

Study of Various Models Used for Process of Identification of Vendors and Issuing Certificates

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Table of Contents

ABSTRACT	3
SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION.....	4
SECTION 2 – LITERATURE REVIEW	5
SECTION 3 - METHODOLOGY.....	7
SECTION 4 – CRITICAL CASE STUDIES.....	9
SECTION 5 – POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS.....	16
SECTION 6 - CONCLUSIONS.....	17
REFERENCES	18

ABSTRACT

With the passage of the Protection of Livelihood and Regulations of Street Vending, 2014, also known as Street Vendors Act, 2014 (SVA), India became one of the few countries in the world to pass a national act legalizing, recognizing, and attempting to certify one of the biggest employment opportunities in the informal sector. One of the salient aspects of the SVA is that it places the onus of identifying and certifying street vendors on the government instead of placing the onus on the vendor himself / herself. This is particularly important in the face of the fact that street vendors are some of the most exploited and harassed “employees” by government officials, police officers and local gangs and mafias. Analysing the best practices from street vendor certification models from across the world is important in order to inform Indian policymaking regarding implementation of the certification aspect of the SVA. This not only requires analysing national street vending acts, if any, but also identifying various local models and state legislations that aim to certify street vendors. This paper studies and analyses models from various South Asian countries. The purpose of this paper is to answer the question – What are the best practices from street vendor certification models from across the world? In answering this question, the paper aims to identify existing models, analyse them to recognize the best practices and in the process recommend a model for implementing the certification clause of the SVA.

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

As defined by Bhowmik (2005) a street vendor or a hawker is someone who sells goods to the public without having access to any permanent structure. Bhowmik also identifies that street vendors can be stationary or mobile in nature. A stationary street vendor usually plies his trade either on pavements or on dedicated streets reserved for street vendors. Mobile street vendors usually use a pushcart or use a basket that they carry manually in order to sell their goods. The term “street vendors” and “hawkers” have been used interchangeably in this paper, unless otherwise mentioned explicitly.

According to Bhowmik (2005), India has an estimated 10 million street vendors, which means that nearly two percentage of her total population is employed in this sector. Street vendors, on one hand, are the most visible aspect of the otherwise invisible informal economy regarding which much research work has been conducted. Yet, on the other hand, street vendors, their plight, and the economy that they generate, are one of the most ignored aspects of public policy, governance, and even academic research. This is evident from the paucity of academic research work conducted on street vendors by analysing them through the lens of public policy and economics.

Certification can be defined as the process of identifying, recognizing, and registering the various street vendors and their pertinent details (like commodity vended, geographical radius where the ply their trade, among others) in order to provide legitimacy to their activity. Such a legal approval tends to diminish the discrimination that these vendors face from government officers, policemen and other local criminals, as discussed by Bhowmik (2005). Apart from providing legitimacy to the activity, the process of certification also allows the authorities to keep a track of the activities of the street vendors which can be used for various purposes starting from handling law and order situation to efficient city planning. A more detailed and inclusive definition of certification in regard to street vending activities is absent in the limited literature regarding street vendors.

Street vending holds a very dichotomous position in the informal urban economy. As Bhowmik and Saha (2012) identified in their work, street vendors usually serve the lower and lower-middle income group in the cities by providing them goods at a cheap cost, which can be considered as subsidized. In subsidizing the costs for these poorer sections of the urban society, the street vendors earn an income for themselves. Apart from this, the middle-income group also benefits from street vending activities, especially those that sell food items near offices. On the other hand, street vendors are often considered unhygienic or responsible for creating other kinds of nuisance like traffic congestion, loud noises, disrupting pedestrian movement on pavements and other similar disturbances to civic life. For example, Bhowmik and Saha (2012) identified that 32% of the customers of street vendors classified them as unhygienic. Thus, street vending is poised at a very delicate junction between two opposing effects it has on the community. With street vending’s economic benefits being invisible to the

naked eye and its adverse effects on civic life being extremely visible, most policy making and enforcing bodies tend to view them in a negative light. This is evident in the exploitative behaviour of governments towards street vendors.

