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Original Article

Street Vending In Hawasa City: Causes, Consequences and Required Administrative Interventions

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Abstract

Background: Street vending is often perceived as an underground economic activity that disrupts the formal economy. In Hawassa city, there has been a significant increase in the number of street vendors. While street vending contributes positively to employment creation, income generation, and poverty reduction, it also has negative impacts such as reducing government tax revenue and obstructing pedestrian movements. This study aims to investigate the causes and consequences of street vending in Hawassa city and to propose necessary administrative interventions.

Method: A mixed research approach was employed to align with the objectives of the study. The target population included all street vendors operating in Hawassa city. However, the total number of vendors was unknown. Therefore, the sample size was determined using a formula for unknown populations, resulting in 254 samples. Both probability and non-probability sampling techniques were used to select participants. Data collection methods included key informant interviews, focus group discussions, questionnaires, individual interviews, and personal observations. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods.

Results: The findings reveal that street vending plays a vital role in creating employment opportunities, generating income, and alleviating poverty in Hawassa city. However, it also poses challenges, such as reducing government tax revenue and hindering pedestrian movement. These contrasting effects highlight the complexity of street vending as both a solution and a problem for urban economic and social systems.

Conclusion: Street vending in Hawassa city has both positive and negative implications. While it substantially contributes to employment and poverty reduction, it also creates challenges for urban governance and economic management. To address these issues, targeted administrative interventions are required to balance the benefits of street vending with the need to mitigate its adverse effects.

Key words: Street vending, Hawassa, Causes, Consequences

Introduction

Street vending refers to the act of displaying, offering, or selling goods, food, wares, merchandise, artwork or similar items on public streets or sidewalks, with the expectation of receiving payment (1). Vendors can either be stationary, occupying pavements or other public/private spaces, or mobile, moving from place to place with pushcarts or baskets. In recent years, there has been a considerable increase in the number of street vendors in the major cities of developing countries in Africa, including Ethiopia. The primary drivers of this trend are poverty and lack of livelihood opportunities, which push individuals from rural areas to urban centers in search of better economic prospects (2). Street vendors sell a wide variety of goods, including cultural clothing, clay pots, second-hand clothes, fruits, vegetables, foodstuffs, cosmetics, gloves, masks, sanitizers, alcohol, and other items, meeting crucial consumer demands that are often inadequately addressed by the formal sector (3).

Street vending is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it contributes significantly to employment creation, income generation, and poverty alleviation, particularly in urban areas where formal job opportunities are limited. For instance, research by the

International Labour Organization (ILO) highlights the substantial role of the informal sector in developing countries, accounting for over 60% of non-agricultural employment. In Ethiopia, the informal sector is a key part of the urban economy, with 50.6% of the national urban workforce employed in this sector as of 2017 (4; 5). Unlike other urban populations, street vendors do not rely on government support for job creation, nor do they resort to theft or begging; instead, they earn a living with dignity and self-respect (6).

On the other hand, street vending poses significant challenges. In Hawassa city, the rapid growth of street vending is concentrated in a few locations, leading to vehicular and pedestrian congestion, increased air pollution, and the risk of traffic accidents. Vendors often operate without licenses, contributing to environmental pollution, health risks, and strained relationships with urban authorities. They are accused of avoiding taxes, creating unfair competition with formal businesses, and diverting customers from the formal sector. Additionally, street vendors are criticized for using inaccurate scales, failing to post prices, and taking advantage of consumers unfamiliar with market rates (5). These issues create tension between street vendors and city authorities, who struggle to

manage the negative consequences of this growing informal sector.

Despite its significant socioeconomic role, no prior study has been conducted to comprehensively assess the causes, consequences (both positive and negative), and administrative challenges of street vending in Hawassa city. This research seeks to address this gap by examining the

Methods and Materials

Study Design and Period

By considering the nature and objective of the research, a mixed research approach was adopted for this particular study. The combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches provides a complete understanding of a research problem than each approach alone. The study was conducted during 2024.

