

Exploring Socio-Economic and Psychological Condition of Street Vendors of Barishal City: Evidence from Bangladesh

Md. Sadequr Rahman

Department of Sociology, University of Barishal, Barishal, Bangladesh

Now a days, the number of street vendors are increasing day by day. The aim of the study is to find out the socio-economic and the psychological condition, and the modes of risks or encountering problems for employment of the street vendors in Barishal city. Triangulation research like quantitative and qualitative methods were used by purposive sampling. Data were collected from 60 samples by survey and 10 case studies of street vendors of the selected areas during the period of January 2019 and analyzed by percentage distribution to compare. People are coming in Barishal city due to illiteracy, poverty, long time unable to manage a job, labor supply, large family size, and to search for better job opportunities and better living, and administrative purposes, then the displaced and vulnerable people start street vending. This profession is needed very less capital, no educational qualification, no training, easy to start and easy to move. Female vendors are very few because of patriarchy, religious bindings, unequal power relations, female inferiority, unable to decision making, women's availability to indoor works where vending is an outdoor work. Besides, it is a very tiresome and arduous job so male are best suited to perform street vending under the scorching sun or rain in the roadside or market area. Most of them are married and live in the slum areas and congested small rooms with too many children which is very unhygienic and congested. Street vendors compete with the other vendors of the city, face difficulties when the municipality and the police force interfere with their business. Their mental stress becomes growing negatively when forced to leave their working place without prior notice. This situation creates both economic and psychological stress for the street vendors. To solve these problems government should provide them a certain place for vending, minimum/interest free loan, license, educational logistics support and to strengthen the social awareness program.


Key Words: Street vendor, income, employment, urban informal sector, social capital, socio-economic status, psychological stress

Background of the Study

Street vending is most prevalent and very regular phenomena in many developing countries like Bangladesh as well as some developed countries which plays 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. Street vendors are the people who sell various types of goods and services on streets, educational institutions like school, college and university areas, natural market areas, where there is the density of office going people, bus stations, railway terminals and platforms, parks and open spaces with a very low cost to the city dwellers. Street vendors are regarded as self-employed workers in the informal sector who offer their labor to sell their goods and services without having any permanent built-up structure (NPUSV 2006). The term 'street vendor' is typically used as 'street trader', 'hawker' and 'peddler'. They are also used many local terms and regional variations (Hasan and Alam 2015). Street vendor is defined as hawker, peddler, street vendor, *pheriwala*, footpath

dukandars, sidewalk traders etc. those who sell daily utensils such as vegetables, sweets, cloth, utensils and toys, on footpaths or by going from door to door. They load them in basket or on pushcart, van, wheel barrow or tricycle and moves in selected areas to effect sales. Sometimes they announce loudly goods or necessary utensils for sale to attract customers. Many a times they also displayed goods or articles of sale on footpath. Street vendors and hawkers serve the same function for pedestrians, bicyclists and bus users. Pedestrians need cobblers on the road to have their footwear fixed, just as much as car owners need tyre repair shops. Bicyclists need repair shops for repairing their tyres, chains and pedals fixed.

***Corresponding authors:** Md. Sadequr Rahman, MPhil, Department of Sociology, University of Barishal, Bangladesh. Email: sadeksociology2000@yahoo.com

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All commuters need food beverages like cold drinks, snacks and other services on the roadside (Ray and Mishra 2011). Even, they may sell necessary commodities such as DVD, CD, mobile cover, mobile set and SIM, flexi load, electronics and mobile accessories, RMG, glass, fruits, kitchen ware, bed cover, shari, spectacles, towel, juice, baby dress, T-Shirt, perfume, dry food, bags, paper, cigarette, envelope and stamp, cold drinks, cold water, net, etc. at a cheap rate (Ratna 2012).

It is reported unofficially by several hawker association that around 2.5 lakh street vendors ply their business on the capital cities' public sidewalks in recent years which has increased from 90,000 in 2005 to support themselves and their families (Husain et al. 2015). Roughly 750,000 rickshaw pullers and 300,000 street vendors live and work in Dhaka (Khairuzzaman et al. 2014, Islam 2017).

Street vendors are an integral part of the economy around the world especially developing countries like Bangladesh and also a peripheral Barishal region, offering easy access to a wide range of goods and services in public places occupying the street. They sell everything from fresh vegetables to fishes, from fruits to prepared foods, from shoes to garments (Hosen 2018). They help us to save our valuable time for availability with the necessary items or accessories what we need. Every day they serve us with different commodities what we need. In our country many people are not well off in the city so they prefer to buy the goods from street vendors rather than from the shops because they find those goods much cheaper in comparison with the shops. They are occupying almost the whole footpaths and other public places as their vending places. This leads to functional problems of the city and also creates problems for pedestrians. For this reason to solve the problem, sometimes the relevant authorities of the government forced them to stop their business in the street and to leave their vending places without previous notice. Here the vendors have to face a lot of troubles because they are not legal. Some of them are facing problem of eviction and few of them are facing problem of conflict with pedestrians, confiscation of goods and extortion by authority. Sometimes the vegetable vendors leave all of their items in the roads and run to save themselves from the police forces. This causes a huge economic lose for them. They become helpless emotionally and physically. Their families also suffer much. They become jobless instantly and have to loss of their hope and items at the twinkling of an eye. This situation drags their families in the roadside sometimes. Again the vendors of the street have to pay different bodies, leaders in the locality in order to run their business there. On the other hand, this also seriously hinders the flow of vehicular traffic by creating congestion, delay in reaching destinations, loss of valuable time

and money. Such problems are evident in most parts of the city where hawkers conduct businesses and this creates obstruction to the functionality of the city (Ratna 2012).

