

# Socio - Economic Status of the Street Vendors: A Study with Reference to Bodh Gaya (Gaya District)

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**Abstract:** *Street vending is an integral part of commercial activity of Bodh Gaya. Like other informal sector, street vending is also characterized by low level of income, easy of entry, self - employment, and constitute poor, uneducated or poorly educated, unskilled people, especially form the adjoining rural area, except some local people too. These street vendors sell variety of product of daily consumption like fruits, vegetables, readymade garments, household items and artifacts. They earn the livelihood from vending these products around the main Buddhist temple of Bodh Gaya. This study investigates the problem and prospects of the street vendors of Bodh Gaya in terms of their socio - economic conditions. This study also evaluated the problem faced by street vendors in their work place and the suggestions have been made to eradicate this problem and make better conditions for them. The present study cover in - depth study of the socio - economic conditions of the street vendors in Bodh Gaya and for this purpose researcher selected 110 respondents by adopting convenient samples and the nature of the study has been descriptive. Street vendors were interviewed to collect the socio - economic data. The collected data were tabulated and were converted into percentage for convenience. By means of collected data researcher tried to analyse the socio - economic conditions of the street vendors and their problem and prospects as well as provided solution to eradicate their plight.*

**Keywords:** Street Vendors, Socio - economic conditions, Bodh Gaya, Gaya, Bihar, Livelihood, Urban

## 1. Introduction

Street vendors are global phenomena and are integral part of urban economies, as it is the most visible aspect of the informal sector of the economy, offering easy access to variety of goods and services to public. Street vending has been in existence, since time immemorial in India as well as world around. In spite of the fact that street vendors are the significant contributors to the urban economies, they are considered as informal, and characterized by low level of income. Throughout the world, these street vendors are in millions of number, and earn their livelihood by selling variety of goods on streets. Street vending plays an important role in the creation of employment among poor, which ultimately leads to production and income generation. Street vendors offer goods for sale to the public, without having any permanent structure or shop. Street vendors only become stationary when they occupy space on public pavement, otherwise, they normally remain mobile and carry their goods for sale on push carts, even baskets on their heads. Therefore, streets vendors include both, whether they are stationary or mobile. Street vendors are normally those, who are not able to get a proper job in formal sectors due to several socio - economic factors. Street vending includes large number of people, because it is characterized by unskilled work, self - employment and easy to start with small amount of investment. Through their own meager resources, street vendors start their work and manage their livelihood problems. Street vendors offer easy delivery of variety of products of daily consumption like fruits, vegetable, milk, newspaper and other edibles. Without street vendors, there can be severe crisis of different goods and services, especially fruits, vegetable and milk. Government is not able to provide jobs for all, therefore, street vending provides an opportunities for the unskilled even skilled people to take up street vending with small investment and meager resources. Large number of poor people in cities of Bihar, like Gaya survives on street vending. People from

rural area migrate to the city or small town to earn their livelihood, due to lack of employment opportunity even in the informal sector. People who migrate from rural to urban area in search of employment generally possess low skills, even most of them are unskilled and uneducated even having low level of education could not get well paid job in the formal sector. Apart from this, permanent jobs in the formal sector are very less in the state like Bihar and especially Gaya districts, because of lack of any industry as manufacturing units. Therefore, these people, who have migrated from the rural area in search of good jobs finds themselves engaged in hawking or street vending to earn their livelihood. It is only because of the fact that street vending requires low investment and even low or unskilled people and there is also no barriers to entry into this job of street vending. In a city like Gaya and its Nagar Panchayat, Bodh Gayapoor people come from adjoining villages for purchasing goods within the limit of their meager financial resources. These poor people procure their basic requirements, mainly through street vendors, because of the low costs of the goods sold by these street vendors. We can say that majority of the population in Gaya and Bodh Gaya depends upon these street vendor for their daily requirements. If these streets vendors were to be eliminated from the market of Gaya and Bodh Gaya, may lead to severe crisis, especially for the poor people depending on street vendors for their daily needs. Due to fast urbanizations, street vendors in Bodh Gaya have been taken as a problem in the development of the area, especially around Mahabodhi temple. In 2016, street vendors in Bodh Gaya demanded implementation of 'The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, which includes issuance of identity card, license and loan from the banks. Due to increasing global significance of Bodh Gaya, as a pilgrimage and tourism destination, the Indian government in 2007 deployed police and soldiers in Bodh Gaya to oversee the demolition of long standing businesses and homes, pursued under master plan:

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The vendors complain that they were evicted from around the Mahabodhi temple, without being provided alternative space. But Nagar Panchayat Officials identified vendor zone and the vendors were relocated over there.

