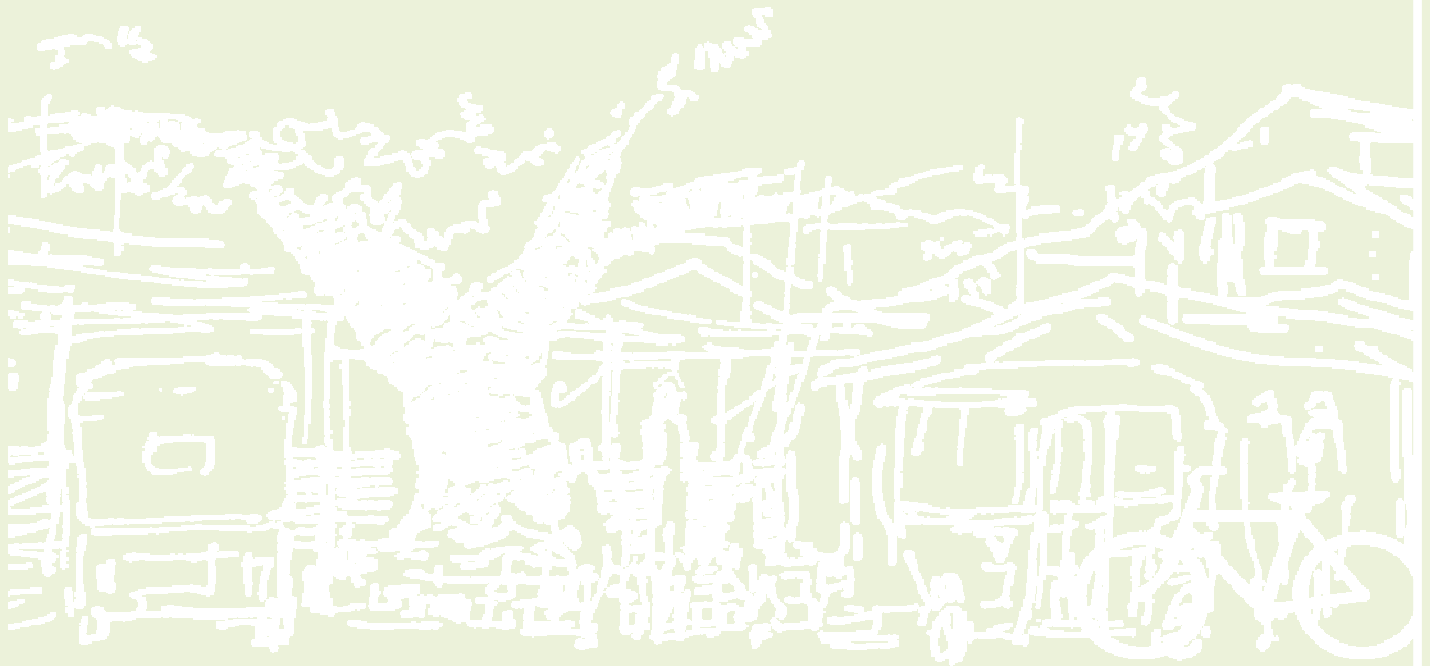


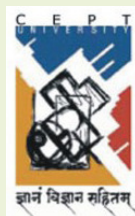
# **Vendors and Informal Sector**

## **A Case-Study of Street Vendors of Surat City**



C. N. Ray  
Assem Mishra

November 2011



**Centre for Urban Equity**  
(An NRC for Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India)  
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## **Disclaimer**

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## **Abstract**

Street vending is an important activity related to informal sector in urban areas. Majority of street vendors are illiterate or educated at primary level. They have low skill and poor economic condition. Street vending provides job opportunity and means of livelihood to the urban poor but Urban Local Bodies consider it as illegal activity so far. In 2004, first time, Government of India recognizes vendor's role in local economy after so many litigations and Supreme Court verdict in favour of vendors. National Policy on Urban Street Vendor, 2004 and 2009, Model Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2009 are some of the initiatives taken by the Government. Other agencies like NASVI and SEWA have played major role to push vendors issue and formulation of policies in favour of street vendors.

The present study comprehensively covers the social economic and spatial issues for the Surat City. An attempt has also been made to compare the situation of street vendors of Surat to other Indian Cities like Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bangalore, Delhi, Kolkata, Patna, Pune etc. The condition of Surat street vendors was found more or less same in comparison to other cities. The planning framework for integration of street vendors of Surat is based on comprehensive survey of 23 market located in different parts of the City. Broad recommendation for inclusion of street vending has been given under the preview of Nation Policy on Urban street Vendors.

*Keywords: street vendors, informal sector, Surat*

## **1. Introduction**

Recent studies on the informal sector have focused mostly on economic, social and political challenges, spatial implications have been neglected. It was believed that as the societies developed the informal sector would be absorbed into the formal/ organized sector, which proved incorrect. Far from being absorbed into the organized sector, the informal sector has in fact expanded in all countries, including the developed countries. However, it is significant that it was through the existence of vendors that the concept of an informal sector was developed. Vendors are thus not only a significant part of the informal sector but also an integral part of urban economy. It is stated that a very low skill and capital investment is required to enter this trade. In comparison other trades it is easier to enter this trade for the poor migrants as well as lower income groups living in the city for some time. With the increase of the urban population one can see the growth of urban poor, which constitutes the largest section of consumers for these street vendors, has led to an increase in the number in any given city.

Many researchers have noted that the presence of the hawkers is quite useful for a large section of the urban poor as street vendors provide goods, including food, at low prices. Hence one can find that one section of the urban poor, namely, street vendors, subsidizing the existence of the other sections of the urban poor by providing them cheap goods, including food. Middle-income groups also benefit from street vending because of the affordable prices offered.

But signification of services provided by the street vendors doesn't get reorganisation by most of the city authorities so far. For one section, not for the entire administration, street vending is considered an illegal activity and street vendors are treated as law breakers. In the existing situation street vendors have no legal status to conduct their business and they are constantly harassed by the authorities. Yet they are popular because they provide much needed services to the large section of society that neither the municipalities nor the larger retailing outlets can provide. The sheer size of this sector in an urban economy implies that equal, if not more attention be paid to spatial and locational requirements of this sector.

In all Indian cities, street vendors provide a low cost, decentralized and highly efficient system of distribution of a wide variety of goods of daily needs ranging from fruit and vegetables to clothes, utensils and many others. They reach the consumers at convenient locations, without whom people would have to travel large distances to procure these goods. The middle and lower income groups buy a large proportion of daily goods from these vendors at reasonable rates often lower than the formal stores.

### **1.1 Definitions**

Researchers have used different definitions to identify vendors in a given city or country. McGee (1977) made an attempt to define vendors elaborately. He includes trade and service activities while categorizing on the basis of type and operation. He defines vendors from an economic, cultural and legal position. This is done with difficulty as vendors in different

countries have different characteristics. The different dimensions considered by McGee are the functional role the vendors play in the market distribution system, the scale of operation and the legal definitions prescribed in each city. He defines vendors as those people who offer goods or services for sale from public places, primarily streets and pavements. Thus, the bulk of migrant labour force is in urban informal sector, where the preponderance of self – employed or casual workers earns their livelihood either independently or with aid of family labour.

Jumani (1991) has tried to divide the self employed sector into two parts: self – employed people from high and middle income groups and lower income self – employed people. The second category of self – employed people includes the hawkers/ street vendors which have been termed as vendors engaged in the trade of essential commodities. In 1987, Bhattacharya, and De, in a study of street vendors of Calcutta explained that street vendors are those people who do not have a permanent place of their own and who offer goods and services without having proper trade license for sale from public spaces. According to Bhattacharya, K. P, and P. De (1987), in the cities of India hawking increases with the urban growth due to influx of rural poor to the city, in search of livelihood. Their study indicates that in Calcutta the problem is not restricted to inter-state or urban transfer but also of influx of refugees at different spells from neighbouring countries. In spite of the desperate efforts of the government to evict the vendors from streets and other places, vending has survived and continues to flourish because of their easy accessibility and low priced goods which they offer to the public in the city of Calcutta.