Street vending is prevailing and distinctive part of a large informal sector in Barishal city. It is largely recognized that street vendors play an important socio-economic role in terms of employment potential, special income for women, and in serving the food at prices affordable to the lower and middle-income groups. The items made available by the street vendors consist of a diverse range of selection, starting from small snacks such as biscuits, tea, nuts and phuchka/choptoti to wholesome meals such as ruti-bhaji and rice (Muzaffar et al. 2009). Nowadays, street vendors sell almost everything they could carry, starting from candies, popcorn, towel, lemon, hand fan, cold water, seasonal flowers, toys, candy floss, cigarettes, toothbrush, pen, children's book, even pirated copies of latest popular books, and many more (Ahmed). The number of the street vendors in Barishal city are rising day by day. They come here from all over the southern part of the country. They just try to find a better lifestyle here and found that vending in the street is a easiest way to earn money here. Generally, hawkers prefer places where pedestrian flows are quite high.

They select these places because of three reasons; i) regular flow of large number of people, who are the prospective buyers ii) buyers are unwilling to travel long distances to buy their goods, iii) people come to these places for various reasons (Ratna 2012). Sometimes the vendors have to pay a sizeable amount to different authorities from their regular income. This is really very harsh reality for the vendors when they face these. Since hawking and vending could not be stopped even after repeated eviction, this required to be investigated adequately and measures taken accordingly. So it is essential to keep the city functional properly as well allow the vendors to conduct business. Sometimes they are driven to commit crimes or engaged with different illegal activities. Government may provide a specific place in different area for them only to sell their products. If this is done, then the street hawkers and the vendors can run their business without uncertainty, fear and anxiety.

From economic and social perspective street vendors provide a cheap and convenient way of meeting consumer demands. They provide affordable goods and services to the poor quintile to middle income people. Street vending as an occupation has existed for hundreds of years, and is considered a cornerstone of many cities, street traders account for as much as 20% of total employment (Sally 2008, Hasan and Alam 2015).

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to find out the socio-economic and the psychological condition of the street vendors in Barishal city. In order to achieve this objective the following specific objectives can be posed:

- To identify the socio-economic and demographic status of street vendors in Barishal city
- To analyze the various types of products and services offered by the street vendors
- To explore the psychological condition of the street vendors
- To find out the modes of risks or encountering problems associated with their employment
- To suggest some appropriate policy formulation in addressing such street vending problem

Literature Review

Literature review find out the gaps of the studies that had been done previously related to the area. It is an important part of the research or a study. Without literature review no study can build up as effective one. Actually, it is an evaluation the existing knowledge about a specific subject area or topic.

Street vendors

A street vendor is a person who offers goods and services for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall or carrying by head. Street vendors offer different products and services that can be stationary and occupy space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or can be mobile, and move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or could sell their wares in moving buses (Ahmed, Bhowmik 2005).

Socio-Economic Condition

Socio-economic status (SES) is defined as a measure of one's combined economic and social status and tends to be positively associated with better health. It focuses on the three common measures of socio-economic status: education, income, and occupation (EH Baker 2014).

Psychological Condition

Psychological condition of a person refers to the mental condition of a person which effects the physical soundness of a person.

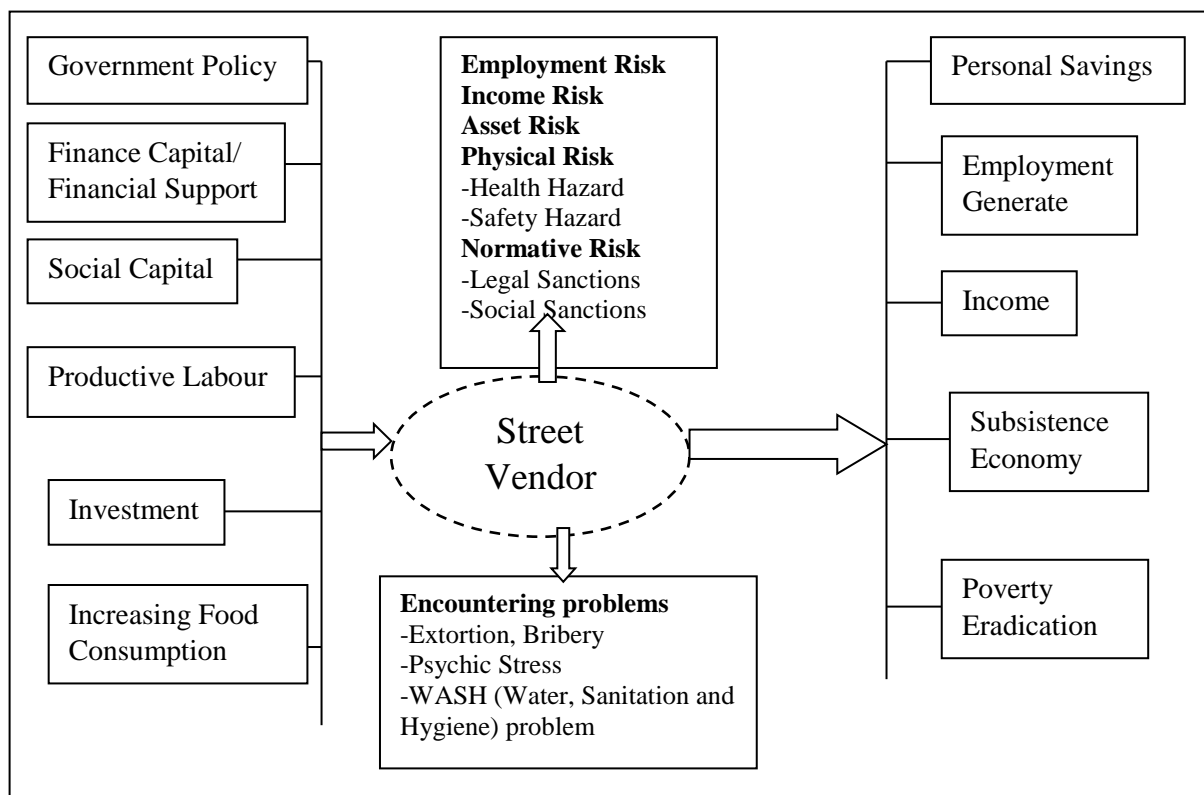


Figure 1: Conceptual framework of lifestyle and livelihood of street vendors Source: Adopted and modified from (Husain et al. 2015 and Mahmud et al. 2014)

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. They also emphasized social capital of street vendor which is considered as the neighbourhood, kinship, friendship, and known people in account on daily sale. Majority of the buyers of the vendors are regular customers including rickshaw and car drivers, students of schools, colleges, people of the local area, tenants, businessmen and day laborers. This social capital played a significant role in earning extra income. This business also suffer from absence of adequate and sufficient source of fund, inefficient managerial skill, lacking risk assurance and transportation problem. They become victim of harassments by officials especially the polices, extortionists, arrests and bribes. The study suggests that specific governmental policies and initiatives for the street vendors will help to minimize their problems to some extent.

