



Social characteristics of street vendors in Rohtak city

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Abstract— *Street vending has been one of the easiest ways to survive for working poor and is wide spread in the urban informal sector. Street vendors are self-employed, informal retail traders in urban labour market. Street vending is a very common economic activity in Rohtak city like any other city in India. It is very important to study about the various aspects related to social conditions of street vendors, as they are considered as marginalised group in the society. The study examines distribution of gender, age group, social category, education level, accommodation status and type of accommodation of street vendors. The study deals with 486 samples of street vendors at different locations and selling different products in Rohtak city. The study enlightens about various important social aspects related to street vending.*



Keywords— *Informal sector, Economy, Employment, Marginalised.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalisation, the retail sector is the fastest growing emerging sector after agriculture in India by providing employment. However, besides formal retail chain, small retailing including street vending has been one of the easiest ways to survive for working poor and is wide spread in the urban informal sector. Nonetheless, it is noticed that there has been a phenomenal increase in the number of street vendors leading to an increase in the number of workers in the informal sector in India. Street vendors constitute an important segment of the urban population. Moreover, street vendors are an integral component of urban economies around the world. Street vendors are those who are unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector on account of their low level of education and skills. Street vendors are self-employed, informal poor retail traders in urban labour market. National Policy for Urban Street Vendors (NPUSV, 2004) defined “a street vendor is one who offers goods and services for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall or head load”.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objective of the study is to study some of the social characteristics which include gender, age group, category, mother tongue, accommodation status and type of accommodation at different locations of street vendors in Rohtak city.

III. STUDY AREA

Rohtak, a district headquarter, lies 28°49'53.54" North latitude to 28°56'33.819" North latitude and 76°31'47.764" East longitude to 76°42'43.071" East longitude, on Delhi-Hisar-Sirsa National Highway and Delhi-Jind Firozpur Railway line, 70 K.M. North West of Delhi in Punjab plains. Owing to its geographical setting, the Rohtak City has become an important business, administrative, educational and industrial centre of the state of Haryana. After independence, the influx of migrants and development of rail and road transportation led to population increase and presently also the city is expanding very fast due to its exponential population growth rate as well as due to presence of various administrative, industrial, business, religious, educational centres within the city.

IV. SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The study mainly dealt with some of the important social characteristics like gender, age group, social category, education level, accommodation status and type of accommodation.

4.1 Gender of sampled street vendors in Rohtak city

Street vending profession is primarily a male oriented occupation in Rohtak city as evident from the Table 4.1. The sex composition of sampled street vendors demonstrated that an overwhelming majority of the total street vendors, 91.77 percent were the males,

whereas the females constituted only 8.23 percent share. In terms of absolute number, out of 486 sampled street vendors 446 were male and only 40 were female.

Table 4.1 Distribution of sampled street vendors in Rohtak city by Gender

	Male	Female
Total	446	40
Percentage	91.77	8.23

Tabulated from the data collected by the research scholar through the primary survey

