



Socio-Economic Aspects and Working Patterns of Street Vendors: A Case Study in Chapainawabganj Municipality, Bangladesh

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received date: October 10, 2020 Accepted date: Dec. 22, 2020	Now a days, the employment plays a very vital role in the human society. Most people in this country want to be white collar workers but the government and nongovernmental organization are not prepared to provide job for everyone. So, the individual and the group of people are involving in the self employment, especially in the informal sectors. Street trading constitutes a significant part of this sector involving street vendors as the key players. The aim of the study is to know the socio-economic aspects and working patterns of street vendors in Chapainawabganj Municipality. Convenience sampling was used to collect primary data and 70 street vendors were selected to complete the study. The study reveals that poverty, low education, less capital, large family members are the major driving forces of carrying out this business. This paper also reveals the importance of social capital in street vending and the excessive work hour (8-11 hours) of the vendors even in the presence of political instability, natural calamity or financial crisis.

Key words: Employment, Informal sectors, Socio-economic aspects, Street vendors, Working patterns

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1. INTRODUCTION

Poverty is multidimensional in nature, having originated from a diverse range of conditions. The poor exist both in rural and urban areas of developing economies. Rural poverty is in fact directly related to land ownership and control over land. The urban poor consist largely of overflow of the rural who migrate to towns in search of jobs. A major cause for rural-urban migration is surplus labor in the rural agriculture sector and poor economic condition. Land does not expand, while population keeps on growing. They have no place to go but to the cities, hoping to improve their lots. With low skills and in most cases, no education, no ability to

find better paid and secured employment in the formal sector, they have to work in the informal sector (Banerjee, 2014). Now a days, the number of street vendor is increasing day by day. Street vending is most prevalent and very regular phenomena in many developing countries like Bangladesh as well as some developed countries which play a significant role in urban informal sector by providing a wide range of goods and services to the masses and also generating employment and to eradicate poverty (Rahman, 2019).

Street vendor means 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

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street, lane, side walk, footpath, pavement, public park or any other public place or private area, from a temporary built up structure or by moving from place to place.

Street vendors are a fundamental constituent of urban economies around the world. Street vending is a major means of subsistence for poor city dwellers in developing countries like Bangladesh. It is the easiest form of earning their livelihood as it requires minor financial input and the skills involved are low.

Owen & Hussain (1984) conducted a study on food vendors in the Philippines located the potential role of this type of economic activity in providing relatively good income opportunities, and absorb substantial quantum of agricultural produce (Barth, G. A. 1983). Taking a sample of 550 vendors, the authors show that food selling is a major source of income for those engaged in such activities and in 45 per cent of the cases the only source.

Karthikeyan & Mangaleswari (2013) conducted the study of the quality of life among the street vendors, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. The authors observe that there is need for revision of their psychological health and physical health area unit appear to be taken care of their business at the moment they are swollen their environmental factors, and social relationship to develop their quality of life.

Husain et al. (2015) conducted a study 'Assessment of the Socio-economic Aspects of Street Vendors in Dhaka City: Evidence from Bangladesh' in where they focus on the street vendors' income levels, access to finance, working hours as well as working status, level of education and impact of social capital in their life.

They indicate that poverty, migration from rural area, low education, exorbitant supply of labor and large family size are the major driving forces of carrying out the diversified activities of street vending business.

In the Municipality of Chapainawabganj, the large numbers of urban poor survive by working in the informal sector like street vending business. But street vendors are taken as a problem in the development of the city because there are a lot of complexities in this profession as they are occupying space on the pavements or other public/private areas.

Sometimes vendors are cheated by the customers or sometimes they are harassed by local leaders and other authorities. They cannot maintain their living standards as they face a number of issues such as health risk, low living standards, illiteracy, poverty and so on. Since hawking and vending could not be stopped even after repeated eviction, this required to be investigated adequately and measures taken accordingly.