Study Area

Hawassa city is the capital of the Sidama Region and it is located 273 km south of Addis Ababa. Based on the 2007 Census conducted by the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia, the city has a total population of 258,808, of whom 133,123 are men and

trends and practices of street vending, identifying the factors driving individuals to engage in this activity, and pinpointing the required administrative interventions for effective management. The findings aim to guide policymakers, urban authorities, and stakeholders in developing strategies to maximize the benefits of street vending while mitigating its adverse effects.

125,685 women. While 157,879 or 61% are living in the city of Hawassa, the rest of the population is living in surrounding rural kebeles. Dale is one of the woredas in the Sidama Region of Ethiopia and it is located 325km far away from Addis Ababa along main highway to Moyale. Dale is bordered on the south by Aleta Wendo and Chuko, on the west by Loka Abaya, on the northwest by Boricha, on the north by Shebedino, and on the east by Wensho. Based on the 2007 Census conducted by the CSA, this woreda has a total population of 242,658, of whom 122,918 are men and 119,740 women; 30,348 or 12.51% of its population are urban dwellers. The maps of Sidama region in Ethiopia and the Hawassa city map are presented below (Figures 1 and 2).

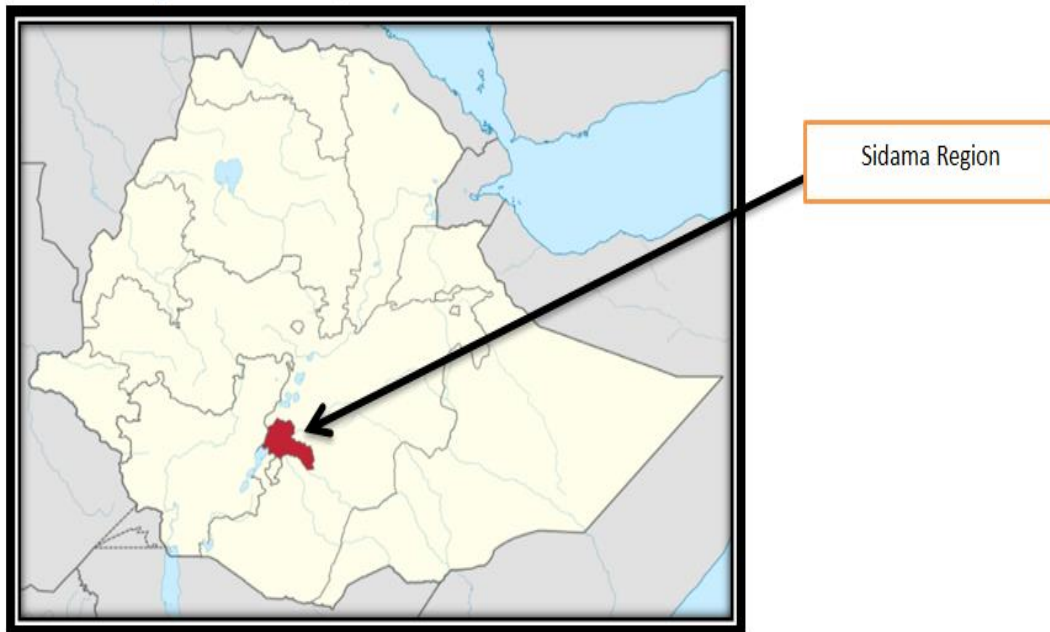


Figure 1: The map of Sidama regional state (Source: Regional finance and economic development bureau, 2024)



Figure 2: The map showing the location of Hawassa city in Sidama regional state (Source: Regional finance and economic development bureau, 2024)

Source and Study Population

The primary data was collected from the street vendors, sample customers of the

street vendors, sample formal businesses, appropriate NGOs working on this area and the relevant government body (including:

the office of labor and social affairs; office of trade and revenues). Sample formal traders were included in the study so as to identify the effects of the expansion of street vending on their businesses. The population of the study were all street vendors who operate their business in Hawassa city.