### 1.1 Problems faced by Street Vendors

As street vendors are very vulnerable people, therefore, they face a lot of problems. Despite their importance in the market of Bodh Gaya, very small market space has been allotted to them. They are also exposed to number of problems, such as harassment at the hands of local police as well as traffic police. Due to increase in the number of vendors in Bodh Gaya, excessive congestion and its related problems have come up in the adjoining area of Mahabodhi temple. Street vendors are deprived by the laws made by the government for the labour union. Therefore, street vendors are neither protected by the government, nor by any labour law or by any labour union. Because of instability in market prices of the goods and services as well as market place crisis and insecure income, these street vendors always suffer competition with other street vendors. In spite of hard work, their daily income is meager, but they have to pay at least 10 to 20 percent of their income to the local police as a bribe to overcome the harassment. Street vendors normally sell their goods in the public space, which causes traffic congestion, poor hygiene and disposal of wastes. In spite of the problem of insecurity and uncertainty, large number of uneducated and lower unskilled people earn their livelihood from street vending. Nowadays, online shopping has affected street vendor in one way or the other way, because online shopping provide direct contact of consumer to the provider, without an intermediary, which make the goods somewhat cheaper. Street vendors survive without any government support and their contribution to socio - economic conditions of the urban area have been overlooked but lately in 2013, government passed a street vendors Bill.

### 1.2 Objective of the Study

The present work aims to enquire into the socio - economic conditions of the street vendor sin Bodh Gaya (Gaya district). The objectives of the study are given below.

- To understand the demographic characteristics of the street vendors.
- To understand the problems of the vendors.
- To understand the role of street vendors in the commercial activity of Bodh Gaya.
- To understand the socio - economic conditions of the street vendor in Bodh Gaya.
- To understand the type of vending and earning of the street vendors.
- To understand job satisfaction and working conditions.
- To develop the policy for the improvement in the socio - economic conditions of vendor in Bodh Gaya.
- To identify the major constraints that faces the vendors.

## 2. Methodology

Present study explores the socio - economic conditions of the street vendor in Bodh Gaya (Gaya) and is primarily

based on field study. Therefore, for better understanding of the socio - economic conditions of the street vendors, the present study will be descriptive but empirical in nature. Descriptive nature of the study will describe the vendors who will take part in the empirical work done in the field study. Convenient sampling was used to choose the sample of 110 (one hundred ten) street vendors near Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya. Care has been taken to include different types of street vendors selling different type food items, vegetable, fruits and daily use products.

Primary data regarding socio - economic conditions were collected from direct interaction, with vendors through scheduled and multistructured questionnaires, group discussion and informal interviews. Vendors were asked the questions related to different aspects of the study and were filled by the surveyor itself and due importance were given to illiterate vendors. Collected data were compiled, tabulated and were converted into percentage for easier study, since the data analysis does not require much higher order statistical tools.

### Limitations in Data Collection

- People were hesitant to disclose regarding income and assets.
- People were not clear about their investment in different aspects.

## 3. Study Area

District Gaya is bounded by Arwal, Jehanabad and Nalanda districts on its north, Nawada on the east, Palamu, Chatra and Hazaribag districts of Jharkhand state on the south, whereas, Aurangabad of Bihar is on the west and its Latitude and longitude coordinates are: Latitude: 24° 47' 48.70" N, Longitude: 85° 00' 13.86" E. Gaya is one of the holiest place, pilgrimage for Hindus and Buddhist and there is a regular flow of pilgrims in the town. Bodh Gaya, which is the holiest place for Buddhist, is situated about 11 km south of Gaya town, where Lord Buddha was enlightened, more than 2500 years ago. Bodhi tree has been considered as the center of Buddhist world, under which Lord Buddha attained enlightenment, located within the Mahabodhi temple complex. In 2002, Mahabodhi temple became a UNESCO World Heritage site. Bodh Gaya is directly linked to the surrounding region by means of state road and is also linked by NHI through NH83, which connect Delhi and Kolkata as well as Patna and Varanasi. Bodh Gaya lies on the western bank of Niranjana (Phalgu) river and is located at an altitude of 113 m from the MSL. Bodh Gaya is a Nagar Panchayat of district Gaya, spread over an area of 19.60 sq. km. having a population of 38439 in 2011. Out of the total population of 38439, there are 19908 males and 18531 females. Sex ratio of Bodh Gaya is 931 females per thousand male, which is 13 points higher than the state average sex ratio of 918 females per thousand males. According to 2011 census report, the literacy rate of Bodh Gaya is 70.04 per cent, which are again 8.24 percentage points higher than the state average literacy rate of 61.80 percent. Male literacy rate in Bodh Gaya is 78.13 percent, whereas female literacy rate is 61.29 percent. The density of population in Bodh Gaya is 2647 persons per sq. km. which is also higher as compared

to the population density of the state (1021 persons per sq. km.). Bodh Gaya is essentially a pilgrimage destination for Buddhist, where the pilgrims from across the Buddhist world come and stay for longer times even for three to four months. Street vending around such sites fulfill daily needs of the economically weaker pilgrims coming from across the Buddhist world as well as local and rural people too.