Because the results of the study will provide a better understanding view of the street vendors and awareness to policy constructors, to design an operative and proficient policy for the improvement of the livelihood of the street vendors. So it is essential to keep the city functioning properly as well allow the vendors to conduct business.

The main objective of the study is to know the socio-economic aspects and working patterns of street vendors in Chapainawabganj Municipality that had to work out by i) to

study the distribution of socio-economic status of the street vendors and ii) to study about the working patterns of street vendors.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Study Area and Respondents

The researchers used convenience sampling method to select 70 respondents from different places in Chapainawabganj municipality. This study was conducted during the period from 2nd to 28th January, 2020.

2.2. Tools for Data Collection

The primary data related to the present study was collected through structured questionnaire interview schedule through face-to-face interview.

2.3. Analytical Technique

The primary data has been analyzed in SPSS 16.0 version and descriptive statistics was used to analyse and interpret results of socio-economic aspects and working patterns of street vendors.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Socio-economic Status of Street Vendors

Table 1 Distribution of the respondent's age

Age	Frequency	Percent
15-25	8	11.40
25-35	37	52.90
35-45	12	17.10
45-55	4	5.70
55+	9	12.90
Total	70	100.00

Mean, 25.57; Standard deviation, 11.75

From the Table 1, it is seen that the total of 70 street vendors, 8 (11.40%) of the street vendors belong to 15-25 age groups, 37 (52.90%) belong to 25-35 age groups, 12 (17.10%) belong to 35-45 age groups, 4 (5.70%) belong to 45-55 age groups and 9 (12.90%) belong to 55 and above age group.

The average age of the distribution is 25.57 years. This suggests that the economically active age group takes part in street vending reflecting the high levels of unemployment in the country.

Table 2 Distribution of the respondent's educational status

Educational Level	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	4	5.70
Literate (only Signature)	23	32.90
Primary education (class 5-10)	32	45.70
SSC & above	11	15.70
Total	70	100.00

From the Figure 1, it is observed that 84% of the street vendors are male and 16% are female, since vending profession is looked down upon by the society. People do not prefer the female members of the family to sit on the roadside, selling goods.

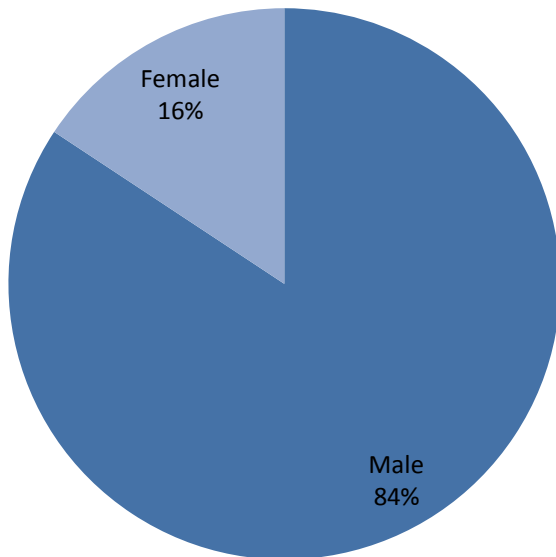


Fig. 1 Pie chart for the respondent's gender.

From the Table 2, it is found that 4 (5.70%) of the respondents are illiterate, 23 (32.90%) are literate but they can signature only. 32 (45.70%), that is, most of the street vendors have only primary education (class 5-10) where many of them are drop out from the school due to poverty or many other reasons. This indicates that the low-educated people chose street vending as an occupation. Only 11 (15.70%) street vendor from the study has their higher education which starts from SSC level to upper degrees.

