

Assess Challenges and Prospects of Street Vending in Bale Zone.

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Abstract

Street vending is one of the most visible activities in the informal economy and is found everywhere in the world, both in developed and developing countries. This study is designed to assess the challenges and prospects of street vending in Robe town. Street vending is an activity which takes place outside enclosed premises or covered workspace on street pavements, sidewalks, but also at bus stops and in other public places. The key players are economically disadvantaged persons such as new migrants, the poor, lowly educated, individuals searching for jobs, and those disadvantaged in different ways are included in the margins. Street vendors face many challenges such as lack of infrastructure, legal status, and limited access to capital, insecurity of places, being overlooked as economic ageing ents, hindered rather than helped by municipal policies, and economic challenges. The study has the following specific objectives; to identify the major factors leading vendors to street vending, to identify the major challenges that street vendors faced while operating their business, and to assess the economic opportunities of the street vending to the urban poor people of the study area. To collect all the necessary data the researchers have used both primary and secondary sources of data. Questionnaire, interview, observation and focus group discussion was used as tools for gathering primary data. Secondary data was collected from websites, published and unpublished documents and other related documents. Data collected from respondents was analyzed through descriptive statistics. Furthermore, the expected result of this research would identify the major challenges and opportunities of street vending in Robe, Goba, Ginir, Goro and Dello Mena towns.

Key words: 1.street vending, 2.challenges, 3.Opportunities, 4.livelihood, 5.Prospects

1. Introduction

In an urbanizing world, cities with all their demand and promise, harvest the countryside people who can no longer tolerate the limitations of rural life or who simply see urban life as presenting more options for livelihood. The migration of rural to urban is unsurprisingly greater where the benefits of urban development have not been well-distributed at national level (United Nation Center for Human Settlement, 2001).

As recent experience reveal, in the list of developed country, the rates of rural-urban migration continues to exceed the rate of urban job creation and this surpasses greatly the capacity of both industrial and urban social service effectively to absorb this labor force. As a result of globalization, more jobs are being created in the financial sector and in information management in the developed world, while in the developing world, trends point towards an increasing “informalization” of the urban economy, as the formal sector fails to provide adequate employment opportunities for the number of young people. And this leads a number of job seekers to engage in informal jobs (Sethurema, 1981).

International Labor Organization indicated that, all new employment opportunities which are 85% around the world are created in the informal economy. Perhaps, this entire people involved in informal sector livelihoods, street sidewalk vendors face more challenge in the courses of running their activities (United Nation Center for Human Settlement, 2006)

In Africa, informal works accounted for almost 80 % of non-agricultural employment, over 60 % of urban employment and over 90 % of new jobs for approximately the past decade. Evidently, it clear that the informal sector increasingly serves as a safety net for disadvantaged people in developing countries. The fact that the

nature of the informal sector as is neither capital intensive nor requiring educational skills also means that poor people are drawn more to this sector than the formal sector (International Labour Office, 2002).

Ethiopia has a large number of people participating in the informal sector. The reason is high population growth rate and a relatively small formal sector (WIEGO, 2002). In addition, the limited job opportunities in the formal sector and the ever-increasing urban labor force have given rise to the informal sector employment in urban area of Ethiopia which consists 50.6 percent of urban employment (Central Statistics Authority, 2003).

The street vendors are having frequent harassment and evictions from their selling places by local authorities or competing shopkeepers because of lack of legal status and recognition. In addition, the places where they work are characterized by dirty and hazardous and lack basic services. Despite, street vending is the only option for many poor people (WIEGO, 2002).