In the light of these facts, it is important to recognize street vending as a legal activity that contributes to the economy and the community. In recognizing and legalizing the activity, regulating street vending to minimize the inconveniences that it causes can be minimized. The first step towards legalization and conductively, improving the perception about them in the eyes of the public, is to identify, recognize and certify them. Considering the fact that certifying continues to be an activity undertaken by the government and the public's perception towards its reliability, it is the government that requires to undertake this task. While the SVA has taken the first step by legislating that street vendors must be certified it is important that the implementation of the certification is efficient in order to ensure minimum delays and disruption to street vendors' livelihoods. In order to recommend an efficient and practical model for certifying street vendors in accordance with the SVA, it is important to analyse various such existing models from across the world and identify their best practices. This is the purpose of this paper.

The paper will proceed by first discussing the methodology that was used to proceed with the research. The next section will identify the existing literature that discusses street vending in general and street vendor certification specifically in order to inform the research. It will move on to analysing existing models of street vendor certification in other countries or from other states and communities in India. The penultimate section will assimilate the information in the form of a policy recommendation for the implementation of the SVA. The last section will conclude.

SECTION 2 – LITERATURE REVIEW

There are some salient aspects of street vendors' certification that needs to be taken into consideration in order to inform policymaking that will ensure smooth certification for the street vendors while subjecting them to minimum harassment and disruption of livelihoods. For this reason it is important to understand the difference between any policy that is outreaching in nature from the government and a policy that places the onus of the activity on the benefactor of the policy.

The Social Construction (SC) theory of public policy agenda setting proposed by Schneider and Ingram (1993) identified four groups in the population that policymakers analyse while formulating public policy. Schneider and Ingram identified four groups of policy recipients

under the SC theory, the dependents¹, the advantaged², the deviants³, and the contenders⁴. In the backdrop of the four groups that the SC theory identifies, it can be intuitively identified that the street vendors are considered to be somewhere in between the deviant and the dependent groups of policy recipients. The SC theory identifies that beneficial policies for these groups are usually rare and not outreaching in nature. With the passage of the SVA offered a beneficial policy to the street vendors i.e. certifying and recognizing them under the ambit of the law, and that too in an outreaching manner that is usually not the characteristic of policies meant for the dependent and deviant groups. Thus, this indicates a shift of the policy paradigm from a condescending outlook towards street vending activities to a more tolerant and representative way of formulating public policy. Thus in order to complement the mission of the SVA, the policy recommendation for the certification model for street vendors must be a bottom up approach that places greater importance to their needs and grievances rather than limiting the debate to an elitist and condescending view towards them.

In order to ensure that the street vending certification model is a successful one from all aspects of politics and policymaking, it is important to identify the perception of the customers towards the street vendors. This includes the negative externality created by the presence of the street vendors, the harassment that the police, and other government officials, and local gangs usually indulge in.

Bhowmik (2005) conducted case studies across Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hanoi, Cambodia, Seoul, India, among other locations in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the situation of street vendors in Asia. This work of Bhowmik identified the harassment that the street vendors face across all these countries. He identified that harassment exists irrespective of whether or not there is legislation legalizing the street vending activities, although the severity of the same is more in the case when such legislations are unavailable. Bhowmik attributes the harassment to the fact that street vendors are usually an unorganized set of employees with hardly any unions backing them up. This reduces their

¹ Dependents are those who enjoy a positive outlook in the society but have little or no political power to wield and influence incumbency of the policymakers. Their policies are usually delivered from a justice-oriented point of view. For example: mothers, disabled people, among others.

² The advantaged are those who enjoy a positive outlook in the society and wield substantial political power in order to influence large chunks of the electorate and thereby affect incumbency for the policymakers. The policies for the advantaged are usually delivered from a strategically important point of view usually pertaining to national or international interest. For example: businesses, researchers, retired military personnel.

³ The deviants are those groups of the electorate who do not enjoy either a positive outlook in the society or wield enough political power and influence to affect the incumbency of policymakers. Thus policies for this group in the electorate are usually rare and are punitive in nature. For example: paedophiles, rapists, among others.