Table 3 Distribution of the respondent's residential status

Residential Status	Frequency	Percent
Residential area	40	57.10
Slum area	9	12.90
Road side area	21	30.00
Total	70	100.00

It is seen from the Table 3 that among the total of 70 street vendors, 40 (57.10%), that is, more than half of the respondents live in residential area as they are the resident by heredity. Only 9 (12.90%) live in slum area and 21 (30.00%) live in road side area. They suffer from various diseases due to lack of pure drinking water and proper sanitation. It is observed from the Table 4 that 21 (30.00%) of the street vendors have 2-4 family members, that is, they have a nuclear family. Though many of the family have a propensity to go nuclear family, 34 (48.60%), that is, most of

the street vendors have 4-6 family members. Also, 11 (15.70%) have 6-8 family members, 2 (2.90%) have 8-10 family members and also 2 (2.90%) have 10 and above family members.

Table 4 Distribution of the respondent's family member

Family Member	Frequency	Percent
2-4	21	30.00
4-6	34	48.60
6-8	11	15.70
8-10	2	2.90
10 and above	2	2.90
Total	70	100.00

Table 5 Distribution of the respondent's daily income (In Tk.)

Daily Income (In Tk.)	Frequency	Percent
≤ 500	48	68.60
500-1000	11	15.70
1000-1500	4	5.70
1500 and above	7	10.00
Total	70	100.00

It is observed from the Table 5 that 48 (68.60%), that is, most of the street vendors daily incomes are limited to Tk. ≤500. Majority of the street vendors are found as poor class people with lower standard of living. Though they work hard, their income is not sufficient to lead their life smoothly. Also, 11 (15.70%) street vendor's daily income are Tk. 500-1000, 4 (5.70%) street vendor's daily income are Tk. 1000-1500 and 7 (10.00%) street vendor's daily income are Tk. 1500 and above. This means that a very few of them earn at a satisfactory level.

Table 6 Distribution of the respondent's daily expenditure (In Tk.)

Daily Expenditure (In Tk.)	Frequency	Percent
0-500	42	60.00
500-1000	17	24.30
1000 and above	11	15.70
Total	70	100.00

It is seen from the Table 6 that 42 (60.00%), that is, maximum street vendors daily expend Tk. 0-500. This indicates that the standard of living is significantly lower, that is, most of the street vendors belong to the poor class in Chapainawabganj municipality to meet their basic necessities of day to day life. About 17 (24.30%) street vendors daily expend Tk. 500-1000 and only 11 (15.70%) daily expend Tk. 1000 and above. This reveals that a very few of them expend to meet their basic needs of day to day life.

From the Table 7, it is observed that 37 (52.90%), that is, majority of the street vendors started their business as less

capital is needed to set up their business. Also, 9 (12.90%) street vendors choose this business for high income facility and 24 (34.30%) for no qualification is needed to start this business as most of the street vendors have primary education (class 5-10).

Table 7 Distribution of the respondent's reason of choosing the profession

Reason of Choosing the Profession	Frequency	Percent
Less capital	37	52.90
High income facility	9	12.90
No qualification needed	24	34.30
Total	70	100.00

Table 8 Distribution of the respondent's sources of capital

Sources of Capital	Frequency	Percent
Own	44	62.90
Loan from NGO's	20	28.60
Loan from Banks	4	5.70
Grants from relatives	1	1.40
Other	1	1.40
Total	70	100.00

It is observed from the Table 8 that 44 (62.90%), that is, more than half of the street vendors started business by their own capital, 20 (28.60%) street vendors started business by taking loan from NGO's and 4 (5.70%) by taking loan from banks.