They observed that as eviction of hawkers from pavement is not a solution to the problem, resettlement of them to some remote places is also not a long term solution. Calcutta is not having enough open space to build-up new hawker's corners every now and then. It is a continuing, problem with growing unemployment. So, not only Government authorities but various Social and Voluntary Organizations can also play a very prominent role first by motivating the young ones not to take up this profession and secondly by imparting vocational training so that they can earn their livelihood by that.

The National Classification of Occupation 1968 defines street vendors as hawker, peddler, street vendor, *pheriwala* sell articles of daily utility and general merchandise such as vegetables, sweets, cloth, utensils and toys, on footpaths or by going from door to door. Normally purchases goods from wholesale market according to his needs and capital (money) available. They load them in basket or on pushcart, wheel barrow or tricycle and moves in selected areas to effect sales. Many a times they announce loudly goods or articles on sale and their prices to attract customers. Some of them may also display goods or articles of sale on footpath and effect sales. For higher profit few purchase goods in lot, in auction or other sales. May prepare and sell his/her own products and may operate means of conveyance. Vendor may work on salary or commission basis or both.

According to the existing policy documents, the term urban vendor is inclusive of both traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile vendors and incorporates all other

local/region specific terms used to describe them, such as, hawker, *pheriwalla*, *rehri-patri walla*, footpath *dukandars*, sidewalk traders, etc.

According to the National Policy, there are three categories of street vendors:

1. Those Street Vendors who carry out vending on a regular basis with a specific location,
2. Those Street Vendors who carry out vending not on a regular basis and without a specific location, for example, vendors who sell goods in weekly bazaars during holidays and festivals and so on,
3. The Mobile Street Vendors.

### **1.2 Debate on Space**

This debate on public and private places was taken forward by Drummond, B.W. Lisa (2000) stated that appropriation of public spaces for commercial activities is visibly rampant in the cities and the pavements are lined with small businesses operating on what is nominally public space: cooked food stalls, mobile vendors, vegetable sellers, tea stands. The study examined the practices of public and private spaces in contemporary Vietnam, where the use of the street has operated as a medium for mediation between state and society over these spaces and practices.

The question of street vendors and public space was raised lately by Jonathan Shapiro Anjaria (2006) wherein he tried to explore the essential presence of hawkers in a city requiring a critical understanding of the functioning of public space. The paper concludes by saying that in planning for Mumbai's future, it would be worthwhile to take advantage of multifarious uses of public spaces which the city already has before aiming to become a "world – class" city.

Another dimension was added to this debate of public spaces and hawkers by Renana Jhabvala (2000) who tried to bring this dichotomy between spaces and professions on the way the human beings perceive most things. She expressed the importance of street vendors as the street vendors represent a dialogue and interaction within the city. They represent a linkage between the slums and the flats, the residences and commercial centres and between rural and urban areas. They represent the multiple uses of public spaces and the public and open nature of urban interactions. Perhaps as no other citizen, the street vendor becomes the focus of interaction of almost all city pressure groups-the municipality, police, politician, consumer, real estate agent, shop owners, vehicle owners.

### **1.3 Road transport and Vendors**

According to Geetam Tiwari (2000) bicycles, pedestrians and bus traffic attract street vendors. Often the side roads and pedestrian paths are occupied by people selling food, drinks and other articles which are in demand by road users. Vendors often locate themselves at



places which are natural markets for them. A careful analysis of the location of vendors, their numbers at each location and the type of services provided clearly shows that they are needed since they work under completely 'free market' principles. If their services were not required at those locations, they would have no incentive to be there. Road and city authorities, however, view their existence as illegal.

Often, an argument is advanced that road capacity is reduced by the presence of street vendors and hawkers. If we apply the same principle that is used for the design of road environment for motorised traffic, especially private cars, then vendors have a valid and legal place in the road environment (Tiwari, 2000). Highway design manuals recommend frequency and design of service area for motorised vehicles. 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 to have their tyres, chains and pedals fixed. All commuters need cold drinks, snacks and other services on the roadside. These services have to exist at frequent intervals, otherwise walking or bicycling would become impossible, especially in summer. As long as our urban roads are used by these various sections, street vendors will remain inevitable.

The official position regarding vendors is that even if a few of them are allowed on our roads, then their numbers will proliferate. However, some studies have shown that the number of vendors on a road is closely related to the density and flow of bicyclists, pedestrians and bus commuters. In such a situation a well functioning road infrastructure must satisfy the requirements of all road users. Pedestrians, bicyclists and non-motorised rickshaws are the most critical elements in mixed traffic in Indian cities. It is this group of road users that needs the services of vendors the most. If infrastructure design does not meet their requirements then all modes of transport will operate in sub-optimal conditions.

#### **1.4 Vendor's population**

With increasing urban migration and the shrinking formal sector, hawking and street vending have emerged as one of the critical means of earning a livelihood for the urban poor in India. Today, vending is an important source of employment for a large number of urban poor as it requires low skills and small financial inputs. People engaged in vending try to solve their problems through their own meagre resources. Unlike other sections of the urban population they do not demand that government create jobs for them, nor do they engage in begging, stealing or extortion. It appears that irrespective of the location and type of vendors, they try to live their life with dignity and self-respect through regular vending activities.

Among the large cities Mumbai is having largest concentration of roughly 2,50,000 street vendors which is followed by Kolkata which is having about 2,00,000. The street vendors market many goods which common people use on a regular basis and vegetable is traditionally leading the trade. In addition to vegetable and fruits other commodities such as clothes and hosiery household goods and food items, manufactured by home based workers,

who have no other channels of marketing the products that they produce. In Ahmedabad it is estimated to be about 80000 and half of them are women and organized by some local unions like SEWA.

### **1.5 Legal Issues**

The Bombay Municipal Corporation Act 1950 do not provide for the erection of any structure or stall on the streets which will obstruct the passage of the public, or impede the working of a drain or open channel. Such a structure is liable to be removed by the municipal commissioner and the person responsible for the creation of the structure is to incur the expenses of its removal. It is imperative for a person to procure a license from the municipal commissioner to be able to hawk his / her wares in any public place. Failure of compliance will lead to the removal of any product being hawked on the streets, without prior notice. Similarly hawking of milk or any other milk product without a license is also prohibited. There is also a provision whereby the commissioner has the authority to inspect any of the goods being hawked. If they are found to be unsound in nature they can be seized and destroyed. The municipal laws regulate the use of pavements while the police regulate the use of roads. Hawkers are evicted mainly under sections 102 and 107 of the act. These sections stipulate that anyone preventing smooth flow of traffic can be arrested and removed.

In Mumbai, where there are around 2,00,000 hawkers, the Municipal Corporation has granted only 14,000 licenses. Moreover, the Municipal Corporation has stopped granting new licenses for the past two decades, hence most of these license holders do not ply the trade at the present as they are too old or they have died.

According to one recent estimate Kolkata has more than 1,00,000 hawkers. It appears that with the exception of Kolkata, all the large Municipal Corporations have provisions for providing licenses for hawking. In Kolkata the Municipal Corporation not only considers street vending an illegal activity but its law provides very stringent punishment for hawkers- hawking is a cognizable and non-bailable offence. Hawking or street vending in Calcutta is controlled by the Municipal Commissioner under the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act of 1980. This act prevents any type of vending on the streets. It was under these provisions that on the night of November 16-17, 1996 that the infamous Operation Sunshine took place. More than a hundred thousand hawkers were forcibly evicted from the streets that night and property worth several crores of rupees were destroyed or confiscated. The state government controlled by the Left Front Government, by all accounts, the most brutal action taken against the urban poor in any city in the country.

Matters did not end with Operation Sunshine. In 1997, the state government proposed an amendment to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act. This was Bill No. 33 of 1997 and was known as The Calcutta Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997. This later

became an act. Section 371 of the act was amended as this section contains regulations on street vending. The original section prevented the use of any pavement for hawking goods. The amendment expanded this to include, “any basket, receptacle or goods on pavement, street, park or garden for display or sale” (Section 371, sub-section 1). This Section further states (sub-section 1A) that any hawker contravening or abetting in contravening subsection 1, shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term extending up to three months or fined Rs. 250. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the act states in 2(ii) that in order to prevent encroachment in public places, “it has been decided to declare any such encroachment by the hawkers, stall holders and other organisations as cognizable and non-bailable offence.”

