



Economic 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 economic conditions of street vendors, as this group is vulnerable towards economic uncertainties. The present study examines employment status of street vendors, arrangement of capital for street vending, nature of street vending, time spent in street vending and monthly income by street vending. 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 economic aspects related to street vending.*



Keywords— *Street vending, employment, Income, economic activity.*

I. INTRODUCTION

In the era of globalisation, the retail sector is the fastest growing emerging sector after agriculture in India in providing employment. However, besides formal retail chain, small retailing including street vending has been one of the easiest ways for working poor to survive 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. 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

The objective is to study some of the important economic characteristics of street vendors which include employment status, arrangement of capital, nature of street vending, time spent in street vending and monthly income by street vending at different locations in the 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. ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET VENDORS

Economic characteristics deals with various aspects related to sampled street vendors that are directly related to the living standard of life of the street vendors. In this paper some of the important economic characteristics like employment status, arrangement of capital, nature of street vending, time spent in street vending and monthly income by street vending had been discussed. All these characteristics provide us information about their life and economic conditions.

4.1 Employment Status of Street Vendors

Street vendors engaged themselves in street vending through various modus operandi, some street vendors invested capital themselves and started their own street vending business, hence are called self-employed. The other worked on per day/ per month salary or wages basis, hence known as wage employed. Another group of street vendors worked on commission basis means they had a fix share of income on selling of per item or per kilogram. Table 4.1 indicates that out of total 486 samples 442 (90.94 per cent) street vendors were self-employed, means they had their own street vending business, while 22 (4.53 per cent) samples were wage employed and 22 (4.53 per cent) samples were working on commission basis.

Table 4.1 Distribution of sampled street vendors by employment status

	Self employed	Wage employed	On commission
Total samples	442	22	22
Percentage	90.94	4.53	4.53