### Social Status of the Street Vendors

As mentioned earlier that 110 street vendors were randomly selected in Bodh Gaya, around Mahabodhi temple. The sex composition shows that out of 110 vendors 89 were males and 21 were female, whereas in few of the cases male vendors were also supported by their wives or daughter, which may lead to increase of female participation

**Table 1: Social Status of the Street Vendors**

	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
	110	100	89	80.91	21	19.09
<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender Wise Age Distribution of Respondents</b>					
Below 15	7	6.36	7	6.36	0	0.00
16 - 20	10	9.09	9	8.18	1	0.91
21 - 25	16	14.55	12	10.91	4	3.64
26 - 30	21	19.09	16	14.55	5	4.55
31 - 35	18	16.36	15	13.64	3	2.73
36 - 40	15	13.64	11	10.00	4	3.64
41 - 45	13	11.82	10	9.09	3	2.73
46 - 50	6	5.45	5	4.55	1	0.91
51 and above	4	3.64	4	3.64	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>Gender Wise Educational Distribution of Respondents</b>					
Illiterate	26	23.64	11	10.00	15	13.64
6th	42	38.18	39	35.45	3	2.73
10th	34	30.91	32	29.09	2	1.82
12th	6	5.45	5	4.55	1	0.91
Graduation	1	0.91	1	0.91	0	0.00
PG & above	1	0.91	1	0.91	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Gender Wise Marital Status of Respondents</b>					
Married	71	64.55	60	54.55	11	10.00
Unmarried	22	20.00	20	18.18	2	1.82
Widow/Widower	11	10.00	5	4.55	6	5.45
Divorced	6	5.45	4	3.64	2	1.82
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Reason to Choose Vending</b>	<b>Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents (Reason to Choose Vending)</b>					
No Employment	21	19.09	21	19.09	0	0.00
No Earning Member in the Family	24	21.82	9	8.18	15	13.64
Death of Parents	15	13.64	11	10.00	4	3.64
Less Skilled	28	25.45	27	24.55	1	0.91
Less Investment	12	10.91	11	10.00	1	0.91
Other Reasons	10	9.09	10	9.09	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Type of Stay</b>	<b>Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents according to the Type of Stay</b>					
Own house	36	32.73	23	20.91	13	11.82
Rented house	74	67.27	66	60.00	8	7.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Family Size</b>	<b>Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents according to the Family Size</b>					
0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0
1	8	7.27	6	5.45	2	1.82
2	22	20.00	17	15.45	5	4.55
3	35	31.82	26	23.64	9	8.18
4	21	19.09	19	17.27	2	1.82
5	14	12.73	12	10.91	2	1.82
More than 5	10	9.09	9	8.18	1	0.91
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Type of Family</b>	<b>Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents according to the Type of Family</b>					
Nuclear family	28	25.45	22	20.00	6	5.45
Joint family	82	74.55	67	60.91	15	13.64
<b>Ration Card</b>	<b>Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents according to the Possession of Ration Card</b>					
Ration Card	98	89.09	80	72.73	18	16.36
APL	2	1.82	2	1.82	0	0.00
BPL	96	87.27	78	70.91	18	16.36

No Ration Card	12	10.91	9	8.18	3	2.73
<b>Addiction</b>	<b>Gender Wise Distribution of Respondents according to addictions</b>					
Alcohol	18	16.36	18	16.36	0	0.00
Cigarette/Beedi	102	92.73	98	89.09	4	3.64
Gutkha/Khaini	98	89.09	92	83.64	6	5.45

**Source: Field Survey**

in street vending in Bodh Gaya. More men are engaged in street vending may be due to the fact that they have to support their family members in one way or the other. Lesser number of females in street vending may be due to the fact they are reluctant to sit in the market place among the male counterpart and feel unsafe. Apart from this, harassment in any means, by police or male vendors, may be the other reason of less female vendors. Lack of basic amenities and facilities, like toilets may also be considered as another reason of less participation of females in street vending. Mostly the women engaged in street vending were due to absence of earning members in the family, which constitutes 13.64 percent of the total vendors in Bodh Gaya. Apart from this 4 female vendors are engaged in street vending due to death of their parents, which constitute to 3.64 percent of the total street vendors. Out of the total 21 female street vendors only 1 is engaged in vending due to being less skilled and 1 due to less investment. Women vendors are normally seen on day time and having less working hours, normally below eight hours a day.