Akharuzzaman and Atsushi (2010) showed in their study that street vending is one of the better informal job opportunities for poor though they create problems in urban areas by producing street garbage, crowd the footpath and concluded the formalization. Public management systems will be anticipated by street vender community itself.

Sayma Suraiya (2014) presented a paper entitled 'Socio-economic condition of the street vendors in Dhaka city' in where she found that street vendors are source of income, employment and service to millions of people regarding the advancement of Bangladesh. The study also shows the monthly income, services, family size and the expenditure of the street vendors in the city.

Rahman and Junayed (2017) conducted a conference paper 'Livelihood sustainability of street vendors: A study in Dhaka city'. This research was an exploratory one. DFID (The British Department for International Development) propounded that there are five categories of assets or capital in Sustainable livelihood approaches (SLA) framework to analyze the way of sustainable development such as human, social, financial, physical and natural assets. The study shows that the street vendors in Dhaka city have reasonable access to human and social assets for traditional close-knit family ties and kinship which is required for livelihood sustainability. Regarding financial assets, street vendors earn very limited resources which often push them to borrow at high risk. On

the other hand, both natural and physical assets seem to be on down side of the scale.

Khan et al. (2018) illustrate a clear picture of socio-demographic profile and safety practices of street food vendors in Barisal city area. Street vendors often do not comply with safe and hygienic food handling practices that leads to a greater risk of a range of food-borne diseases. It can be stated that vendors are not completely ignorant of the basic food hygiene practices. But there are areas like source of drinking water, food preparation water, hand washing, reused leftover food, selling during sickness need to be drawn attention. They point out that food-handling training and education, awareness program, enforcement of government regulations and infrastructure may improve the safety for street foods.

Bhowmik (2010) noted that vendors are often poor, uneducated, and lack of knowledge in safe food handling, environment, sanitation and hygiene, types of food exhibition, food service and hand washing, sources of cooking raw materials, and use of potable water. As a consequence, street foods are perceived to be a major public health risk which is produced by street vendors.

Suraiya and Noor (2012) studied a paper entitled 'An Analysis of Socio-economic Conditions of Street Vendors: A Study on Dhaka City' in where they showed the analysis of the income, employment and services rendered by street vendors in Dhaka city. They found that a significant portions of people generating income through informal sector of street vending in Dhaka city. Street vendors offer intense services for the city dwellers within reasonable cost range. This is an exploratory study of Dhanmondi, Motijheel and Labag area to explore the existing socio-economic condition of the street vendors in the city. The study also shows that the mobile street vendors play an important role including social recognition. Proper assistance and education will improve their economic condition in Dhaka city.

Nazmoon Nahar (2016) exhibits the diseases that deteriorates the health condition and the treatment patterns of the street hawkers in Dhaka city in her paper named 'Diseases and health condition of street hawkers in Bangladesh'. She conducted a survey on 300 randomly selected samples of street hawkers of Dhaka city through a structured questionnaire. The study shows that the majority of the street hawkers are lower middle class familywho work in an open place and lead a very poor life. There is no sanitation/toilet facilities which put an adverse impact on the health of the female hawkers in the city. A large number of low income group are not able to afford the products and services from the formal shopping malls, and they want to purchase their goods and food items comparatively in low price than the other shopping malls and retail stores.

Ratna (2012) studied a thesis paper entitled 'Hawkers in Dhaka: Their Struggle for Livelihood and Functionality of the City' and showed that how the street hawkers or vendors struggle for their livelihood and they put up hindrance to the functionality of the city. The study shows that the hawkers sell products to the city dweller at a low cost and they occupy large portion of the street that hampers the functionality of the city. The study covers two types of hawkers in the city such as the stationary hawkers and the mobile hawkers. The study includes that 45% are basket carrying hawkers in Dhaka city. The study suggests that specific place allocation and Identification of cards for every hawker can solve the functionality problem of the Dhaka city.

Etzold et al. (2013) discuss the role of street food vending, the different types of vending and livelihoods of the street food vendors, and the implications of their public space using on state authorities, policy makers and urban planning – and indeed for urban governance. They conducted a survey on the street food vendors and show that the street food vending in Dhaka city as the illegal encroachment of the public space due to the space scarcity in the city that creates traffic jam in the road and hampers the urban planning. The study shows that 52% of the respondents consume different kinds of street food on a daily basis, whereas 23% stated that they never eat any street foods. The study find out that the most important locations for street food vending are public places, where people assemble in great numbers, in particular markets, bus and train terminals, university campuses, in front of school grounds and hospitals, and nearby clusters of working places. These public places, thereby, become nodes of informal food distribution networks. The study also shows that politics prevailing in the process of encroachment of the public places in Dhaka city by the street vendors. Though street vending is a practice adapted by the less privileged members of the Bangladesh society, the vendors can still be marginalized, disadvantaged and even exploited. Mollah and Islam (2014) reported that there are over 5 lakh hawkers in the country and each of them on an average pays Tk. 50 every day to linemen, who are private agents of extortionists. The rates vary depending on the location of the stalls, hawkers trading busy streets buzzing with commuters have to pay more. If the hawkers are unable to pay the extortion money, they are tortured, and their makeshift stalls and goods are damaged.