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

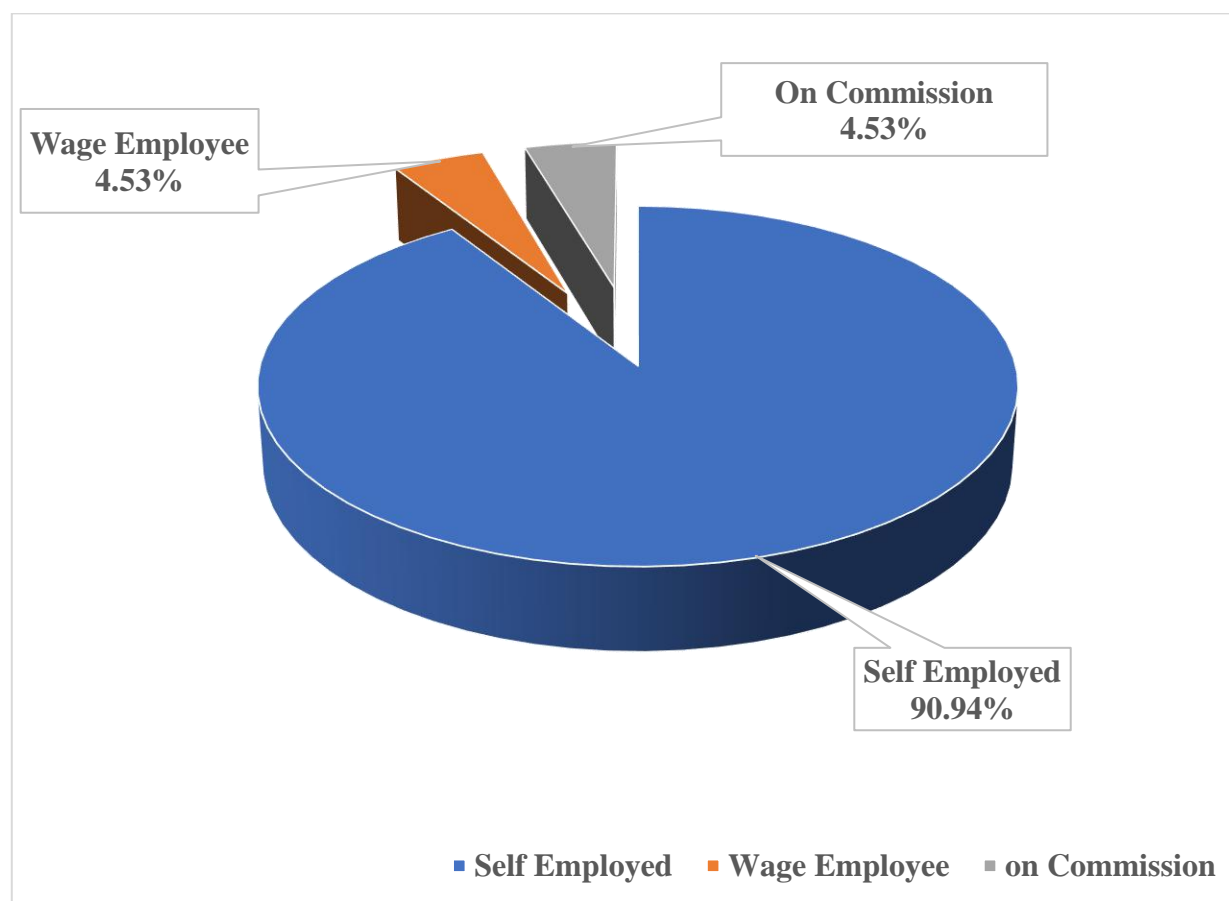


Fig.4.1 Distribution of sampled street vendors by employment status based on table 4.1

4.2 Arrangement of capital for street vending

Present study discussed about the arrangement of capital by self - employed street vendors for their business. The means through which street vendors arranged capital for business was classified among three groups. Some street vendors had their own or family savings while others relied on moneylenders or private financiers. Few street vendors also depended on friends and relatives also for the purpose. Table 4.2 reveals that out of 442 samples of

self-employed street vendors 191 (43.2 per cent) sample depended upon own/ family savings while 201 (45.5 per cent) relied upon moneylenders. 50 (11.3 per cent) samples made the arrangement of capital from friends and relatives. In this way while making arrangement of capital, maximum (45.5 per cent) street vendors relied on moneylenders followed by own/ family savings (43.2 per cent) and only 50 street vendors (11.3 per cent) relied on friends and relatives.

Table 4.2 Distribution of sampled street vendors by arrangement of capital

	Own/ Family saving	Moneylenders/Financers	Friends& Relatives
Total samples	191	201	50
Percentage	43.2	45.5	11.3