### **1.5.1 Ahmedabad**

In Ahmedabad the municipal law in Gujarat prohibits the hawking of goods without a license. The Municipal Corporation is also empowered to remove any encroachments and obstruction made on the streets. The Bombay Police Act 1950 empowers the police to arrest hawkers for obstructing free flow of traffic under sections 102 and 107. A natural market is a place where vending activities take place, due to the profitable locational aspect. There are 142 Natural markets in Ahmedabad. Most of the markets are located in the eastern part of the city, as it is the old city. Vendors tend to concentrate at places with high traffic and high residential densities. The spatial dimensions at the macro level are guided by forces of factors, which create demand at particular locations, extent of demand, and the reasons for choices of location.

According to Kulkarni (2010) the location map of Ahmedabad city shows approximately 142 natural markets and illustrates that street vending is not related to one specific location in the city. In fact the natural markets are distributed all over the city. This is because street vendors cater a variety of demands at many diverse locations such as residential neighbourhoods, squares, parks and other nodes.

### **1.5.2 Vadodara**

According to Dalwadi (2004) there is actually nothing much to speak about the licensing of street vendors in Vadodara. The last time vendors were issued licenses by the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) was in 1992, when a national street vendor-licensing scheme was taken up and since then no more licenses have been issued. These licenses too were issued only to *larry wallahs* selling eatables. About 1500 licenses were issued at that time. There are more than 5000 such eatable selling vendors in Vadodara at present. Licenses that had been issued earlier than 1992 were all revoked.

The VMC has divided the city into 10 wards and each ward comes under the purview of one ward officer. According to ward officer of ward office no.10, about 150 licenses were issued per ward. The procedure at that time was quite simple (for a change), in which the applicant

was simply required to submit an application to the ward officer along with two passport size photographs.

There was an attempt of Regulation Street vending in Vadodara through declaration of 'Hawking and Non-Hawking Zones' scheme in 1987. The Supreme Court of India passed an order dated 2-5-1986 in Writ Petition No. 657 of 1986 filed by the Hawkers' Association of Baroda and others against the Municipal Corporation of Baroda, directing the Municipal Corporation to formulate a scheme for 'Hawking and Non-Hawking Zones' in each ward of the city of Baroda.

### **1.5.3 Delhi**

Although, Delhi Master Plan, perspective 2001 & 2021 provide planning norms for accommodating hawking in various use zones of Delhi, yet the implementation mechanism and a disposal procedure for these norms are unclear. The courts are unaware over the existence of plan norms, which has resulted into no judicial enforcement of these norms, on the municipalities as yet. Although Supreme Court and lower order courts have held hawking as a fundamental right subject to reasonable restrictions by civic agencies yet, the courts have also held hawking as a nuisance to public life, and directed authorities to frame Hawking and No- Hawking zones in Delhi. Moreover, the *Tehbazari* licensing policy followed by Municipalities to give licenses to hawkers, has not allotted adequate licenses to all, and has prompted the rise of illegal channels like bribes and extortion from hawkers, by police and Municipal officials (Sharma, 2008). It appears that *Tehbazari* licensing regime is inadequate, restrictive and not integrated with Master Plan provisions. Licensing system discriminates against hawkers with no *Tehbazari* licenses, and leads to the rise of illegal channels like bribes and extortion by police.

### **1.5.4 Bangalore**

According to Sruthi Subbanna and others (2010) the advent of Information technology to Bangalore city, has been associated with infestation of infrastructure projects. Street vending is not as widespread as in other similar cities. A reason could be that alternative employment opportunities are available in the city. The city has an estimated number of 30,000 street vendors. Street vending in the city centre is done by vendors who squat near the main markets. Since hawking is not a licensed activity in Bangalore, street vendors face harassment from the police and the municipal authorities. Vendors operating in the suburbs or as mobile vendors are less harassed. Those working in the city centre most harassed. This harassment is reflected through continuous eviction by the police and fines paid by the vendors which range from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100.

Street vending in Bangalore is regulated by certain acts of the Karnataka Government (Bangalore being the capital of the state). The Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964 states that municipal councils / corporations in the state are obliged to make adequate provisions for constructing, altering and maintaining public streets and markets and provide suitable places

for vegetable vending. The Karnataka Municipalities (Regulating the conditions of which permission may be given for temporary occupation) Bye-laws, 1966 make a special provision that in certain streets or public roads, as specified by the municipal council/corporation sale of goods such as vegetables, fruits etc. may be permitted temporarily and a monthly or daily fee may be charged.

In 2000, as a result of a High Court judgment, the Bangalore Mahanagarपालike (Municipal Corporation) had issued a draft notification stating that hawking can be carried on only in the hawking zones between 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. Hawkers are not permitted to sell their goods at busy circle intersections. Besides only one hawking license per family was to be issued for a fee of Rs.150/- per month payable in advance amounting to Rs.3,600/-. The license may be renewed at the discretion of the commissioner. Though there are provisions in the law for granting licenses, most street vendors in Bangalore are denied this.

### **1.6 National Policy on Urban Street Vendors**

For the first time this policy recognized that urban vending is not only a source of employment but provides 'affordable' services to the majority of urban population. The role played by the hawkers in the economy as also in the society needs to be given due credit but they are considered as unlawful entities and are subjected to continuous harassment by civic authorities. This is reported to be continuing even after the ruling of the Supreme Court that "if properly regulated according to the exigency of the circumstances, the small traders on the sidewalks can considerably add to the comfort and convenience of the general public, by making available ordinary articles of everyday use for a comparatively lesser price. An ordinary person, not very affluent, while hurrying towards his home after a day's work can pick up these articles without going out of his way to find a regular market. The right to carry on trade or business mentioned in Article 19 (1) g of the Constitution, on street pavements, if properly regulated cannot be denied on the ground that the streets are meant exclusively for passing or re-passing and no other use."

Street Vendors provide valuable service to the urban population while trying to earn a livelihood and it is the duty of the State to protect the right of this segment of population to earn their livelihood. This policy tries to ensure that this important section of the urban population finds recognition for its contribution to society, and is conceived of as a major initiative for urban poverty alleviation.

The basic objectives of the policy are

**Legal:** To give vendors legal status by amending, enacting, repealing and implementing appropriate laws and providing legitimate hawking zones in urban development/zoning plans.

**Facilities:** To provide facilities for appropriate use of identified space including the creation of hawking zones in the urban development/zoning plans.

**Regulation:** To eschew imposing numerical limits on access to public spaces by discretionary licenses and instead moving to nominal fee-based regulation of access, where market forces like price, quality and demand will determine the number of vendors that can be sustained. Such a demand cannot be unlimited.

**Role in distribution:** To make Street vendors a special component of the urban development/zoning plans by treating them as an integral and legitimate part of the urban distribution system.

**Self Compliance:** To promote self-compliance amongst Street vendors.

**Organization:** To promote organizations of Street vendors e.g. Unions/Co-operatives/Association and other forms of organization to facilitate their empowerment.

**Participation:** To set up participatory mechanisms with representation by urban vendors' organizations, (Unions/Co-operatives/Associations), Voluntary organizations, local authorities, the police, Residents Welfare Association (RWAs) and others for orderly conduct of urban vending activities.

**Rehabilitation of Child Vendors:** To take measures for promoting a better future for child vendors by making appropriate interventions for their rehabilitation and schooling.

**Social Security & Financial Services:** To facilitate/promote social security (pension, insurance, etc.) and access to credit for Street vendors through promotion of SHGs/Co-Operatives/Federations/ MFIs etc.

In purely residential areas the spaces are not reserved for hawkers but the services are required by population residing in those areas. The places from where the hawkers purchase their goods remaining in the centre it becomes difficult for hawkers to remain mobile in these far-away residential areas.

The revised National Policy on Urban Street Vendors 2009 aims at ensuring that urban street vendors are given due recognition at national, state and local levels to pursue economic activity without harassment and at the same time, locations on which such activity is to be pursued are earmarked in zoning plans.

The revised Policy underscores the need for a legislative framework to enable street vendors to pursue an honest living without harassment from any quarter. Accordingly, A Model Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill, 2009 has also been drafted. The revised Policy and Model Bill have already been forwarded by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation to the States/UTs.