From table - 1 it is revealed that in case of gender wise age group of street vendors, we found that maximum number of street vendor both in the case of males and females belong to age group 26 - 30 years, which indicates their ability to find any other job in formal sector. Out of the total street vendor 19.09 percent are males and 4.55 percent are females in the age group of 26 - 30 years. Out of total 110 street vendors 18 are in the age group of 31 - 35 years, across both the sexes, in which 3 are females, which constitute to only 2.73 percent of the total street vendors. Gender wise age distribution of the street vendors also reveals that only 15 respondents were in the age group of 36 - 40 years, which constitute to 13.64 percent, whereas, there were only 4 female street vendors in this age group, constitutes 3.64 percent of the total street vendors in Bodh Gaya. It is also very important to note here that there were only 7 street vendors who were below 15 years of age, which includes no female street vendors. Similarly there were only four street vendors in the age of 50 year and above, which also doesn't include any female street vendors, but there is one female street vendor in the age group of 46 - 50 years. Data regarding the gender wise age distribution indicates that percentage of street vendors in higher age group has been decreasing gradually across both the sexes.

Sales skills are specialized part of communication and communication skill helps vendors to increase the success rate of selling their goods, which can be inculcated by means of education. Educated vendors can develop effective methods to increase their sale. Gender wise distribution of vendors according to education, reveals that generally low level of education has been found among the street vendors of Bodh Gaya. Out of the total 110 respondent 26 are illiterate across both the sexes. Out of this 26 illiterate street vendors, 15 are females, which constitutes to 13.64 percent

of the total street vendors. Whereas, 42 street vendors, across both the sexes have studied up to 6<sup>th</sup> standard and out of these 42 vendors, 3 are female. Therefore we can say that out of total 21 female street vendors 15 are illiterate and 3 are up to 6<sup>th</sup> standard. It indicates that the educational levels among female vendors are generally very low as compared to males, which may be due to the fact that most of the female street vendors are from the very poor background. One of the most striking feature has been revealed from the data regarding educational status is that most of the respondents have some basic or even higher level of education, except 26 illiterates. Out of the total vendor, 34 (30.91 percent) are those who have acquired education up to 10<sup>th</sup> standard, out of which there are only 2 females, which constitutes 1.82 percent of the total street vendors. On the contrary 6 street vendors have qualified up to 12<sup>th</sup> standard, which constitutes one female street vendor too. However it is a noticeable fact that out of 110 respondents 1 attained Graduation and 1 post graduation, which indicates that there is a lack of employment opportunities, even for well qualified people in the formal sector in Bihar state. Most of the street vendors had come to Bodh Gaya from nearby rural areas in search of better job opportunities but got themselves engaged in street vending because of less education and no skill. Low level of the family income may be considered as one of the important reason behind low level of education for both the sexes. Another important reason may be the death of their parents, who were the only earning hand in the family.

Table 1 reveals that 64.55 percent of the street vendors are married across both the sexes. Out of 71 married street vendors, there are 11 married female street vendors, which constitutes to 10 percent of the total street vendors in Bodh Gaya. Out of 21 female street vendors, 11 married female vendors, indicates that these women were unhappy after marriage, may be due to poor economic condition of their spouses. Therefore, these women engaged themselves in street vending to earn their livelihood. Gender wise marital status of respondents also reveals that out of 110 respondents. 22 were unmarried which constitutes to 20 percent, across both the sexes. Out of this 22 unmarried street vendors only 2 are female vendors, which constitutes to only 1.82 percent of the total respondents. It is important to mention here that out of 11 widow/ widower, there are 6 widow street vendors comprising 5.45 percent of the total respondents, whereas, out of 6 divorced there are 2 divorced female street vendors.

There may be various reasons behind street vending in Bodh Gaya as well as whole of the state of Bihar. One of the simplest reasons is that they do not get jobs in formal sector due to lot of other reason like lower level of education or illiteracy, poor background, lack of professional skill, lack of capital etc. Therefore lack of employment opportunities coupled with poverty have pushed people into street

vending. Street vending serves as a refuge for unemployed, poor people, where there are no barriers to enter into the profession, and provides a self - dependent way of earning their livelihood with a meager investment. To know the reason behind choosing street vending respondents replied different reasons and one of the most important reasons is being less skilled. Out of 110 respondents, 28 street vendors were less skilled across both the sexes, which comprise 25.45 percent of the total street vendors, whereas, out of 28 less skilled street vendors, there was only 1 female street vendor. 21 street vendors opted this job due to lack of employment, which constitutes only male vendors. Gender wise distribution of respondents according to the reason to choose street vending also reveals that out of 21 female vendors, 15 opted street vending due to absence of earning member in the family which comprises 13.64 percent of the total respondents. It indicates the females normally choose street vending when there is no other way of earning their livelihood. There are only 12 vendors, who have taken up street vending due to less investment which comprises to 10.91 percent. As we know that, almost one fourth of the respondent were illiterate, therefore, for them there were no other way to choose vending because it has no barrier to enter into it for earning their livelihood.

