

Overview of street vending activity in India: A special reference to Hyderabad and Telangana

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Abstract

The informal sector plays a pivotal role in generating employment opportunities for both urban and rural unskilled labourers, with street vending constituting a significant component of this sector. Street vendors not only contribute to self-employment but also ensure the availability of goods and services at affordable prices, particularly benefiting economically marginalized populations. Additionally, they function as vital distribution channels for products originating from the informal economy. This study explores the dynamics of street vending in India, with a particular focus on the state of Telangana. Relying primarily on secondary data sources, including academic literature and government reports. The study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of street vendors in Hyderabad and Telangana. In doing so, it highlights the broader relevance of street vending within India's informal urban economy.

Keywords: Informal Economy; Self-Employment; Street Vendors and Telangana; Hyderabad

1. Introduction

In developing countries, the informal sector plays a vital role in providing employment to millions of people. In India, more than 90 percent of the economically active population is absorbed in the informal sector, with 93 percent of the labor force being informally employed.

The lack of employment opportunities in rural areas leads to migration to urban areas in search of livelihoods. These migrants often lack the skills or education needed to secure better-paid, protected employment in the formal sector. Consequently, they have to settle for work in the informal sector. Unfortunately, they often lose their jobs due to closures, downsizing, or mergers in the industries they work in, forcing their family members to seek low-paid work in the informal sector for survival (Bhowmik, 2010).

Employment opportunities in the formal sector are limited, marginally absorbing the surplus labor force in urban areas. The formal sector typically refers to urban-oriented, institutionalized, and organized activities, whereas the informal sector is often characterized by unorganized, non-institutional activities located in rural areas, engaged in subsistence economic activities. The formal sector's lack of flexibility and rigidity, due to regulations, are seen as contributing to the growth of the informal sector (Germidis, 1990).

According to Kundu and Lalitha (1998) arguing that the modern sector does not generate sufficient employment opportunities for the expanding labor force, forcing more people to seek work in the informal sector for survival rather than profitability. The government should provide infrastructure facilities such as land, credit, and support from public agencies for better performance. The availability of credit is crucial for purchasing capital equipment or hiring it for use (Kundu and Lalitha, 1998).

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Street vendors in urban areas not only secure their livelihoods within the informal sector but also provide valuable services to the urban population. Street vending stands out as a vital and sustainable livelihood in India's urban informal landscape. These vendors, operating without permanent structures, are self-employed individuals offering various goods and services on the streets. They constitute a significant pillar of India's urban economy, generating employment, income, and meeting diverse consumer needs. From clothing, leather goods, and plastic items to essential household commodities, street vendors cater to a wide array of products, often sourced from small-scale or home-based industries. Additionally, they serve as a crucial market for agricultural produce, thus intertwining various sectors of labor.

Street vendors bridge the gap between producers and consumers, facilitating access to goods for both urban elites and the economically disadvantaged. They offer convenience to the affluent and attract urban youth and lower-income groups with affordable prices, providing an alternative to formal retail outlets. A significant portion of urban dwellers, including around 30% of Mumbai's workforce, rely on street vendors for daily sustenance, highlighting their role in addressing the needs of the impoverished.

Government data reveals the substantial dependence on street vending for livelihoods, with approximately 10 million people nationwide, including 250,000 in Mumbai alone, relying on this occupation. Mumbai particularly stands out as a hub for street vending, boasting the highest concentration of vendors among major Indian cities. This underscores the socioeconomic significance and resilience of street vending as a vital component of India's urban fabric.

In India, employment in the wholesale and retail trade (excluding hotels and restaurants) in the urban workforce increased from 17 percent to around 22 percent between 1993-94 and 1999-2000. One significant category of retail trade is vending. However, no detailed statistics are available for street vendors. Street vending is an important source of livelihood for the poor working class for several reasons: 1) it requires minimal skills, making it easier to enter compared to other occupations. 2) It is a form of self-employment, thus entry is easier. 3) It requires less capital investment.