Recently, this sector has attracted the attention of Government, Non-governmental bodies and policy makers. Especially the government is creating awareness and giving priorities for informal sectors in order to make them legally bounded; and providing the sectors supports hoping that the expansion of informal sectors of businesses into formal one, especially to micro and small business level has tremendous economic contribution. However, these informal businesses get stuck and fail to expand because of some challenges. This is the rationale behind this study in order to investigate and know what these challenges are and the opportunities on the other hand.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The significance of the informal sector in low income developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan African economies, is being a priority issue recently (Ahmadou, 2014). The informal economy has a great potential for poverty reduction (Godfrey, 2011). According to study conducted in Tanzania revealed that the same to other informal business, Street vending business has significant importance to the livelihood of many less educated people. It acts as a substitute of employment for those who lacked such opportunity in formal sector due to low level of education or lack of sufficient capital (Nasibu, 2015).

The street vendors provide a huge diversity of goods and services for their local community and the profit which can be generated from vending are a key source of household income (Sibongileet al., 2013). The total factor productivity of informal enterprises is large, but their size is small due to the many challenges to their growth (La Porta & Shleifer, 2008). The informal sector including street vending absorbs the majority of the urban unemployment, beside this; it is serving as means of income generation for the marginalized groups in developing countries of Africa (Darrare, 2007). A significant amount of goods produced by small industrial units in the formal sector is marketed through street vendors. In fact there is a situation where one section of the urban poor (street vendors) helps the other sections of the urban poor by providing them low priced goods and by marketing their products (Sharit, 2005). In Tanzania 622 traders were interviewed by (Lyons and Msoka, 2009) and they point out that, street vending business is an engine of pro-poor development and a means of participation by the poor in an increasing commercial economy. According to the Bale Zone Trade Office (2018) street vending is one of the most rapidly growing sectors in many woredas of the zone (especially Robe, Goba, Ginir and Dello Mena Weredas where illegal imports and population density high) with expansion of illegal imports. Following this, by the initiation of central and local government recently made the campaign to make street vendors legal (formal) and effective. This initiation was motivated with the need of increasing their economic contribution, creating a conducive environment, promoting better health and increasing security for the town population. However, it has been very challenging for the local government (city administrator) to achieve this objective because the formalization of street vending is not that much an easy task in lack of infrastructures. Street vending is one of informal sector which is researchable area but as far as the literature and the researchers know there is limited related study conducted in the study area except studies such as the role of entrepreneurial orientation on firm performance in Robe and Goba Town (Remedan et al, 2014). Therefore, the focus of this study is to assess the challenges and prospects of street vending in Robe, Goba, Ginir and Dello Mena Town.

1.2. Objective of the study

1.2.1. General objective of the study

The general objective of the study is to assess challenges and prospects of street vending in Robe Town.

1.2.2. Specific objectives of the study

The following specific objectives are identified in line with the general objective of the study.

- To identify the driving factors to street vending.
- To identify the major challenges that street vendors facing while operating their business.
- To assess the opportunities of the street vending to the urban poor people

1.3. Research Questions

- What are the main reasons that force them to be street vendor?
- What are the challenges that face street vendors while operating their business?
- What are the opportunities that street vending has to the urban poor people?

2. Literature review

2.1 Definition and Concepts of street vending

Street vending is one of the most visible activities in the informal economy and is found everywhere in the world, both in developed and developing countries. It has been defined in many different ways by various authors. However, a common theme among definitions is the location of trade. It may include trading without a permit, trading outside formally designated trading locations and non-payment of municipal/national taxes or self-allocation of shelter for trading (Lyons, M. and S. Snoxell 2005).

Bhowmik identified street vendors as self-employed workers in the informal economy who are either stationary or mobile; he defined a street vendor as a person trading from the street who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure from which to sell (Bhowmik 2005).

2.2. Benefits of street vending

As Adenutsi (2009) argues that, entrepreneurship (e.g. street vending business) is the catalyst for economic growth and development through job creation, income, empowerment and poverty reduction in an economy. This suggests that in order to create high-income generating job opportunities and reduce poverty through entrepreneurship, there is the need for policy measures and intervention programmes that are critical and consistent with the objective of welfare improvements. In this sense there is a need for government and other development stakeholders to intervene the operation of street vending business in order to make it work for poverty reduction.

