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Issues and challenges faced by vendors in unorganized setup – A study on vegetable vendors of Chhatarpur District, Madhya Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Developing countries like India with flooded population provides very limited amount of employment avenues in organized sector that needs highly skilled individuals. So, the extended need of employment remains unmet which insists the majority of unskilled and illiterate population to dig the opportunities available in unorganized sector. Vegetable vending on being an unorganized sector work provides opportunities for unskilled people to get engaged with very low level of initial investment but in absence of any policy or rule at ground level the situation of vendors remains abysmal. The paper intends to ascertain the problems, gender representation, socio-economic status, literacy level and other issues encountered by vegetable vendors in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. Data has been collected from three different vegetable markets of Chhatarpur. Study infers that vendors have multiple challenges and impediments which forced them to live a miserable life. Appropriate policies, social security schemes, permanent place of selling and curbing on goons at ground level can have positive impact on the lives of vegetable vendors and their family members.

Keywords— Market, Bazaar, Vegetable vendor, Unorganized sector

1. INTRODUCTION

In practice bazaar is the place where buyers and sellers meet to have transactions so as to satisfy their respective needs, but internal dynamics of bazaar may show something different. Bazaar comprises lot many vendors of different types one of them are vegetable vendors. Vegetable selling is a vocation of unorganized sector there are no fixed terms and conditions or even the place of selling also varies in most of the cases. The unorganized sector provides income earning opportunities for a large number of workforces. In India approximately ninety three percent of workforce obtains its livelihood opportunity in organized sector. The situation of different vegetable vendors varies, but most of the vendors are bound to work in abysmal situation with low or no security as they can be displaced anytime by local authorities and bullies. A mass chunk of people working in this unorganized sector are urban poor or migrant populace of nearby localities working at very low or dismal profit.

Chhatarpur district is one among twenty-four districts of Madhya Pradesh it has an area of 8,687 km². According to 2011 census Chhatarpur district has a population of 1,76857. Out of them total workforce population in district is approximately 7,51,797. Among total workforce approximately 73.7 percent of workforce are described their work as main work means those working for more than six months in a year whereas 26.6 percent are engaged in marginal activities means the activity provides employment for less than six months in a year. In addition to that among total workforce population of 7,51,797 approximately 2,58880 are cultivators and 1,30,732 are agriculture laborers.

1.1. Present Condition of unorganized sector

The First **Indian National Commission on Labor (1966-69)** defined ‘unorganized sector workforce as “those workers who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of their common interest dues to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments”

Working conditions of organized sector and unorganized sector are as different as chalk and cheese. Jobs in organized sector are limiting day by days so even those who have requisite skills, educational qualification and training are unable to find proper

employment. Poverty, lack of employment and lack of employment focused skills are cause of more low skill occupations in unorganized sector. A **NCEUS report** estimates that in 2005 out of the 458 million persons employed in India, 95 percent or 435 million worked in the unorganized sector, generating 50.6 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Unorganized sector consists major source of employment to unemployed people. Majority of people working in unorganized sector are poor. In urban and semi urban localities vegetable vending is of the major source of livelihood as it requires very low level of initial investment and limited skills as compared to other vocations where more skills and high investment is needed.

1.2. Classification of vegetable vendors

Vegetable vendors are those who sell vegetable on streets and earning money for their livelihood from that sale. Vegetable vendors can be classified on the different criteria major factors of classification are as

- Nature of place of selling: -Some have permanent place of selling, some have no permanent space while some others sell on mobile thelas by roaming from door to door.
- Working days in a week: -Some vendors sell vegetables on all days of weeks whereas some others sell in only for few days in market when weekly markets are being organized or on days of holyday.
- On basis of space of storage in shop: - Some of the vendors have storage space for vegetable and some carries vegetable from their house to bazaar.

Based on above differentiation, we can easily say all the vegetable vendors don't have same socio-economic status.