The characteristics of street vendors include ease of entry, family ownership, and operation in temporary structures, often in the open air without a roof and in variable locations without a fixed place or store. They typically do not use electricity, rely on labour-intensive methods, and involve family members in vending-related activities, acquiring technical knowledge through informal education systems. Street vendors mostly sell their goods in unregulated and highly competitive markets without fixed working hours. Despite their contributions, government regulations often deem vending activities illegal and do not provide formal credit sources to them.

As they strive to earn a living, it is the state's responsibility to safeguard their right to livelihood. Recognizing their significant societal contribution, it is crucial to integrate them into major initiatives aimed at alleviating urban poverty. In this context, the study investigates better working conditions and the nature of street vending in Hyderabad city.

2. Review of Literature

There is a considerable increase in the number of street vendors in the main Asian cities. In India, the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors/Hawkers state that street vendors constitute approximately 2 percent of the population of a metropolitan cities. The total number of street vendors in the country is projected at around 10 million (NCEUS 2006).

Bhowmik (2005) highlights that the number of street vendors in Indian cities has increased sharply over the past few years, particularly since 1991 when structural adjustment and liberalization policies were introduced. The informal economy is now the main source of urban jobs for the expanding urban poor. A large number are street vendors constitutes a major percentage of the urban informal sector. It is now estimated that around 2.5 percent of the urban population is engaged in street vending. Estimates show that about 14.8 percent of the urban informal sector labour force are street vendors, self-employed persons who earn their living by selling in the streets.

Bhowmik (2006) stated that major city has a many number of street vendors who earn an honest livelihood without being a burden on any system. Although exact numbers are not available in cities, studies show that there are about 200,000 street vendors in Delhi, 2, 50,000 in Mumbai, more than 1,50,000 in Kolkata, have around 80,000 each Ahmedabad and Patna each, 50,000 in Patna and so on.

Bhowmik (2001) found that the hawkers and street vendors constitute the substantial proportion of the urban informal sector and it accounted two third of urban employment. The urban informal sector is easy to enter for low skilled workers and they use local traditional production techniques with low returns and also it require less capital and relatively low skills as compared to other activity.

The total employment provided by street vending becomes greater if we consider the fact that it sustains certain industries by marketing their products. A lot of the goods sold by these people, such as clothes and hosiery, leather and moulded plastic goods, household goods and some items of food are manufactured in home-based or small-scale industries. These industries involve a large number of workers, but they could have hardly marketed their products on their own. In this way, street vendors provide valuable service by serving sustain employment in these industries and urban poor (Bhowmik and Saha 2013).

These figures underscore the substantial presence and economic impact of street vendors across India's major urban centres. Despite the lack of comprehensive data, the available statistics indicate that street vending is a significant source of livelihood for a considerable portion of the urban population. This informal sector not only supports the vendors and their families but also contributes to the broader urban economy by providing accessible goods and services to city dwellers.

Research Objectives

The primary objective of this study is to explore and analyze the dynamic landscape of street vending in India, with a focused lens on the city of Hyderabad and the state of Telangana. This paper aims to:

- To study the overview of Street vendor in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- To examine the demographic feature of street vendors in Hyderabad and Telangana.
- Identify key challenges faced by vendors and assess the support mechanisms available to them.

3. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research approach, relying primarily on secondary data sources. It draws extensively from existing academic literature, policy documents, government reports, and previous empirical studies related to street vending in India. Particular emphasis is placed on documents specific to Hyderabad and Telangana to capture regional dynamics. The data is thematically analysed to understand patterns, challenges, and policy implications. This methodological approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of the socio-economic dimensions of street vending and facilitates a nuanced discussion on its role in urban livelihoods and governance.

3.1. Street Vendors in India

Street vendors in major Indian cities play a crucial role in the urban economy, earning an honest livelihood without burdening any formal systems. Although precise numbers are not always available, several studies provide estimates on the prevalence of street vendors in various cities.