Sample Size Determination and Sampling Technique

Like any other informal and undocumented economy, the total number of street vendors is unknown. Hence, the sample size was determined with unknown sample size determination formulas (7).

$$n = z^2 \cdot [p \cdot q] / e^2$$

P: population estimate (15%)

q: refers to the value derived by subtracting P from 100; (85%)

Z: refers to the level of confidence (1.96)

e: refers to the maximum deviation tolerated from the proportions (a deviation from the population percentage, 5%)

$$n = 1.96^2 \times 15 \times 85 / .05^2 = 196$$

The respondents and key informants of the study includes street vendors; street vendors' customers; formal traders; NGOs working on the area of livelihoods of street vendors; officers from Hawasa city labor and social affairs, trade, revenues offices

(Table 1). The sampling technique was both the probability and the non-probability technique. The probability technique, more specifically simple random sampling technique, was used to select respondents among the street vendors. The nonprobability technique, more specifically the purposive sampling technique, was used to contact the key informants from the NGOs and the government officers. Street vendor's customers and the formal traders were selected by using the convenience sampling.

Data Collection Tools, Procedure and Data Quality Management

Questionnaire, interview and personal observation methods were used to collect primary data. According to their literacy situation, either questionnaire or interview was used to collect primary data from the street vendors and the formal businesses. Interview technique was mainly used to collect data from key informants. Personal nonparticipant observation was also conducted to understand the depth of the problem and get further deeper insights; this technique supports and strengthens the collected data through questionnaire and interview. Moreover, key informant interview was conducted. The participants of were government bureau officers,

representatives from street vendors, and the formal traders and NGOs.

Validity is defined as the degree to which the researcher has measured what he has set out to measure. It involves the degree to which you are measuring what you are supposed to, more simply, the accuracy of your measurement. Reliability estimates the consistency of the measurement or more simply, the degree to which an instrument measures the same way each time it is used

under the same conditions with the same subjects. Reliability is essentially about consistency. That is, if we measure something many times and the result is always the same, then we can say that our measurement instrument is reliable (8). Reliability can be assessed using either Cronbach's α . The general rule to ensure construct reliability is that the Cronbach's alpha value or composite reliability measure should be 0.7 or greater (9).

Table 1: The respondents and key informants of the study

Respondents	Sample size
Street vendors	196
Sample street vendors customers	25
Sample formal traders	25
NGOs working on the area of livelihoods of street vendors	2
Hawassa city office of labor and social affairs key informant officers	2
Hawassa city office of trade officers key informant officers	2
Hawassa city office of revenues officers key informant officers	2
Total respondents	254

Source: field survey and own computation (2024)

Study Variables and Operational definitions

The following section provides the definitions of the study variables.

- **Street vendors** are those who trade without a permit, trade outside formally designated trading locations, or self-allocation of shelter for trading.
- **Informal economy:** All socially desirable economic activities which

produce goods and services which are considered in national account calculation but escapes from government observation, regulation and taxation.

Data processing and Analysis

After the data is collected, it should be edited and well coded, and be presented in a way which is convenient for understanding and making analysis. The analysis was made using descriptive statistics and inferential

statistics tools such as mean, standard deviation

Results and Discussion

Demographic Characteristics of the Street Vendors

Age of the Street Vendors

Age is one of the important demographic characteristics identified in the study. The findings revealed that the majority (59.2%) of street vendors fall within the productive 18–35 age group, while around 20.9% of the respondents were between 36–50 years old (Figure 3). This demographic distribution highlights several implications. Firstly, the fact that 59.2% of street vendors are within

the 18–35 age group suggests that street vending is attracting young individuals seeking economic opportunities. This age group may view street vending as a viable means of livelihood, likely due to limited job prospects or the flexibility it provides. Secondly, the high representation of young street vendors may point to a challenge in youth employment. If a significant portion of young people are turning to street vending instead of formal employment, it could reflect a lack of job opportunities or barriers to accessing traditional employment channels.