3.2. Working Status of Street Vendors

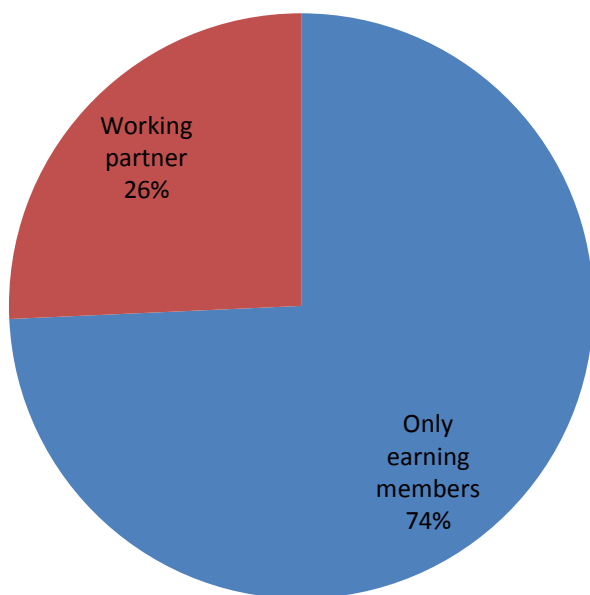


Fig. 2 Pie chart for the respondent's earning members.

From the Figure 2, it is seen that 74 %, that is, more than half of the street vendors have only earning member. In this situation, it is very difficult to meet the basic needs for their livelihood and 26% have another earning member in their family.

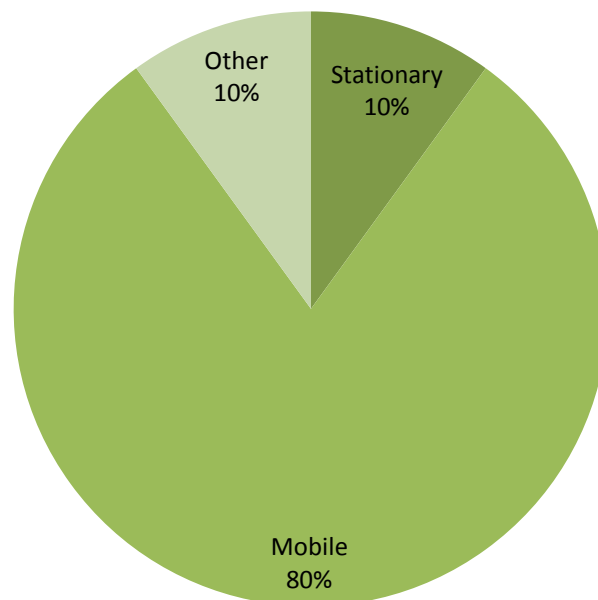


Fig. 3 Pie chart for the respondent's modes of shop.

From the Figure 3, it is seen that 80%, that is, maximum of the street vendors have mobile shop because it is easy to move from one place to another. About 10% of the street vendors have stationary shops which are not easily movable and another 10% have other types of different temporary shops.

Table 9 Distribution of the respondent's types of selling goods

Types of Selling Goods	Frequency	Percent
Tea and coffee	10	14.30
Cigarette and chocolate	11	15.70
Vegetables	3	4.30
Fruits	9	12.90
Nuts, jhalmuri, chotpoti and fuchka	12	17.10
Other	25	35.70
Total	70	100.00

From the Table 9, it is revealed that 10 (14.30%) street vendors sell tea and coffee, 11 (15.70%) sell cigarette and chocolate, 3 (4.30%) sell vegetables, 9 (12.90%) sell fruits, 12 (17.10%) sell nuts, jhalmuri, chotpoti and fuchka and 25 (35.70%) sell other types of different products and utensils. They carry their items on their van and shoulders in different places of Chapainawabganj municipality.

Table 10 Distribution of the respondent's average working hour

Average working hour	Frequency	Percent
4-7	9	12.90
8-11	55	78.60
12-15	6	8.60
Total	70	100.00

It is found from the Table 10 that 55 (78.60%), that is, most of the street vendors spend 8-11 working hour on an average in a day in Chapainawabganj municipality, 9 (12.90%) spend 4-7 hours and 6 (8.60%) spend 12-15 hours in a day on an average.