The informal economy is now the main source of urban jobs for the expanding urban poor. A large number are street vendors constitutes a major percentage of the urban informal sector. Estimates show that about 14.8 percent of the urban informal sector labour force are street vendors, self-employed persons who earn their living by selling in the streets (Bhowmik 2005).

According to 55th Round of National Sample Survey, workers who describe themselves as street vendors in urban areas working in all locations is around 17 lakh, while workers engaged in retail trade without a fixed place or working in urban streets is around 25 lakh. In India, the population of street vendors in urban areas is found to have increased by 1.75 per cent in the last decade.

There is a considerable increase in the number of street vendors in the main Asian cities. In India, the National Policy for Urban Street Vendors/Hawkers state that street vendors constitute approximately 2 percent of the population of a metropolitan cities. The total number of street vendors in the country is projected at around 10 million (NCEUS 2006). This number is likely to increase even further.

Major cities host numerous street vendors who earn an honest livelihood without burdening any system. While exact numbers are unavailable, studies estimate that Delhi has about 200,000 street vendors, Mumbai has around 250,000, Kolkata has more than 150,000, and both Ahmedabad and Patna have approximately 80,000 each (Bhowmik , 2006).

Some of the studies estimate that street vendors constitute around 2 to 2.5 per cent of the total population of metropolis cities and 10 millions of street vendors are estimated to be there in India.

Table 1 Street vendors in India

City	Vendors
Mumbai	2,50,000
Patna	60,000
Delhi	2,00,000
Kolkata	1,91,000
Ahmadabad	1,27,00

Source: Ministry of Labour Government of India

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 1, 91,000. 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 1,27,000 and half of them are women and organized by some local unions like SEWA.

3.2. Street Vendors in Telangana

The table-2 provides a detailed breakdown of street vendors (SVs) in Telangana based on their identification of vendors, Vending ID cards, vending certificates, and the balance number of certificates yet to be issued. The total number of street vendors identified is 677,162, with the majority being females (427,607), followed by males (249,350), and a smaller number being transgender individuals (205). The number of ID cards issued to vendors is 673733 out of this 425312 female and 248217 male vendors and 204 transgender.

Out of the total identified street vendors, 423085 have been issued vending certificates. However, there seems to be a disparity between the number of vending certificates issued to males (149,122) and females (273,829), with females having significantly more vending certificates issued. There are still 254,077 street vendors who are yet to be issued vending certificates. This indicates that there is ongoing work to ensure all identified street vendors are legally authorized to operate. Overall, the table suggests progress in the identification and documentation of street vendors, particularly in the issuance of ID cards.

Table 2 No of street vendors in Telangana

	No of SVs Identified	No of SVs Issued Id Cards	No of SVs Issued Vending Certificates	Balance no of SVs to be issued Vendor Certificates
Male	249350	248217	149122	
Female	427607	425312	273829	
	205	204	134	
Total	677162	673733	423085	254077

Source: MEPMA, Telangana 2024.

This table-3 provides a comprehensive breakdown of the number of street vendors identified across various districts and categorized by gender.

The table lists different districts of a particular region along with the corresponding number of street vendors identified in each district. The total number of street vendors identified across all districts is 677,162. There seem to be variations in the number of street vendors identified across different districts. For instance, GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) has the highest total number of identified street vendors (165,979), followed by districts like Nizamabad (43,131) and Hanumakonda (46,791). Some districts have a relatively lower number of identified street vendors, such as Komaram Bheem (Asifabad) with 3547 and Jayashankar Bhupalpally with 3,327.

