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# Stress Among the Street Vendors : A Sociological observation from, Tamil Nadu, India

**P. BHUVANESHWARI*[1] AND C. VENKATACHALAM[2]**
[1]Ph.D. Research Scholar and [2]Professor& Head
[1&2]Department of Sociology, Periyar University, Salem (T.N.) India

## ABSTRACT

Street vending is an important source of employment for a large number of urban poor as it requires some kind of skills and even a small financial portion of support. A street vendor is a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure but with a temporary static formation or mobile stall or head-load. Street vendors have poor social protection and their effective conditions on the streets expose them to a variety of safety and health issues. The street vendors face the stress related problem such as migraine, hyper acidity, hyper tension high blood pressure etc., in this context, the study which has been carried out in Salem city of Tamil Nadu identifies that the street vendors are doing their business with stress and problems. The women vendors are more in numbers when compared to their male counterparts among the interviewed 87 individuals. The stress in the females is obvious due to the domestic chose and child care and rearing practices. In addition, with this back drop, the paper highlights the causes and consequences of stress within the street vendors who are doing services to the needy in the urban streets of Salem city. There are more women vendors than men vendors in Salem. Less earrings lack of toilet facilities has an adverse effect on health and many suffer from urinary tract infections and kidney ailments.

**Key Words :** Stress, Skills, Women vendors, Business, Diseases, Structure, Identifies, Counterparts, Employment

## INTRODUCTION

Stress is one of the most forms of hindrances in human life. It creates lot inconveniences to think positively and diminish the skills. There are in numerous causes for stress and this subject generally deals by Psychologists in general. However, the stress maybe generalized by the family, nature of work and the community. In this line of thinking the researchers have identified that the street vendors particularly the women have faced lot of problems in connection with the dual roles in the earnings well as maintenance of family. Family is known as basic unit of socialization process which is mainly drawing from the women. They are selflessly delivered their best to the members in the family as care providers. Their affection, care and merely have no parallel at all. They come from poor socio-economic strata have to concentrate on economic aspects of the families.

**Review of literature :**

The authors reviewed a good number of articles which has been published in periodicals, books, newspapers, and reports of various agencies to carry out the dimensions, aspects, and insights from different perspective.

According to Padmegowda (2011) classification of the street vendors activities, marketing activities, behavioral activities, buying and selling, gross income per annum, net income per annum, profit and various problems faced the street vendors in Shimoga district is known for variety of issues. This city is increase in population creates numerable problems like scarcity of drinking water, shortage of electricity, sanitation problems, slums in cities and housing problems, bad unhygienic and unhealthy environment also faced. Socio-economic conditions of the street vendors, general information about street vendors, financial accessibility and housing

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conditions also are the causes for stress.

Debdulal (2011) understands that the working life of street vendors in Mumbai the vendors not following formal rules and regulations, and most of street vendors have very low literacy levels. The vendors depending upon the money lenders so they borrow for investment and working long hours in the street business.

Husain *et al.* (2015) analyze the Bangladesh Dhaka City street vendors, the owners of the small businesses are often also might be discourage to borrow since they know their future stream of income might be lower than their assets. These businesses also suffer from inefficient decision-making skill, lacking risk assurance and transportation problem.

Winnie Mitullah (2003) explains alone the Uganda and South Africa street vendors in hostile environment without basic infrastructure and services, but full of harassment, including beating and confiscation of goods by urban authorities. They face both market and investment problems, overcrowding, decreasing sales due to poor location and low purchasing power among customers are some of the market problems. Investment problems include lack of money, secure site of business, corruption, heavy taxation and confiscation of goods by urban authorities among others.

Roever and Caroline Skinner (2016) predict that a to large-scale eviction drive and relocation projects are widely documented, more everyday challenges – such as general workplace insecurity, harassment, and merchandise confiscations – are also significant, and in the IEMS cities appear to be more salient than evictions as drivers of difficult working conditions.

The reviewed articles portray their attention on different dimension of the street vendors/street businesses and the stress among which involve in it.

## METHODOLOGY

**Statement of the problem :**

Street vendors issue is an important area to do research from Sociological perspective. The street vendors do the business by investing minimum amount and have to do the income generation activities in and around the Salem city. They sell eatable items, vegetables, fruits, flowers etc., where there are possibilities for corruption and threaten from anti-social elements by demanding more money from the street vendors. Since most of the street vendors are happened to be vulnerable groups and they do not have required money to invest in business and helpless to get the similar support from any one. Within the available resources they mobilize the money and keep it in the business somehow to prolong the business. They are well aware of the constraints existing in them because hiring the shop in the market or business areas is certainly a difficult for them since the owners may demand more and more money as advance and monthly paying the rent too beyond their payable capacity. So, they chose the street is the business center for them and identify the suitable source for the business activities. If any think from the society's perspective the street vendors are service providers as they bring materials from the large markets which are located at far-away places and sell the same with the minimum profits to provide the service. The street vendors are really helpful to the home makers, elderly, differently abled and other needy to get the products from the street vendors. From another dimension, the street vendors have the labor intensive concept it mind which talks about the street vendors are the owners for their own business and they no need to render their services to any employer. They themselves are the owner-cum-service provider and it can be treated as business strategy. In this context, the present paper focuses its primary attention on *the stress among the street vendors in Salem city, Tamil Nadu,* to understand the various issues of them.