Bromley (2000) supported to the street vendors for some reasons such as it provides entrepreneurial opportunity for the destitute people having problem to start up business, it increases a diverse range of competition of retail outlets in the trade sector, provides a low-cost social safety net that supports

income and provides an alternative to criminal activity.

Muzaffar et al. (2009) analyzed their paper entitled 'Entrepreneurs of the Streets: an Analytical Work on the Street Food Vendors of Dhaka City' and showed that street food vending is a prevailing and distinctive part of a large informal sector in Dhaka city. They tried to gain insight into the business of street food vendors: highlight the problem areas and identify some key factors that positively affect their sales revenue. They noted four problem of street vendors which are related to business operation, business knowledge, extortion, and product and production. They also found that business experience and primary capital affect sales revenue positively. Formal education does not have any significant impact on street vending business performance.

Andringa and Kies (1989) showed that a vendor earns may be 3 to 10 times more than the minimum wage and they are often comparable to the wages of skilled laborers' employed in the formal sector. These vendors and their families typically rely on profits from vending as their primary source of household income. While some depend on street vending as a regular primary or secondary occupation, others vend only when an opportunity comes itself to earn extra income. Most vendors work as independent self-employed entrepreneurs, either with or without employees or some work as employees of informal enterprises. Bhowmik (2005) assess the magnitude of street vendors in different countries and their composition. The study collates information on the extent of unionization of vendors and their organizations such as NGO's, self help groups. It was observed that the number of street vendors was growing in Asia like Bangladesh, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia etc. The growth in number was attributed to the changes in the economy of these countries.

Khairuzzaman et al. (2014) conducted a study and showed that street vendors play an important socio-economic role in meeting food and nutritional requirements of city consumers at affordable prices to the lower and middle income groups. They also analyzed the socio-demographic characteristics, common hazards, and occupational hazards of street food vendors, microbial risk associated with street food, food safety interventions and control measures, regulatory aspects and legal requirements, financial constraints, and attitudes.

Khanam (2006) mentioned in her study that the number of women street vendors is increasing in Dhaka city. This is because women who do not have any other way to meet the subsistence needs of their families enter into the informal sector like street vending. But street vending is a non-

traditional and male-dominated task and there is an earning gap between men and women vendors.

Faruque and Haque (2010) evaluated the existing socio-economic, demographic profile and food safety of street food vending in the selected wards of Dhaka City Corporation in their study 'Institutionalization of Healthy Street Food System in Bangladesh: A Pilot Study with Three Wards of Dhaka City Corporation as a Model'.

The various studies enumerated above covered different dimensions. Based on the literature reviewed it was inferred by the researcher that the earlier studies had not concentrated much on the activities and performance of street vendors. This research gap made the investigator to thoroughly analyze the activities and performance of street vendors.

Methods and Materials of the Study

This research is both qualitative and quantitative in nature. It has been conducted based on primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through a well structure questionnaire included both open ended and close ended questions. Before preparing the final questionnaire, a preliminary survey and discussion with the respondents was conducted by the researcher. Depending the preliminary survey and discussion the final questionnaire was made in which socio-economic conditions, demographic characteristics, living conditions, livelihood, fulfilment of basic needs, problems of vending such as harassment, threat, bribe, toll etc. and their social recognition was asked. So social survey method and case study method were used in the study. Researcher collects information from the individuals through the social survey method by using interview schedule and the questionnaires, and observation. The study was covered by different kinds of vendors of some places of Bibir Pukur and the Chawk Bazar area of Barishal city and selected samples purposively as convenient place. There are a lot of street vendors on these areas where every road is very busy daylong. Data were collected from total number of 60 samples and 10 case studies of street vendors of the selected areas during the period of January 2019. Secondary sources of data has been collected from the internet and different sources such as journal, thesis paper, conference paper, research work, records and documents from the books. After collecting all the data from various sources those data have been

classified correctly in a statistical way. Here data are edited, coded, segmented and summarized and in a structured way for the comparison and the findings of data analysis.

Present Scenarios of the Street Vendors of Barishal City

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Street Vendors of Barishal City

Street vendors are running their business in Barishal city from many years. Vendors engaged in fixed location activities or mobile and semi-mobile activities. Many street vendors are constrained by the unstable socio-economic backgrounds in their families. Almost all of the street vendors starts this business due to poverty. Their family size is large and finds this business easy to earn something to run the family. Most of the street vendors are male and middle aged group. Female vendors are very few because of patriarchy, norms and responsibilities, religious bindings, unequal power relations, female inferiority, unable to decision making of women, women's availability to indoor works where vending is an outdoor work. Besides, it is a very tiresome and arduous job so male are best suited to perform street vending under the scorching sun or rain in the roadside or market area. Women are seen making *pithas* during the winter season in different area of Barishal city. The study reveals that only 21.7% of the street vendors have higher education. For this reason, most of the street vendors fall in trouble frequently to understand any legal rights or the tricks of different authorities who claim bribe to run their business for illiteracy. Most of them are married with having too many children and live in the slum areas and congested small rooms in the Barishal city. The slum areas are very unhygienic and congested. In the city most of them live in the slum area included lack of pure drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. The number of women street vendor is increasing in Barishal city. This is why women who do not have other way to meet the subsistence needs of their families enter into the informal sector like street vending. But street vending is a non-traditional and male-dominated job and there is an earning gap between men and women vendors. Social acceptance or recognition or social status of street vendors are very low.

Table-1: Socio-demographic Profile of the Respondents

		Frequency	Percentage
Age (in Years)	15-25	15	25
	25-35	20	33.3
	35-45	10	16.7
	45-55	10	16.7
	55 & above	5	8.3
Gender	Male	50	83.3
	Female	10	16.7
Educational qualification	Illiterate	12	20
	Literate(only signature)	15	25
	Primary education (class 5-10)	20	33.3
	SSC & above	13	21.7
Residence	Residential area	15	25
	Slum area	45	75
	Roadside area	-	-
Family Size (Member)	2 to 4	15	25
	4 to 6	25	41.7
	6 to 8	15	25
	8 to 10	3	5
	10 & above	2	3.3
Total		60	100.0

It is found that a quarter or 25% of the street vendors belong to 15-25 age groups. And 33.3% or one-third street vendors are in the 25-35 age groups. On the other hand, about 16.7% respondents belong to the age group of 35-45 and 45-55, and only 8.3% street vendors are 55 and above age group.