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

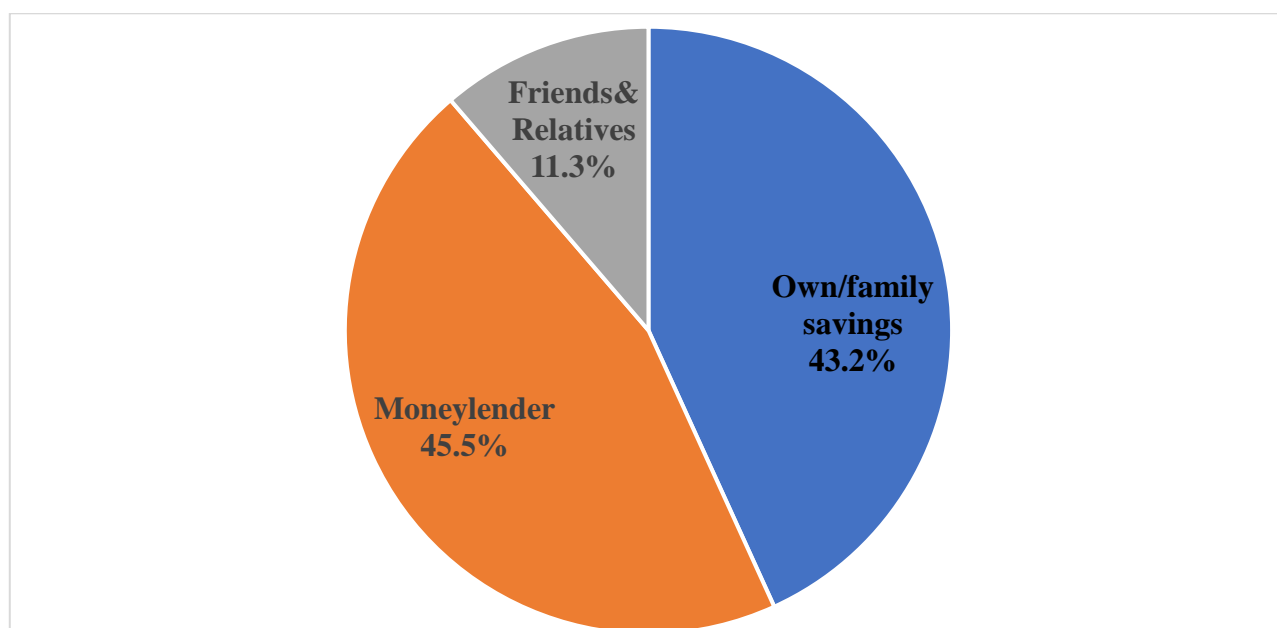


Fig.4.2 Distribution of sampled street vendors by arrangement of capital based on table 4.2

4.3 Nature of street vending

Majority of street vendors took vending as an important source of livelihood. The data in the Table 4.3 shows that 459 (94.4 per cent) sampled vendors were working as full-time vendors. The proportion of part- time vendors was 3.9 per cent (19 samples). These part-time vendors were those, who were either employees in the

public or private organisations and were working as part time for additional income to support the family. Another type of street vendors were seasonal migrants who generally came to the city for short duration of 2 - 3 month when they didn't have work at their native place. They migrated to the city just to supplement their meagre income. Such trend was seen in Juice Selling Vendors and among street vendors selling edibles inside new bus stand.

