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SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY



FROM THE BAZAAR TO THE BASIN

WASH Needs Among the
Women Street Vendors of Delhi

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From the Bazaar to the Basin

WASH Needs among the Women Street Vendors of
Delhi

New Delhi

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Foreword

As a Member of Parliament deeply committed to addressing the pressing issues facing our society, I am proud to endorse this collaborative effort between my office and the Centre for Civil Society. The policy brief presented here sheds much-needed light on the challenges confronting women street vendors in Delhi regarding access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities.

The findings of this research highlight the urgent need for a gendered approach to policymaking, particularly in the context of the Street Vendors Act, 2014. The legislation regrettably overlooks the specific needs and challenges faced by women vendors. By advocating for explicit provisions within the act to address these issues, we can ensure that women vendors are recognised and supported in their endeavours.

Access to clean water is not just a basic necessity- but an important aspect of economic development. Sanitation facilities are another area where policy reform is important. Discrepancies in sanitation standards across Delhi's markets highlight the need for stricter reformation actions.

To me and my office, this collaborative initiative represents a crucial step towards addressing the WASH needs of women street vendors in India. By recognising the specific challenges they face, we uphold their rights and contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all.



Dr Fauzia Khan
Member of Parliament
Rajya Sabha.

Executive Summary

Home to 10 million street vendors, street vending accounts for 14 % of India's total urban informal employment. The city of Delhi alone is estimated to have two million of them. Amongst this, Delhi's women street vendors make up 30%. However, their experiences are often gendered, reflected in cases of harassment and lack of social security and capital. This is also evident in their access to WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) facilities in the marketplace, an area less discoursed upon. Thus, this policy brief attempts to discuss the barriers to access to WASH infrastructure for women street vendors in Delhi. The analysis is in light of the Street Vendors Act, 2014, and the Delhi Street Vendors Scheme, 2019. The former legalises the profession of street vending in India and provides a foundation for the efficient governance of street vendors. The study surveyed eight prominent markets of Delhi (Harkesh Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Chittaranjan Park, Govindpuri, Janpath, Kalkaji, Daryaganj and Shahpur Jat) to understand the condition of access to WASH provisions for women street vendors in the city. It does so based on three broad themes - access to water, toilet availability and access to menstrual hygiene products, primarily sanitary napkins.

Despite legal enactments, the challenges faced by Delhi's women street vendors remain largely unaddressed. The De Jure analysis of the Street Vendors Act (2014) highlighted significant gaps and shortcomings in the legislation, including the absence of targeted capacity building, disproportionate financial impact, lack of gender-specific data collection, and the need for a gender-sensitive and inclusive policy framework.

The study conducted semi-structured qualitative interviews with 24 women street vendors scattered across eight Central, South and South East Delhi markets. It revealed significant variations in access to WASH provisions between the markets. Some markets had well-structured washroom facilities, while others were not adequate. In addition, differences emerged in access to water, with some street vendors purchasing water while others relying on government-aided water sources in the market. The lack of facilities, especially basic access to water and washrooms, is crucial to employment, especially for women street vendors, who are already disadvantaged in the job market.

The policy brief concludes with recommendations, including gender-specific considerations in the Street Vendors Act, 2014, ensuring equitable and inclusive access to clean and affordable water, lavatory facilities and menstrual hygiene products. In addition, it talks about the need for enhanced collaboration among stakeholders to improve WASH infrastructure and raise awareness about the challenges faced by women street vendors.

The study concludes by highlighting the need to address the WASH needs of women street vendors. The process requires a multi-faceted approach, encompassing policy reforms, infrastructure improvements, and social awareness campaigns. By prioritising the rights and well-being of women vendors, policymakers can create a more inclusive and supportive environment for this vital segment of the informal economy.

Introduction

Street vending significantly contributes to the economies of many countries, serving as a vital income source for people throughout India, both in urban and rural settings. The Street Vendors Act, 2014, Section 2(1)(l), identifies a street vendor as “a person selling articles, goods, food items, or merchandise of everyday use or offering services to the public, in streets, lanes, sidewalks, footpaths, pavements, public parks or any other public places or private areas, from a temporary structure or by moving around. This definition includes hawkers, peddlers, squatters, and similar terms specific to local regions”. The Act limits street vendors to 2.5% of a city's population. The National Policy for Urban Street Vendors (2009) estimated there are 10 million street vendors in urban areas, based on an urban population of approximately 377 million (National Census 2011), a figure that continues to grow. The 2014 Act aims to safeguard vendors' livelihoods and ensure they operate in a supportive environment.