From the table of socio-demographic characteristics it is clear that about 83.3% of the street vendors are male against 16.7% of female street vendors. Female face many complexities like insecurity, money, arduous labor to run the street vendor business.

It is found that one-fifth or about 20% of the respondents are illiterate. About 25% of the respondents or one-fourth are literate but they can sign only. 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. About 21.7% street vendor from the study has their higher education which starts from SSC level to upper degrees.

The table shows that one-fourth of the respondents live in the residential area of the city where 66.67% of them or two-thirds are living in the slum areas. The slum areas are not healthy and most of the slum-dwelling people suffer from various diseases due to lack of pure drinking water and proper sanitation. About 8.33% of the respondents live in roadside areas of Barishal city. They also face the hygienic problem there.

It has been shown that one-fourth of the respondents family having a nuclear family that comprises of 2 to 4 persons. Though many of the family tends to go nuclear family, most of the street vendors or about 41.7% are living in a family which has 4 to 6 members and only 3.3% of them

having a family which consists of 10 or above numbers of members.

Economic Situation of the Street Vendors of Barishal City

Street vending plays a vital role for economic development of the low quintile class who mostly belong to the deprived class of the society. Street vending is an important source of income and employment. The income of street vendors depend on the their diverse products what they sell, and it varies from product to product, from location to location, and also in terms of the volume and terms of trade. Street vending gives an opportunity that minimizes the impact of social exclusion for many city dwellers. Despite the important role of street vending in informal economy, the activity is less recognized and even it is not counted in national economic statistics or GDP. There is a lack of proper guidelines and policies, regulations and organization of the street vending sector. This study gives 3 clear picture/messages. Firstly; a significant portions of people are generating income by street vending which helps them and their reliant family members those who live from hand to mouth. Secondly, street vending is a source of workforce/employment. People who are illiterate, unskilled and having less capital can easily generate income by involving in this job. Moreover, street vendors are rendering very useful to serve to the community of our country. The contribution of the street vendors on income generation, employment generation and affording service to the people in Barishal city is also notable.

Table 2: Distribution of economy of the respondents

		Frequency	Percentage
Number of earning member	Only earning member	40	66.7
	Working partner	20	33.3
Daily income (in TK)	0-500	25	41.7
	500-1000	20	33.3
	1000-1500	10	16.7
	1500 and above	5	8.3
Daily Expenditure (in TK)	100-500	25	41.7
	500-1000	32	53.3
	1000 and above	3	5
Reason of choosing the profession	Less capital	35	58.3
	High income facility	10	16.7
	No qualification needed	10	16.7
	Others	5	8.3
Modes of the shop	Stationary	15	25
	Mobile	35	58.3
	Others	10	16.7
Types of selling goods	Tea and coffee	25	41.7
	Cigarette and chocolate	5	8.3
	Vegetables	15	25
	Nuts, Jhalmuri and chotpoti & fuchka	5	8.3
	Fruits	4	6.7
	Others	6	10
Sources of capital	Own	25	41.7
	Loan from NGOs	0	0
	Loan from bank or small credit institution	0	0
	Grants from relatives	35	58.3
	Others	-	-
Average Working hour/Workload	4 to 7	38	63.3
	8 to 11	22	36.7
	12 to 15	-	-
	16 to 20	-	-
Ability to save money	Able	25	41.7
	Not able	35	58.3
Total		60	100.0

From the table it is clear that only 33.3% street vendors have another earning member in their family where 66.7% of the street vendors have only earning member in their family.

According to the table 41.7% of the street vendor's incomes are limited to 0-500 taka. One-third respondents earned money about 500-1000 taka daily. About 8.3% of the street vendor's income are 1500-2000 and above. This is only a few numbers.

According to the table 41.7% of street vendor's daily expenditure limited to 100-500 while 53.3% of them expenses in the range of 500-1000 and 5% of the respondents expenses 1000 and above taka daily for their own and for the family members.

About 58.3% of the street vendors agree with the fact that they started this business because it is needed only a few amounts of money to set up their business. Someone chose this business for high income opportunities and no qualification is needed to start this business.

The table also shows that most of the street vendors or 58.3% of the respondents have mobile shops. Because it is easy to move the shop from

one place to another. 25% of the street vendors have stationary shops which are not easily movable. Other 16.7% have temporary stationary shops and other types.

It is evident that most of the street vendors or about 41.7% of the respondents sale tea and coffee with various items like firebox, cigarette and chocolate etc. About 8.3% of the street vendors sell cigarette and chocolate products here and there. They carry their items in their shoulders. Nuts, Jhalmuri, chotpoti and fuchka sellers move from one place to another carrying their items on their van and shoulders and in Barishal it is seen about 8.3%. Fruit sellers are found about 6.7% respondents who sold their various fruits in Barishal city. About 10% of the respondents sell their other products and utensils.

It is found that about 58.3% of the street vendors started their business through funding grants from their relatives. About 41.7% respondents manage their capital from their own sources. About 63.3% of street vendors spend 4 to 7 working hours on an average in a day in Barishal city. About 36.7% of respondents in street vendors

work 8 to 11 hours in a day. The table shows that most of the street vendors or about 58.3% respondents are not able to save money from their earning. On the other hand, 41.7% of the respondents are capable to save money in Barishal city.