In October 2009, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has impressed upon the Chief Ministers to take "personal" interest to ensure that the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors 2009 is vigorously and sincerely implemented by the state governments. He has also

earnestly sought the personal intervention of all the state movements with regard to the following:

- i)** Implement the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors 2009 and taking into account the Model Bill take proactive action to enact a legislation to enable street vendors to ply their trade without harassment.
- ii)** Take steps to restructure Master Planning laws and City/Local Area Plans to make them 'inclusive' and address the requirements of space for street vending as an important urban activity. Suitable spatial planning "norms" for reservation of space for street vendors in accordance with their current population and projected growth may be devised.
- iii)** Ensure the demarcation of 'Restriction-free Vending Zones', 'Restricted Vending Zones', 'No-vending Zones' and 'Mobile Vending Areas' in every city/town, taking into account the natural propensity of street vendors to locate in certain places at certain times in response to patterns of demand for their goods/services or the formation of "natural markets", traffic congestion and other factors in view.
- iv)** Take steps for convergent delivery of various Government programmes for the benefit of street vendors such as Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, Skill Development Initiative, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme and other welfare schemes. He expected that the state agencies will take steps to accord a new deal to the urban street vendors as a group who need space and facilities for their legitimate activities.

After trying for over a decade to stem the urban chaos resulting from hawkers and pedestrians vying for space on shrinking pavements, the Supreme Court has finally given up and asked the Centre to bring in a law latest by June 30, 2011 to regulate hawking rights.

The Supreme Court has admitted that it had tried its best and on its directions a National Policy on Urban Street Vendors was framed in 2004. But as the question of regulating conflicting fundamental rights of hawkers and pedestrians was involved, it could be done only through legislation and not by court directive or government guidelines, said a Supreme Court Bench. The Bench asked the New Delhi Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation of Delhi to regulate hawking under present schemes till June 30, 2011 by which time the appropriate government "is to legislate and bring out a law to regulate hawking". It appears that tired of dealing with numerous interim applications filed by hawkers complaining about the regulations, the Bench said, "It is difficult for the Supreme Court to tackle this huge problem in the absence of a valid law."

## **1.7 Aim**

The basic aim of this study is look into socio-economic condition of the street vendors for developing a strategy for its inclusion into formal planning process in Surat City.

## **1.8 Objectives**

- To analyze the existing concentration of informal shopping and street vendors,
- To understand the socio- economic profile of the street vendors,
- To identify issues and required provision for vending,
- To develop the strategy for inclusion of street vendor in formal planning process.

## **1.9 Methodology**

The study is basically concerned with the broad understanding of the socio-economic profile of street vendors and how to integrate them in the process of urban development in Surat. It also looked into issues of street vendors in the light of existing policies and land use so that these policies could be used for better management of street vendors. The understanding of the existing situation of vendors is expected to give detailed practical solutions of the whole process of integrating of vendors in a fast growing city like Surat. The well-known locations of street vending were identified through personal visit and discussions with the officials of the Municipal Corporation. The detailed primary survey intended to identify the typology, characteristics, space used and space requirements, variation of street activity according to time and demands of street vendors as well as the conflicts arising due to vending activity. A local level strategy for the integration of vending is intended through local level planning.

### **1.9.1 Data Collection**

Primary survey: The study is based on the primary survey of the hawkers which was carried out in 23 locations known as high concentration of vendors with the help of a detailed questionnaire. With the help of the survey the socio-economic background, vending details, problems, issues, needs of vendors were collected. A separate brief schedule was used to collect the details of the locations and markets. Few case studies were also taken for an in depth understanding of certain complex issues.

### **1.10 Scope and Limitations**

- The study gives emphasis on socio-economic analysis of the vendors and identifies appropriate strategy to include street vending into city system. However given the complexity of street vending and diversity of individual circumstances suggesting any generalized solution to the existing problem for a large and growing city like Surat is quite difficult task.
- The geographical scope of this study is restricted to areas under the jurisdiction of the Surat Municipal Corporation and only to some 23 selected markets. Newly developed areas remained outside the purview of this study.



## **2. Introduction to the City and informal markets**

Surat is the administrative headquarter of Surat district and one of the fastest growing cities in India with the population of 44, 62,002 in 2011, nearly the double of that in 2001. According to latest Census data of 2011 the decadal growth rate is about 42.19, highest in the state of Gujarat. The rate of literacy is quite high and it is 86.65 which are equal to literacy of Ahmedabad which is the largest city of the Gujarat. The population share of the Surat district is also very high and it is about 10.07% of the state. However, city is having lowest sex ratio of 788 females per 1000 of males due to large number of migrants while it is 918 for the state of Gujarat. The sex ratio of 0-6 age group is 836 which also lowest in the state as it is 886 in 2011.

The city has been ranked 36th in the list of world's largest cities also known as the commercial capital of Gujarat state. As per a global study of fastest developing cities conducted by The City Mayors Foundation (2011), Surat ranks fourth in the world with annual growth rate of 4.99%. Ghaziabad stands at number two after Beihai in Southern China. Ghaziabad's annual growth rate is given as 5.20%. Surat is widely regarded as one of the cleanest Metropolitan Regions in the country with the city proper being the third cleanest city in India. On 8th February, 2007, Union Urban Development Ministry has included Surat city in the group of nine mega cities having global character and high growth potential. The city is largely recognized for its textile and diamond businesses. It is also known as the diamond capital of the world and the textile capital of India. About 92% of the world's diamonds are cut and polished in Surat. It has one of the highest GDP growth rates in India.

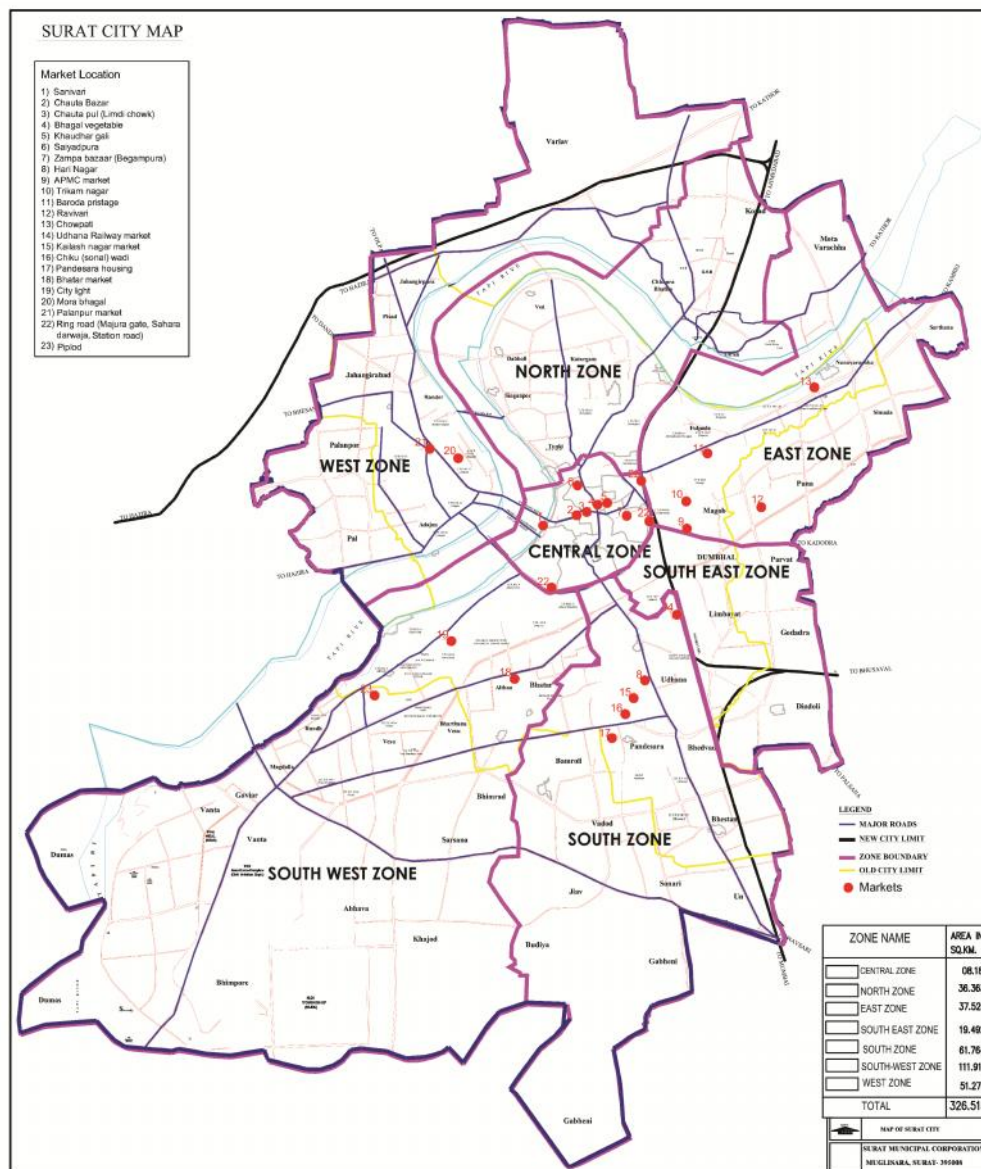
The growth in its economic activities city of Surat has not only attracted a substantial amount of capital, but also a proportion of /migrant population from within Gujarat, the neighbouring state Maharashtra as well as farther regions of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu. Migrants from various districts of Maharashtra have been coming to Surat about last six to seven decades. However, the flow of migration from the districts of Uttar Pradesh and Orissa to the city has seemingly been more recent and only since the mid-eighties that the intensity of this flow has increased. Most of these eastern districts of U.P. and the specific regions in Ganjam and Puri in or have about a seventy year old history of outmigration (Das, 1994).