The National Policy on Urban Street Vendors (2009) identifies street vendors as key to India's informal economy. They represent about 2% of the urban population and are central to the informal sector. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs reports that India has approximately ten million street vendors. Their role is crucial in maintaining urban supply chains. Delhi ranks second in India for its street vendor population, with about 200,000 vendors. A significant number of them are women. Research by Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (2015) suggests that the number of street vendors in Delhi could be between 300,000 and 500,000. However, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi officially recognises only 125,000 as “legal” vendors. Delhi features numerous main markets across its 11 districts, with popular spots like Lajpat Nagar, Chandni Chowk, Kamala Nagar, and Sarojini Nagar attracting hundreds daily.

In Delhi, 30% of street vendors are women, facing exacerbated challenges due to gendered public spaces. These vendors navigate the complexities of irregular employment, fluctuating incomes, and frequent encounters with violence and harassment. Furthermore, inadequate access to water, sanitation, and healthcare remains a significant concern, with the sanitation crisis recognised as a critical global challenge of the 21st century.

Examining the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities in Delhi's markets reveals severe shortcomings. Women vendors, due to a lack of public toilets, face health issues like Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) alongside societal, cultural, and economic biases. They also endure long, rigid working hours. Research by SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, and the International Labour Organisation shows that this lack of facilities exposes many women to UTIs and kidney issues, a situation worsened for those menstruating who need frequent washroom access. Despite national and international focus on sanitation, there's scant research guiding the infrastructure necessary for effective implementation, as Reddy, Raghavan, and Vedala (2019) noted. This report aims to uncover policy gaps in providing WASH facilities to female street vendors in Delhi, focusing on water access, toilet availability, and the provision of menstrual hygiene products, especially sanitary napkins.

Street Vendors Act, 2014: De Jure Analysis

The Street Vendors Act, 2014 regulates street vending alongside state-specific schemes and municipal oversight in India. This framework ensures vendors' rights and manages public space use. The Delhi government's 2019 scheme is a key example. Vendors have long fought for their rights, facing evictions, bribery, and harassment. Their struggle led to critical legal victories, such as the 1985 Supreme Court decision recognising vending as a constitutional right. Organisations like the Self-Employed Women Organisation (SEWA), the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), and the National Hawkers' Federation have advocated for these rights, leading to the 2014 Act (Ray, 2022). This Act aims to protect vendors through designated zones, vending certificates, and Town Vending Committees. Despite its comprehensive approach, the Act overlooks the specific challenges faced by women vendors, including violence and lack of access to essential facilities (Sharma & Konwar, 2014).

Accordingly, the significant gaps and shortcomings that hamper women street vendors from fully accessing the benefits of the Act:

1. Absence of Targeted Capacity Building

The Act requires one-third of positions in Town Vending Committees to be filled by women. Yet, it fails to specify capacity-building programmes for female vendors to understand their rights and access social security schemes. This absence of proactive guidance from state or local authorities limits women's effective use of the Act.

2. Disproportionate Financial Impact

Local authorities impose high licensing fees and penalties, significantly affecting women vendors under socio-economic pressures. The Act allows local authorities to determine these rates without instructions to offer gender-based rate alleviations.

3. Lack of Gender-Specific Data Collection

The Act fails to mandate the collection of gender-specific data and performance indicators, obstructing the development of evidence-based reforms to boost women's involvement and tackle their unique obstacles in street vending.

4. Need for Gender-Sensitive and Inclusive Policy Framework

The Street Vendors Act of 2014 represents progress in rights-based legislation but requires further inclusivity. It overlooks the specific vulnerabilities of women vendors, such as security concerns, capacity building, cost implications, and data collection. Incorporating gender-specific considerations from the outset is crucial.

Research Findings: Case Study of the Markets



Image Source: www.mapsofindia.com

In this section, we report on our study's findings from semi-structured interviews with women street vendors in eight key markets across South Delhi, Central Delhi, and South East Delhi. These markets include C.R. Park, Janpath, Lajpat Nagar, Kalkaji, Harkesh Nagar, Shahpur Jat, Daryaganj, and Govindpuri. Our analysis offers market-specific case studies illuminating the differences between organised and unorganised markets, alongside the broader socio-economic factors affecting women street vendors' access to WASH facilities.