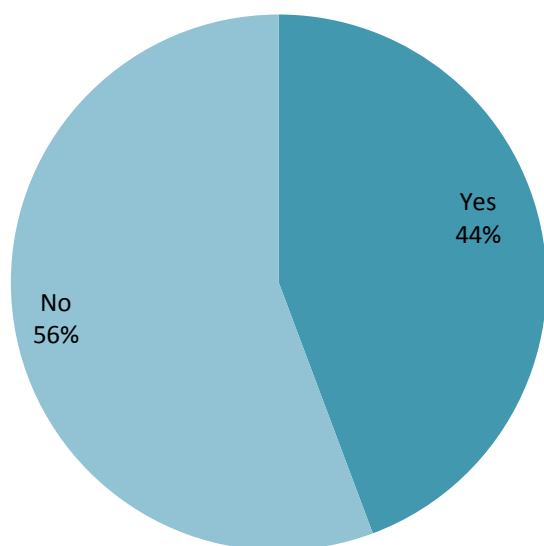


Fig. 4 Pie chart for the respondent's health condition (Body pain).

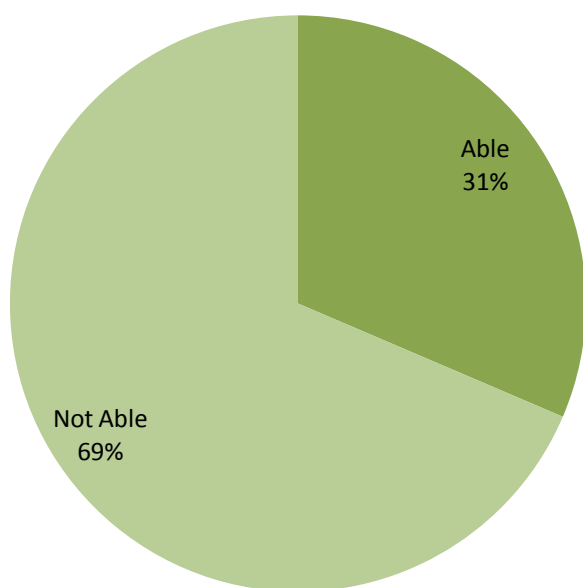


Fig. 5 Pie chart for the respondent's ability to save money.

It is evident from the Figure 4 that 44% of the street vendors have body pain as they carry their items on their van or shoulders in different places of Chapainawabganj municipality and 56% street vendors have no body pain in their daily works.

From the Figure 5, it is seen that 69%, that is, most of the street vendors are not able to save money from their business and 31% street vendors are able to save money in Chapainawabganj municipality.

4. CONCLUSION

Our field survey was a small effort to understand the significance of the informal sector in Chapainawabganj municipality for a decent standard of living. Street vendors play an important role to the subsistence economy and to the local communities. This study reveals that age and education are key criteria for potential employment but they have no ability to find better paid and secured employment in the formal sector by the low education in the active age group. The street vendors are working in the open places and they are working long hours in a day. So, they are affected by some diseases like body pain. Their income and expenditure indicates that the standard of living is significantly lower and most of the street vendors are not able to save money from their business. The present study is to recommend the following topics.

- i. The economically active age group (25-35 years) is participating in street vending reflecting the high unemployment levels in the country. So, government should take necessary steps to skill this age group.
- ii. Majority of the street vendors are drop out from the school due to poverty or many other reasons. So, government should take necessary steps to give stipend for the poor students.
- iii. As they live in slum and road side area, so the municipal corporation has to provide pure drinking water and proper sanitation to their living area.
- iv. As income and expenditure suggests that the standard of living is significantly lower, so they have to motivate to join other resourceful job.
- v. Micro credit scheme can be offered by government or NGO or different commercial banks at low interest rate to change their profession.
- vi. Majority of the respondents are working in the business is whole day so local government can provide uniform for the vendors.
- vii. Recognition and proper assistance of this sector will improve their economic and social status significantly.
- viii. Municipalities should update their policies for the management of vendors which will be helpful to tackle the social and economic problems associated with vendors.

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