Surat Municipal Corporation has recently conducted a detailed survey of the vendors in South zone which is having an area of about 61sq.km and reported to have about 2156 vendors. The survey results show that the city is having very large number of Vegetable vendors followed by vendors selling fruits and cooked food. A simple calculation of total area and number of vendors indicates that there are about 35 vendors per sq.km. Looking at the present area under the SMC which is 326 sq.km it is expected to have about 11522 vendors in the city. However, the concentration of vendors found to be very high in central, West zone and East zone the actual number of vendors will be much more than 35 per sq.km. Our personal observation suggest that these three zone will have about 100 vendors per sq.km and it will be about 97009 total area is about 97 sq.km. For the remaining part of the city taking 35 as

average number then it is expected to have about 8017 vendors and hence a total of 17717 vendors can be found in the city of Surat which is much lower than the expected number suggested in the National Policy of Street Vendors. The National Policy document stated that there is one to two percent of city population engaged in vending in large cities.

A Sample of 325 vendors was selected from different locations under the jurisdiction of the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC). In Surat, vendors can be seen all over the city but concentration is very high in major commercial areas that come under the central, west and east zone. Due to predominance of commercial activities in these areas also attract a very large number of people and have become prime location for informal activities like vending. Transport nodes are the other important location where one can see a large number of vendors are engaged in hawking are also located in these zones.

**Map1: Location of the selected Informal Markets in Surat**



Vendors are categorized according to different criteria being used by earlier researchers. Based on the type of business they can be classified as Larry who basically mobile vendors are selling items like vegetable, fruits etc. Another type is known as *Pathari* who normally sell their commodities while sitting on the ground. In terms of mobility they can be classified as Mobile that moves from one place to another on the same day, Semi-Static units where the vendors erect a structure which is removed at the end of the day, and Static which is more like a stall or *Gumti* that is used for selling commodities and fixed in a particular location. In Surat we have seen all types of vendors but in this study we have grouped those in terms of commodities they are vending.

Residential areas are mainly having vendors selling regular commodities like vegetables, fruits and other items. In addition to the natural markets Surat is also having special weekly markets like Saniwari and Raviwari where one can see a very large number of vendors are engaged in selling different types of goods. The Surat Municipal Corporation has also taken initiative to settle the vendors in few locations like Bhatar, City Light, Pandeshra housing and Sonal Market. Few items like vegetable and fruits can be seen in almost all the locations. While some markets are specialized in garment or non-vegetarian food items others remained general.

## **2.1 Shaniwari Market**

The Shaniwari market is known as weekly Saturday market is the most popular in Surat city. This market is located near the Makkai Bridge, next to River Tapi. The market starts in the morning and continues till 9 pm but afternoon is more crowded. The major land use of this area is recreational. According to the vendors this market is more than 100 years old. There are nearly 1000 vendors and the market is gradually becoming large as new vendors are joining the market. There is no proper sanitation facility in the market. Local '*dadas*' come and collect Rs.100 which many vendors call it as '*gunda*' tax. In some cases these '*dadas*' takes Rs.500- 700 depending upon business. The market is not having any management committee as one can see in places like Raviwari in Ahmedabad.

The market mostly consists of cloth vendors. More than 60% of our sample vendors are sellers of various types of clothes, both new and used one. Other vendor consists of stationary/ bag (7%), wooden items (7%), and miscellaneous good (10%). Around 10 % of the vendors also sell food items to the customers coming to this market. There are other vendors who sell water packets etc, which normally serve the customers moving in this market. It is important to note that this market is having vendors selling almost all the daily requirements but attempts has been made in the survey to capture the larger vendor groups in the sample.

## **2.2 Chauta Bazaar**

In the central part of the city of Surat, is the Chauta Bazaar, famous for clothes and ladies goods like jewellery, cosmetics etc. More than 500 vendors are engaged in vending. It is

visited mostly by ladies, sometimes with families. Various goods such as different types of clothes, ladies items, and footwear, are sold in this market. There are also vendors selling food items, water packets and other items to customers.

It consists of 31 % cloth vendors, most of whom sell ladies clothes of various types. There is a wide variety of clothes available in this market. Almost 18% of the vendors sell footwear and an equal percentage of vendors sell cosmetic products. Another 6% vendors sell stationary/ bags and 12 % vendors sell fruits. Most of them are seasonal vendors, like vendor selling mango in summer months and other goods in rest of the months. About 6% vendors sell food items to the customers who come to buy goods in this market and another 6% vendors sell miscellaneous items. Due to the kind of shops here, we see that the market is very active during the afternoon and evening hours. Ladies come to buy goods, when males are at their work.

### **2.3 Chauta Bridge**

The market next to Chauta bazaar is its extension, called the Chauta Bridge market, due to its location around the Chauta Pool. It has as a very mixed type of vendors. The primary survey shows that about one third of the respondents are engaged in selling cutlery and related items. The market is also having 16% of vendors selling food items and almost same numbers of vendors were selling clothes, footwear, and miscellaneous items. It clearly shows that this market is actually substituting the items normally used by household on a regular basis that is not available in Chauta Bazar.

### **2.4 Bhagal Market**

The next market, in the same area is the Bhagal Market - primarily a vegetable market, in the heart of Surat. SMC has provided spaces for the vendors to sell their goods. Some small vendors squat on the road and sell their goods, near the entrance to Bhagal market. The field survey shows that more than half of the vendors (58%) sell vegetables in this market and 19% vendors sell fruits. Rest 10% vendors sell fruit juice and 3% vendors sell food items, mainly serving the customers coming to buy vegetables and fruits from this market. Clothes are being sold by 3% of vendors, mainly outside the vegetable market area. An equal percentage of vendors sell cosmetic products too while 4% vendors sell plastic wares, and other miscellaneous plastic items.

### **2.5 Khaudara Gali**

Khaudara Gali is a non- vegetarian food street market with almost all vendors selling non – vegetarian food items. Various shops here sell various items like Biryani, Kababs etc. This market is vibrant in the evening and many vendors sell food items, in front of the permanent shops.

Almost all the vendors sell different food products. Around 73% vendors sell varieties of kinds of food items ranging from sweets to famous Gujarati snacks, 9% sell non vegetarian food exclusively, 9% sell fruit juices and 9% sell other miscellaneous items.

## **2.6 Saiyadpura Market**

Primarily a meat market, Saiyadpura caters to the neighbourhood. All the samples surveyed in the market were selling non vegetarian food items. Various items like Meat, Chicken, eggs are sold here. This sample does not completely represent the entire market though, as there are various other vendors selling different household items etc.