Table 3 street Vendors Identified District Wise in Telangana

Sr.no	District	No. of SVs identified			
		Male	Female	Transgender	Total
1	Adilabad	5183	3890	4	9077
2	Bhadradri Kothagudem	4502	10405	4	14911
3	GHMC	73750	92192	37	165979
4	Hanumakonda	14368	32394	29	46791
5	Jagtial	5817	11067	4	16888
6	Jangaon	2019	4472	0	6491
7	Jayashankar Bhupalpally	940	2387	0	3327
8	Jogulamba Gadwal	3078	4484	1	7563
9	Kamareddy	3155	6846	2	10003
10	Karimnagar	11263	13759	10	25032
11	Khammam	9795	18083	3	27881
12	Komaram Bheem (Asifabad)	1414	2131	2	3547
13	Mahabubabad	4572	8175	7	12754
14	Mahabub Nagar	5597	11647	3	17247
15	Mancherial	6855	16897	9	23761
16	Medak	3523	4683	3	8209
17	Medchal Malkajgiri	9100	23388	11	32499
18	Nagarkurnool	2616	4841	2	7459
19	Nalgonda	8375	17084	7	25466
20	Narayanpet	2488	3159	0	5647
21	Nirmal	5375	6078	2	11455
22	Nizamabad	15253	27865	13	43131
23	Peddapalli	7095	15103	16	22214
24	Rajanna Sircilla	3206	7153	3	10362
25	Rangareddy	9087	22623	11	31721
26	Sangareddy	7808	15053	5	22866
27	Siddipet	6033	11463	2	17498
28	Suryapet	4862	10397	6	15265
29	Vikarabad	5543	4170	4	9717
30	Wanaparthy	2352	5466	1	7819
31	Warangal	1644	3296	1	4941
32	Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	2682	6956	3	9641
	Total	249350	427607	205	677162

Source: MEPMA, Telangana 2024

The table-3 reveals the gender distribution among the identified street vendors. Overall, there are 249,350 male, 427,607 female, and 205 transgender street vendors identified across all districts. In several districts, there is a notable difference between the number of male and female street vendors. The most of the districts female street vendors are higher than the male street vendors expect For example, in Bhadradri Kothagudem, there are significantly more Female Street vendors (10,405) compared to male street vendors (4,502). In some districts like Hanumakonda and Sangareddy, the number of female street vendors is notably higher than male street vendors. Transgender representation is relatively low across all districts, with only a few individuals identified.

Table 4 No of SV Issued ID Cards

Sr.no	District	No. of SVs issued ID cards			Total
		Male	Female	Transgender	
1	Adilabad	5177	3863	4	9044
2	Bhadradri Kothagudem	4460	10328	4	14792
3	GHMC	73621	91961	37	165619
4	Hanumakonda	14329	32284	29	46642
5	Jagtial	5773	10903	4	16680
6	Jangaon	2016	4470	0	6486
7	Jayashankar Bhupalpally	936	2382	0	3318
8	Jogulamba Gadwal	3016	4378	1	7395
9	Kamareddy	3150	6840	2	9992
10	Karimnagar	11244	13717	10	24971
11	Khammam	9681	17812	3	27496
12	Komaram Bheem (Asifabad)	1414	2129	2	3545
13	Mahabubabad	4561	8165	7	12733
14	Mahabub Nagar	5583	11632	3	17218
15	Mancherial	6761	16781	8	23550
16	Medak	3515	4665	3	8183
17	Medchal Malkajgiri	9064	23239	11	32314
18	Nagarkurnool	2613	4832	2	7447
19	Nalgonda	8198	16654	7	24859
20	Narayanpet	2488	3157	0	5645
21	Nirmal	5364	6061	2	11427
22	Nizamabad	15237	27826	13	43076
23	Peddapalli	7079	15058	16	22153
24	Rajanna Sircilla	3202	7146	3	10351
25	Rangareddy	8914	22443	11	31368
26	Sangareddy	7787	15014	5	22806
27	Siddipet	6014	11452	2	17468
28	Suryapet	4862	10397	6	15265
29	Vikarabad	5535	4151	4	9690

30	Wanaparthi	2316	5379	1	7696
31	Warangal	1635	3262	1	4898
32	Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	2672	6931	3	9606
	Total	248217	425312	204	673733

Source: MEPMA, Telangana 2024.