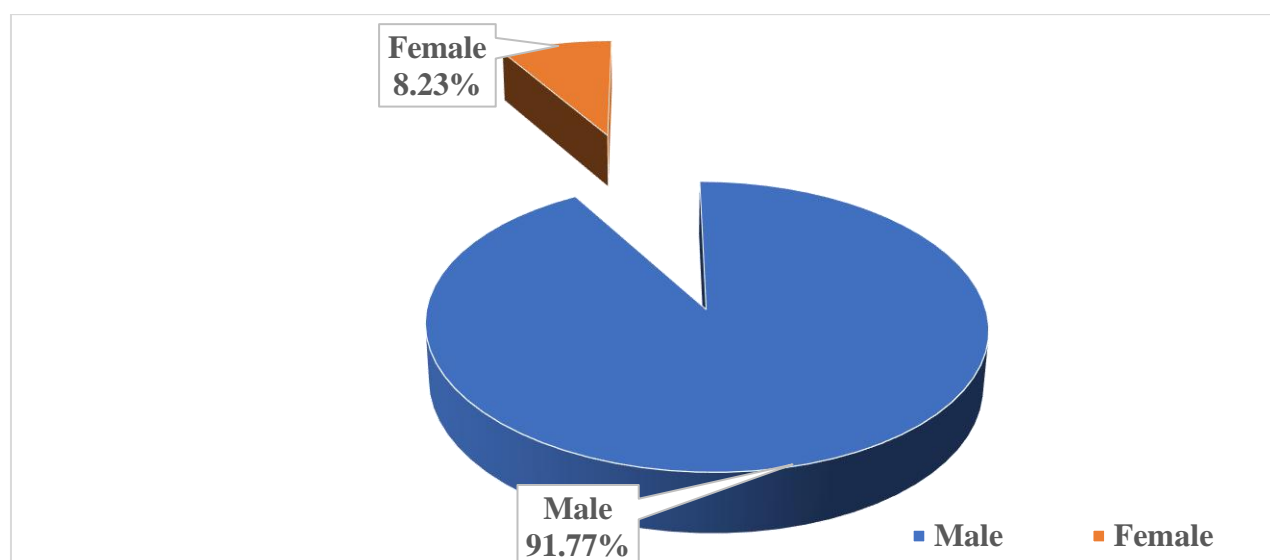


Fig.4.1 Distribution of sampled street vendors by gender based on table 4.1

4.2 Age group of sampled street vendors in Rohtak city

Street vending is very laborious and hard-working profession that requires a lot of energy. Table 4.2 indicates that there were 7.2 per cent sampled

street vendors up to the age of 20 year, while 64.2 per cent sample belonged to the age group from 21- 40 years. 27.6 per cent samples belonged to 41- 60 year of age group and only 1.03 per cent were above the age of 60 years.

Table 4.2 Distribution of sampled street vendors in Rohtak city by Age Group

	Age group			
	Up to 20	21-40	41-60	Above 60
Total	35	312	134	5
Percentage	7.2	64.2	27.6	1.03

Tabulated from the data collected by the research scholar through the primary survey