Saiyadpura also has a small separate vegetable market, constructed by the SMC. The main reason for its small size is the division of markets and coming up of newer markets in the surrounding regions, like Bhastipura market, Kuber Nagar market etc.

## **2.7 Jhapa Bazaar**

In Jhapa Bazaar, 22 % vendors in our sample were selling vegetable and almost same number of vendors selling non-vegetarian foods and cloth. Almost 12% sold food items, 11% were involved in cosmetic products and rest were selling miscellaneous items. We can easily say that this market is predominantly a food market, with majority of the vendors selling various food products.

## **2.8 Hari Nagar-2 Market**

Hari Nagar- 2 market is in a residential area. This is 20 -25 year old market. The land belongs to a Society, and they have given the land to the market. The society collects donations (*Chanda*) during festivals like *Ganesh Puja* etc, which the vendors readily pay.

From our primary survey, we find that the majority of vendors in this market sell vegetables, and food products. The market consists of 43% vegetable and 14% of fruits sellers. Other major vendor groups in this market are cloth vendors and vendors selling cosmetics and other small ladies products, each of these groups consisting of around 14% of the total vendors. Around 15% vendors sell miscellaneous items.

## **2.9 APMC Market (Sardar Bazaar)**

APMC market is a wholesale and retail market. This market is divided in two parts, one is inside the SMC allotted area, and other is across the main road, along the road. The SMC allotted space has wholesale shops mainly, but nowadays these vendors have also started selling in retail, which has made the road side vendors unhappy.

Our primary survey suggests that almost all vendors are selling some kind of food, food products. Majority of them sell vegetables (52%). Another large portion of vendors sell fruits (19%), 10% sell food items and 5% sell fruit juice. In addition to these vendor groups, there

are also other vendors who sell miscellaneous items like water packets, tea, ice candies, stationary/ bag that become 14% of the total vendors.

### **2.10 Trikampura Market**

This is a neighbourhood market, near Bombay market, which starts every evening on the roadside. Most of the customers come from nearby neighbourhoods, and societies. This market used to be within a vacant plot adjacent to the road, but now an apartment has come in its place, and the market had to shift to the road side. This market is in no tolerance zone, and SMC does not return the carts, or products, if they take it away during a raid.

Close to 50 % of the vendors we took as sample in this market, sell food items, 16% sell vegetables, 17% sell plastic items, 17 % sell stationary / bags. Number of vendors increase on Sunday, and on weekdays very few vendors come, due to the fear of a raid by SMC.

### **2.11 Baroda Prestige**

A road side market on the Varacha road in Surat, Baroda Prestige mainly consists of street vendors selling vegetables and fruits. There are vendors selling clothes and few household items too. The market spills over into the interior street, where the existing shopkeepers have encroached the spaces in front of their shops and sell their goods- mainly clothes and footwear.

Our survey shows that the predominant group of vendors are cloth sellers (28%), 5% sell cosmetics and ladies items and equal number sell footwear, leather goods etc. Stationary and bags are sold by 5% of the total vendors. Around 12% of the vendors are vegetable sellers and 5% sell fruits. Food items sold by 14% and 5% sold fruit juice and plastic items. Around 12% sold cutlery and 9% sell miscellaneous products. Thus we see that the vendors groups are variedly distributed and sell various types of items in this market.

All the vendors are paying about Rs.100 per month to SMC and get receipt for it. At the end of the day they clear the place and put the waste in nearby dustbins provided by the SMC. However, market is not having any facility like toilet or storage space or rest room. As the SMC officials are visiting this place regularly the solid waste generated in this market is also collected on a regular basis and it looks quite clean. The local police are not harassing the vendors as they are paying the user fee to the SMC.

### **2.12 Raviwari Market (Santosh Nagar)**

Raviwari market is a weekly market set up on every Sunday in the mornings and evenings at Santosh Nagar and Archana area respectively. Customers come from within and outside the city to buy very cheap products like clothes and household items.

Our survey shows that more than half of the sample vendors (53%) sell clothes, while 3% sell plastic items, 10% sell cosmetic products, 3% sell food items to customers, 4% sell non vegetarian food items, and an equal number of vendors sell fruit juice. A large group (23%) sells other miscellaneous household daily need items, which tells us the wide variety of items sold in this market.

### **2.13 Varachha Chaupati**

This is a market in Varachha area, which starts in the evening. It is popular for street food in Surat. Our survey shows that a large majority of vendors (73%) sell food items of different varieties. The rest of the vendors (27%) sell other miscellaneous items.

### **2.14 Udhana Station Market**

This is a street side market near the Udhna Railway Station. There are shops selling clothes etc. Street vendors sell their wares on the roadside. Fruits, clothes, footwear, electronics etc were being sold there. This is a Zero Tolerance Zone, and the vendors' carts are usually taken away when the SMC raids.

One third of the sample vendors sell stationary/ bags. Around 8% vendors sell vegetables and equal number of vendors sells fruits and 8% sell fruit juice. Cloth vendors consist 8% of the total vendors. Around one third of the vendors sell different miscellaneous items.

### **2.15 Kailashnagar Market**

This is an evening market, with various vendors selling vegetables, food items, clothes etc. Most of the customers come from nearby residential areas, which are densely populated. Goods are not so cheap, but customers find it very convenient to buy vegetables and household items from this market, which is very close to their homes.

Half of the vendors taken in our sample for study, sell vegetables and around 12% sell fruits, 25% sell cosmetics and ladies items, and 13% sell other miscellaneous items.

### **2.16 Sonal Market**

This market was constructed by SMC and allotted to vegetable vendors in 2005. Vendors located on the main road in this area were allotted stalls but many have not moved into this market and more than half of the space is empty. SMC has provided amenities like toilet, two wheeler parking etc. It is located near the textile mills and not many large residential colonies are present in the area, which results in very few customers for the vendors vending here.

Majority of the vendors from our survey (90%) sold vegetables spice, etc. and rest of the vendors sold non- vegetarian food items. The space allotted is quite large and enough space is

kept for circulation. So the design is not a problem but location and the demographic features appear to be responsible for the non utilization of stalls in this market.

Non vegetarian food is quite popular as more than three vendors are having larries just outside the main gate of this market. These vendors are not interested to take stalls inside the market as are not sure of the fact that customers will be coming there. It clearly shows that the location on the main road is very important to do better business.

### **2.17 Pandeshra Housing Market**

This is a very large market selling a variety of items. Sunday is a prime business day at this market, as many different varieties of items are sold here. The market area is divided into three parts. One follows the main road that passes the internal market and housing societies where mainly the vendors selling readymade cloth, toys, and household goods. This part of the market is very crowded on all Saturdays and Sundays. One can see lot of mobile vendors selling belts, toys, and eatables. The adjoining open ground is the other important part of this market where vendors are selling textile items like *sarees*, dress materials, etc by displaying on the ground. One can buy very cheap *saree* from this part of the market as textile mills are sending their rejected items to be sold here. The third part is the market constructed by the SMC and it is mainly occupied by the vegetable sellers.

According to our sample survey about 9% of our vendors sell vegetables and an equal number of vendors sell fruits. A large group 45 % sells clothes of different varieties and 9% sell footwear and 18% sell cosmetics/ladies items. Rest of the vendors are selling miscellaneous items.

The nearby area is residential and there are many migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar resides in this area. Toilets and other facilities are not available in the market but it is meant for vendors having stalls. SMC takes Rs. 30- 50/- per month and issue official receipt for money collected to the vendors. Once SMC has taken away Larry (cart) one can get it back after 21 days by paying Rs. 300/- as penalty. The cost of new Larry will be Rs. 4500/- and all vendors are worried about it.

### **2.18 Bhatar Market**

This is a large market with lots of vegetable shops and few fish shops. SMC has allotted spaces with roofs, to vendors in year 2000. Some of the spaces in the interior will be reorganized and new spaces to be allotted.

Here, 32% of the vendors sell vegetables, 10 % sell fruits, 10% sell food items, and 5% sell fruit juice. Clothes are sold by 10% of the vendors, 16% vendors sell footwear, 5% sell plastic items, 5% sell cosmetic products and 7% sell other miscellaneous items. SMC officials come once or twice in a month to collect fees of Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. There is no association of vendors.