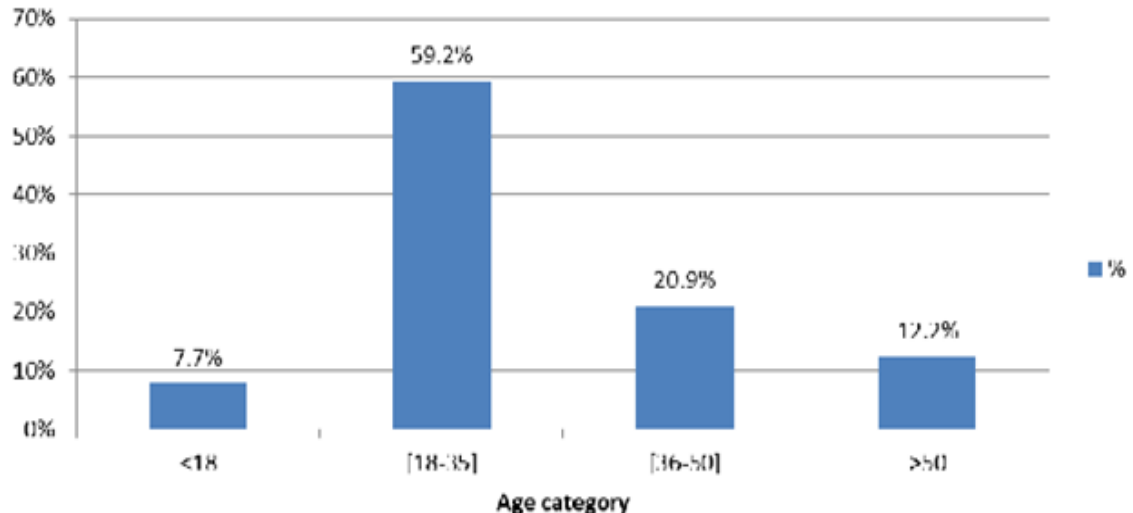


Figure 3. The age distribution of the street vendors (Source: Field survey, 2024)

Additionally, the dominance of young people in street vending highlights the prominence of the informal sector in the local economy. Street vending often operates outside formal regulatory

frameworks, which may indicate a lack of infrastructure or support for formal businesses. Furthermore, the presence of young vendors could also reflect an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth.

Many might be motivated by the desire to be self-reliant, take risks, and engage in independent economic activities rather than seeking conventional employment. Lastly, this trend may have broader socioeconomic implications. It could signal income inequalities, limited access to education or training opportunities, or social challenges faced by young people, such as poverty or exclusion from the formal labor market. These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to address the socioeconomic realities of young street vendors and support their transition to more stable and sustainable livelihoods.

Sex of the Street Vendors

The study revealed that the majority (69%) of the street vendors were found to be male (Figure 4). Similar study reported that more males in number than females were involving in street vending activity (10).

This may be due to the challenging activity of street vending. The finding can have several implications. Some of them are (i) **Gender disparity:** The high representation of male street vendors suggests a gender disparity and it indicates that women may face barriers or challenges that limit their participation in this type of informal economic activity due to various factors such as cultural norms, social expectations, or discrimination; (ii) **Occupational segregation:** The gender disparity in street vending aligns with a broader pattern of occupational segregation, where certain industries or sectors are predominantly occupied by one gender. This may indicate that street vending is perceived as a more viable or socially acceptable option for men, while women might be directed towards other types of work or face challenges in entering this sector