Table 4.3 Distribution of sampled street vendors by nature of vending

	Full time	Part time	Seasonal
Total samples	459	19	8
Percentage	94.4	3.9	1.6

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

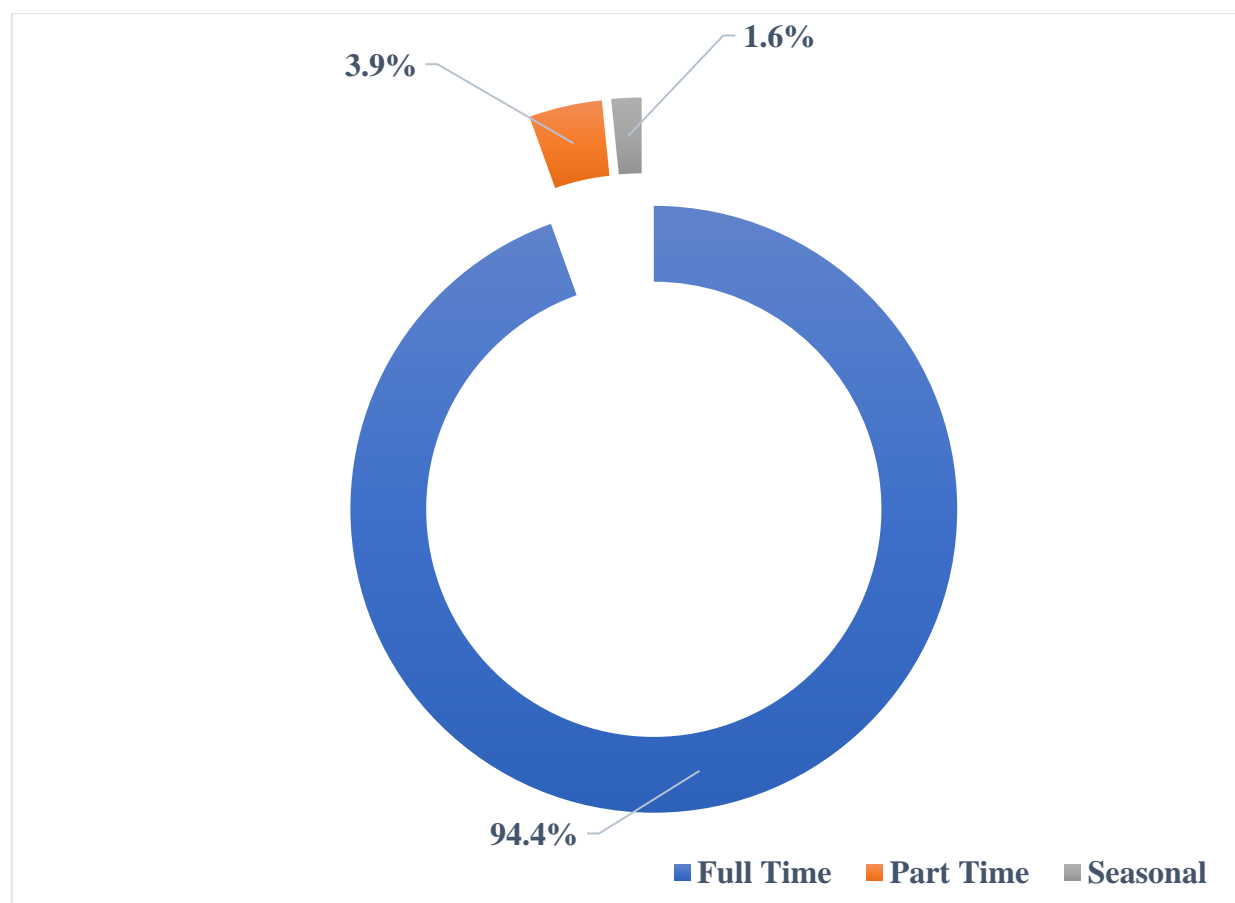


Fig.4.3 Distribution of sampled street vendors by nature of vending

4.4 Time spent in street vending

In order to understand the hardships involved in this informal activity 'the hours spent in vending per day' were considered. The vendor's hours of work were grouped into 5 groups- (1) less than 6 Hrs (2) 6-8 hrs (3) 9-10 hrs (4) 11-12 hrs and (5) more than 12 hrs. Table 4.4 indicates that only 3 samples (0.61 per cent) engaged for less than 6 hours, 98 samples (20.16 per cent)

worked for 6-8 hrs, 257 (52.88 per cent) worked for 9- 10 hrs. Same time it was found that 113 samples (23.25 per cent) were engaged for 11-12 hrs and 15 samples (3.1 per cent) worked for more than 12 hours. Time spent for preparation before street vending was not included in this time. So, more than half street vendors were working 9-10 hrs per day in street vending only, indicating the hardship of this profession.

Table 4.4 Distribution of sampled street vendors by time spent in street vending

	< 6 Hrs	6-8 hrs	9-10 hrs	11-12 hrs	>12 hrs
Total samples	3	98	257	113	15
Percentage	0.61	20.16	52.88	23.25	3.1