⁴ The contenders are those groups within the electorate who enjoy a negative outlook in the society but wield a lot of influence and political power in order to affect the incumbency of policymakers. Policies for this group are usually covert and rewarding. For example: rich individuals, strong labour unions, among others.

bargaining power with various stakeholders in the government and the society at large, making them susceptible to these harassing agents. The nature of harassment differed from country to country depending on whether the place had legislations legalizing street vending or not. For places which had legal street vendors, the perpetrators of harassment were usually government agents like police and municipality officers who used to identify loopholes in the existing law in order to practice rent seeking activities of exploitative nature. In areas where street vending was not recognized as a legal activity, the extent of harassment was more pronounced due to the added harassment that was perpetrated by local gangs who required the street vendors to pay a protection fee and other similar extra-legal payments.

Another important aspect that Bhowmik and Saha (2012) identified in their work is that of perception of being unhygienic that the consumers of these street vendors have towards the street vendors themselves. This complaint is usually complemented with another similar complaint where people opine that street vendors cause traffic congestion and displacement of pedestrians from pavements resulting in uncivil environments. While Bhowmik and Saha agree with this immediate visible component, they dig deeper in order to identify the exact cause behind the problem. There, the authors opine that such negative externalities created from street vending activities are do not hold causality with the activity itself but with the regulating nature of the government's policies which does not recognize this activity. The authors suggest that in the case that street vending is made legal and there are proper certification and recognition processes for street vendors, these vendors will be allocated specific vending zones which have the necessary infrastructure to avoid the negative externalities which people usually complain about.

Another aspect that needs to be considered when certifying street vendors and probably displacing them to restrictive vending zones is that of "Natural Markets". Bhowmik (2014) defines natural markets as markets which exist because sellers and consumers automatically converge to a market place that is naturally convenient for both parties. For example, street vendors selling fruits outside hospitals and those selling garlands and flowers outside religious shrines are natural markets. It is important to consider this aspect in the research considering the fact that Bhowmik (Ibid.) identifies how governmental agencies disregard these natural markets. The SVA has been a milestone in this aspect considering that for the first time a national legislation has recognized the existence of natural markets and the need to preserve them.

SECTION 3 - METHODOLOGY

This paper uses a variety of qualitative methods in order to proceed with the research and inform the policy recommendations for implementation of the certification aspect of the SVA. At the outset, extensive literature review was conducted to identify the various aspects of street vending and its certification that have been identified as concerns and require attention of the policymakers. This methodology helped the researcher identify from a scholarly point of view

the aspects of a street vendor certification model that must be analysed in order to recognize the best practices from existing methods. The next section will detail on the findings from the literature review which take into account not only the economic aspects of street vending but also identifies various health and civic disruption externalities that arise out of street vending.

With the literature review informing the researcher regarding various nuances of the profession and certification models, case studies from various locations around the world were used to identify the best practices for street vending certification. These case studies are not limited to national legislations alone as there are a very few countries sans India which recognize and legalize street vending at a national scale. Thus, cases of certification models used for street vendors in various states or other local communities in India and abroad were studied in depth. The case study also encompassed small-scale initiative that were undertaken by various civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to identify and certify street vendors. This includes works by organizations like National Association of Street Vendors in India (NASVI), Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), and Genesys's SeeHAWK program, among others.

For the purpose of the case studies, various forms of certification models for street vendors were studied and analysed. Thus, the researcher not only looked at models that place the onus of certification on the street vendors but also those models where the responsibility of the certification rested with the street vendors themselves. This was done in order to help identify the pitfalls of various methods that are prevalent which will enable the researcher to identify the best of both worlds thereby informing the policy recommendation for the implementation of the SVA in a holistic manner.

The last qualitative methodology that was used for the purpose of this research was visits to various markets with an abundance of street vendors in order to conduct semi-structured interviews in the location where they ply their trade. This was done in order to inform policy recommendations with a bottom up approach where the needs and grievances of the major stakeholders of the SVA are being addressed. These interviews were organized in Delhi itself and experiences of other researchers from other parts of the country were taken into account in order to provide a national outlook instead of a regional outlook. Although, it can be assumed that the basic needs and grievances of the street vendors from across the country are similar, as opined by Bhowmik (2010).

The findings from each one of the above-mentioned methodologies will be discussed in detail in the following relevant sections.