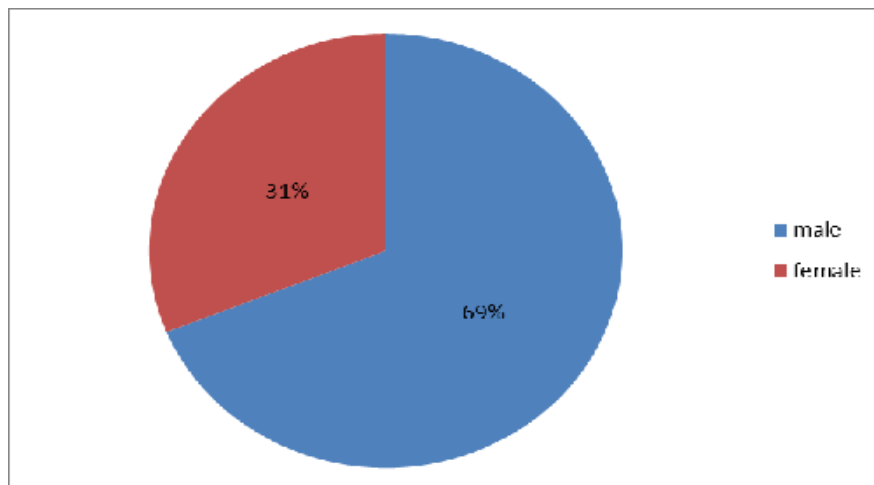


Figure 4. The sexes of street vendors (Source: field survey, 2024)

Educational Status of the Street Vendors

The educational status of the street vendors shows that majority (56.1%) of the respondents had secondary school academic status. A quarter of the respondents were found to be having elementary school academic status. Only 1% of the street vendors were found to have degree and above academic status (Figure 5). From this one can conclude that the less educated

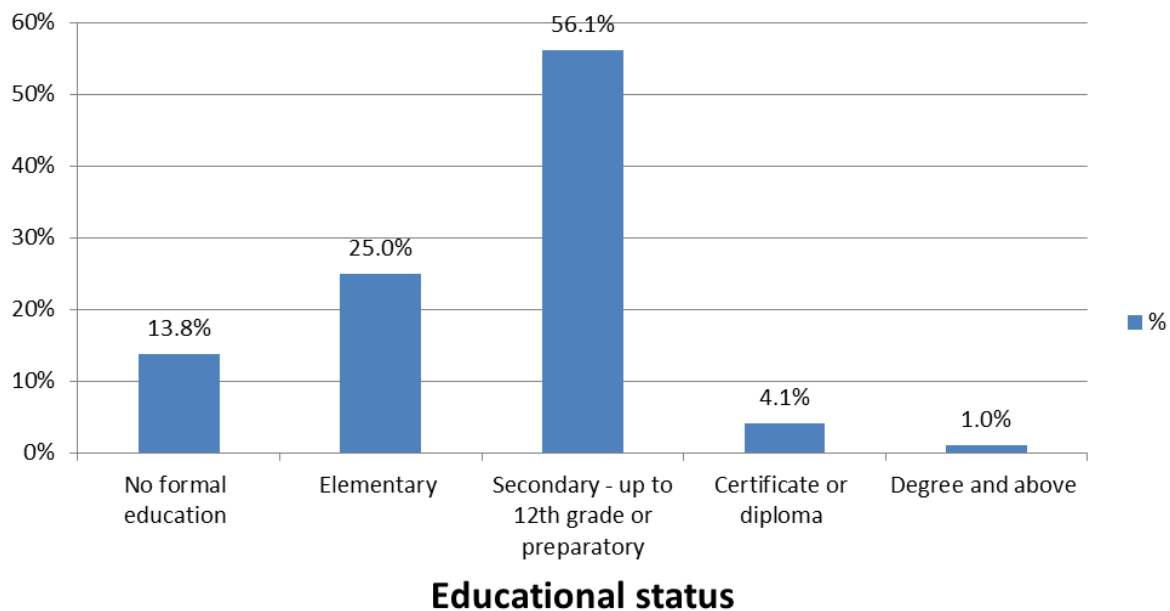


Figure 5. The educational status of the street vendors (**Source:** Field survey, 2024)