2.3 Street Vendors' Contributions to Households and Urban poor Communities

Street vendors are an integral part of urban economies around the world, offering easy access to a wide range of goods and services in public spaces. According to study conducted by the Sally R, out of the street vendors who are surveyed, the majority of them are live in households for which the main source of household income is street vending. Most street vendors provide the main source of income for their households, bringing food to their families and paying school fees for their children. Street vendors provide access to a wide range of goods and services in public spaces. They help the community by providing them with their basic needs at affordable prices. They provide a very valuable service and goods close to customers and selling at low prices for the urban poor and plays significant role in supporting personal or household consumption through generating income from vending and helps urban poor in providing goods and service with low price (Sally R, 2014). Furthermore, in developing countries of Africa, street trade is rampant and a source of employment and income for many urban dwellers (ILO and WIEGO, 2013).

2.4. Challenges of street vending

Working outside, street vendors and their goods are exposed to strong sun, heavy rains and extreme heat or cold. Unless they work in markets, most don't have shelter or running water and toilets near their workplace. Street vendors face other routine occupational hazards. Many lift and haul heavy loads of goods to and from their point of sale. Market vendors are exposed to physical risk due to a lack of proper fire safety equipment, and street vendors are exposed to injury from the improper regulation of traffic in commercial areas. Insufficient waste removal and sanitation services result in unhygienic market conditions and undermine vendors' sales as well as their health, and that of their customers. Yet street vendors face many challenges, are often overlooked as economic agents and unlike other businesses, are hindered rather than helped by municipal policies and practice (Sally R. 2014).

2.5. Empirical Literature

Adenuts (2009) argues that entrepreneurship (e.g. Street Vending Business) is the catalyst for economic growth and development through job creation, income, empowerment and poverty reduction in an economy. This suggests that entrepreneurship is crucial to create high job opportunity, income and reducing poverty. So here it is better to develop policy measures and intervention programs that are very important and consistent with the objective of welfare improvements. So now there is a demand of government and development stakeholders intervene the operation street vending business to make it work for poverty reduction. Poverty reduction is a function of many things. But the common one is the economic growth (khan, 2009). Another study by Misati (2007) in Kenya argues that the creation of wealth and poverty reduction in Sub-Saharan countries is associated with informal sector particularly through the creation of employment. The study recommends that, policy in low income countries should include the role of informal sectors and the governments should improve the working conditions of the informal sector. In many African countries the working conditions of the informal sector are difficult and not regulated by the government policy and regulations.