SECTION 4 – CRITICAL CASE STUDIES

This section will proceed by identifying various researches and case studies that were conducted by other researchers, journalists, and other channels of information in various countries and regions across the world, NGOs, and other organizations that are a stakeholder in the street vending activity. Although this section will not discuss the case studies in detail, it will identify pertinent points that need to be considered for devising a sound street vendor certification model for the implementation of SVA.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh is one of the countries that do not have a national legislation recognizing street vending or legalizing it. According to the case study of Bangladesh that was conducted for the purpose of this research, two important considerations were identified which requires to be incorporated in the policy recommendations regarding certification of street vendors.

1. Women Street Vendors

A study conducted by the Intermediate Technology Development Group in Bangladesh identified the demography of the street vendors and one of their most interesting findings was the level of female participation in street vending activities, beyond the visible components alone. The street vendors of Bangladesh who were engaged in food vending usually relied on their women family members at home or in a shanty behind the vending cart to prepare the food items which were then sold by the street vendors themselves. For those street vendors who were not involved in food vending, women still continued to play a very important role. They had three primary roles that were not necessarily mutually exclusive:

- a. They were the vendors themselves.
- b. They provided logistical support to ease the street vending for the male member of the family.
- c. They were replacements for the male members of the families in the case that they were unable to vend for a period of time.

Thus, it can be seen that women play an important role in both the visible and invisible sectors of the street vending activity. Although this study was conducted in Bangladesh, the demographical, political and socio-economic similarity that Bangladesh shares with India makes the researcher conclude that such parameters need to be considered in the context of Indian policymaking for street vendors.

2. The Role of Political Unions and Other Representation Mechanisms

An important finding from the Bangladesh case study that Bhowmik (2005) conducted is the fact that politicians often engage in “Lip Service”⁵ with the street vendors’ community. Bhowmik identifies the fact that politicians and political parties recognize street vendors as a sizeable section of the electorate and as a result try to capitalize on them. The author notices that political rallies used to have a large turnout of street vendors who usually converged in spite of the fact that repeatedly the promises made to these street vendors were not honoured by the politicians after the elections. What is interesting in this case is that these street vendors are usually represented by labour and trade unions that are supposed to lobby for their benefit to the policymakers. It is quite evident that these unions are content with feeding the political party’s machinery without bothering to represent the policy demands from the street vendors.

This aspect raises the question of efficient representation of the street vendors and the important role that they play in recognizing and certifying the street vendors. While it can be assumed that unions which are affiliated to larger political parties will have vested interests driving their actions, the proliferation of bi-partisan or non-partisan representation mechanisms like NGOs and Civil Society Organizations provide an option to street vendors outside the political clout. This is quite relevant in the context of Indian policymaking where political trade unions like Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) and *Bharatiya Majdoor Sangh* (BMS) have long played an important role while recent years have seen the emergence of apolitical organizations like National Association of Street Vendors in India (NASVI) and Self Employed Women’s Association (SEWA).

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka, while it does not have a national legislation that recognizes and legalizes, there are urban pockets all across the country while street vending is considered to be quasi-legal wherein although street vending is not completely illegal, the vendors need to pay a daily tax to the municipal corporation to continue plying their trade. There is one important takeaway from the Sri Lankan case study that is relevant for India in the backdrop of the SVA.

Street Vending Zones as Clean Up Measures

One of the most important findings from the case study of Sri Lanka’s street vending situation is the fact that urban cleansing and beautification measures that are usually taken up by the municipal corporations are very lopsided in their implementation of western concepts of city planning. As reported by the case study in Bhowmik’s work (2005), the Sri Lankan officials opine that street clean ups which evict street vendors

⁵ “Lip Service” is a satirical expression of the only service that politicians often provide to their electorate i.e. ~~promises of reforms and policy action that usually go ignored once the politician is elected to the post.~~

have a crooked sense of western urban planning where they analyse only one aspect of cleanliness while ignoring that western urban planning always reserves space in in-city regions where the street vendors can ply their trade. In the case of Sri Lanka, most evictions that were carried out from urban centres because of the need for cleanliness, were not followed by relocations in other areas of the city. The problem with such a measure is twofold:

a. Disruption of Natural Markets

When street vendors are evicted from their natural (automatic) locations in the urban centres to other areas of the city (or often, not even relocated), the existence of natural markets is ignored. This is particularly problematic considering the fact that street vending zones are usually artificially created geographical and structural establishments that lack the unhindered market forces of demand and supply that a natural market promises.

b. Lopsided Policy Priorities

As is evident from this case study, and other case studies, the priority of the policymakers usually lies with keeping the city experience civic without regarding for the economic contribution and the livelihood considerations of the street vendors. This is particularly disturbing owing to the fact that policymaking in this case is lopsided and one group of the electorate continue to reap the benefits from policymaking while another group is continuously disregarded. The efficient policymaker needs to reach a compromise between either.