Marital Status of the Street Vendors

As far as the marital status is concerned, majority (68%) of the street vendors were found to be single (Figure 6). The findings are similar to prior studies (11,12). The predominance of single street vendors might

individuals tend to join street vending. Street vending often falls outside the formal economy and may not require specialized knowledge or formal credentials. The informal sector typically accommodates individuals and may provide employment opportunities for those with limited formal education.

reflect a lack of financial support from a partner or family members. They may engage in street vending as a means of generating income and supporting themselves without relying on external assistance.

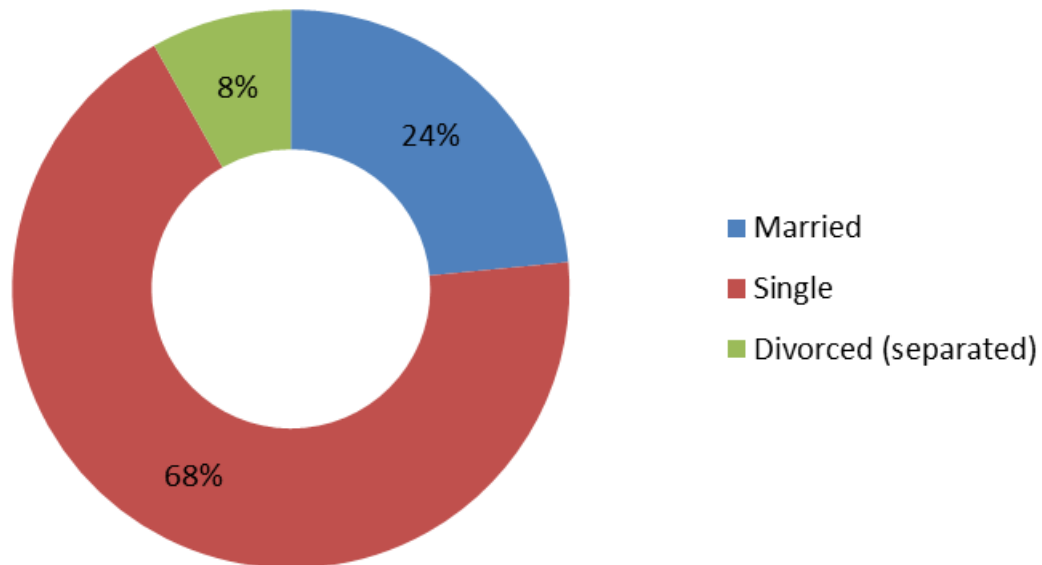


Figure 6. The marital status of the street vendors (Source: Field survey, 2024)

The Trends and the Current Practice in the Street Vending in Hawassa

The Trends in Street Vending

As the data below shows, the street vending has been increasing from time to time. Majority (68.3%) of the respondents (including the street vendors, the formal business owners, and the customers of the street vendors) confirmed that the street vending has been increasing from time to time. Secondary data is not available for the informal sectors. Despite lack of secondary

data, depending on the researcher's long time residence in the city and responses of the respondents, one can easily see that the street vending has been increasing from time to time. The key informants from Hawassa trade bureau also cemented the conclusion that the street vending has been increasing from time to time (Figure 7). The same conclusion was made by other studies that studied street vending in Addis Ababa and concluded that street vending business activities have been increasing (13,14).