1.3. Working condition of vegetable vendors

Working condition of vegetable vendors is evident from the truth that they must work directly under sky many a times without any shed or shelter. It means they are exposed to harmful weather like heat, cold, rain, different types of pollutions like air pollutions, noise pollution etc. In these hazardous conditions they are bound to work on an average minimum for 10 hours. On daily basis they are either to go in field or to go to wholesalers for getting vegetable and selling in market. They don't remain with enough money so many a times they are borrowing vegetables from wholesalers in morning and repaying it back in evening after sale transpires. the rate of interest at which they borrow are very high if calculate it we find the rate of interest is approximately 1825% per annum. As they are dealing in highly perishable goods so the chances of loss due to bad weather are very high and many a times, they end their day by making losses on whole endeavor.

1.4. Problems encountered by vegetable sellers

In day-to-day life vendors are facing many sorts of problems some of them are as

- Problems related to place of selling: - the place of selling is not static for many of vegetable vendors since they are selling vegetable on corners of street so traffic related problems, harassment by police personals are enough to hit them hard.
- Problems because of goons and bullies: - local bullies and goons are also creating problems for them and asking for some type of gunda tax form their hard-earned money.
- Harassment by behavior: - the behavior of customers and passerby is enough to harass them which they are facing at every moment of their life.
- Atrocities because of unpleasant weather conditions: - unpleasant weather conditions make them exposed to many health-related issues and issues related to safe storage of their highly perishable stocks.

2. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

The study aims to know educational status, gender representation, social and economic condition of vegetable vendors in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. The major objectives of the study are as:

- To ascertain gender representation in vegetable vending.
- To know educational status of vegetable vendors.
- To fetch many aspects of socio-economic status of the vendors
- To find out the issues and challenges encountered by the sellers.
- To suggest the measures of improvement in condition of vegetable vendors.

3. METHODOLOGY

In study to fetch the objectives of study and to come on to some sort of conclusion data are gathered.

- Sampling technique: For data collection simple random sampling technique has been used.
- Data Collection: Data is gathered from both primary and secondary sources. The study mainly relies on primary source of data.

Primary Source- Primary source of data is being collected with help of following tools.

- a) A set of questionnaires
- b) Interview method

The primary data has been collected with set of open and closed ended questions.

Secondary source: Secondary data is being collected from various journals and reports published by reputed authorities.

Area selected for data collection: For collection of data vegetable markets of Chhatarpur district has been selected. Three different locations in Chhatarpur district has been chosen these are as

- Chhatarpur Vegetable market
- Nowgong vegetable market
- Harpalpur Vegetable market