## **2.19 City Light**

This is a vegetable market situated in a posh residential locality. The SMC had allotted spaces for vendors, but most of the spaces are vacant. SMC has also provided a toilet block. The vegetable and fruit vendors are mostly from U.P. and Bihar. This market can be seen as important example of how the location of resettling the vendors is so relevant in making plan for the future. The market is slightly away from the main road and surrounded by the high rise buildings and due to availability of the mobile phone people prefer to call the nearby Malls or some known vendors to cope up their daily requirements.

Among the available vendors who are still selling commodities from the stalls built by the SMC about 17% vendors sell vegetables, 50% vendors sell food items, and 16% sell footwear, 17% sell stationary/bag. It was informed that there are many vendors selling fruits in this market but most of them were visiting their native places in U.P. and Bihar. Due to this reason the sample does not represent the actual number of vendors covered during the field work.

## **2.20 Mora Bhagal**

It is a mixed type of market. Almost all type of goods is available in this market. Generally people living in nearby areas are visiting this market for purchase of commodities of their daily requirements. However, this market is also serving areas outside the main city and people from Olpad which is about 10kms away from this place are also coming for shopping. Non vegetarian items like fish, mutton and eggs are also available in this market. Pay and use toilet facility is available in this market.

Most vendors are divided into two locations one group engaged in vending inside the area which looks like a regular market. However, a large number of vendors are also squatting and selling while sitting near the main road and sell on carts. The number of vendors increases on Sundays, and hence many customers come, and they get more choice to buy.

## **2.21 Palanpur Patiya**

This is a formal market with so many informal shops along the road. There are vendors selling on hand carts, and also using the SMC allotted spaces. Most of the vegetables are brought by farmers from nearby villages, and hence the vegetables in this market are very fresh.

Most of the surveyed vendors (62%) sell vegetables, 10 % sell fruits, 14% sell food items, 5% sell clothes, and 9% sell cutlery.

## **2.22 Ring Road Market**

These are a series of vendors along the ring road, at various places and important junctions. Customers travelling on the ring road, buy goods on the way. Our sample consists of 80%

vendors selling stationary/ bag and 20% selling other miscellaneous items. These vendors change day to day. Most of them are mobile. Hence it is not possible to represent the exact distribution of vendor groups. The market is much diversified in nature.

### **2.23 Piplod**

Piplod was a small village on the periphery of Surat city. These days it is a part of Surat city. This newly developed area is dominated by middle income group people. Lots of high rise buildings are coming up in this area. Local authority has developed a lake with boating facility for recreation of the residents of Piplod and nearby areas. Saturdays and Sundays are frequently visited by local people that have also created extra demand for vendors in this area.

One fourth of the vendors (25%) sell vegetable and same number of vendors selling non vegetarian food. There are 13% see fruits, 12% sell fruit juices, 13% sell plastic items, and 12% sell other miscellaneous items. Here, we see the predominance of food and related products in this market.

## **3. Street Vendors in Surat City**

The number of female street vendors found in Surat city is only 13.5% against 86.5% male. The markets where only few female street vendors are selling goods are Chauta bazaar, Chauta Bridge, Bhagal, Khaudra Gali, Saiyadpura market, Begumpura market, and Chikuwadi (Sonal) market. The maximum numbers of female vendors are found in Bhatar and Piplod markets.

Majority of the vendors of Surat are Hindu by religion and only 23% are Muslims. Among the Hindu vendors majority belong to general caste. The location of market, vending type and religious background are also interrelated in cities like Surat. One example of this is Jhapa bazar/ Begumpura which is located in the middle of the city and having large concentration of Muslim population is the main market for selling meat. SMC has constructed a building where about 30 stalls are selling meat on a regular basis. Now, due to increase in demand and other factors vendors are occupying the space available near the formal market building and all of them are Muslims.

Nearly half of the vendors are in the age group of 33 – 59 years. Almost 30% are in the age group of 25- 34 years, 14% of the vendors are young, in the age group of 18 - 24 years. Only 1.2% of the vendors are below 18 years of age. This trend is seen among the vendors selling fruits and vegetables. About half of the street vendors belong to 35- 54 age- group and one third vendors fall under the age- group of 25- 34 years.

Most of (80%) vendors have 2-4 members in their family while others are having medium to large number of member in the family. Larger family sizes are more prevalent among the cloth vendors, cosmetic product vendors, and among vendors selling miscellaneous items.

Small family size is more prevalent among the vegetable and wooden item sellers. Shaniwari, Bhagal, Begumpura and Santosh Nagar (Ravivari) are the markets where some vendors have more than eight members in the family. Most of the vendors are married while less than one fifth is unmarried. Few of them are widow and divorced or living separate from spouse. In Surat it is observed that majority of vendors living without family in the Surat. They are living alone or with the one family member who is also working.

Literacy trends among the street vendors, show that the more illiterate vendors have smaller businesses like fruit stalls. More than 90% of all surveyed vendors are literate, and have studied at least up to 5th grade. Around 32% have studied up to 8th grade, 22% have passed 10th, 6% have studied up to 12th grade and 3% have been to college for graduation. Only one vendor in our sample is a post graduate that constitutes 0.3% of all vendors. Literacy trends among the street vendors show that the more illiterate vendors have smaller businesses like small fruit stalls.

Migration is found to be strongly correlated as almost three fourth of vendors have migrated to Surat from outside the Gujarat or from places within Gujarat. Large number of vendors migrated from rural areas. In some locations like Hari Nagar-2, APMC, Chikuwadi, Pandeshra, City Light are having more than 60% of street vendors from outside the Gujarat. Most of the migrated street vendors belong to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. Migrated vendors are mainly engaged in selling vegetable, fruit, stationary/ bag and cosmetic products. Almost 60% vendors doing business in Surat since last 15 years or more. Among the migrant vendors one third of them sending remittances to the home. It indicates that half of the migrated vendors don't have enough savings to send remittances to their family. The percentage of migrated vendors in Surat is too much as compared to cities like Ahmedabad where most of the vendors belong to the city.

Data regarding migrated vendors living in the Surat shows that maximum (36%) vendors living here more than 15 years and 23% from more than last 10 years. If we add both, it reaches around 60% and it shows that there is a good business opportunity for street vendors in most of the selected location in Surat. In Surat some location like Hari Nagar- 2, Trikumpura and Ring Road are some market where more than 60% vendors selling goods for more than 15 years. In fact many of the vendors have started their business in this market, or have been second or third generation vendors in this market. We see that most of the vegetable, fruit juice, cloth, footwear, bags, cosmetics and wooden item vendors, have come to the markets more than 15 years ago. Very small portion of vendors across all vendor types have come to their respective markets in last 2 years.

Vendor prefers living near to work place that's why more than 60% vendors living within 2 km distance from the place of vending.

A large number of the vendors were single earning members in their house while one fifth vendors have two working person in their house. Little more than 6% of vendors are having four or more persons working and contributing to household income. There is high concentration of street vendors, who migrated alone from their native place to get means of

livelihood. Chauta bazaar, Chauta bridge, Saiyadpura, APMC, City Light and Mora Bhagal are some of the markets which consists more than 80% street vendors who are working alone in their family.

Primary survey shows that out of 240 children, there are 220 children going to school. It reveals that most of the vendors are aware about educating their children.

### **3.1 Commercial Information**

In Surat about one third vendors are travelling by private vehicle to the market while many are going by foot and only one fifth are using public transport. A large number of vendors engaged in this occupation because it's their family occupation. Few vendors are involved in street vending due to less investment, need of money and past experience of this kind of business. More than half of the vendors have selected the place of vending due to reasons like close to an established market or where they found good opportunity of selling of their goods.

### **3.2 Economic Information**

Large number of vendors buy goods from whole sale market while one fourth vendors from super markets. Almost one third vendors per day profit are Rs. 100- 250 whereas one third vendors per day profit are Rs. 250- 500.

Less than one fifth of the vendors are paying rent for the space used by them. If street vendors are regularized in Surat, then three fourth of the vendors will be paying charges to SMC for used space that will become crores of rupees in a year. During the survey most of the vendors have shown their willingness to pay charges if they get recognition and facilities from SMC. Almost half of the vendors have paid fine in the past against half of the vendors who never paid fine.