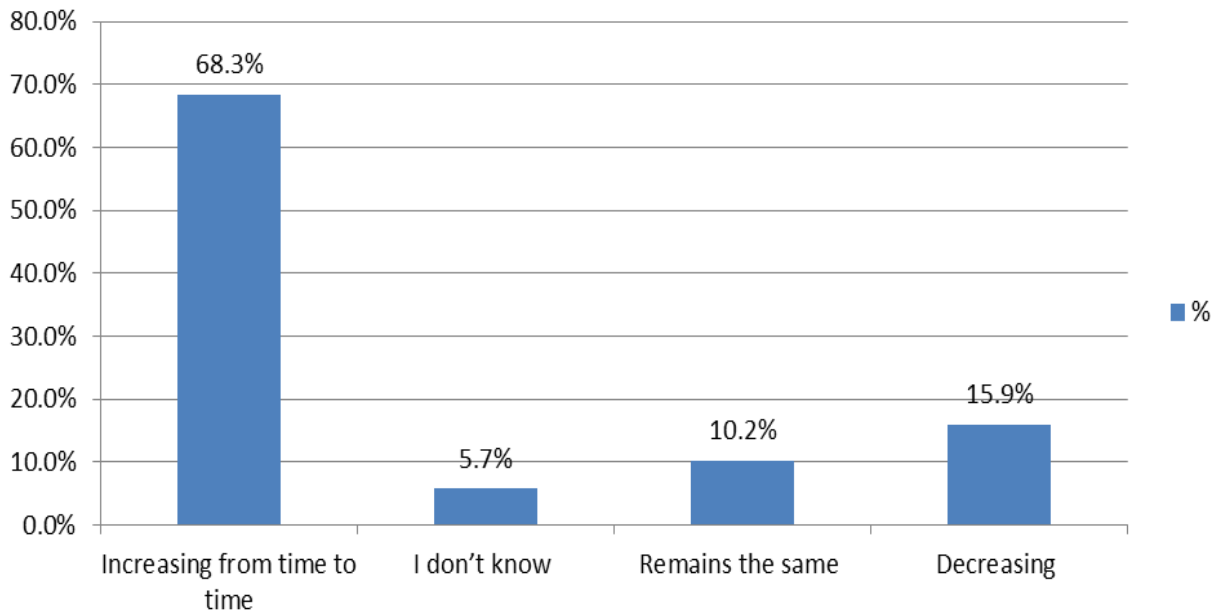


Figure 7. The trends in street vending in Hawassa city (Source: Field survey, 2024)

Experience in Street Vending by Respondents

The experience of the street vendors was analyzed. Accordingly, 34.2% of the respondents were found to be having an

experience of more than 3 years. Around 35.2% of the respondents were found to have up to 3 years' experience. From this, one can conclude that the street vendors have ample experience (Table 2). The same findings were revealed by other study (12)

Table 2. The experiences of the street vendors in street vending

S.No	Year	N	%
1	<1 year	34	17.3%
2	up to 2 years	26	13.3%
3	up to 3 years	69	35.2%
4	>3 years	67	34.2%
	Total	196	100.0%

Source: Field survey (2024)

Types of Vendors

There are various types of street vendors. Depending on movability, they can be categorized into three, these are: mobile,

semi stationary, and stationary. The study found out that the majority (66.3%) of the respondents were found to be mobile-moving from place to place; whereas, 20.9% were found to be semi stationary (Table 3).

Table 3: The types of street vendors in Hawassa city

S.No	Types of street vendors	N	%
1	Mobile	130	66.3%
2	Semi stationary	41	20.9%
3	Stationary	25	12.8%
	Total	196	100%

Source: field survey (2024)

The Most Common Types of Products/Services Sold on the Street

There are various types of products sold on the street. Fruits and vegetables were rated to be the most common type of product sold on the street by the 28.1% of the respondents. Second hand clothes were rated as the second most common type of

product sold on the street by the 24.0% of the respondents. Shoes, fast foods, shoe shining were the other types of products or services available on the market. The personal observation of the researcher at various locations in the city also confirms the same (Table 4). This finding was in line with another study (14).