4. RESULT AND DATA ANALYSIS

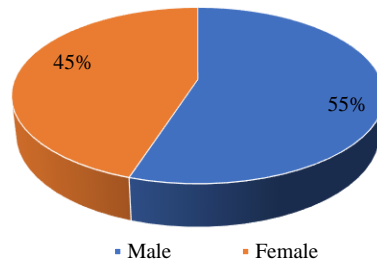


Fig 1.2 total genderwise distribution among vegetable vendors in %

Gender wise distribution of respondents

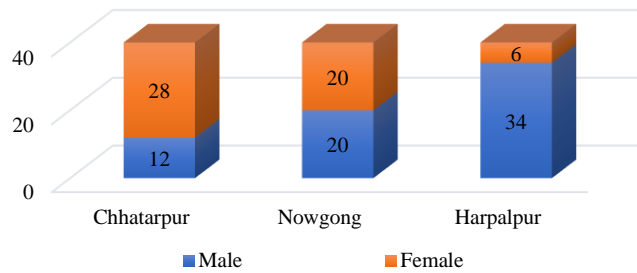


Fig 1.1 Gender wise distribution in different Markets

Age wise distribution of respondents

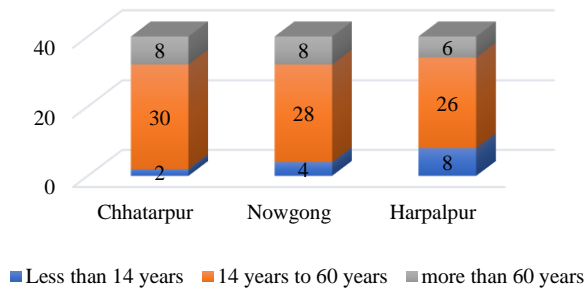


Fig 2.1 Agewise distribution of respondents in different markets

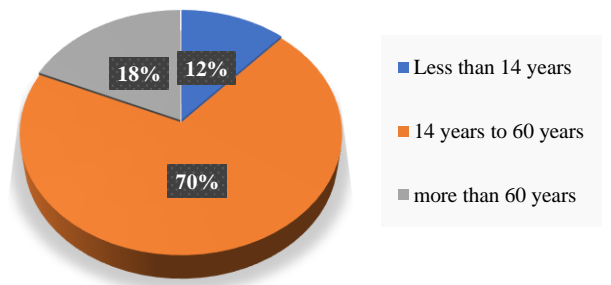


Fig 2.2 Total agewise distribution in %

Educational level of respondents

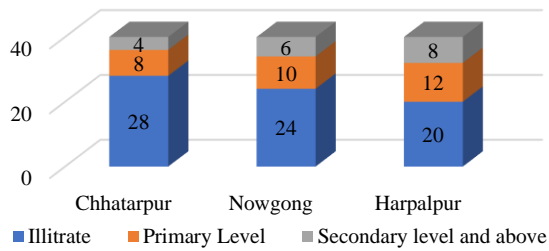


Fig 3.1 education level of respondents in different markets

Nature of place of selling

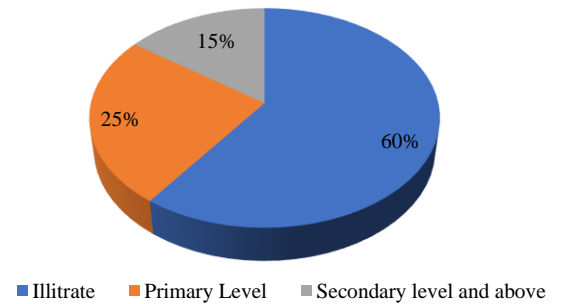


Fig 3.2 total educational level in %

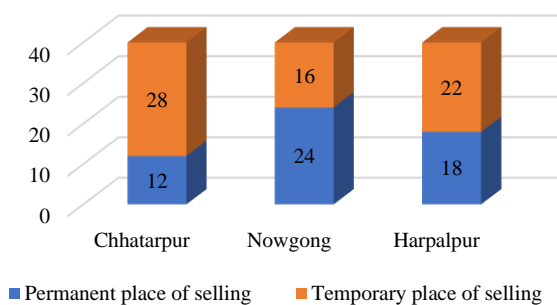


Fig 4.1 Nature of place of selling in different markets

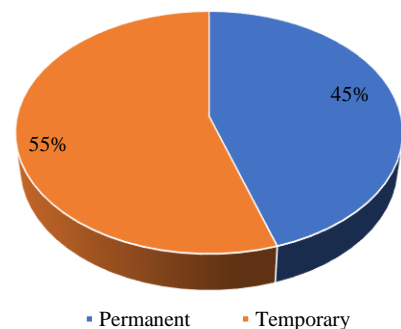


Fig 4.2 Nature of Place of Selling in %

Nature of shelter

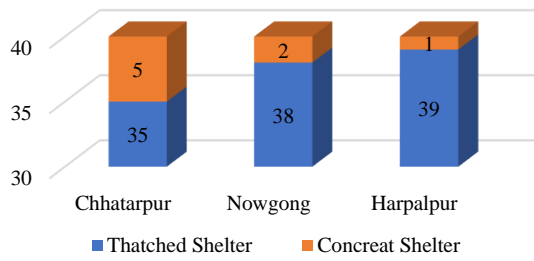


fig 5.1 Nature of shelter vendors have in different markets

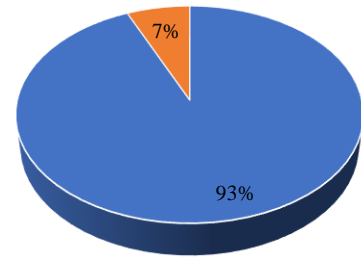


fig 5.2 Nature of shelter vendors have in %

Sources of vegetables

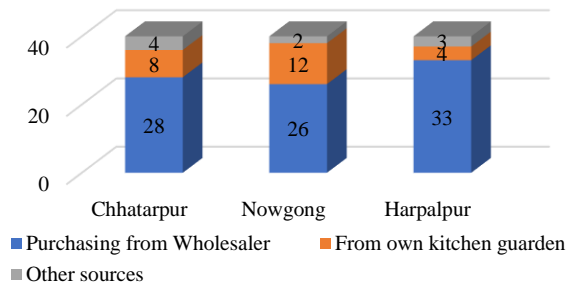


fig 6.1 Sources of vegetable purchased by vendor in different market

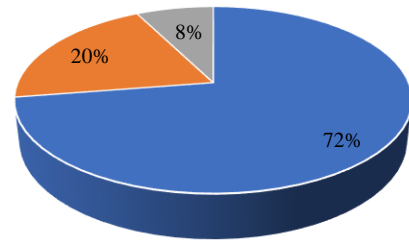


fig 6.2 sources of vegetable purchased by vendor in %

Kind of Storage Facility

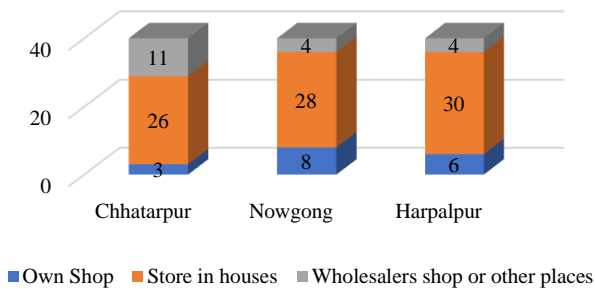


fig 7.1 Storage facility vendors have in different markets

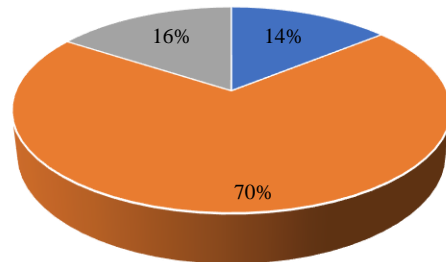


fig 7.2 Storage space vendors have in %

Gunda tax or bribe to police personnel

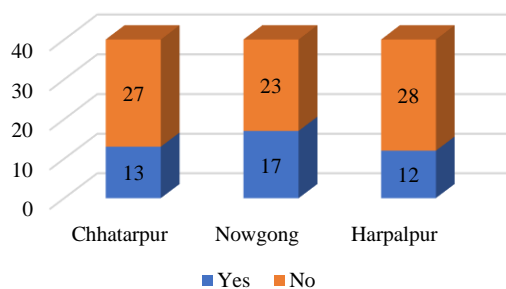


fig 8.1 geunda tax or bribe given by vendors in different markets

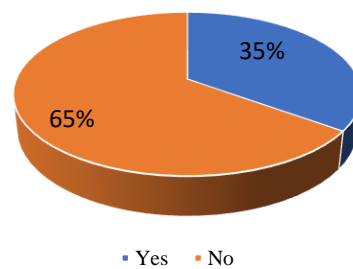


fig 8.2 Gunda tax or bribe given by vendors in %

Transportation Facility

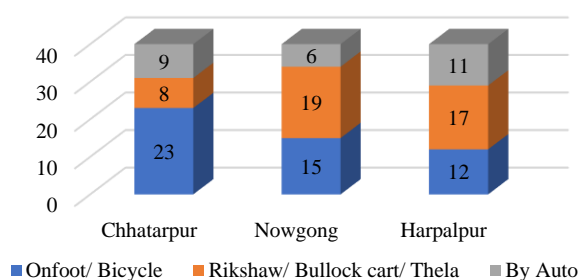


fig 9.1 Transportation facility vendors uses in different markets

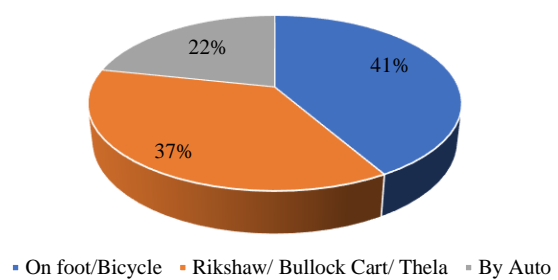


fig 9.2 Transportation facility vendors uses in %

Selling In other Market