Food, clothing and shelter (housing) are the prime necessities of life and is an important component of human resources. Because proper housing facilities, increases the efficiency and ultimately the working capacity of the people. It's a great relief for everyone to possess their own house. Among the street vendors of Bodh Gaya, the problem of housing is acute. There is a wide gap between the vendors having their own houses and rented houses. Many of them are still not able to own a house, though most of them are in street vending for longer time. Out of the 110 vendor only 36 have their own houses to live, which comprises 32.73 percent Out of which 13 female street vendors have their own houses, doesn't live in rented houses. In Bodh Gaya rental housing is vital and growing need for the street vendor, because most of them are relocated from the rural area in search of good jobs. People who had moved from rural area to Bodh Gaya have opted for rented houses, because of their meager income from street vending. Out of 110 respondents, 74 respondents live in rented house (one or two room set) as it is the only affordable option to live at their work place.

Several studies have been carried out to understand the complexities of the dynamic characteristics of family. Family size is the number of family member in a residence. Smaller family size supports economic development of the family and reduces the poverty both in the family and in state or country as a whole. There will be more expenses in the family if there is large family size and therefore more money will be required to earn to meet the larger demand of the family. Out of 110 respondents there was no street vendor who doesn't have any child. Larger numbers of street vendors have 3 children. Total number of street vendors who are having 3 children are 35 (31.82 percent) across both the sexes. Out of 35 respondent 9 are a female, which comprises 8.8 percent of the total street vendors. Out of 110 respondent 21 street vendors are having 4 children which constitute 19.09 percent of the total street vendors, whereas there are

22 vendors, who are having 2 children which constitutes 20 percent of the total vendors, across both the sexes. Out of 22, there are 5 female street vendors, who are having 2 children, comprising 4.55 percent of the total vendors.

Joint family helps to share the problem with each other and gives a mental support from other family member. Joint family system creates a strong bonding among the siblings and other members of the family and provides sense of security among the family member. Joint family makes possible to take care of each other in the family until old age, because joint family makes us responsible for the safety of other member in the family. In spite of this fact, nuclear family system has gained importance and the percentage of couple only families are increasing day by day. It has been seen among the street vendors of Bodh Gaya that the percentage of nuclear family is above one fourth of the total respondents. Out of 110 respondent 28 are living in nuclear family across both the sexes. But out of 21 female respondent 15 are living in joint family system, it may be due to the sense of security and other social reasons.

Ration cards issued by the government are extremely helpful for the poor street vendor, especially who live below poverty line. Ration card helps vendors to purchase food, sugar, kerosene oil etc., at subsidized rate. Ration cards also provides identity proof for other benefits provided by the government. Out of 110 respondent 98 possessed ration card which constitute 89.09 percent. Out of this 98 ration card holders, 18 are female street vendors, which constitute 16.36 percent of the total respondents. It is also important to mention that out of this 98 ration card holder street vendors, 96 come from BPL category, as well as all the 18 female ration card holder also come from BPL category.

The menace of addiction of alcohol, cigarette, beedi, gutkha, khaini has been in existence for longer time among the street vendors in Bodh Gaya. Apart from this tobacco consumption has become a huge problem among the street vendors and have become addiction. These substances like alcohol, gutkha, cigarette, beedi etc. provide relief to the vendors from their struggling life. Without considering their harm to the health, vendors use to consume them carelessly. Some may fall prey to it and destroy their family life as well as their health. Almost all of the vendors except few female vendors are addicted to one or more than one substance. Out of 110 respondents, 16.36 percent are alcoholic, but at the same time most of them are addicted to Beedi, cigarette, even Gutkha and khaini. Gutkha and Khaini are common among the street vendors in Bodh Gaya. Out of 110 respondent 98 consume gutkha and khaini. Among 21 female street vendors only 4 are addicted to cigarette and especially Beedi, whereas other 6 consume Gutkha or khaini.

#### **Economic Status of the Street Vendors**

The daily income of the vendors depends upon the type of the products, they use to sell, which exposes the facts about their standard of living. One of the important aspects of the street vendors is that they do not have fixed daily income and keeps changing from day to day even months to month. Bodh Gaya is a place of pilgrimage and has immense religious and cultural significance. During Kalachakra

festival, thousands of devotees from all cross the Buddhist world visit Bodh Gaya, to be part of the Kalachakra Puja. Because of these the daily income of vendor's increases many fold. But overall, daily income of the street vendor keeps on changing, some day they may have very little income, but next day they may have more income. Out of 110 respondents, 31 respondents, across both the sexes have daily income between 201 to 300 Rs. and 26.36 percent of

the total respondent have deprived income below two hundred. Out of 21 female respondent 13 vendors, have deprived daily income below 200 Rs. per day. Data regarding daily income clearly reveals that majority of the street vendors have daily income below 500 Rs. per day across both the sexes. Whereas, all the female street vendors earn below 500, but majority of them (10 respondent) earn between the range of