1. Chittaranjan Park

The Chittaranjan Park Market in Delhi, known for its upscale environment, provides an excellent example of WASH facilities for women street vendors. This market features a clean, well-lit public washroom equipped with dustbins and a consistent water supply, although it lacks a pad vending

machine. Women vendors usually buy menstrual hygiene products from pharmacies in or near the market. Safety concerns are minimal as the area is well-lit, enabling vendors to operate from before noon until after 10 PM. For daily sustenance, they rely on home-cooked meals and bottled water.



Images 1 and 2: The market washroom in Chittaranjan Park is relatively well-equipped with a dustbin and regular water. However, it lacked any facility for menstrual hygiene products.

2. Janpath

Located in the vibrant Rajiv Chowk, Janpath incited varied reactions towards WASH. The investigation covered the central Janpath Market and the neighbouring Gujarati Market. Among the four participants, one was from Delhi, the others from Gujarat. Observations at Janpath at 11 am revealed only male vendors in the area, with a few females setting up nearby in the early morning. Conversely, the Gujarati Market displayed a significant number of women sellers. Both places lacked immediate government-provided water access. Three participants depended on water from their homes, the rest on commercial suppliers. Janpath accommodated good lavatory access, featuring a market-internal, albeit locked, private restroom and a serviced, open-to-public washroom nearby. By contrast, a costless municipal bathroom sat near Gujarati Market. Respondents described the washrooms as unhygienic, with one remarking, "*Babut ganda washroom bain*" (The washroom is very dirty). One interviewee prefers using a paid toilet at a nearby petrol station, just three minutes away, highlighting the dire situation of accessing basic amenities. Both municipal washrooms featured pad vending machines, though usage required payment.

Janpath Market's vending machine is fully stocked, while Gujarati Market remains empty. A notice outside Gujarati Market's restroom promises free sanitary napkins, but the attendant responsible is nowhere to be found, leaving women without access.

Respondents purchased menstrual hygiene products without receiving any government support. Asked about menstruation challenges, one remarked, "*Mahine (menstruation) mein dikkat to hoti hai par lagana padta hai, kya karein?*" (Despite problems during menstruation, I must set up my stall. What can I do?)

One of them described the experience of her phone getting stolen while using the washroom. According to her, it happened because there was no one to attend her stall. Lastly, women vendors in the Gujarati market raised concerns regarding safety in the evening hours. It was primarily due to the absence of proper lighting facilities. As observed, the market lane had only one functional street light.



Image 3: A woman street vendor in Gujarati Market, Janpath. As seen in the picture, her vending station is beside the public waste bin and washroom



Image 4 and 5: A glimpse of the conditions in Gujarati Market, Janpath (Left)
Empty pad vending machine at Gujarati Market, Janpath (Right)



Images 6 and 7: Glimpses of the public washroom in Janpath's central market.

3. Lajpat Nagar

In Lajpat Nagar Market, numerous women street vendors, including part-time and full-time workers, were open to interviews. Most praised the market's safety, crediting the multiple security cameras and its overall cleanliness. They also mentioned a centrally located, spacious, and efficiently managed washroom facility, accessible for a small fee. While water taps were available throughout the market for free use, one vendor pointed out the inconvenience of their location, which forced her to buy water as she worked alone and found the tap too far away. Despite this, all vendors interviewed confirmed they purchased water from the designated authorities.

4. Kalkaji Market

Kalkaji Market's investigation into women street vendors' access to WASH facilities reveals significant findings. These vendors, who sell perishable goods like food and snacks, have access to water supplies within the market. However, due to quality concerns, many opt to purchase water instead. The two washrooms available are poorly maintained and in a state of disrepair. One respondent highlighted that a municipal washroom had been blocked for over two weeks, rendering it unusable, and described it as 'dirty' due to a lack of regular cleaning. The alternative, an NGO-supported washroom, was locked and emitted a foul smell. Some vendors resort to using facilities in nearby parking areas.

An interviewee reported a pay-to-use pad vending machine in a municipal washroom that was seldom restocked. This situation reflects Janpath, where most vendors purchase sanitary products due to a lack of government assistance. The respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the market's hygiene and sanitation, citing exposure to dust and pollution from working on the pavement.



Image 8: The locked public washroom supported by an NGO in Kalkaji Market

5. Harkesh Nagar

A temporary market operates on a "mixed-use" basis, with vendors setting up shops outside their homes (shanties). Most vendors, particularly women, have migrated from various regions, predominantly from Uttar Pradesh. The market area is clean and safe thanks to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) workers' cleaning efforts. The government has constructed a large public washroom for area residents, but its maintenance by the residents needs to be improved. A female vendor, who provides small water tanks, ensures water supply.