The table-4 provide the number street vendor Issued ID cards in Telangana. The total number of street vendors issued ID cards across all districts in Telangana is 673,733. The Female street vendors outnumber male street vendors significantly, with a total of 425,312 females compared to 248,217 males. This suggests that street vending might be a more common economic activity for women in Telangana.

There is considerable variability in the number of street vendors ID cards issued across districts in Telangana. The GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) has the highest number of street vendors, followed by districts like Bhadradri Kothagudem, Hanumakonda, and Nizamabad. On the other hand, districts like Komaram Bheem (Asifabad) and Jangaon have relatively fewer street vendors. While the number of transgender street vendors is comparatively low (204 in total), they are present across several districts, highlighting their participation in street vending activities.

There seems to be a mix of urban and rural districts represented in the data. Urban districts like GHMC and Rangareddy have a significant number of street vendors, likely due to higher population density and economic activity, while rural districts like Nizamabad and Hanmakonda also have a considerable presence of street vendors. Overall, this data provides valuable insights into the distribution and demographics of street vendors across different districts in Telangana, which can be useful for policy-making, urban planning, and socio-economic research.

Table 5 No. of SVs issued Vending Certificates

Sr.no	District	No. of SVs issued Vending Certificates			
		Male	Female	Transgender	Total
1	Adilabad	5163	3744	4	8911
2	Bhadradri Kothagudem	3868	9513	4	13385
3	GHMC	1125	1007	0	2132
4	Hanumakonda	13057	29890	27	42974
5	Jagtial	5711	10729	4	16444
6	Jangaon	2016	4470	0	6486
7	Jayashankar Bhupalpally	935	2382	0	3317
8	Jogulamba Gadwal	2960	4255	1	7216
9	Kamareddy	3089	6442	2	9533
10	Karimnagar	8770	10401	7	19178
11	Khammam	5889	8911	1	14801
12	Komaram Bheem (Asifabad)	1414	2129	2	3545
13	Mahabubabad	3757	7022	5	10784
14	Mahabub Nagar	5583	11632	3	17218
15	Mancheria	6463	16067	8	22538
16	Medak	2972	3446	3	6421
17	Medchal Malkajgiri	6439	15655	6	22100
18	Nagarkurnool	2612	4831	2	7445

19	Nalgonda	6697	13683	4	20384
20	Narayanpet	2488	3157	0	5645
21	Nirmal	4465	5002	1	9468
22	Nizamabad	12627	20610	8	33245
23	Peddapalli	7076	15052	16	22144
24	Rajanna Sircilla	3156	7120	3	10279
25	Rangareddy	1503	3573	2	5078
26	Sangareddy	7410	14757	5	22172
27	Siddipet	6013	11444	2	17459
28	Suryapet	4815	10280	6	15101
29	Vikarabad	5356	3973	4	9333
30	Wanaparthy	1999	4766	1	6766
31	Warangal	1633	3255	1	4889
32	Yadadri Bhuvanagiri	2061	4631	2	6694
	Total	149122	273829	134	423085

Source: MEPMA, Telangana 2024

The total-5 provide details about number of street vendors issued vending certificates across all districts in Telangana is 423,085. Similar to the previous table, among total number Street vending certificate issued to female street vendors outnumber male street vendors, with a total of 273,829 females compared to 149,122 males. This suggests that female participation in street vending activities remains higher than male participation.

There is notable variability in the number of street vendors Issued street vending certificate across districts. The Hanumakonda, Mancheria, and Nizamabad have relatively high numbers of street vendors issued vending certificates, while districts like GHMC, Kommaram bheem, and Jayashankar Bhupalpally have comparatively lower numbers. The number of transgender street vending Certificate issued is relatively low (134 in total), spread across various districts.

A comparison with the previous table reveals some interesting insights. For example, in districts like Hanumakonda and Mancheria, there's a notable increase in the number of street vendors issued vending certificates compared to ID cards. This could indicate an increase in formalization or regulatory measures in these districts.