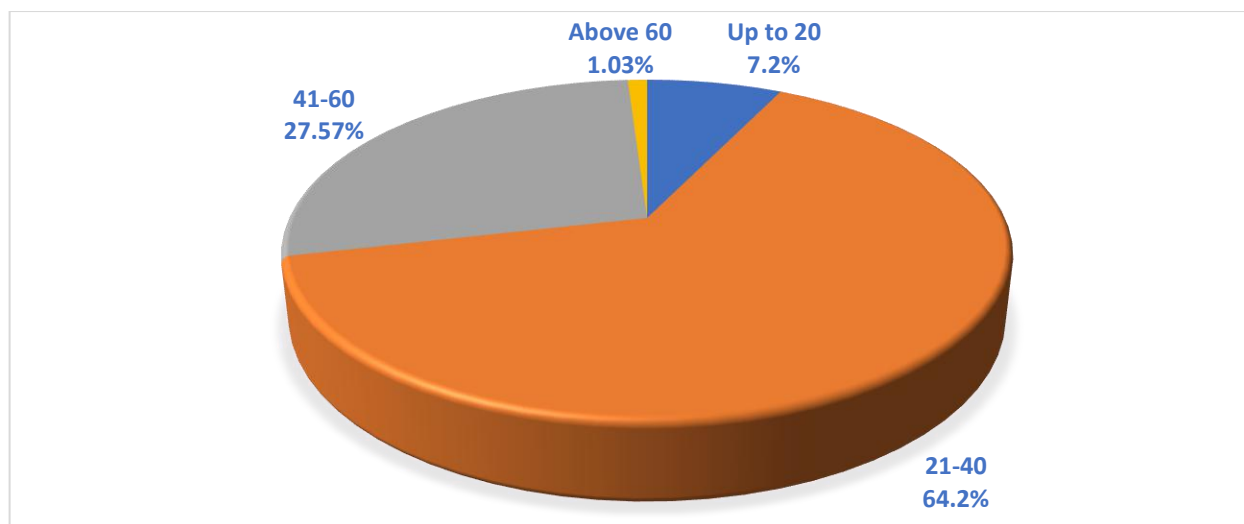


Fig.4.2 Distribution of sampled street vendors in Rohtak city by Age group

4.3 Social category of sampled street vendors in Rohtak city

The study enlightened upon the social category of street vendors in Rohtak city. Out of total 486 samples of street vendors 144 (29.6%) belonged to General category, 227 (46.7%) belonged to OBC and 115

(23.7%) belonged to SC social group. So highest number of street vendor belong to OBC group followed by General category and SC group is least in the number among sampled street vendors. No street vendor belonged to ST group among sampled street vendors.

Table 4.3 Distribution of sampled street vendor in Rohtak city by Social Category

	General	Other Backward Caste	Scheduled Caste
Total	144	227	115
Percentage	29.6	46.7	23.7

Tabulated from the data collected by the research scholar through the primary survey

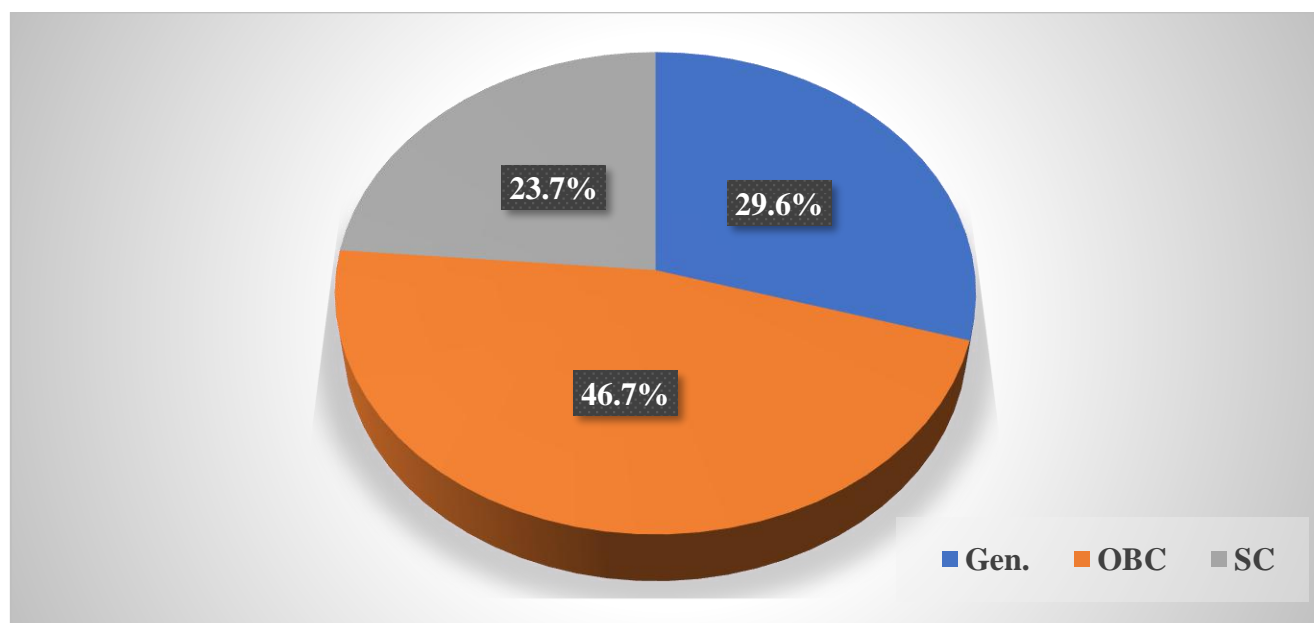


Fig.4.3 Distribution of sampled street vendors by Social Category based on table 4.3