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

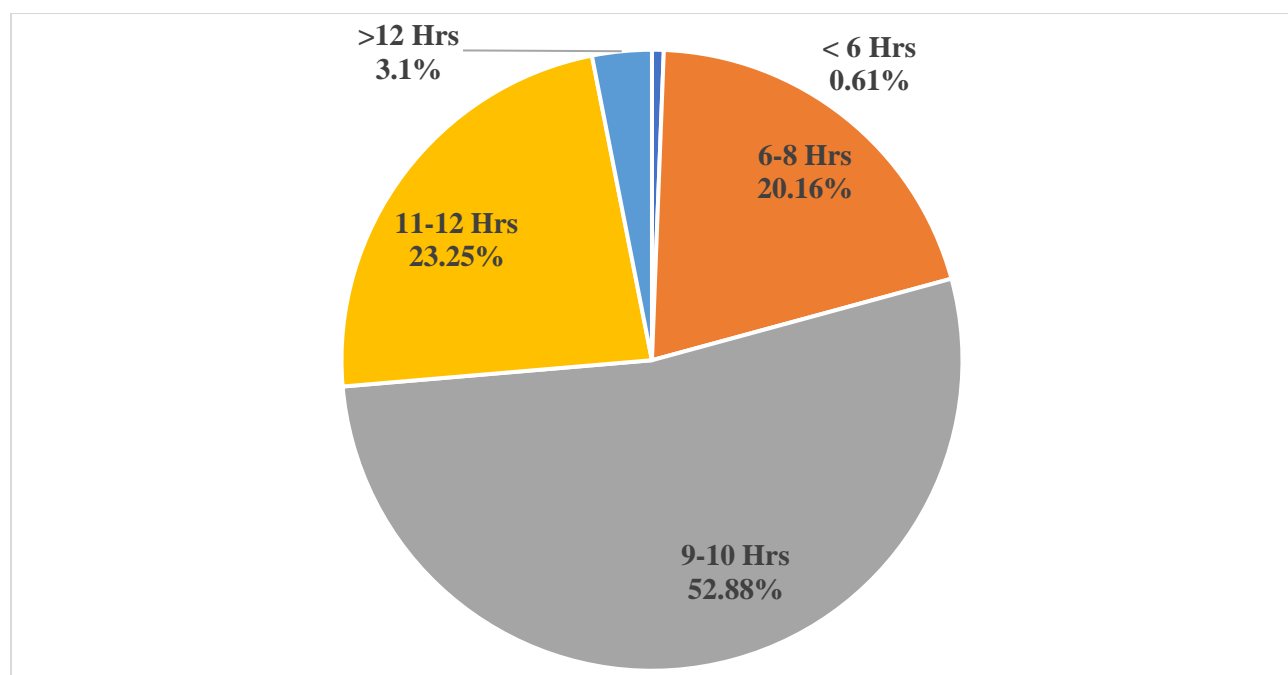


Fig.4.4 Distribution of sampled street vendors by time spent in street vending based on table 4.4

4.5 Monthly income by street vending

Though many street vendors had low and unpredictable earnings, but these earnings were essential for vendor's households as the earnings from street vending were the main source of household's income. Monthly income of street vendors was grouped among 5 categories based on equal class interval of 5000 rupees. Table 4.5

reveals that 73 samples (15.02 per cent) street vendors earned 5000- 10000 rupees monthly while 181 samples (37.24 per cent) earned 11000- 15000 rupees per month. Monthly income of 174 samples (35.81 per cent) was between 16000-20000 rupees while 54 samples (11.11 per cent) earned 21000- 25000 rupees. Only 4 samples (0.82 per cent) earned more than 25000 rupees per month.

Table 4.5 Distribution of sampled street vendors by monthly income (In thousands)

	5-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	Above 25
Total samples	73	181	174	54	4
Percentage	15.02	37.24	35.81	11.11	0.82

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

V. CONCLUSION

Economic characteristics are very important indicator to determine the quality of life of the street vendors in Rohtak city. Study of employment status indicated that majority (90.94 per cent) of street vendors were self-employed. Proportion of street vendors working on wages basis and on commission basis was 4.53 per cent each. Arrangement of capital for self-employed street vendors was another important issue. Study showed that 45.5 per cent of street vendors relied on moneylenders and financiers while 43.2 per cent samples depended on their own/ family savings. Only 11.3 per cent sampled street vendors arranged the capital from friends and relatives. Study of nature of street vending indicated that 94.4 per cent

street vendors were full time street vendors while 3.9 percent were part time street vendors. Only 1.6 per cent street vendors were seasonal vendors. Analysis of time spent in street vending indicated that maximum (52.88 per cent) street vendors worked for 9-10 hours and 23.25 per cent worked for 11-12 hours per day. 3.1 per cent street vendors spent more than 12 hours a day and 20.16 per cent worked for 6-8 hours. Only 0.61 per cent street vendors worked less than 6 hours. Earning from Street vending was very marginal as per data of the study. Income of more than 50 percent street vendors was only up to 15000 /- per month and around 88 per cent street vendor earned less than 20000/- per month. So, it was clearly visible that most of the street vendors lived on a meagre income.