It has been seen that mostly vendors either taken loan from the money lenders on high interest rate or supported by their family/ relatives / friends. Some vendors have been taking goods from wholesalers or agents on credit.

### **3.3 Structural condition and duration of work**

More than half of the hawking units are mobile in nature while one third units are stationary and very few come under others category. One third of the vendors are selling their goods on sitting ground with sheet, handcart becomes second and kiosk or stalls are the third option.

The unit size of 11% vendors is less than 10 sq. ft. Almost half of the vendors occupied 10 to 40 sq. ft. space for their stall. Majority of vendors are working whole day while some vendors work only during the evenings or morning hours.

### **3.4 Locational characteristics, problems being faced by vendors & their future prospects**

Almost 40% vendors believe established market as important factor for vending whereas one fifth vendors believe both, high residential density and established market place and some of them believe that only high residential density as a major factor for creating demand. Large number of vendors reported festival and one third of vendors reported weather as important factor whereas some vendor has reported other reasons.

Here, only 3% of vendors are member of any vendor organization. The vendor organizations are 'Vyappar Mandal' in Baroda Pristage (established in 2002), 'Den Dayal Mandal' in Chikuwadi (Sonal) market and 'Sai Association' in Pandeshra Housing market.

Most of the vendors want to buy a shop, some wants to rent a shop and few vendors want to get rented hand cart. Majority of the vendors don't want their son/ daughters continue this trade due to insufficient earning despite of hard work.

Half of the vendors reported that they are facing problems to continue doing business. Out of half of vendors one third facing problem of harassment by authorities, one third facing problem of eviction and few of them are facing problem of conflict with pedestrians, confiscation of goods and extortion by authority.

Around 60% of the total vendors, one third expect space with license ID, one fifth expect only space, 8% expect space with basic facilities like water and sanitation, 5% expect only license ID and few of them expect only basic facilities from the SMC.

In general, three fourth of the total vendors do not agree to relocate from original place whereas one fifth of the vendors agreed only if they are shifted to nearby places and their requirements are taken care in new location.

### **3.5 Natural market designs and occupied space**

Most of the natural markets have grown along the main roads ,open spaces in populated areas and around the entry point of the formal markets such as whole sale markets etc. Each natural market has its own charm in all cities in the country. The naturally grown markets along the road are main characteristic of all Indian cities. These markets should be conserved as heritage rather than removal. Despite the removal or shifting of natural markets to the formal markets there should be focus on accommodating these vendors in the urban areas following the natural designs of markets because development of street vending is much related to the natural process rather than planned activity.

The average size of each unit in a market governed by two main factors, type of commodity and availability of space with respect to number of vendors in a given market. The average size of vending unit is 2.3 sq.mt. for all natural markets.

Almost 73% of the space in the natural markets is being used by vendors against movement space for customers and other activities. If the natural markets will be regularized in a planned manner, the movement space and area occupied by vendors will be reduced that will ultimately reduce the area of the entire market. In case, any natural market will be shifted to other place, the ratio of space for movement should not be less than 40% against space allowed for making stalls otherwise it will create congestion.

#### **4. Provision of proper hawking space to avoid conflict with customers**

The National Policy stresses on demarcation of “Hawking” and “No- Hawking Zones”. The policy says that “designation of vendors market/ no vending zones should not be left to the sole discretion of any civic or police authority but must be accomplished by the participatory process”. As there are hawking and no- hawking zones are demarcated in Surat City, there is need to accommodate the street vendors that make stalls in the markets come under no-hawking zone like Trikam Nagar. Relocation or accommodation of vendors in these markets can be done through participatory process as suggested in the National Policy. Before bringing any street under no-hawking zone it is essential to have specific rehabilitation strategy for the vendors going to be affected. For this purpose a city level advisory body can be formed. Such body should have adequate representation of the vendors and other civil society groups as suggested in the National policy. It will help to reduce the possible conflict between vendors and SMC/ City Police.

Integration of hawking units with organized retail spaces in their present location itself

Hawking space can be provided along formal shops, shopping centres, and complexes. But such strategy must ensure that a distinct distance is maintained between the formal shops and the hawking units, so that a clash with formal shop owners to be avoided.

1. Hawking space and formal shops selling similar type of goods, e.g. clothes, must be kept at distant from each other to avoid conflicts between formal shops and vendors.
2. A minimum distance of 2 metre (for 4 pedestrians to sufficiently pass through) must be maintained between a formal shop and a hawking space.

As we know the eviction of vendors whenever attempted has not been successful to great extent due to various reasons. Incorporating vendors in the city economy has been seen to be more logical option. The main advantages of formalization of informal markets are as follows:

1. Vending rights on space to the vendors ultimately increases his/ her accountability on space and its surrounding environment. By this means they would maintain health and hygiene.
2. License to the vendors (space and time specific) against payment of charges is expected to enhance the revenue of SMC. A part of this revenue could be used for provision

of drinking water, toilets and waste collection and temporary or permanent structure for vendors.

#### Guidelines for integrating the hawking activity in urban development

1. Workout the area requirement by hawkers at different land uses. Providing space can be taken up under two steps:
  - i. Reservation of space as part of urban development where they can be allotted space in the premises of the commercial buildings, neighbourhood markets, civic centre's etc.
  - ii. Byelaws which indicate that a percentage of the total plot should be left for the use of vending and other types of informal sector activity in commercial areas.
2. The design of the public squares and spaces can be done in a manner so as to accommodate the hawkers and the street vendors in the design itself integrating the visual context into the image of the urban fabric. For e. g. At Law Garden area in Ahmedabad they are provided a designated space for their activity in the evening hours of the day. Similarly at C.G. Road where the on- street integration of these hawkers is visible. Cities like Bhubaneswar, Puri, Kolkata and Patna have taken similar initiatives successfully.
3. On each location that has been provided for the vending activity, appointment of a representative of SMC, (preferably a food inspector or his subordinate), who will maintain the health and hygienic condition in those areas after registering all the hawkers engaged in vending of different commodities.
4. SMC can charge the hawkers for hawking in the allotted areas. The study at various international cities, reveal that the authorities can make a good return by using such strategy.

#### **4.1 Issue I- D cards to vendors**

Photo identity card can be issued to all hawkers as most of the vendors have shown their willingness for this during primary survey. These I- D cards can mention activity type and location of hawking space, besides bio- data. For this purpose, a nominal fee can be collected by ward vending committee, from all registered hawkers. It can also stop increase in number of vendors in near future.

#### **4.2 Improving economic status of hawkers**

Vendors can be grouped as self- help groups for loan and credit facilities from banks may be made easily acceptable. Moreover, Bank interest rates will be extremely low for vendors coming through SHGs. Vendor associations should be assisted by NGO's or other Community based groups and they should be covered in government schemes for poverty alleviation. The attempt should be towards forming federation of SHG's to create a financial

interface between the vendors and formal sector financial institutions to gain access to larger credit not only for income generation but also for housing, education, health etc.

#### **4.3 Infrastructure provision on site**

On- site infrastructure guidelines needs to be followed by the SMC by incorporating provisions of the National Policy for street vendors and provision of the Development Plan regarding:

- i. Garbage collection and solid waste disposal
- ii. Public toilets and sanitation for vendors.
- iii. Electricity, gas and water supply network.
- iv. On- site storage facility.

For this purpose, monthly fee can be levied on vendors for the use of infrastructure services, by the SMC. The city level or ward level advisory committee may be given adequate power to take a final decision in this matter.



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### **Important web links**

National Alliance of street vendor of India  
[www.nasvinet.org](http://www.nasvinet.org)

Alternative Law Forum  
[www.altlawforum.org](http://www.altlawforum.org)

Environment Support Group  
[www.esgindia.org](http://www.esgindia.org)

Self Employed women's Association  
[www.sewa.org](http://www.sewa.org)

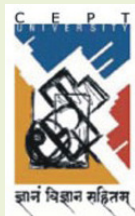
Action aid  
[www.actionaidindia.org](http://www.actionaidindia.org)

Urban Street Vendors Lok Seva Kendra  
[www.freewebs.com/pervez](http://www.freewebs.com/pervez)

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