2.6. Conceptual frame work of the study

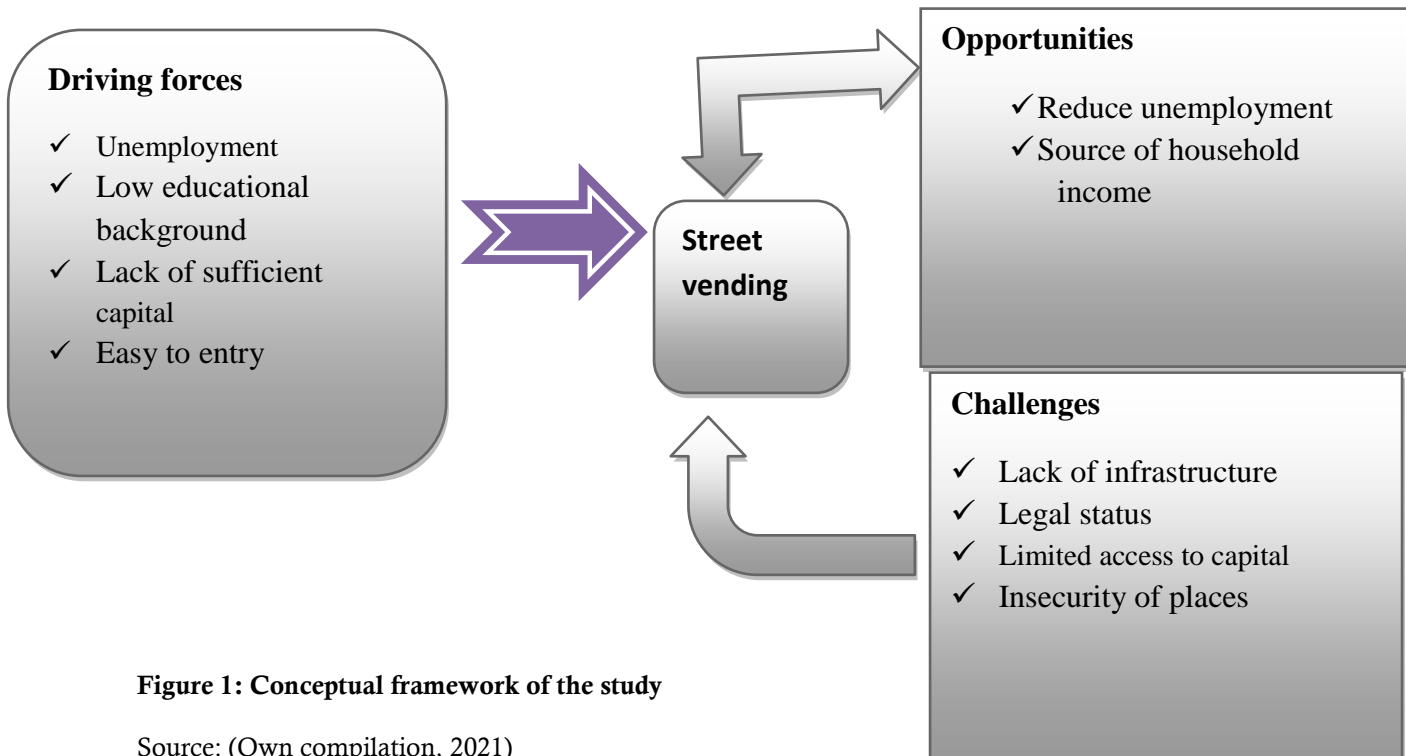


Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the study

Source: (Own compilation, 2021)

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study was a descriptive research design having the aim of assessing the existing challenges and prospects of street vending in the study area and mixed types of research approach employed. The quantitative approach used to gather information through questionnaires that can be quantified in percentage and frequency. On the other hand, qualitative approach used to gather information by using interviews, observation, focus group discussion, and open-ended questions on the questionnaire.

3.2 Subjects of the Study

The target group of this study was include vendors those participating on vending commodities such as both new and second hand clothes and shoes, belts, electronics material, plastic products, and equipment's used for beautification. In addition to this, zone trade office officials selected weredas trade office officials (Robe, Goba, Ginir and Dello Mena weredas).

1.3 Source of data

The researchers gathered primary data using questionnaire, interview, observation and focus group discussion. Secondary data gathered from different reliable sources both from published and unpublished sources.

3.4 Sampling techniques

Since, the target groups of the study are street vendors, the exact number of vendors in the towns is not known. According to Zonal Trade office of Bale the total number of street vendors including vendors those vending on the street were estimated from 2500-3000. To determine a sample size for the study, a sampling frame is required. However, getting the actual number of street vendors is not easy tasks due to the nature of their operation. Their numbers vary depending on time of day or the season of the year. Some vendors only vend in the morning, afternoon, or evening; while some vend only on weekends; and others vend only during certain seasons. This poses a challenge on getting the actual number of street vendors that operate in Robe to draw the sampling frame from which the sample size for the study is selected.

3.5. Sample Size Determination

The number of street vendors to be approached for survey was 384 using simple random sampling technique and is a determined as follows using Kothari (2004) method:

$$n = \frac{Z^2 \times P(1 - P)}{e^2} = \frac{1.96^2 \times 0.5(1 - 0.5)}{0.05^2} \approx 384$$

Where, n - desired sample size

Z - Values of standard variety at 95% confidence interval (Z = 1.96).