Working Environment of the Street Vendors in Barishal City

Most of the street vendors are working in the city under open sky. They have to suffer in the time of rain, scorching sun, and other natural calamities. They are seen always in the public places. Especially in the roadside area they are seen most of the time. They occupy those areas without any legal permission. The places beside roadside are noisy and unhygienic always. Hawkers occupy footpaths to conduct their business; sometimes they

also occupy part of the vehicular street. This also seriously hinders the flow of vehicular traffic by creating congestion, delay in reaching destinations, loss of valuable time and money. Such problems are evident in most parts of the city where hawkers conduct businesses and this creates obstruction to the functionality of the city.

Considering the working environmental context, many street vendors work long hours at the same site on daily basis while other vendors move to two or more sites to grab the opportunity to sell to different types of customers. Most vendors work as independent self-employed entrepreneurs, either with or without employees (Husain et al. 2015). In Southeast Asia, the average earnings of a vendor may be three to ten times more than the minimum wage and they are often comparable to the wages of skilled laborers' employed in the formal sector (Andringa and Kies,1989).

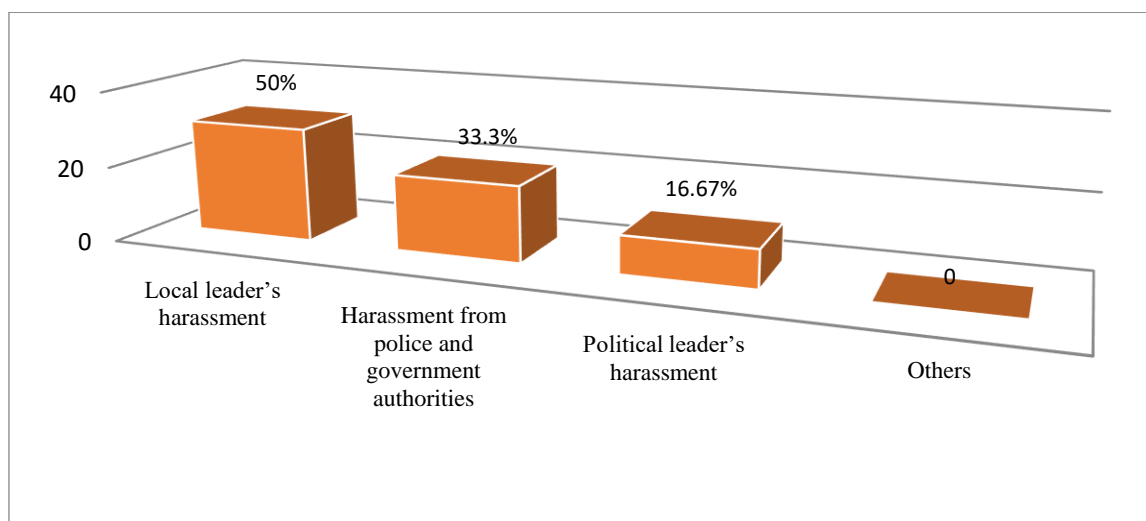


Figure-2: Respondents encountering problems in their workplace

The graph shows that 50% of the street vendors agreed that they are frequently harassed by the local leaders and 33.3% agreed that they are sometimes harassed by police and government

authorities. On the other hand, only 16.7% respondents are harassed very often by the political leaders of the locality.

Table-3: Instant steps taking by vendors forcing to leave their workplace without prior notice

Instant Steps taking by Street Vendors	Frequency	Percentage
Pack things instantly	30	50
Leave the place without packing	25	41.7
Stay in the place with fear and anxieties	5	8.3
Others	0	0
Total	60	100.0

According to the table during the problematic situation 50% of the street vendors pack their whole things and leave the place. About 41.7% of the street vendors remarked that they leave the

place without packing their commodities and other 8.3% expressed their opinion that they stay in the place with fear and anxieties regarding forced to leave their workplace.

Table-4: Safety or security of the respondents in their workplace

About safety	Frequency	Percentage
Safe	22	36.7
Not safe	38	63.3
Total	60	100.0

The table shows that 36.7% of the street vendors feel safe in their workplace where 63.3% of the

respondents agreed that they do not feel safe in their workplace.

Table-5: Providing bribery amount to different authorities for running their business

Daily Bribery Amount (in Tk.)	Frequency	Percentage
50 - 100	25	41.7
100 - 150	25	41.7
150 and above	15	25
Total	60	100.0

From the table it is clear that 41.7% street vendors opined that they have to pay everyday in the range of 50-100 and 100-150 taka respectively as a bribe to run their business while 25% of the respondents noted that they have to pay more than that or above 150 taka.

Psychological and Health Condition of the Street Vendors of Barishal City

The working environment of the street vendors are not well furnished and even don't have any roof of itself. So the place is always unhygienic and unhealthy. In this situation the health of the street vendors is affected by this. They inhale all the dust from the road and vehicles, which affect their health in the long run. Sometimes they are forced to leave their business place with all of their items without prior notice for keeping the city function well. They become helpless and anxious for the coming day. In this situation their mental health can't be sound. Majority of the street hawkers claimed their body pain including legs pain, back pain, neck pain, hands pain, headache, and muscle pain. Most of them complained tiredness and became parched or scorched in the sun. A large portion of respondents suffer from insomnia (disturbance of sleeping), dizziness etc. because of their body pain.

Vending stands are often crude structures, and running water, washing facilities, and toilettes may not be available. In most cases, the vendors do not have adequate washing facilities, and some vendors started their duties without taking a proper bath. Foods and ingredients are also subjected to repeated contamination from unwashed hands and

the materials used for wrapping, such as leaves, old newspapers, and reusable polyethylene bags. Moreover, some food handlers washed their hands in the same bucket used for cleaning utensils, which may lead to the faecal contamination. On the other hand, most food vendors operate their business without health certificates or licenses (Khairuzzaman et al. 2014).

Street trading involve small earning, high risk, especially for the fresh vegetable and fruit seller and regular occupational and physical hazard as a result of unhygienic market condition. They also indentified that the street vendors are highly exposed to economic downturn and political unrest (Husain et al. 2015, ILO & Weigo 2013).