These two factors are important in the context of policymaking in India as well as other areas considering the fact that these two happen to be one of the most ignored aspects of policymaking when legalizing or certifying street vendors is being undertaken.

Thailand (Bangkok)

Bangkok is an interesting case study when it comes to street vendors because of the unique role it plays in the economy as a tourist attraction and in a cultural backdrop. In this regard the two most important identifications from the case study of Bangkok are the following

1. The Importance of Food Vendors

The existence of food vendors as street hawkers is usually attributed to the fact that these street hawkers serve as a cheap eating alternative for the large migratory

urban poor section who are engaged in other forms of economic activities. However, the case study of Bangkok identifies that street vendors especially those selling food can have an additional economic aspect attached to them in the form of the tourism industry. Bangkok's street food hawkers are famous for their food items and this attracts a large section of the tourists that converge in Bangkok.

This allows the government agencies to demarcate vending zones for the food hawkers as street vending activities that are usually supplying to tourists have the liberty of disregarding the concept of natural markets to some extent considering the fact that tourists as consumers of these street vendors are quite mobile unlike when native populations are consumers of the street vendors.

Another aspect that is important in the context of street food vendors in Bangkok is the thriving culture of eating outside for snacking purposes that is prevalent even amidst the locals. This is of particular importance in the context of Indian policymaking considering that street food vendors for recreational purposes constitute an important part of many urban street food vending activities like that in Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

2. Traffic Congestion and Street Vendors

There have been numerous accusations towards street vendors in Bangkok where in the infamous traffic snarls in Bangkok have been attributed to the operation of the street vendors. The case study of Bangkok identifies that there is no conclusive evidence suggesting the same considering street vending usually takes place on pavements and the Bhowmik (2005) opines that the traffic snarl can be simply be attributed to the inadequate width of roads in Bangkok.

It is important to consider this aspect in the context of Indian policymaking in the SVA's backdrop. This is considering the fact that one of the biggest challenges to improving the social construction of street vendor's in the eyes of the general population and conductively the policymakers is the assumption that the street vendors are responsible for the dismal traffic situations in most urban centres. The certification process of the SVA should take this into account while implementing its clauses.

Kualalumpur

Kualalumpur is one of the very few countries worldwide that have a national legislation recognizing and legalizing street vendors and this has been in effect since the National Policy on Hawkers (NPH) was implemented in 1990. There are many aspects to the

certification process of street vendors in Kuala Lumpur's implementation of its legislation. The most salient aspects are:

1. Allocation of Buildings and Vans for Street Food Vendors

The NPH allocated street food vendors with buildings and in some cases, vans, to help them ply their trade. As discussed previously such a step can be considered as a disruption to the natural markets that street vending usually enjoys. Although it can be argued that Kuala Lumpur being a tourist destination will negate the requirement of natural markets as explained above.

Additionally, by assigning buildings to street food vendors, the essence of street vending, which lies in the ease of access for populations from all socio-economic backgrounds, is lost thus rendering the process futile for its intentions.

2. Access to Credit and Training

According to the NPH, street vendors who were certified were eligible to access credit, which would help them formalize their business and climb the socio-economic factor which will help them escape the threat of poverty and harassment that is usually associated with street vending.

Additionally the street vendors would also have access to training facilities and programs to improve their soft skills like marketing, accounting, among others that they can further use to increase the extent of their business.

This is one aspect of certification that can inform policymaking for India's implementation of the SVA. With the right incentive structure, there will be an automatic demand of certification from the street vendors whose willingness to approach the government and become recognized can complement the government's outreach method of certifying the street vendors.

