

# Harassment of Street Vendors in Delhi

Key findings from a randomised sample survey of **618 legally recognised street vendors** across North, South & East Delhi Municipal Corporations

## No rights if you don't know your rights



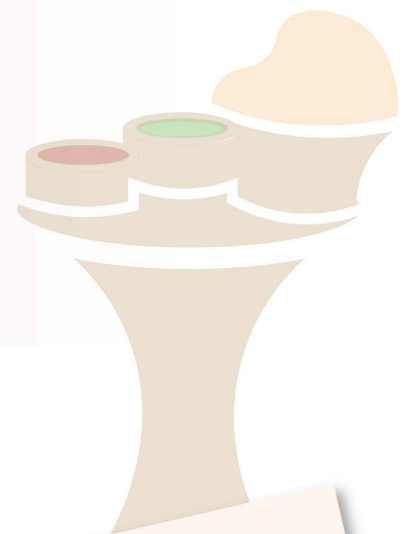
**91%**  
563 out of 618

of street vendors **do not know** that the **Street Vendors Act, 2014** (SVA) exists to protect their rights



**78%**  
481 out of 618

of street vendors **do not know** about the **Town Vending Committee**, a participatory body created for monitoring the implementation of the SVA

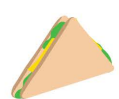


## Convenience over livelihood

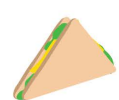
### Illegal removal of street vendors from their vending spot

As per the SVA, no legally recognised street vendor can be removed from their vending spot without prior notice, a valid reason, or a relocation plan. Yet 3.4% (21 of 618) street vendors were illegally removed from their vending spot in the last 12 months.

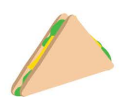
#### Of these 21 Vendors



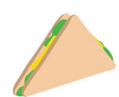
**None** were given **30 Days Notice** prior to their removal



**42.8% (9 vendors)** had to **illegally pay money** to the local officers before being removed



**71.4% (15 vendors)** were **not informed why** they were being removed



**76.19% (16 vendors)** were **not allotted** an alternative vending spot



# Playing fast and loose with the procedure under law

## Illegal seizing of goods

As per the SVA, street vendors' goods can be seized **only if they fail to vacate the spot after a 30-day notice**. If street vendors' goods are confiscated, then the authorities must provide them with a clear reason and a list of goods seized. **13.6% (84 out of 618)** street vendors had their goods seized in the last 12 months.

## Of these 84 vendors

89.2%

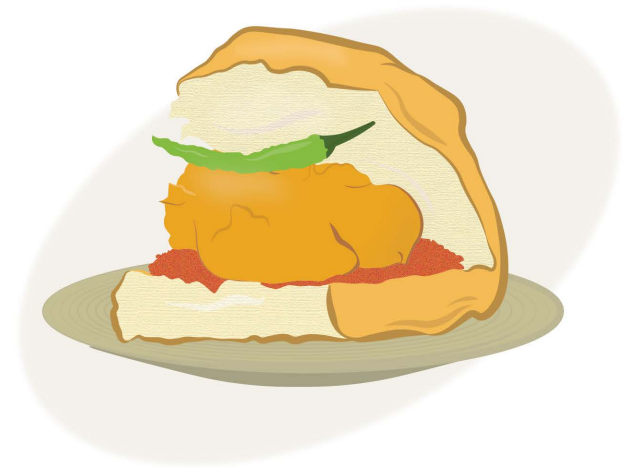


**or 75 vendors** were not given a reason for seizure of their goods

95.24%

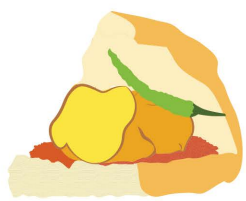
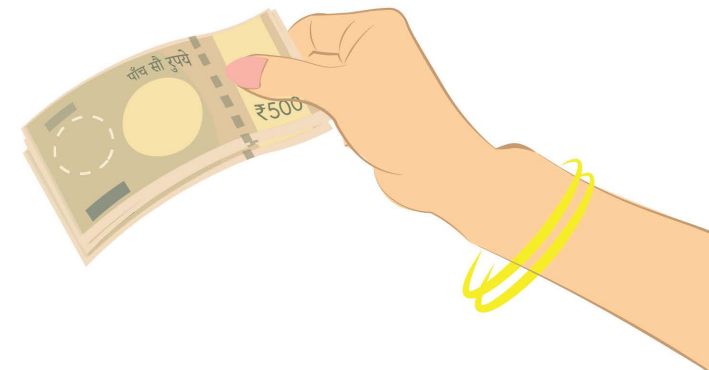


**or 80 vendors** were not given a list of seized goods



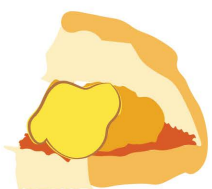
Vendors who do not have vending certificates (licenses) pay on an average **33% more (INR 1600)** to local officers to retrieve their seized goods compared to vendors with licenses (**INR 1200**)

The SVA states that the goods **confiscated must be returned within a day of request** if they are perishable and within two days if they are non-perishable; **however,**



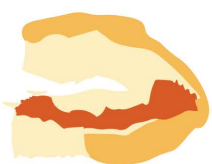
72.73%

**16 of 22** vendors did not receive their perishable goods back within a day and **48.65% (18 of 37)** vendors did not obtain their non-perishable goods back within 2 days



65.48%

**55 of 84** vendors said the seized goods were damaged or lost



35.71%

**30 of 84** vendors said they had to illegally pay money to get their goods back



# To protect or to torment?

*Illegal raids and assault by local officers*



**2.5%**  
15 of 618

of street vendors said they were **physically assaulted** by local officers in the last 12 months



**59%**  
219 of 317

of vendors **holding vending certificates** had to **vacate their vending spots**, fearing raid at least once in 30 days

# Extortion, not inclusion

*Bribery is rampant*



**12.3%**  
76 of 618

vendors said they **paid money** to local officers **without being issued a challan**

Street vendors from **South Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC)** on average **pay INR 1855** as bribes to public officials. Vendors in **North DMC and East DMC** pay **INR 1078** and **INR 978** on average respectively.



# What do vendors think?

*Some praise, some fear*



**69.4%**  
429 of 618

vendors think that public officials **should be punished** for harassing street vendors



**100%**  
618 of 618

vendors feel harassment faced is **not due to their caste, religion, or gender**

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**Publication Details:**  
Publication Date: April 2022  
Publisher: Centre for Civil Society  
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Email: [ccs@ccs.in](mailto:ccs@ccs.in) | Website: [www.ccs.in](http://www.ccs.in)

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