6. Shahpur Jat

Shahpur Jat, like Harkesh Nagar, mainly had male street vendors. A survey found a notable absence of female vendors in the dimly lit street. Upon inquiry, an auto driver mentioned that women vendors only vend in Lajpat Nagar and Sarojini Nagar Markets.

7. Daryaganj

The investigation in Daryaganj showed a notable lack of female street vendors. Furthermore, the state of the washrooms was appalling, with broken sinks, inadequate lighting, and overall neglect. This situation highlights the gender disparities in access to public facilities, contrasting with the operational men's washroom, as indicated by its frequent use. The only female street vendor reported travelling to a nearby hospital to access a washroom, underscoring the inconvenience due to the lack of suitable facilities.



Images 9 and 10: These images depict the dilapidated condition of the ladies' washroom in Daryaganj Sunday Book Market.

8. Govindpuri

Located in South East Delhi, Govindpuri's fish (*machbhi*) market depicts the urgent WASH needs of women street vendors. Their access to clean water and sanitation depends on availability in nearby areas, particularly slum settlements like Bhoomiheen Camp and Navjivan Camp, where most vendors live. A survey showed vendors predominantly bring food and water due to distrust in local tap water. Despite concerns, long queues for water are standard, and one vendor was worried about mosquito-borne diseases affecting water storage hygiene. Sanitation issues are prevalent, with the public washroom's unhygienic conditions worsened by its location near waste bins and stray cows. An elderly vendor mentioned the inconvenience of the washroom's distance, preferring to go home instead. Others agreed, citing poor conditions and inconsistent water supply. A respondent highlighted, "*Majboori hai didi, warna itni gandagi mein bathroom kon jaye? Apne ghar bimari kon laye?*" (It's a compulsion, sister; otherwise, who would want to use such filthy washrooms? Who wants to bring disease into their home?) The washrooms lack pad vending machines and bins for the disposal of menstrual products. In the absence of family members to stand in for them, Govindpuri's female street vendors face the compounded difficulty of working through menstrual discomfort. "*Jab pet bharna hai to kaam to karna padega hi,*" (When we need to fill our stomachs, work becomes a necessity,) another respondent said pointedly.



Images 11 and 12: The washroom in Govindpuri was extremely unhygienic, lacking both a pad vending machine and any dustbin to dispose of used menstrual products.

Data Analysis & Discussion

Our study surveyed 24 female street vendors across eight markets in Delhi: Harkesh Nagar, Lajpat Nagar, Daryaganj Book Market, Janpath, Shahpur Jat, Govindpuri, Kalkaji and C.R. Park. These markets are in various districts, including Defence Colony and Kalkaji in the South East, Hauz Khas in the South, and Daryaganj in Central Delhi, covering a broad spectrum of the city's administrative divisions.

The primary focus of the survey questions was on WASH, a critical yet often overlooked area concerning women street vendors in India. The findings revealed that these vendors typically sold either perishable goods, such as food, fruits, vegetables, and flowers, or non-perishable items, like clothing and household products. The survey found minimal engagement in selling books or electrical goods, with only one vendor in Daryaganj dealing in books. While most vendors did not express safety concerns, responses varied regarding WASH-related issues. This section aims to merge these observations with an analysis of the Street Vendors Act, 2014, and the Delhi Street Vendors Scheme, 2019, focusing specifically on WASH challenges.

1. Access to Water

Access to water is essential for survival and crucial for street vendors who work long hours and face health risks and discrimination. Our survey investigated their access to drinking water and government water facilities in markets.

Out of 24 respondents, six from Gujarati Market and Govindpuri Market reported no access to drinking water at their locations. They brought water from home, ranging from five litres to one to three bottles daily. Most vendors bought drinking water, adding to their expenses. Women vendors in the Lajpat Nagar Market, which lacks water facilities, relied on private vendors, costing them Rs. 150 to Rs. 400 weekly. In Harkesh Nagar Market, vendors used water tumblers sold by a market vendor but had no free water access. Kalkaji Market had mixed responses, with some vendors depending on the water supply and others buying water. A vendor, also the market pradhan, preferred the cleaner water from nearby flats over the market's supply. Two vendors from Govindpuri and C.R Park were unaware of any water facilities in their markets, indicating a lack of awareness efforts by authorities, contrary to the Street Vendors Act, 2014.