Other Miscellaneous Case Studies

There are a number of other small scale case studies from various local models, anecdotal cases, and other models that small organizations follow. Policy lessons from these cases will be discussed below.

1. SEWA's Weekend Market – Tagore Road

SEWA organizes numerous women's weekend markets across the country in its bid to recognize and support the life of street vendors. The researcher visited one such market at Tagore Road, near the New Delhi train station. In this Sunday market, the

women were selling used clothing pieces and other accessories catering to the low and low-middle income groups. While the concept of the market was indeed noble, on interviewing the sellers in the market it was identified that there is a lack of demand due to the location and timing of the market. The market is located in the office district in that region with sparse residential localities around from where residents will visit the market and purchase items. Additionally, the market is set up only on Sundays when the office going crowd of the area is missing. Lastly, on quizzing the sellers further it was found that their cost of transporting the items from their homes to the market often surpassed the revenue they generate by selling these items.

As we see, while demarcation of market areas was indeed driven by a noble intention on SEWA's behalf, lack of consideration of a number of other factors led to it being a poorly implemented policy. Considering SEWA is organizing these markets in order to strengthen their bid for certification of the respective vendors in the designated area, locations of the market must be an important consideration for policymakers and implementers.

2. NASVI's "Delhi Belly"⁶ Cure

NASVI is another organization which has worked extensively for the street vendors across India and have lobbied for legislations and policies in order to represent the demands of street vendors and ease their lives. NASVI recently started a campaign to make the street food vending in Delhi's *Chandni Chowk* area a hygienic one in order to take care of the age-old complaint of the food from these vendors causing "Delhi Belly" among consumers.

According to a newspaper article by Pushkarna and O'keeffe (2013), this was done by ensuring that the vendors in these regions go through extensive training and workshops regarding hygiene and health. NASVI would require the street vendors to follow a set of hygiene standards and the Delhi Government's certification drive for the street food vendors will be in collaboration with this work of NASVI.

While on the face of it this is indeed a great initiative where the hygiene level of street food vendors are being augmented the problem lies with the fact that this is resulting in increasing licensing processes and other requirements before a street vendor can be certified and recognized as a legal entity. The existence of "Delhi Belly" is a popular piece of information that most consumers who visit this area are aware about. In the presence of such a perfect or quasi-perfect information system, and the fact that there exists a considerable demand for the same from consumers

⁶ Delhi Belly is the colloquial term used for various stomach ailments that the consumer suffers from when he or she consumes food from Delhi's street food vendors, especially in the *Chandni Chowk* area.

who are aware of the pitfalls, the license requirements are mere incremental barriers for the street vendors.

3. Financial Crises and its Effect on Street Vendors

The literature that identifies the effect of financial crises and how that results in an influx of street vendors in an economy is quite conclusive. The works of Bhowmik (2005) and Bromley (2000) are immense in this regard. Considering the fact that financial crises usually kills jobs for the informal and semi-skilled or unskilled working sector, according to Bromley, these unemployed workers, in a bid to sustain their families, tend to take up street vending as a livelihood. The problem in this scenario is the fact that the government issues a limited number of licenses or certificates to recognize street vendors and provide them the legal status. Such a lack of certification opportunities from the government's end creates illegal street vending activities in various urban centres which not only result in creation of nuisance in the communities but also increases the harassment of street vendors by various governmental and non-governmental entities.

In light of the fact that India is currently going through a period of slowing economic growth and has been susceptible to other financial shocks internationally, it is important to accommodate this factor in the certification model for the implementation of the SVA.

4. Gigantic Punitive Measures for Small Infringements and Non-Transferability of Certificates

Two of the most common complaints that were noted by the researcher during his semi-structured interviews in various markets of New Delhi were the following:

a. Punitive Measures are Exploitative

The street vendors are generally of the opinion that the fines that were imposed upon them for the smallest of infringements were usually a considerable chunk of their monthly income instead of being a token fine which would rather help them correct their activities in the future. For example, one street vendor reported that in case their goods were confiscated by the municipality officers, they usually have to pay a fine whose value far surpasses the value of the goods confiscated.