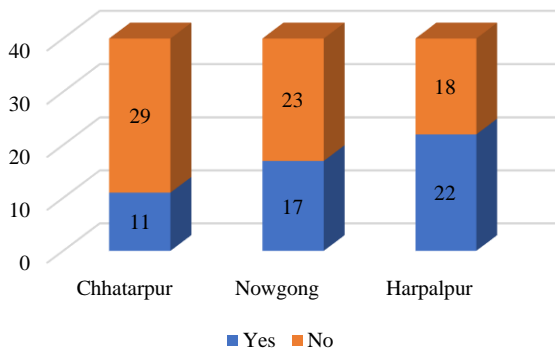


fig 10.1 Selling in other markets

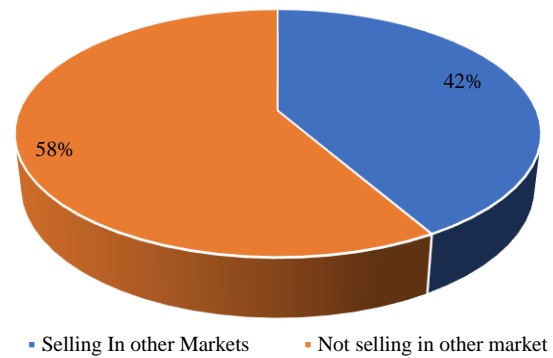


fig 10.2 selling in other markets by vendor in %

5. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The study shows the condition of vegetable vendors, figure 1.1 and 1.2 shows the gender representation there is no huge gap and approximately 45% females are engaged in the activity. More number of sellers are of age group from 14 to 60 years figure 2.2 shows 70% sellers are of this age group and 12% child labour is also engaged in the work. Figure 3.2 depicts 60% of sellers are illiterate means they may be making mistakes in calculating money also. Place of selling is not permanent for 55% of respondents means they have to move from one place to another in same market. Figure 5.2 shows the despicable condition of vegetable vendors as per data 93% have to live in thatched houses. Majorly vendors are buying vegetable from wholesalers, 20% are getting it from their own kitchen garden. Since vegetable are highly perishable in nature so the role of storage facility becomes very important but the figure 7.2 shows 70% have to carry back the unsold stock to their homes and only 14% have storage facility in their own shops. In absence of any specific policy related to street vendors the vendors remain vulnerable to bullies, goons and some police personnel. Figure 8.2 says 65% of vendors are to pay gunda tax or bribe to police. The vulnerability of vegetable vendors can be easily mapped by figure 9.2 which says 41% of vendors have to carry vegetable either on foot or by bicycle. Figure 10.2 says the vendors are not just selling in one market they are also going to other weekly markets in nearby localities.

6. SUGGESTIONS

As per the study some of the visible spatial suggestions that can reduce vulnerability of vendors are as follows-

- To provide better employment opportunities to our unskilled work force specially the street vegetable vendors local governance must cater the basic workplace needs of vendors. The policy and guidelines of Street vendors Act 2014 must be implemented properly.