3.3. The Street Vendor in Hyderabad

This table-6 presents data on street vendors identified within different districts and urban local bodies (ULBs) under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) jurisdiction. The data is segmented by gender, providing counts for males, females, and transgender individuals of No street vendors identified, Number of Street vendors ID card issued and Vending Certificated issued.

Table 6 Street Vendors in GHMC (Hyderabad)

Sr. no	District	ULB	No. of SVs identified				No. of SVs issued ID cards				Balance no. of SVs to be issued ID cards	No. of SVs issued Vending Certificates				Balance no. of SVs to be issued Vending Certificates
			Male	Female	Transgender	Total	Male	Female	Transgender	Total		Male	Female	Transgender	Total	
6	GHMC	11- Rajendranagar	1949	1819	1	3769	1933	1766	1	3700	69	6	5	0	11	3758
7	GHMC	12- MehdiPatnam	3099	3007	2	6108	3099	3007	2	6108	0	0	0	0	0	6108
8	GHMC	13- Karwan	2996	2510	0	5506	2996	2510	0	5506	0	0	1	0	1	5505
9	GHMC	14- Goshamahall	3892	2986	2	6880	3880	2958	2	6840	40	18	24	0	42	6838
10	GHMC	15- Musheerabad	2550	4241	2	6793	2549	4241	2	6792	1	1	2	0	3	6790
11	GHMC	16- Amberpet	2612	3233	1	5846	2609	3228	1	5838	8	4	0	0	4	5842
12	GHMC	17- Khairatabad	2849	2710	2	5561	2849	2710	2	5561	0	0	1	0	1	5560
13	GHMC	18- JubileeHills	1834	2815	1	4650	1832	2814	1	4647	3	0	0	0	0	4650
14	GHMC	19- Yousufguda	3714	2947	3	6664	3711	2947	3	6661	3	0	0	0	0	6664

15	GH MC	20- Serilingam pally	28 32	19 07	0	473 9	28 28	19 07	0	473 5	4	0	0	0	0	4739
16	GH MC	21- Chandanag ar	30 95	27 24	1	582 0	30 91	27 20	1	581 2	8	13 3	46	0	17 9	5641
17	GH MC	22- RCPuram& PTC	21 19	26 71	1	479 1	21 19	26 71	1	479 1	0	0	0	0	0	4791
18	GH MC	23- Moosapet	32 03	37 01	1	690 5	32 03	37 00	1	690 4	1	43	21	0	64	6841
19	GH MC	24- Kukatpally	28 54	44 06	2	726 2	28 53	44 03	2	725 8	4	1	0	0	1	7261
20	GH MC	25- Quthbulla pur	18 69	41 04	1	597 4	18 69	41 01	1	597 1	3	0	1	0	1	5973
21	GH MC	26- Gajularam aram	19 40	40 73	1	601 4	19 33	40 54	1	598 8	26	0	0	0	0	6014
22	GH MC	27-Alwal	13 47	23 47	0	369 4	13 40	23 38	0	367 8	16	0	0	0	0	3694
23	GH MC	28- Malkajgiri	20 98	23 44	2	444 4	20 98	23 42	2	444 2	2	0	0	0	0	4444
24	GH MC	29- Secundera bad	22 39	48 30	0	706 9	22 12	47 57	0	696 9	100	4	2	0	6	7063
25	GH MC	30- Begumpet	22 04	34 49	0	565 3	22 04	34 49	0	565 3	0	0	2	0	2	5651
26	GH MC	02-Uppal	22 76	37 92	0	606 8	22 76	37 92	0	606 8	0	29	37	0	66	6002
27	GH MC	07- Santoshna gar	99 7	22 72	1	327 0	99 7	22 72	1	327 0	0	0	0	0	0	3270