**Table 2: Economic Status of the Street Vendors**

	Total		Male		Female	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<b>Daily Income (in Rs.)</b>	<b>Gender - wise Daily Income of Respondents (in Rs.)</b>					
Less than 100	8	7.27	5	4.55	3	2.73
101 - 200	21	19.09	11	10.00	10	9.09
201 - 300	31	28.18	27	24.55	4	3.64
301 - 400	19	17.27	16	14.55	3	2.73
401 - 500	11	10.00	10	9.09	1	0.91
501 - 600	6	5.45	6	5.45	0	0.00
601 - 700	4	3.64	4	3.64	0	0.00
701 - 800	4	3.64	4	3.64	0	0.00
801 - 900	3	2.73	3	2.73	0	0.00
901 - 1000	2	1.82	2	1.82	0	0.00
Above 1000	1	0.91	1	0.91	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Products</b>	<b>Gender - wise Distribution of Respondents selling different products</b>					
Vegetables & Fruits	21	19.09	12	10.91	9	8.18
Cooked Food	32	29.09	26	23.64	6	5.45
Clothes	16	14.55	16	14.55	0	0.00
Household Implements	17	15.45	13	11.82	4	3.64
Fancy Items	11	10.00	9	8.18	2	1.82
Artifacts	6	5.45	6	5.45	0	0.00
Others	7	6.36	7	6.36	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Working Hours</b>	<b>Number of hours working (Per Day)</b>					
Less than 8	38	34.55	27	24.55	11	10.00
8 - 10	42	38.18	33	30.00	9	8.18
10 - 12	19	17.27	18	16.36	1	0.91
More than 12	11	10	11	10.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>		<b>19.09</b>
<b>Years</b>	<b>Years in Vending</b>					
Less than 3	12	10.91	6	5.45	6	5.45
3 - 10	31	28.18	19	17.27	12	10.91
10 - 17	42	38.18	39	35.45	3	2.73
17 - 24	14	12.73	14	12.73	0	0.00
More than 24	11	10.00	11	10.00	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Type of Vending</b>	<b>Type of Vending</b>					
Head load	21	19.09	19	17.27	2	1.82
Mobile	32	29.09	26	23.64	6	5.45
Stationary	41	37.27	28	25.45	13	11.82
Others	16	14.55	16	14.55	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>
<b>Bank</b>	<b>Gender - wise Distribution of Respondents Related to Bank</b>					
Bank Account	98	89.09	81	73.64	17	15.45
Credit Card	1	0.91	1	0.91	0	0.00
ATM Card	95	86.36	80	72.73	15	13.64
Not Related with Bank	12	10.91	8	7.27	4	3.64
<b>Type of bank account</b>	<b>Type of bank account</b>					
Saving Account	87	79.09	75	68.18	12	10.91
Current Account	2	1.82	2	1.82	0	0.00
Fixed Deposit	9	8.18	4	3.64	5	4.55
<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Ownership</b>					
Mobile	105	95.45	88	80.00	17	15.45
Two Wheeler	19	17.27	19	17.27	0	0.00
Ornaments	28	25.45	19	17.27	9	8.18

Land	8	7.27	6	5.45	2	1.82
<b>Savings (in Rs)</b>	<b>Monthly Savings</b>					
Less than 1000	68	61.82	52	47.27	16	14.55
1000 - 5000	28	25.45	23	20.91	5	4.55
5000 - 10000	5	4.55	5	4.55	0	0.00
More than 10000	2	1.82	2	1.82	0	0.00
No Savings	7	6.36	7	6.36	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80.91</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19.09</b>

Source: Field Survey

101 to 200 Rs. per day and female respondent earn above 500 Rs. per day. Out of 110 respondents, there is only one vendor, who earn above 1000 Rs. per days. The daily income data reveals that, higher range income ranging from 500 to 1000 and above 1000 Rs, as a daily income, have only male street vendors. Data reveals that lesser percentage of male vendors belongs to the low income group as compared to female vendors.

Gender wise distribution of vendors selling different products reveals that out of 110 respondents, 32 are selling cooked food, which constitute to 29.09 per cent of the total respondents, across both the sexes. Cooked food is followed by vegetable and fruits, which constitute 19.09 percent of the total vendors. Data reveals that majority of the respondent, i. e., 48.18 percent sell food related products, even vegetable and fruits. Out of this 48.18 percent, 13.63 percent are a female street vendor which comprises 15 female street vendors. Therefore maximum percentage of female vendors i. e., 8.18 percent, sell vegetable and fruits and 5.45 percent sell cooked food. One of the noticeable fact is that, out of 21 female respondents, nobody sells clothes and artifacts. 15.45 percent of the respondents sells household implements, out of which 3.64 percent are female street vendors.