- Rights and responsibilities of street vendors must be communicated properly to avoid any confusion.
- Sensitisation of police personnel and other implementing authorities is also essential.
- Curbing on goons and bullies high handedly will be a lesson for many anti social elements.
- Secured place of selling can be a motivation for the vendors and eligible in eradicating many other problems associated with it.
- Since vegetable vendors are dealing in perishable products so the appropriate place of storage can make the product edible for extended period so the loss due to perishing can be reduced.

7. CONCLUSION

The study depicts it clearly the despicable situation in which vendors are bound to sell vegetables for a pittance. They have to work in a situation where they don't have even permanent place of selling, they are prone to atrocities of bullies and police personnel. Level of literacy among them is so weak that they can be easily deceived and in such a pathetic situation at way back in their homes they have to pull on their lives in thatched houses in absence of basic amenities. In many cases they are to pay huge amount of interest on their credit purchases from wholesalers. Since they are dealing in highly perishable product, so the importance of storage becomes very crucial, but they don't even have proper storage space which makes them to bear more losses. To curtail the problems and misery of vegetable vendors and other unorganized sector workers government need to set up some policies rules and social security schemes and implement which can reduce their vulnerability. Although government has made some intervention in the area and formulated key policies to improve the situation. Interventions like "The street vendors' policy 2004", "The street vendors Act 2014" have enough potential to cater the needs of vendors. But intent of proper implementation is missing. So the local governance must implement it with good intent in addition to few more measures as per spatial circumstances.

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