By eating low cost meal for the urban poor population from the street vendors, the health risks possessed by such foods may outweigh their benefits. By taking the advantage of poor monitoring and control street food particularly in developing countries often are prepared and sold in an unhygienic manner which is believed to be a burden of food and waterborne diseases. WHO (2006) identified five key points to ensure food hygiene: keeping clean, separating raw and cooked food, cooking thoroughly, keeping food at safe temperatures and using safe water and raw materials (Habib 2016). In general, the environment in which street food is prepared, handled, catered, preserved and disposed is highly unhygienic. But newspaper pieces or tissue paper or poly bags none are hygienic to serve food on as their source is unknown and mostly are preserved at home or stores on the floor. Most of the street food vendors do not use soap after using toilet.

Though no prior study was conducted in this sector in Barishal. The study has revealed that majority of these vendors actually chose this profession for requiring less capital. Their lack of education as well as lack of knowledge can be identified as the significant most challenge.

It is recommended by WHO that utensils used for food preparation, preservation and serving must be cleaned with soap under running water (WHO 2015).

Table-6: Satisfaction level of the respondents with the profession

Satisfaction level with the profession	Frequency	Percentage
Satisfied	45	75
Not satisfied	15	25
Total	60	100.0

The table shows that most of the respondents like three-fourths or 75% of the street vendors are satisfied with their profession while 25% respondents expressed that they are not satisfied with this profession. They involved with this street vending due to poverty and extreme need. They are very anxious and worried with their profession.

Challenges of Street Vendors in Barishal City

There are lot of challenges and problematic situations which are faced by the street vendors in Barishal city. They have no places of their own where they can run their business smoothly. So they have to grab the public places for their business. In this situation they have to face harassment from different government and non-government authorities very often. They have to pay a certain amount daily to different authorities to stay in a certain place. Again they have to keep running their business in an uncertain condition all the time. A lack of capital is the main hindrance in setting up the vending business. In the absence of adequate and sufficient source of fund, vendors are unable to maintain the level of stock and in this process they lose customers and are also unable to meet their own daily needs. The owners of the small businesses are often also might be discouraged to borrow since they know their future stream of income might be lower than their assets (collateral). These businesses also suffer from inefficient managerial skill, lacking risk assurance and transportation problem. They failed to obtain loan from established formal financial institutions due to their failure to meet the obligations to manage the collateral.

Street vendors face unique kinds of livelihood risks because of the legal, physical, and socio-cultural environment in which they work. The most pressing and ongoing risk for many street vendors is the possibility that local government authorities will forcibly remove them from the streets or confiscate their merchandise. This risk of displacement often increases in the context of elections, mega events, or efforts to beautify

historic city centers. Just like formal business operators, street vendors are less productive in unstable institutional environments where rules are irregular and unpredictable (Bhowmik 2010, Khairuzzaman et al. 2014). Street traders face more routine occupational hazards as well. The low cost, accessibility, and convenience are the key factors for the growing popularity of street foods. Women play vital role in the street food sector through their direct and/or indirect involvement in the business.

Presentation of the Case Studies

Case study -1

Mr. Rafiq Mia, aged 40 years, lives in a slum area of KDC with his family. He has three children in which one is a boy and another two are girls. He doesn't know how to read and write. He got married with a little girl of 14 years only when he was in 18. Since then they are living together. His wife Rojina Begum is very nice to him. He loves his wife very much. He has a mobile shop called *vangari* in Bangla. He sells banana carrying on the small cart. His day start early in the morning. He sells bananas in the morning and at night he sells chotpoti and fuchka. His daily income is 500-1000 tk. His chotpoti and fuchka business is very profitable according to him. He starts this after the sunset. He sells those in front of the bazar or roadside where many people gather for their own purposes. He has a helping hand whom he calls Picu as a name. He says that recently he has been facing a problem. The government authority sometimes does not allow him to sell his street foods in this place where the things more profitable for selling. At this situation he can't able to come for his business. He says that he had to starve sometimes at this situation. Sometimes the food cart is snatched by the local people or the things are destroyed by the authorities even he is charged with case for the illegal standing. In this situation he has no choice without giving bribe to the police for getting permissions. It is a continuous or lifelong process he said. He said in this situation it becomes

difficult to live well with his family members. In his opinion to solve this problem he told that government should give them a specific place to sell their items so that they can do their business smoothly.

Case study- II

Mr. Anisur Rahman lives at Palashpur in Barisal. He is about 55 years old. He engaged with his business from 26 years. He has three daughters and two sons. The name of his wife is Mrs. Saleha Begum and 45 years old now. He married off his two daughters about one year ago. Now he has one daughter and two sons to look after. He is not educated much. His wife is also illiterate. His elder daughter passed the secondary level of education and the other daughters are studying now one is in class 8 and another one is in class six. He earns around 1000 or less than 1000 tk. in an average daily. He has a mobile van where he sells jhalmuri with potatoes and other spices. His jhalmuri is quite famous in that area. When I asked him about the problems of his profession or business he told me that *"I don't think about the problems in fact I take it as a challenge and rise and fall are common in business"*. He seems a happy person with his profession with the little income, but after that he said that sometimes he is tortured by the leaders or different authorities who have power. They demand bribe in different occasions. He said that this is very painful for him. Sometimes his wife becomes sick so he has to face difficulties because he is not able to save money. He dislikes too much education of the girls that's why he didn't allow to continue his elder daughter's education after secondary school. He remains busy all the daylong when schools are open but sometimes he has to stare at the customers during holidays. So he moves to the park grounds or open places in the holidays where people come to spend leisure time with their near and dear ones. He has a dream to stand up a shop of his jhalmuri business in a certain place where people will come to enjoy his jhalmuri. He thinks his jhalmuri is tastier than anyone else in this area. According to him his business is progressive in nature.