In Govindpuri, vendors noted the shared tap water was often dirty and led to long queues, complicating water access and storage due to mosquito concerns and dengue risk. Daryaganj, a male-dominated market, had only one woman vendor, who bought water from tankers. The market lacked water facilities, and the washrooms were in poor condition.

Despite the Street Vendors Act, 2014 and the Delhi Scheme, 2019, there are no specific provisions for equitable and safe water access for vendors, disproportionately affecting women.

2. Sanitation

Local authorities and municipal bodies oversee sanitation levels, which vary significantly across the eight markets. Markets like Chittaranjan Park and Janpath exhibit superior cleanliness compared to Govindpuri, where open drains, flies, mosquitoes, and stray animals pose significant health and safety risks for vendors. The study highlights the importance of washroom facilities and accessibility in vending areas as crucial for maintaining sanitation and hygiene standards.

The Delhi Street Vendors Scheme, 2019, under Section (11) (1), mandates local bodies to provide basic services in vending zones, including toilets, waste disposal, and parking, in consultation with relevant stakeholders. However, Section (8) (2) requires vendors to maintain public health and hygiene without imposing detailed obligations on local bodies. The scheme outlines penalties for vendor non-compliance but lacks specific responsibilities for local bodies.

This oversight results in inconsistent washroom facilities across markets. The public washroom in Janpath is clean and well-equipped, unlike the Daryaganj ladies' washroom, which lacks running water. Lajpat Nagar's cleanliness is attributed to private cleaning by shopkeepers, whereas in Kalkaji Market, washrooms are locked or unavailable. Govindpuri faces severe challenges due to the dual use of washrooms by market vendors and local slum residents, leading to poor hygiene conditions. The study underscores the need for multiple accessible washrooms within market areas to ensure all street vendors' health, dignity, and well-being.

3. Menstrual Hygiene

Menstrual hygiene emerges as a key issue for the well-being of street vendors, as seen in the Delhi Street Vendors Scheme, 2019 (Section 11(1)), which fails to address the need for sanitary product dispensers in market washrooms. A field study in some of Delhi's main markets, including Janpath, Govindpuri, Lajpat Nagar, Chittaranjan Park, and Harkesh Nagar, found a significant gap in support, with pad vending machines found only in Janpath. As a result, female vendors often bear the high costs of menstrual products on their own. While some rely on family assistance during their menstrual periods, allowing them to step away from their business momentarily, others have no alternative but to work through menstrual discomfort. This insight underlines the overlooked area of health protection within the informal sector, imposing extra physical and financial layers of difficulty on menstruating women.

The Way Forward

This policy brief explores the challenges related to WASH women street vendors encounter in Delhi. Through a survey conducted across eight major markets—C.R Park, Janpath, Lajpat Nagar, Kalkaji, Harkesh Nagar, Shahpur Jat, Daryaganj, and Govindpuri—it sheds light on the access to WASH facilities for these vendors. The analysis of the research findings leads to several key observations.

1. **Need for a Gendered lens:**

The Street Vendors Act, 2014, aimed to improve the working conditions for street vendors in India but notably lacks specific provisions for women vendors. Despite women making up a significant portion of street vendors and facing additional challenges due to their gender, the Act does not adequately address their issues. It is critical to include explicit measures in the Act to ensure women vendors are recognised and their specific needs, such as access to and maintenance of WASH facilities, are met. Currently, the Act falls short in setting standards for sanitation and hygiene, which are essential for creating a safe and conducive working environment for women. The brief strongly encourages aligning the provisions with UNICEF's Strategy for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2016-2030.

2. **Access to Water Facilities:**

According to the United Nations, three out of every four jobs depend on water availability. Water shortages significantly impact people's economic opportunities, disproportionately affecting women street vendors who rely heavily on water for their livelihoods. They need unhindered access to water to operate effectively. Some interviewees reported needing to bring water from home due to insufficient access in the market, while the majority purchased water to meet their needs. A minority avoided government-supplied water due to concerns over its quality. As detailed in the "Data Analysis & Discussion" section, the continuous expense of buying water strains their limited incomes, challenging their survival. In line with SDG (6), Ensure Access to Water and Sanitation for all, street vendors need to have access to clean drinking water to avoid hindering their daily activities. The Street Vendors Act, 2014 and the Delhi Scheme, 2019 should implement measures accordingly.