4.4 Education level of sampled street vendors

Education plays an important role in human resource development through skill enhancement and capacity building. Data related to Education level of street vendors were collected, compiled and classified among six groups. First group is related to the samples who are illiterate, second is related to street vendors who acquired education up to primary (1-5) level, third group is related to middle (6-8) level, fourth group is related to secondary (9-10) level, fifth group is related to senior secondary (11-12) level and sixth group is related to Higher level of

education (graduation, diploma etc). Table 4.4 indicates that 8 % of samples were illiterate, 23.7% were educated up to primary level, 33.7% were educated up to middle level. Proportion of secondary level educated street vendors was 25.3 % while 7.2% street vendors were educated up to senior secondary level. Only 10 samples (2.1 percent) out of 486 samples are having higher education of diploma or Degree. It is clearly visible that a large proportion (57.4 percent) of street vendors was educated up to middle level only. A few samples were educated beyond school level (2.1 percent).

Table 4.4 Distribution of sampled street vendors by education level

	Illiterate	Primary	Middle	Secondary	Sr. Secondary	Higher
Total samples	39	115	164	123	35	10
Percentage	8.0	23.7	33.7	25.3	7.2	2.1

Tabulated from the data collected by the research scholar through the primary survey

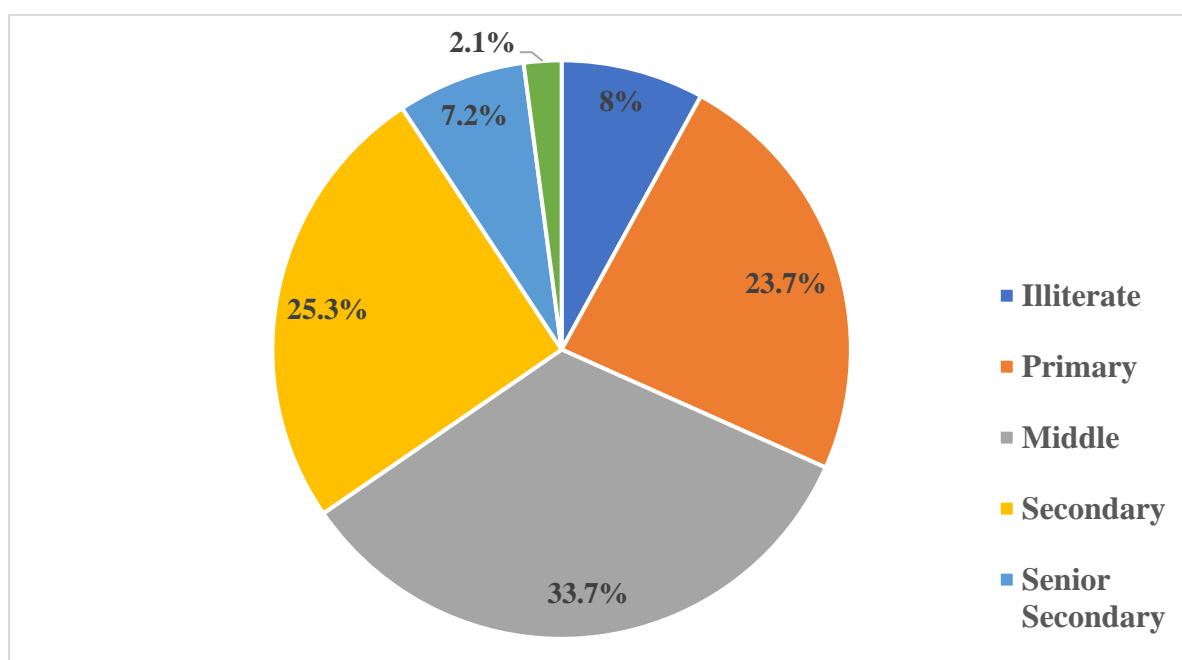


Fig.4.4 Distribution of sampled street vendors by education level based on table 4.4

4.5 Accommodation status of street vendors

Accommodation is a basic requirement of human being like food and clothing. The study also dealt with the question of availability of accommodation to the

street vendors. Table 4.5 reveals that out of total 486 samples of street vendors 464 (95.5 percent) had an accommodation while 22 (4.5 percent) did not have any accommodation.