P - Estimated proportion of households using formal financial institutions

e – is the acceptable margin error which is set to be 0.05.

3.6 Method of Data Collection

In order to achieve the intended objectives, data collection instruments are very important. Thus, the instruments of data collection for this study were questionnaires, interviews and observation.

3.7 Data processing and analysis techniques

The data that e gathered from street vendors, Trade experts, formal business operators, polices and pedestrians were analyzed and processed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The quantitative data were entered and analyzed using *Statistical Package for Social Science* (SPSS). Descriptive statistics like frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation were used to describe the collected data. Quantitative result from SPSS is presented using table with their respective descriptive values.

3.8 Reliability test

In any research results, the issue of reliability is important confidence measures. Cronbach's alpha is one of the most commonly accepted measures of reliability. It measures the internal consistency of the items in a scale. It indicates that the extent to which the items in a questionnaire are related to each other Fubara and Mguni, (2005). The normal range of Cronbach's coefficient alpha value ranges between 0-1 and the higher values reflects a higher degree of internal consistency. Different authors accept different values of this test in order to achieve internal reliability, but, a satisfactory value is required to be more than 0.6 for the scale to be reliable (Sekaran, 2003 as cited by Sirbel, 2012). In the study the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was calculated for each field of the questionnaire. The values of Cronbach's Alpha for the entire questionnaire were done. The result shows that 0.723 Cronbach's alpha coefficient values. Hence, the result ensures the reliability of the questionnaire. Therefore, it can be said that the above questionnaire is adequately reliable.

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.723	24

3. Data Presentation, Analysis and Discussion

Table 4.2 respondent's current family and living Issues

Items	Response	frequency	Percentage
Number of families supported by the vendors currently	Yes	52	14.6
	No	303	85.4
number of your parent/families living with	0-2parents	353	99.4
	3-5 parents	2	0.6
	above 5 parents	0	0.0
With whom do you live	Parent	4	1.1
	Alone	0	0
	Fiends	233	65.6
	Relatives	118	33.2
	Other	0	0.0

Source: own survey, 2021

As this study indicated, most of the street vendors came from different areas or far from where they are operating, they noted that, they are supporting their families by working as street vendors. In urban areas where the urban development has no space for low skilled or uneducated unemployed individuals they forced to drop out their school to help their family or help themselves, Randhir (2012). Similarly, overwhelming

number 303 (85.4%) of surveyed street vendors have no families they are supporting working as street vendors while 52 (14.6%) have dependent families or spouses waiting their support. Respondent whose their families livelihood is very dependent on street vending are supporting up to 2 parents. Vendor where asked about with whom they are living currently and replied that highest numbers of street vendors, 233 (65.6%) are living with friends, but, only 4 (11%) of these respondents are living with parents, while 118 (33.2%) respondents are living with their parents. As the living condition of the vendors are very unstable and have no capacity to cover their expense alone they share shelter/house rent and other living costs with their relatives. And this is vendors coping strategies with their poverty and vulnerability where they are living.

Table 4.3 respondent place of origin

	Response	percentage	Percentage
Place of Birth	Robe and surrounding	40	11.3
	Goba and the surrounding area	32	9.0
	Ginir and the surrounding area	20	5.6
	Goro and the surrounding area	10	2.8
	Dello Mena and the surrounding area	14	3.9
	SNNP	137	38.6
	Other	102	28.7

As shown above the place of origin concern, 137 (38.6%) the majority of the respondents are come from SNNP outside bale zone or case area. Likewise, 102 (28.7%) of the study participants come from other areas of the country or regions urban towns. In other word they are migrants enforced to displace from their original place due to the lack of jobs and other better opportunities. The persistence of informal activities is due to the fact that not enough formal job opportunities have been produced to take in surplus labor, due to a slow rate of economic development and a faster rate of urbanization (Tokman, 1978). The remaining, 40 (11.3%), robe and surrounding, 32 (9%), Goba and the surrounding area, 20 (5.6%), Ginir and the surrounding area, 10 (2.8%) Goro and the surrounding area, and 14 (3.9%) Dello Mena and the surrounding area, respectively. Many researches on street vendors revealed similar demographic characteristics and thus confirmed the marginality of street vending.