3. **Access to Sanitation Facilities:**

The brief reveals significant discrepancies in sanitation standards across Delhi's markets, directly linked to the maintenance by Municipal Bodies. The United Nations marks "safely managed sanitation services" as a critical indicator for Sustainable Development Goal 6, aiming for "sustainable water and sanitation management for all". This brief concentrated on the availability, access, and quality of washrooms in vending zones as crucial for vendors' WASH needs. Critical barriers identified include the distance of washrooms from vending areas, lack of dustbins, unavailability of menstrual hygiene facilities like pad vending machines, and inconsistent water supply. Therefore, policy reform must tackle these disparities and inadequacies in sanitation infrastructure. The Delhi Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Scheme, 2019, needs to detail washroom provisions based on market size and foot traffic.

Future policies should prioritise sanitation to enhance street vendors' well-being and dignity, especially women vendors.

4. Access to Menstrual Hygiene Products:

The current legal documents barely acknowledge the need for equitable access to menstrual hygiene products for women street vendors. Research on this issue remains significantly lacking. The survey also found that pad vending machines were inconsistently available across the markets examined, leaving most vendors to buy sanitary napkins themselves. Furthermore, the existing policy framework overlooks the specific challenges menstruating street vendors face at work, such as limited access to washrooms, discomfort from physical exertion during menstruation, and the lack of free menstrual products. Although under public perusal, the Draft National Menstrual Hygiene Policy, 2023 is a pertinent step to promote menstrual equity in India. The Street Vendors Act, 2014 and the Delhi Scheme, 2019 should firmly incorporate the Draft's 'Policy Strategies' of 'safe and affordable access to menstrual hygiene products' and 'availability of clean and dignified menstrual hygiene facilities' in its framework. They can also take inspiration from Scotland's Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill, 2020. The law requires all public institutions to provide free products to 'anyone who needs them'. Similarly, the existing policies can make it mandatory for municipalities to ensure a conducive and inclusive working environment for women street vendors.

In conclusion, addressing the WASH needs of women street vendors demands coordinated action across policy, infrastructure, and social attitudes. Essential measures include policy reforms, expanding clean water and washroom facilities, researching specific barriers, conducting social awareness campaigns, and fostering inclusive collaboration among stakeholders. Sustainable cities prioritising the rights of street vendors, particularly women, rely on these efforts.

Appendix

Methodology

Eight markets across three regions in Delhi were selected based on their proximity and accessibility. Interviews were conducted between November 25 and December 3, 2023. A set of qualitative questions covering demographics and sanitation, all of which were optional, was posed to respondents. The interview questions and interviewer training were prepared in advance by professionals from the Center for Civil Society.

A total of 24 respondents participated, with interviewers also taking photographs in selected markets to aid data analysis.

Questionnaire

1. Demographic Questions

- a. Type of goods sold (note perishability)
- b. Years of experience (how many years of vending experience in Delhi or the current market specifically?) Have they vended in other places before? Is it a temporary or permanent spot?

2. General Questions

- a. Do you manage this vending business alone, or is there anyone else, such as family, relatives or someone you hired, to help you? (Focus on the financial burden on them within the family and assess if they have any support as a vendor.)
- b. Do you own your vending cart or stall?
- c. How safe is the market?
- d. Have you ever faced an eviction? If not, have you ever seen anyone else being evicted?

3. Access to Drinking Water and Food

- a. How do you access **drinking water** while vending? Do they bring water from home, or is there any tap water facility available in the market? Is this facility supported by any authority or association? E.g., municipality, private establishment, malls, etc.? (Is the water clean and regularly available?)
- b. Can you **ensure regular meals** while vending? Does it affect your vending business if you leave the stall to eat food in between? How do you manage meals in between long working hours? Do you bring food from home or do you purchase food from the market? Where do you eat food?

4. Sanitation

- a. Can you describe the challenges, if any, faced while accessing public washrooms during work hours? (Focus areas: proximity of washrooms, problems related to defecation—does their unavailability while using the washroom affect their business)
- b. Do you think women street vendors, in comparison to men, face more sanitation difficulties?

5. Menstrual Hygiene

- a. Do you undergo menstruation?
- b. If so, do you face any challenges while conducting your business during menstruation? If yes, has it ever affected you? (Probe into any **assistance received** by them from family member(s) or fellow vendors; if they take leaves during this time, does that affect their business?)
- c. Do the washrooms accessed by you have sanitary napkin facilities? (Probe into the **availability of sanitary napkin vending machines**—if they are free of charge or provided at a subsidized rate; **if not, other ways of support adopted by them?**)
- d. Do you get any **support from the authorities** (government, municipality or committee) regarding this?

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