Case study- III

Mohammad Belal Hossain is a tea stall owner. He keeps various items in his tea stall such as tea, coffee, cigarette, bananas, biscuits and also chocolates. There is a small filter in his shop to provide water to the customers. His stall is situated in the footpath which is made for the passersby. He lives in the Chandmari area in Barishal. He is about 23 years old. He is unmarried. He is from Barguna. He came here 5 years ago in search of better life. His father is a farmer and his mother is a

housewife. He said he had an interest in education but due to economic and other circumstances he had to drop out from his school. He is the only son of his parents. He has three sisters. One sister is working in the garment in Dhaka and other two sisters are with his parents. He lives with his sister here. He is very much conscious about his sisters. He wants to contribute for his family. He told me that he can manage money for his parents after keeping his expenses from his earning. His stall is movable to one place to another. He said that he brings this new cart for business because of the functional problems of the road. The movable cart helps him to run his business smoothly. He told me that he has to run his business in an uncertain condition every day. So his daily income varies from day to day. He earns 1500 to 2000 taka a day. He starts his day early in the morning and closes his business late in night. He was afraid of sharing any problematic situation he faces in this profession by various parties. But I managed him to share with me. He then said to me that sometimes they are charged with case by the police and then they have to pay a good amount to get back their stall and place to sell things. The political leaders are also demand a certain amount from them daily he said. In some cases, he has to give half of his earnings of the day. Again the operation conducted by the police and mobile courts force him to flee without his cart full of selling items. In this situation he remains anxious about his stall and items. This is a man-made loss of his business. He hopes that the government will take steps for them so that they can get license.

Case study- IV

Mohammad Belal Mia is a street vendor. He is about 45 years old. His family members live in Bakergonj. He lives at KDC in Barishal. In front of Sher-e-Bangla hospital he sells coconut in the summer season and other fruits in the winter season. He earns 400-500 taka by selling coconut daily which is very little amount. He has two sons and one daughter. All of his children are married. He said that his elder son is a bus driver but he is ignorant of his parents. So he has to live here to work for his wife and for himself. His wife is 50 years old and she remains sick all the time. For her treatment he has to spend a lot of money. His younger son is a rickshaw puller who is also unable to support him and his wife. In this situation he has no other chance without working here in Barishal. He faces lot of problems here while working because he has to cook by himself. His health is not also in good condition because of the age. He said that during liberation war he was about 7 or 8 years old and he used to help the freedom fighters in their struggle. Here in Barishal he remains worry about his children and his wife. It is because his wife is

not in good condition. He started to do the business 5 years ago due to need. Now he is getting old day by day and emotionally feels weak. In some cases, he has to pay a small amount of bribe to the police when they are in operation. He hopes that his sons will take care of him and his wife. But he is frustrated by thinking when it will come true. Because his sons have also a family to look after.

Limitations of the Study

The study has some limitations too. The researcher has selected the limited areas for convenience and budget problem. Due to finance problem and time constraint all the vendors cannot be considered as the respondents for the study. Some of the other barriers of the study has been unfolded or covert.

Concluding Remarks with Recommendations

Street vendors play an important role to the subsistence economy and to the local communities. The vendors collect various products including the various food items and sell them in the street. They sell the daily necessary utensils for us. Their commodities are cheaper than that of the well-furnished market so that the middle class and lower middle class families buy their necessary things from the vendors. The number of street vendors are increasing in Barishal city day by day. In some cases, when people do not get their required job after completing education they start vending business because it doesn't require any qualification or license. But, there are a lot of complexities in this profession. Sometimes the vendors are cheated by the customers or sometimes they are harassed by leaders and other authorities. Street vendors can not maintain their living standard as they faced a number of problems like health hazard, low living standard, illiteracy, poverty and so on (Haque 2010, Hosen 2018). In most cases, the vendors do not get sufficient pure water, adequate washing facilities, toilet facilities, and some vendors started their duties without taking a proper bath. So government should take necessary steps for providing them pure water, proper sanitation facilities and other amenities for them to upgrade their living standards.

Though the street vendors have notable contribution to the economy and to the local community in our country, their living standard is very poor. Access of pure drinking water and hygienic sanitation of the vendor is insufficient. Now-a-days, the vendors of the city are doing their business in an uncertain condition and they are living in a miserable condition due to the competition, the increasing population in the city and the shortage of the space here. Street vendors are a large number of people here in Barishal who are engaged in earning for their livelihood in an

uncertain and risky condition. Most of the vendors are living below the poverty line in slum areas of the city which is not hygienic. In this situation they keep their selling goods in these unhygienic places. It affects or deteriorates the precarious health situation of the masses. This also leads to the mental stress of them always and it is affecting their family as well. In this situation proper steps should be taken to overcome this situation. There are some of the recommendations which may minimize the problems of the street vendors to some extent.

Government should take proper planning and steps for creating their business environment. For keeping the city function well there should be some rules and regulations of their vending business. Some rules should be imposed on the vendors so that they cannot sell the unhygienic foods to the customers. To find out certain places for the vendors where they can run their business smoothly. Government should either provide interest free loan to the street vendors for building up hygienic toilet or ensure proper drainage system to their living area. Micro credit scheme can be offered by government or NGO or different commercial banks at low interest rate. City Corporation can arrange different vocational training program for better livelihood of street vendors. Government and NGOs should provide the medical and schooling facilities. Arrange comprehensive publicity for making the street vendors aware of their child education and in the school more facilities such as scholarship, free book, lunch, tiffin etc. may be introduced to encourage them to go to school. Government should take necessary steps so that the vendors can be tensed free from the harassments and provide money as a bribe to the different authorities like local leaders and other parties. Social awareness, education and training program of street vendors should be strengthened. The more both vendors and patrons will be educated and the more they will know about issues such as nutrition and food safety, the more they will be interested in having the business as clean and the products as healthy as possible.

Through the representation of municipalities, vendors and hawkers association, NGOs and cooperatives street vendors can express their needs, problems and share information to government about the deprivation of any of their civil rights (Husain et al. 2015).

To achieve sustainable development of the cities function and services, the municipality need to co-operate with the informal sector, develop services to support, monitor and regulate informal activities, and lighten the registration procedure (Hosen 2018).

Conflict of Interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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