These sort of practices are exploitative and severely hinders the livelihood of the street vendors. These aspects need to be taken into account for the implementation of the SVA.

b. **Non-Transferability of Licenses / Certificates**

Another common complaint from the structured interviews was the fact that those street vendors who have licenses to ply their trade cannot transfer it to their immediate family members thus rendering the family income-less in the case that the person in whose name the license is issued is sick or unable to work for some reason. If caught using a family member's license to ply their trade, the license is usually confiscated and the license holder has to pay a huge sum of money as fine to reinstate it.

The implementation of the SVA needs to take this aspect into account considering the fact that urban migrants are usually susceptible to diseases due to the living conditions of the slums they reside in.

SECTION 5 – POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

From the discussion of the case studies above, a number of best practices and flawed practices of public policy regarding street vending in general and street vending certification in specific have been identified. This section will aim to amalgamate all these aspects in the form of policy recommendations so as to design a methodology to implement the certification clause of the SVA.

What must be kept in mind is the fact that nuances of implementation of any policy is a bureaucratic procedure and there is little that an academic research paper can do to detail on this. What this section will aim to is identify the various caveats that have been identified in existing models and methodologies for certifying street vendors and formulating public policy for them in general so that the SVA's certification clause is implemented in holistic manner.

The following are the aspects that must be considered for the implementation:

1. **Considering the role of women in street vending and ensuring security and viability for this population.**

This is particularly important in the Indian context considering the high crime rates against women that are already prevalent in various cities. Additionally according to SEEDS (2000) nearly 12.4% of India's street vendors are women and it is important that certification policies take this into account by ensuring security for the female street vendors and enabling other measures to make certification viable for the them.

In this regard the SEEDS (2000) report identifies various bottlenecks to street vending that women street vendors are more likely to face. For example, generate a lower

volume of trade, ply their trade from open and illegal structures, deal in perishable goods among numerous others. The certification drive for the SVA must take these into consideration.

2. Monitoring and regulating the role of political or non-partisan street vendor's organizations in order to make them more accountable.
3. Balanced City-Planning to accommodate cleanliness of cities along with existence of street vendors in urban centres without pushing them to remote areas.

This is important in regard to natural markets, which, as this paper argues, must receive utmost importance when certification drives are conducted.

4. Identification of food street vendors and certain handloom street vendors as contributors to the tourism and providing them better facilities.

Incentives and other benefits must be offered to those street vendors which form the tourist attraction fabric of a city. For example, Mumbai's Band Stand and Juhu Beach area for its food vendors, Delhi's Sarojini Nagar market which is famous for its local clothes sold by street vendors, which attract a sizeable portion of tourists to these cities.

5. Smarter traffic control in areas of street vendor congestion.
6. Creating incentive structure to promote spirited certification demands.
7. Geographical analysis of street vending zones.
8. Minimizing certification requirements.
9. Protecting against financial crises' influx of street vendors.

While India has efficiently protected its domestic economy against international financial shocks in the recent years, there is no doubt that there has been some repercussions of the same. In light of this fact, in order to control the demand for certificates for street vending activities, it is necessary that India takes further safety-net-esque steps to ensure that the influx of street vendors is minimized.

10. Infringements must be punished incrementally and not in an extortion manner.
11. Allowing transferability of certificates.

SECTION 6 - CONCLUSIONS

This paper has attempted to document problems and success stories from various street vendor public policy issues from across other neighbouring South Asian countries with the

assumption that demographics, cultural ethos, and other such factors will be more or less homogeneous rather than if compared to the street vending scenario in Middle East, Europe or in North America. The street vendor situation in South America could not be analysed due to a paucity of data or academic research with case studies from this region sans a few.

In analysing the caveats from these existing models, the paper has attempted to identify the pertinent aspects of street vending and the related public policy issues that usually go unnoticed and need to be kept in consideration for the implementation of the SVA.

The moral compass of the paper revolved around the firm belief that the informal economy's visible entities need to be recognized in order to further realize the invisible economic gains that it promises. Further, the researcher has done his best to revert the purview of policymaking from an elitist top down approach to a more inclusive and bottom up approach where the claims and problems of the biggest stakeholders are taken into account.

While there is room for further research with more robust qualitative and quantitative data to support or disprove the identified caveats of this paper and its associated policy recommendations, the limited resources available to the researcher was a bottleneck.

"A society is only as strong as its weakest links" – Anon

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