Table 4.4 Previous Work condition of street vendors

Response	Frequency	Percent
Student	236	66.5
Employed	4	1.1
informal sector activity	98	27.6
Self-owned formal sector activity	17	4.8
Total	355	100.0

Source: own survey, 2021

In fact, street vending is provided job opportunity to many people who were jobless. For instance, 236 (57.2 %) of the street vendors, involved in this study, never participate in any type of occupation before starting street vending; they were student; whereas, 98(27.6%) respondents are working as street vendor. On the other hand, about 17 (4.8 %) of the respondents informed that they had their own formal business previously before they join in street vending which was characterized by unprofitability and unstable market. Very few, 4 (1.1%) of the street vendors were working or employed in formal business sectors. From the interview what the researcher has to get most of the respondents relies prefers to leave their previous job because of work burden, lack of freedom, lesser salary.

Table 4.6; driving factors/forces of street vendors

Item	response	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	SD
To be self-reliant	Not at all	9	2.5%	4.03	.89
	To a small extent	22	6.2%		
	To a moderate extent	14	3.9%		
	To a large extent	212	59.7%		
	To a very large extent	98	27.6%		
Separation of my families	not at all	5	1.4%	3.5	.95
	to small extent	80	22.5%		
	to a moderate extent	15	4.2%		
	to a large extent	232	65.4%		
	to a very large a extent	23	6.5%		
To support the family/ies	not at all	3	0.8%	4.1	.74
	to small extent	18	5.1%		
	to a moderate extent	10	2.8%		
	to a large extent	231	65.1%		
	to a very large extent	93	26.2%		
Due to lack of supporter	not at all	2	0.6%	3.76	.75
	to a small extent	48	13.5%		
	to a moderate extent	11	3.1%		
	to a large extent	283	79.7%		
	to a very large extent	11	3.1%		
Previous employment condition is unsatisfactory	not at all	295	83	2.3	.70
	to small extent	42	11.8%		
	to a moderate extent	7	2.0%		
	to a large extent	1	0.3		
	to a very large extent	10	2.8%		
No opportunity for formal job and earning money	not at all	3	0.8%	3.78	.76
	to small extent	44	12.4%		
	to a moderate extent	3	0.8%		
	to a large extent	284	80.0%		
	to a very large extent	21	5.9%		
Unemployment	not at all	5	1.4%	3.89	.829
	to small extent	42	11.8%		
	to a moderate extent	9	2.5%		
	to a large extent	263	74.1%		
	to a very large extent	36	10.1%		
Being uneducated	not at all	6	1.7%	3.5	829
	to small extent	50	14.1%		
	to a moderate	2	0.6%		
	to a large extent	282	79.4%		
	to a very large extent	15	4.2%		
Long Bureaucracy to be formal	not at all	6	1.7%	2.4	.854
	to small extent	277	78.0%		
	to a moderate extent	62	17.5%		
	to a large extent	2	0.6%		
	to a very large extent	8	2.3%		

Source: own survey, 2021

As observed on above table, respondent were asked to rank the extent of the above variables or factors affect their decision to engage in to informal sector business. Accordingly, street vendors interest to be self-reliant, to support the family/ies, unemployment, absence of opportunity for formal job and due to lack of supporter for

their life are the main driving factor that attracting vendors for informal business. Street intension of to be self-reliant is accounted 212 (59.7%) with a mean of 4.03 and .89 standard deviation. Since most of them came from poor families they want to be self-independent working as street vendor at the same they are supporting the livelihood of their poor families. In line this this finding, study conducted on contribution of street vending found that street vending has significant effect in improving and supporting their life.