28	GH MC	08- Chandraya nagutta	21 70	22 42	3	441 5	21 45	22 28	3	437 6	39	12	35	0	47	4368
29	GH MC	09- Charminar	27 77	10 45	0	382 2	27 76	10 45	0	382 1	1	11	9	0	20	3802
30	GH MC	10- Falaknuma	15 37	26 78	0	421 5	15 37	26 78	0	421 5	0	65 9	637	0	12 96	2919
31	GH MC	05- Saroornag ar	22 30	41 03	1	633 4	22 14	40 88	1	630 3	31	64	40	0	10 4	6230
32	GH MC	04- L.B.Nagar	26 98	36 48	2	634 8	26 98	36 47	2	634 7	1	10 3	131	0	23 4	6114
33	GH MC	01-Kapra	35 55	50 80	5	864 0	35 55	50 80	5	864 0	0	1	2	0	3	8637
34	GH MC	03- Hayathnag ar	21 16	30 18	1	513 5	21 16	30 18	1	513 5	0	31	11	0	42	5093
35	GH MC	06- Malakpet	20 99	14 90	1	359 0	20 99	14 90	1	359 0	0	5	0	0	5	3585
			73 75 0	92 19 2	37	165 979	73 62 1	91 96 1	37	165 619	360	11 25	100 7	0	21 32	163847

Source: MEPMA, Telangana 2024.

The total number of identified street vendors across all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) within the GHMC jurisdiction is 165,979. The gender breakdown shows 73,750 male vendors, 92,192 female vendors, and 37 transgender vendors. This indicates that female vendors outnumber male vendors in the GHMC, similar to the trend observed in Telangana state. However, in some ULBs within the GHMC, such as Malakpet, Chanda Nagar, and Serilingampally, male vendors are more numerous than female vendors. Kapra has the highest number of identified street vendors with 8,640, followed by Kukatpally with 7,262 and Secunderabad with 7,069. On the other hand, Santosh Nagar has the lowest count with 3,270 vendors, followed by Malakpet with 3,590 vendors.

In the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, a total of 165,619 street vendors have been issued ID cards. The gender distribution among these vendors is as follows: 73,621 are male, 91,961 are female, and 37 are transgender. The highest numbers of ID cards were issued in Kapra (8,640), Kukatpalli (7,258), and Secunderabad (6,969). Conversely, the lowest numbers were issued in Santosh Nagar (3,270) and Malakpet (3,590).

In the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area, the number of vending certificates issued to street vendors is significantly lower compared to rural districts. A total of 2,132 vending certificates have been distributed. Of these, 1,125 certificates were issued to male vendors, while 1,007 were issued to female vendors. Among the regions, Falaknuma find the highest number of certificates issued with 1,296, followed by LB Nagar with 234 certificates.

4. Conclusion

Street vendors constitute a significant portion of the informal sector, offering basic household consumption goods while also providing employment opportunities. The barrier to entry into street vending is low, requiring minimal skills and investment. In India alone, there are approximately 10 million street vendors. This study focuses on street vendors in Hyderabad and Telangana.

In Telangana, a total of 677,162 street vendors have been identified, of which 427,607 are female and 249,350 are male. Out of these, 673,733 vendors have been issued ID cards (425,312 females and 248,217 males), but only 423,085 have received vending certificates (273,829 females and 149,122 males). This leaves 254,077 vendors still awaiting their street vending certificates in Telangana. The highest concentration of vendors is in GHMC (Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation) with 165,979 vendors, followed by Nizamabad and Hanumakonda, while Komaram Bheem and Jayashankar Bhupalapally have fewer identified street vendors.

In GHMC alone, 165,619 vendors have been issued ID cards, with a significantly low number of vending certificates issued (only 2,132). Comparatively, Falaknuma has received more vending certificates (1,296) despite having fewer ID cards issued.

The study highlights that the implementation of the Street Vending Act of 2014 has been slow. This is attributed to challenges in data collection and issuance of vending certificates by Community Resource Persons (CRPs), who are also tasked with responsibilities beyond street vendors, as revealed by the Circle Programme Officers.

Compliance with ethical standards

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

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