Table 4.5 Distribution of sampled street vendors by accommodation status

	Do you have accommodation in Rohtak city	
	Yes	No
Total samples	464	22
Percentage	95.5	4.5

Tabulated from the data collected by the research scholar through the primary survey

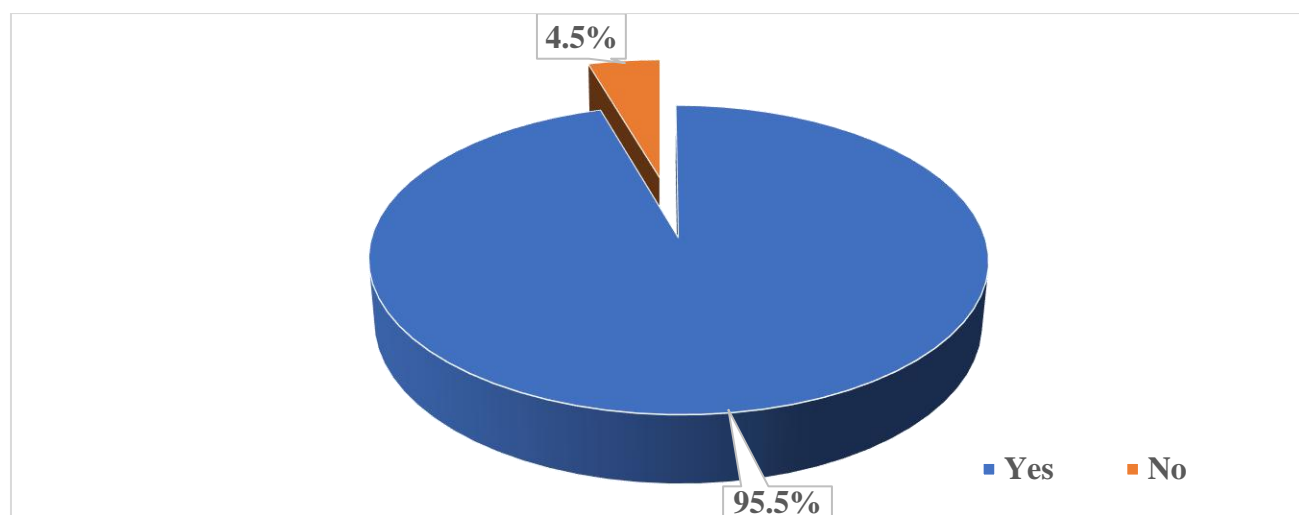


Fig.4.5 Distribution of sampled street vendors by accommodation status based on table 4.5

4.6 Type of accommodation of street vendors

On the question of type of accommodation, it emerged from the data that on the whole, 169 samples out of total 486 samples (36.42 per cent) of street vendors had their own house and 273 samples (58.84 per cent) were living in rented accommodation, i.e. either rented as pooled or rented alone. Table 4.6 indicates that 110

samples (23.71 per cent) of street vending were living rented alone that means they were living with their family and 163 (35.13 per cent) sampled street vendors were sharing accommodation with other people. Living in the accommodation provided by the employer or relatives (free accommodation) accounted for just 22 samples (4.74 per cent) of the total street vendors.