During survey we found that street vending is the primary occupation for majority of the street vendors, apart from few of them. Gender wise distribution of respondents according to the working hour reveals that 34.55 percent of the respondent work less than eight hours. It is also important to note here that out of 21 female respondent 11 (10 percent) respondents spend less than 8 hours in selling their products and only 1 female vendor spends 10 to 12 hours in vending whereas, rest of the 9 female vendors, which constitute 8.18 percent sell their product within 8 to 10 hours. It's because of this fact that the daily incomes of female street vendors are lesser than their male counterpart. It is clearly revealed by the data that maximum numbers of respondents spend 8 to 10 hours in selling their products, which constitute 38.18 percent of the total respondents, across both the sexes. Apart from this, 18 male street vendors work between 8 to 12 hours and 11 male vendors spends above 12 hours in vending their product, whereas, there is no female vendor, who works above 12 hours, due several socio - economic factors. Since most of the street vendors spend longer hours in selling their goods, but their daily income is very less, as compared to labour they put into vending.

Gender - wise distribution of respondents according to years of vending, maximum number of vendors are engaged in vending for 10 to 17 years. With the passing years there is an increasing trend of people engaged in street vending. Out

of total 110 respondent 42 (38.18 percent) are engaged in street vending for 10 to 17 years, whereas 28.18 percent are engaged in street vending for 3 to 10 years and only 10.91 percent are vending their good over a shorter period of less than 3 years. There are only 11 (10 percent) vendors, selling their products on street for more than 24 years. It is important to mention here that no female vendors are selling their goods for over 10 to 17 years. Maximum numbers of female vendors are engaged in vending between 3 to 10 years, which constitute 10.91 percent of the total vendors, whereas only 6 female vendors have started vending less than 3 years ago. Largest number of male vendors i. e., 39 are in vending for 10 to 17 years, even spend more hour in vending their product, to earn more for their livelihood.

Street vending has been an important profession in Bodh Gaya because of the importance of Bodh Gaya in Buddhist world and pilgrims visiting herethroughout the year. Street vending comes under informal sector, where vendors sell their goods on the street without having any permanent structure. As most of the street vendor are from the marginalized sections of the society and are very poor, therefore they are not able to afford permanent structure to sell their goods. It is due to this fact that street vendors engage themselves in different mode of vending like, head load, mobile vending through push cart or two wheelers, even some of them prefer stationary vending along street. It has been observed that most of the stationary vendors sell clothes and few of them are also engaged in selling vegetable and fruits. Mobile vendors include household implements, cooked food and fruits and vegetables on push carts, even some of them sell vegetable and fruits on head load. Artifacts are normally sold along the footpaths, not on head load or push cart, because it could get damaged because of movement. Out of 110 respondent 21 (19.09 percent) are vending their goods on head load, across both the sexes, but out of 21, there are only 2 female street vendors, who sell their goods on head load, which constitute to only 1.82 percent of the total respondent. Data reveals that the highest numbers of vendors are stationary; they sell their goods on footpath. Out of 110 vendors, 41 are stationary (37.27 percent), whereas, out of 21 female vendors, 13 are stationary and only 6 are mobile vendors, who normally prefer head load vending of vegetable and fruits.

Street vending provides steady employment but is a source of low income. Much of the meager earnings of street vendors dried up in their daily needs. Since most of the street vendors are migrants from the adjoining rural areas and even some distant places, therefore, the burden of house rent is an issue of concern of almost no savings. But due to Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, 89.09 percent of the street vendors have bank account. Out of total 21 female street

vendors 17 have bank account with little or no savings. Out of 98 vendors, who have bank account, only two have current account and 5 female vendors having fixed deposit, whereas there are only 4 male vendors, who have fixed deposit. It is also important to note that, out of 98 bank account holder, there are 95, who have ATM card, across both the sexes, even 1 is having credit card, who is a male street vendor. Out of 95 ATM card holders, 15 are female street vendors, which constitute to 13.64 percent of the total respondents. But there are only few of them who are able to save from what they earn from street vending. Most of the street vendors have ATM card and saving account because they have to send money to their family.

