies from vendor to vendor. The majority of them paid a high amount of money to the tax collectors. There is no toilet facility in the Beltola market. As a result, women specifically are faced with problems especially during the menstruation cycle due to the non-availability of a public toilet in the market. Most of the women stated that few women don't come to the market during their

cycle incurring a loss of income and most of the women use nearby shops. Some of them close their business during certain parts of the day to use the toilet in their own room and return. The majority of vendors have electricity facility whereas the rest of them do not have electricity in the market. Most of the vendors have operated their business under the proper shed in their vending zone whereas some of them do not have a proper shed to run their vending activity. It was also observed that 67 per cent of respondents replied that there are not sufficient dustbins to throw wastes in the market whereas very few respondents do make use of dustbins in the market. Most of the vendors clean up their wastes from the market whereas some of the vendors do not clean their wastes after vending.

The street vendors of Beltola market have been experienced a huge number congestion in the market during operational days. The majority of the respondents replied that they have allotted space for vending whereas few of them do not have proper vending space in the market. The respondents replied that 71 per cent of respondents have permanent space and the rest of the vendors have occupied temporary space. As observed through field study that vending space is very congested and vendors often faced infrastructure-related issues, such as parking, waste management, and congestion. The above figure shows that half of the vendors' have tried to enhance their business through the improvement of infrastructure and again rest of the vendors needs permanent shop in the market. The study also reveals that few vendors sold their goods in the alternative market except Beltola whereas the majority of them did not sell their products in the alternative market. It is also revealed from most of the respondents that so far their products have not been confiscated by any government authority. In the Beltola market, the vendors have a huge problem relating to the storing of their products. The results revealed that 67 per cent of vendors have not faced the problem of storage whereas the remaining 33 per cent of vendors have faced a problem of storing their products.

Recommendations

This study was carried out in a limited time frame but tried to make an attempt to understand the demographic profile and access urban space with reference to street vending and have outlined some recommendations for better designing of policies as well as programmes that can address some Primary issues related to urban street vendors in Guwahati city.

1. The government should undertake some separate vending zones, have a proper registration system and provide licenses in order to improve the livelihood of street vendors in Guwahati city.
2. After identifying specific needs in markets, space and additional facilities should be made available to vendors. The government should provide basic services such as potable water, clean toilets, proper lighting, and shade for protection from the elements.
3. The space allocation should be provided on the basis of the needs and scale of the street vendors. In order to the solution of any space conflict to ensure a fair representation of all stakeholders including residents, shopkeepers,

business associations, street vendors, advocacy groups etc. are essential in the town vending committee.

4. The Government should collaborate with different professionals to innovate space management solutions, along with proper waste management mechanisms for the street vendors.

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