Table 4.6 Distribution of sampled street vendors by type of accommodation

	Owned	Free	Rented Alone	Rented Pooled
Total samples	169	22	110	163
Percentage	36.42	4.74	23.71	35.13

Tabulated from the data collected by the research scholar through the primary survey

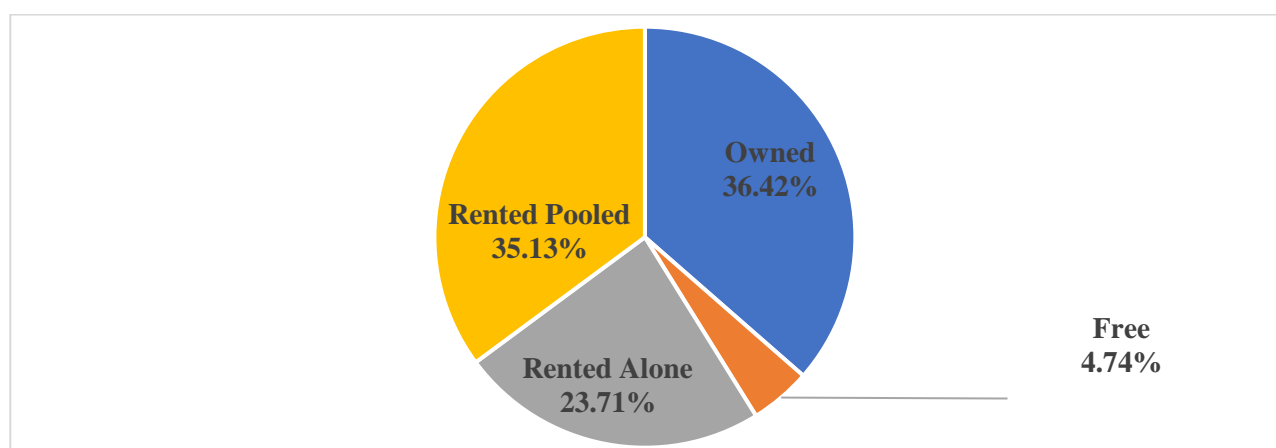


Fig.4.6 Distribution of sampled street vendors by type of accommodation based on table 4.6

V. CONCLUSION

The study mainly dealt with some of the important social characteristics like gender, age group, social category, education level, accommodation status and

type of accommodation. As per the study it is highlighted that street vending is primarily a male dominant profession. Male constituted 91.77 percent proportion while female constitute only 8.23 per cent. Age group data

revealed that majority of street vendors belonged to 21-40 years age group that meant street vending, as a profession was primarily chosen by young people. Street vending requires a lot of strength and energy as street vendor have to spend a long time in standing, moving from one place to another and sometimes even to pull the cart / cycle rickshaw/ cycle etc. Street vendors belonging to three social group- general, OBC and scheduled caste were indicated by the survey. A good proportion of total sampled street vendors (29.6 percent) belonged to the general category. This showed that lower caste status was not the only reason for opting of street vending as a means of subsistence. Data related to education level indicated that most of the street vendors were less educated. So, one of the reasons for adopting street vending as a profession was low level of education as education is not a bar for this profession. During survey it was noticed that there were few street vendors (4.5 per cent) who did not have any accommodation in the city. Interestingly it was found that some of the street vendors who don't have accommodation, they used to sleep at the place of street vending to safeguard their goods and items. Hence, they don't have any formal place of accommodation. This phenomenon was prominent in case of goods that are bulky and space consuming. For example, this trend is common among tender coconut selling street vendors. Remaining 95.5 per cent street vendors had accommodation out of which maximum street vendors lived in their owned houses (36.42 per cent) followed by rented pooled (35.13 percent). Proportion of rented alone street vendors was 23.71 percent and least proportion (4.74 percent) was of those who got free accommodation. Free accommodation is generally provided by employer or contractor. This trend was very common among kulfi/ Badam milk seller street vendors, most of whom belonged to Rajasthan.

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