**Objectives :**

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of street vendor families who do the business in selected areas in Salem city of Tamil Nadu
2. To analyze stress among the street vendors while involving in business activities
3. To understand the supports extend by the family members to the street vendors in the study area

**Area profile :**

Salem District is bounded on the North by Dharmapuri district, on the South by Namakkal and Erode districts, the Western Ghats in the West and on the East by Villupuram District.

– The city of Salem is being known as Geologists' paradise. There are famous educational institutions are rendering their services for the aspirants like Periyar University, Vinayaka Missions University, Sona College of Engineering, Saradha College of Arts and Sciences and Education and several other institutions.

– Modern cinema theatres have produced several

movies earlier and this city still has attraction towards cinemas.

– Well connectivity in between important places like Namakkal, Hogenakkal falls, Bangalore and Chennai are notable here.

– There are several businesses are being done in this city like silver ankles works, cloth yarns, power looms, poultry farms, automobiles shops.

– Sevvapet is one of the leading variety business centers in the state and located here. Leigh Bazaar is the best grocery market centre in Salem to supply its materials all over the state and beyond.

– One can find the several small business centers at Gugai, Kondalampatti, Nethimedu, Cherry Road etc., to mobilize the money for the people who are depending upon the businesses.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The collected data from the 87 respondents have been classified and analyzed.

**Respondent by age :**

More than one fourth of the respondents (27.10%) belong to the age group of 31-40, nearly one-fourths (23.60%) represent the age group of 41-50, nearly one-firths (18.40%) come from 51-60, 17.90% hail from 21-30 and the remaining 13.00% belongs to the age group of 61 and above.

**Respondent by sex :**

59.40% of the respondent's are females and the rest (40.60%) are males.

The females are more in street business when compared to their male counterparts.

**Respondent by education :**

47.90% of the respondents are illiterates, 18.80% have middles school education, 17.90% have studied in primary schools, 8.20% have either high school level or higher secondary education, and the remaining 7.20% have gone up to college for higher studies.

The streets of Salem are in a position to provide business chances even for illiterates and interestingly the degree holders also.

**Respondent by size of family :**

Majority of respondents (71.00%) come from small size of families, 26.10% represents medium size families and the (02.90%) hail from large size of the families.

**No. of earning members in the family :**

39.60% of the respondents' families have solitary earning member *i.e.*, the street vendor who has been studied is the lonely earning member of the family, 38.60% families consists of two earning members, 17.90% families survive with three earning members and the remaining 3.90% of the families have more than four earning members.

Three-fourths of the families (78.20%) consist of either one or two earning members. It shows that earning members less families more amongst the street vendors.

**Stress related challenges of street vendors :**

Most of the respondents (64.74%) have stress, tension, pressure, problems (20.29%) says that they occasionally some stress problems faced the respondents and the remaining (14.97%) does not have facing stress problems in street vendors. The street vendors face to many problems in stress oriented.

**Discussion the work related stress and symptoms:**

The interviewed respondents in the study area are facing stress among problems because of uncontrollable moisture, air poor living and working conditions. Many street vendors has work related stress can become an unbearable burden. All too regularly we feel we must now keep our heads down and carry on with the job in hand despite knowing deep down that we are struggling. The health and safety executive tell us that work related stress is defined as t*he adverse reaction people have to excessive pressure of work or other types of demands placed on them.* Essentially when the street vendors stress is triggered as a work pressures it can be due to a number of reasons such as long hours, excessive workloads, tight deadlines, lack of support, harassment bullying. In economic and climate change, many can be forgiven for feeling grateful to have a job and therefore all too easily the added pressures of working life get accepted rather than questioned. Some may even consider it a weakness to suggest that they are unable to cope with the added pressures in vending business.

The street vendors face symptoms of work related stress and instead adopt a coping mechanism putting it down to just being extra busy and they should be able to cope. The street vendors can also convince themselves that it is just for a short while until things get better but

more often than not this is not the case. Work related stress can manifest itself into various symptoms which can include insomnia leading to tiredness, Irritability or outbursts of anger, low mood, consuming too much caffeine or alcohol, low productivity accompanied by feelings of low achievement, regular absence and a higher sickness rate, being accident-prone, being cynical and defensive, finding fault, headaches, backache, indigestion, weight loss or gain, shortness of breath, pollutions, regular or lingering colds. The article exposes the street vendors making the street as business in Salem city of Tamil Nadu.

**Conclusion :**

The vendors understand the importance of their multi-roles and how much their life is valuable while sharing feelings and life experience with others. Even they are facing many sources of stress, social support from friends and considerable others are still helpful and effective for them to be fulfilled with their career and understandable of the meaning of life. On the other hand, they positively need expert guidance and advice such that special trainings for effective coping skills, stress decrease and so on in order to handle daily stressful situations effectively.

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