For poor street vendors, possessing any kind of assets, like ornament or land is a kind of saving for future. But one of the noticeable aspects of the survey is that most of the street vendors are below the age of 30 years, therefore, 95.45 percent of the respondents owned mobile phone. As they get themselves entertained during leisure hours, watching Hindi movies, and songs, especially Bhojpuri songs. Android mobile has become necessity for them as well as a luxury and therefore, most of them have android phones. Out of 21 female street vendors 17 have mobile phone, which constitute to 15.45 percent of the total respondents. Apart from this 19 respondents, all are male, have got two wheelers. As far as ornament is concerned, 25.45 percent possessed some kind of ornament and most of them are female street vendors, which constitutes to 8.18 percent of the total vendors. There are few street vendors, with higher daily income, may be above 1000 Rs. per day, somehow have managed to purchase a small patch of land in the outskirts of Bodh Gaya, which constitute to 7.27 percent of the total respondent, across both the sexes. Out of the total 21 female respondent only 2 vendors have asset in the form of land.

Street vendors are an integral part of the commercial activity in Bodh Gaya and offer easy access to a wide range of goods and services to the local people as well as pilgrims. But their earning is in meager amount and a major part of it is spent only on household needs, like food and clothing to their families and pay school fees for their children. Therefore, street vendors have lot of expenses to meet, and therefore, very few are able to save from what they earn from street vending. Nearly 6.36 percent have no saving and are able to earn their own living only. Apart from this others, who save some money for future requirements like marriage, education for their children as well as for their old age is also not up to the mark. 61.82 percent of the total vendors save less than 1000 every month, whereas 25.45 percent save between 1000 - 5000 every month. There are only 2 vendors, who are able to save above 10000 rupees every month. Out of 21 female vendors 16 save less than 1000 rupees per month whereas only 5 save between 1000 - 5000 rupees per month. It is important to mention here that no female street vendor is able to save above 5000 rupees per month. This little saving reflects the fact, in spite of lot of labour, that the street vendors in Bodh Gaya are not able to save sufficient amount of money for their future needs.

#### 4. Suggestions

There is an urgent need to improve the socio - economic conditions of the street vendors in Bodh Gaya and continuous efforts should be made to improve the education, health and hygiene in working atmosphere.

- No doubt government has initiated programmes for street vendors, like Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi, extends a loan of Rs.10, 000 as working capital to street vendors to restart their business hit by the Covid - 19 pandemic. In spite of this government can create a separate ministry under labour ministry to look after the welfare of the street vendors.
- Government should do census survey to enumerate street vendors in Bodh Gaya.
- Step should also be taken to enhance the self - help group.
- Education schemes should be implemented among the street vendors as well as among their children.
- There should start an awareness programmes among street vendors so that they can be benefitted from the government programmes.
- Local authorities should take care of, toilet facilities, safe drinking water as well as the safety of the female street vendors.
- Local authorities can take care of health and hygiene condition by means of regular checkup of their health conditions and improving the hygienic factors.
- Problems of migrant street vendors should be taken up by means of building a shelter for them and improving the living condition.
- Government should take an initiative to train the street vendors in food preservation methods; even they can be provided a common chilling house to preserve their prepared food.
- Financial assistance can also be provided by the government in terms of subsidy.
- Vending zone should be allotted, especially to the vendor to sell their products.
- Give vendors legal status
- Street vendors should be made special component of the plan for urban development and should be included in the master plan of the area.
- There should be social security fund for the street vendors.
- Relief should be given to street vendors in situation like pandemic, disaster and natural calamities.

#### 5. Conclusion

Street vendors are an important part of the informal sector because of their crucial roles; they play in the economy, and are an integral part of the society. The contributions of street vendors are hardly ever recognized by the government but a significant amount of goods production by small industries are sold by them and people having lesser income purchase the products of their daily needs from them.

During study it has been found that most of the street vendors are from the nearby rural areas and are poor and unskilled with little or no education. The study reveals that



there is a poor working condition for street vendors in Bodh Gaya in terms of unhygienic and unhealthy atmosphere with long working hours. The demographic and the socio-economic conditions of the street vendors in Bodh Gaya reveals that most of them are illiterate or having low level of education. Study also reveals that majority of them are below the age of thirty years and married except 22 unmarried vendors and most of them are having more than 2 to 3 childrens. We have also found that, since most of them are from the nearby rural area, therefore majority of them live in the rented house is unhygienic conditions and are having one or more than one addiction as 92.73 percent smoke cigarette or beedi, whereas 18 percent are even alcoholic. Because of their poor background and low income 89.09 percent are ration card holder and out of which 82.27 percent are under BPL category. In addition we have found that majority of them earn less than Rs.500 per day, even there are few who can earn less than Rs.100 daily. It has been revealed from the survey that most of them who earn somewhat better as compared to other sell clothes and cooked food and work 8 to 10 hours a day. The study indicates that due to low earning and poor economic condition most of the workers are engaged in vending for 10 to 17 years, even they are able save very less and only 8 of them have been able to purchase land in the outskirts of Bodh Gaya and 19 have two wheelers.

Finally the present research paper advocates that street vendors in Bodh Gaya should be provided social security; better occupational environment in terms of health and hygiene and economic and social security.

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