Table 4.7 Challenge of street vending

Item	response	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of capital	not at all	7	2.0
	to a small extent	51	14.4
	to a moderate extent	4	1.1
	to a large extent	274	77.2
	to a very large extent	19	5.4
lack of credit	not at all	2	0.6
	to small extent	30	8.5
	to a moderate extent	3	0.8
	to a large extent	295	83.1
	to a very large extent	25	7.0
Un-profitability of the business	not at all	3	0.8
	to small extent	30	8.5
	to a moderate extent	10	2.8
	to a large extent	261	73.5
	to a very large extent	51	14.4
Lack of market	not at all	5	1.4
	to small extent	92	25.9
	to a moderate	13	3.7
	to a large extent	208	58.6
	to a very large extent	37	10.4
Lack of working place	not at all	10	2.8
	to small extent	97	27.3
	to a moderate extent	7	2.0
	to a large extent	215	60.6
	to a very large extent	25	7.0

Source: own survey, 2021

As indicated in table above, 274 (77%) of the participants experienced lack of working capital to run their businesses, 295 (83%) of the vendors face lack of credit to expand or buy and sell demanded product or service in the vending area. At the same time out of the surveyed street traders or vendors 261 (73%), 208 (58.6%) and 215 (60.6%) agreed that un-profitability of the business or their operation, Lack of market and Lack of working place are the main economic challenges of the vendors respectively. Of course, they are facing a challenge from lack of demand for their products and services. The reality that the street vendor participants struggle to have adequate capital to run their business is no still surprising at all, because they are not qualified for bank loans or loans from lending institutions.

Table 4.8 Challenges related to social security

Item	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Harassment by private shop guardians	not at all	3	0.8
	to a small extent	105	29.6
	to a moderate extent	7	2.0
	to a large extent	194	54.6
	to a very large extent	46	13.0
Harassment and eviction from selling place by police	not at all	5	1.4
	to small extent	77	21.7
	to a moderate extent	11	3.1
	to a large extent	247	69.6
	to a very large extent	15	4.
Lack of freedom during operation and psychological instability	not at all	9	2.5
	to small extent	49	13.8
	to a moderate extent	4	1.1
	to a large extent	269	75.8
	to a very large extent	24	6.8

Source: Own survey

Of the total surveyed informal traders, 194 (54.6%) and 247 (69.6%) believe that Harassment from both government and private police and shop guard are the social security problem that hindering for safe or better operation of the sector or street vending respectively. As Vendors indicated on interview, their goods were confiscated and they had to pay exorbitant fines to get their stock back. When they did try to collect their goods they often found their stock missing. Many of the vendors said that the Metro Police would sell their stock or take it to their homes and use it themselves. This study also alike with the finding of Karthikeyan, R., & Mangaleswaran, R. (2013), which stated that, because of the low socio-economic profile of street vendors customer behavior is common, and on other side street vendors faces harassment by police officials for occupying important traffic junctions.

A total of 269 (75.8%) respondent agreed to the large extent that, Lack of freedom and psychological instability during operation is basic social security challenges that hindering vendor. However, street vending is provided job opportunity to many people who were jobless.

Table 4.9 Street vending as a source of income and livelihood

Item	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Provide income	not at all	4	1.1
	to small extent	45	12.7
	to a moderate extent	7	2.0
	to a large extent	272	76.6
	to a very large extent	27	7.6
It is a viable source of livelihood	not at all	5	1.4
	to small extent	21	5.9
	to a moderate extent	9	2.5
	to a large extent	300	84.5
	to a very large extent	20	5.6

Source; own survey, 2021

A total of 272 (76.6%) and 300 (84.5%) of the respondents believe that street vending is serving as a source of income and livelihood to a large extent. They noted that they were involved in street vending for periods of

more than one year and it is the only option for marginalized poor group or society and serving as income and livelihood. Also the study conducted by Tshuma and Jari (2013) and Ray and Mishra, (2011) stated street vending is being a reliable source of income and means of survival in harsh economic conditions. This implies that most of the respondents had been vending for a relatively long period such that they have a good understanding of the contribution of street vending to their per capita income and family livelihood. As the finding of this study indicated vending by poor urban people is contributing to household livelihood strategies and supporting the poverty and vulnerability reduction program, even though the economic and social contribution of street vending was underestimated due to its marginal character and link to poverty.