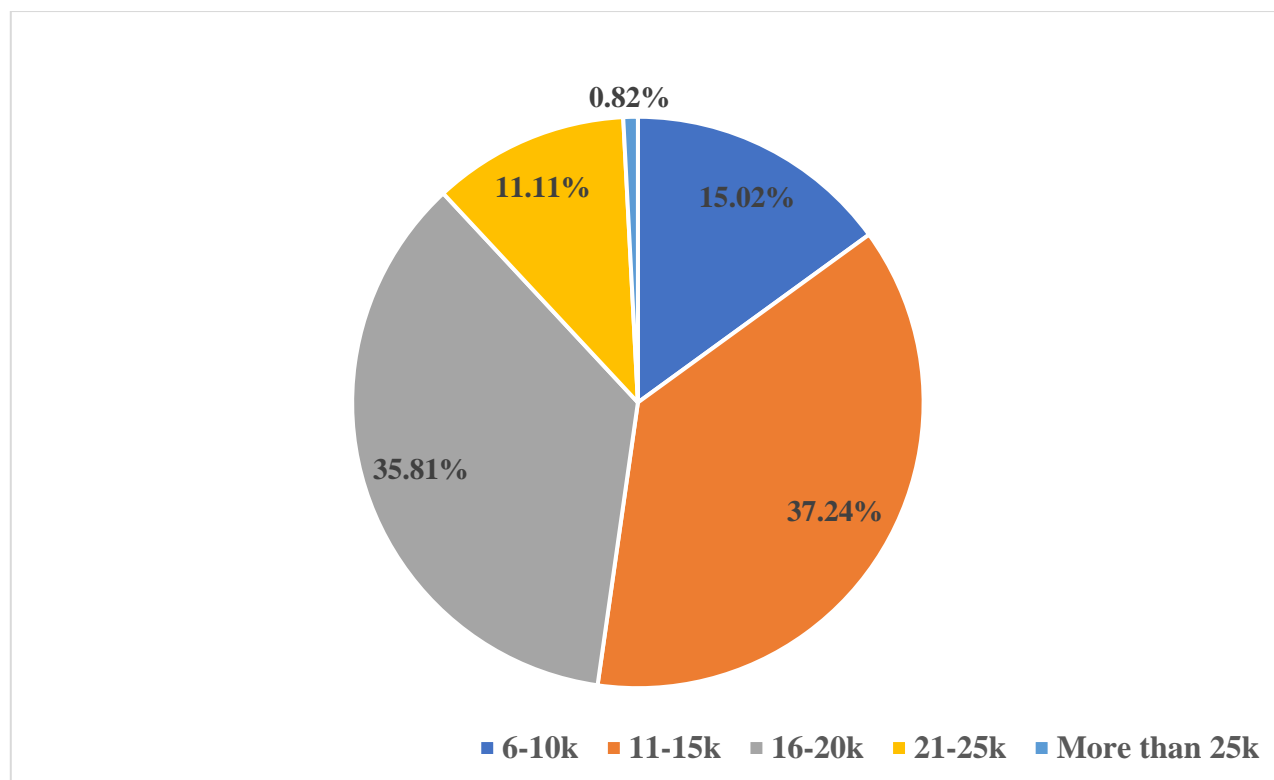


Fig.4.5 Distribution of sampled street vendors by monthly income (In thousands) based on table 4.5

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