Table 4.10: street vending as a means of employment source

Item	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Self-employment	not at all	1	0.3
	to small extent	24	6.8
	to a moderate	13	3.7
	to a large extent	290	81.7
	to a very large extent	27	7.6
family employment	not at all	4	1.1
	to small extent	261	73.5
	to a moderate extent	5	1.4
	to a large extent	46	13
	to a very large extent	39	11.0

Source: own survey, 2021

Street vending is not serving as a means generating income only; it is a source of self-employment. With increasing rural to urban migration for the sake of employment opportunities and the contracting formal sector, street vending employment become the most attractive means of survival for the urban poor. The participant street vendors 290 (81.7%) believe to the large extent that street vending is serving as a means of self-employment. On the other hand street 261 (73.5%) of them disagreed with the sector family employment because the street vending is a livelihood mechanism it has no capacity to absorb family employment since it is characterized by low income.

Table4.11 Street vendors as a means of providing good and service

Item	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Make goods accessible	not at all	8	2.3
	to a small extent	47	13.2
	to a moderate extent	7	2.0
	to a large extent	263	74.1
	to a very large extent	30	8.5
Providing goods for people's relatively with low price	not at all	2	0.6
	to small extent	44	12.4
	to a moderate extent	10	2.8
	to a large extent	273	76.9
	to a very large extent	26	7.3
It is a viable source of livelihood	not at all	5	1.4
	to small extent	21	5.9
	to a moderate extent	9	2.5
	to a large extent	300	84.5
	to a very large extent	20	5.6

Source: own survey, 2021

Street vending is an informal type of business, which provides goods for sale to society. 263 (74.1%) agreed that they are making good very accessible for urban marginalized poor people. 273 (76.9%) responded that their operations is being as means of survival through providing goods with low price. Since urban poor people have no capacity to buy goods and get service from high price places they easily accessing goods with very low price compared to the other. Prachum Suvatti's (1980) research also indicated that street food vending offers cheap goods which enables workers to subsist under low wage conditions. Other studies argued that consumption of street food was not limited to people in low income households (Van Esterik, 1992; and Bamroongchon, 1998), confirming the signify cant role of street food vending in Bangkok. Thus, consumption of street food can be explained by reasons other than economic factors.

5. Conclusion and recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

The street vending businesses are becoming the major source of livelihood for many people of urban areas. The sector in Bale zone, Oromia, provides livelihood for population mainly to the poor and other marginalized groups of the society. Vendors engaged in to the sector to be self-reliant, to support family, unemployment and absence support from family. In addition there are many challenges that hinder the success/operation of street vending. Social security and economic challenges are the main factors. Lack of convenient working place, shortage of working capital and police harassment are both social security and economic challenges of street vending. As far as the problem of social security concerns, the study found that harassment and eviction from selling place by police is common activity.

5.2 Recommendation

- The government should make economic self-reliance its goal and realign its attitudes towards street food vending accordingly. At the same time, it should recognize the diversity among food vendors and thus, should not apply a single policy for different groups of vendors.
- While street vending is a survival strategy for less privileged people, it has potential for expansion. As such, vendors should not be simply treated as the impoverished but as small and medium enterprise owners.
- To enhance employment opportunities, holistic measures that incorporate enabling factors must be taken. These include selling space; the provision of space for vending activities; the increase in family stability; and the nurturing of thrift consciousness.
- Regulatory framework needs to be established for street vendors so as to make them legally bounded, so that government can get the required tax or revenue from business.
- Authorities should take necessary steps to provide vending license and the proof of identity to the women vendors to vend in specific areas.

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