Table 4: The most common types of products or services on the street

S.No	Common types of products sold on the street	N	%
1	Fruits or vegetables	55	28.1%
2	Second hand clothes	47	24.0%
3	Shoes	40	20.4%
4	Fast foods	30	15.3%
5	Shoe shining	20	10.2%
6	Other items	4	2.0%
	Total	196	100.0%

Source: field survey (2024)

Sources of the Items Sold on the Street

While trying to explain the current street vending practice, one of the things that need to be known is the sources of the items sold on the street. The study identified that majority (69.9%) of the respondents

identified that formal businesses were the sources of the items. Around 20.9% of the respondent's identified contraband or illegal traders as the sources of the items. Few (9.2%) of the respondents identified the other street vendors as source of their

products (Table 5). The findings of this

study are in line with other study (12)

Table 5.The sources of items sold on the street

S.No	Sources	N	%
1	from other street vendors	18	9.2%
2	from formal businesses	137	69.9%
3	from informal (contraband) traders	41	20.9%
	Total	196	100.0%

Source: field survey (2024)

Kind of Street Vendors Customers

In order to better understand the practice of street vending, one has to know the type of customers that the street vendors have. Accordingly, the study revealed that

majority (51.0%) of the street vendors has frequent light buyers as customers. Next, 24.0% of the street vendors were found to be having onetime light buyers as customers (Figure 8).

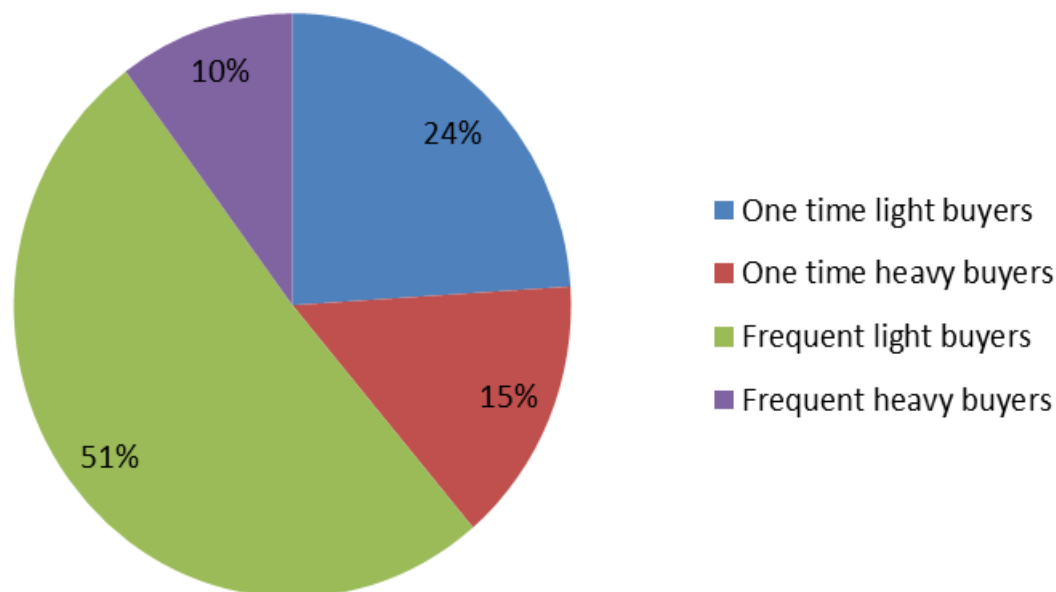


Figure 8. The kinds of street vendor's customers (Source: Field survey, 2024)

Profitability of the Street Vending Business

One of the factors compelling individuals to stay in the street vending is the profitability of the sector. Even, the profitability of the sectors could pull others to the sector.

Hence, it is important to see this variable. Accordingly, the study revealed that majority (80.6%) of the respondents identified that the sector is profitable. This is due to the fact these street vendors don't have rental cost or do not pay tax. Moreover,

the market condition is dynamic as vendors regularly change their places to find areas where most customers are accessible (Figure 9). The finding of this study is in line with

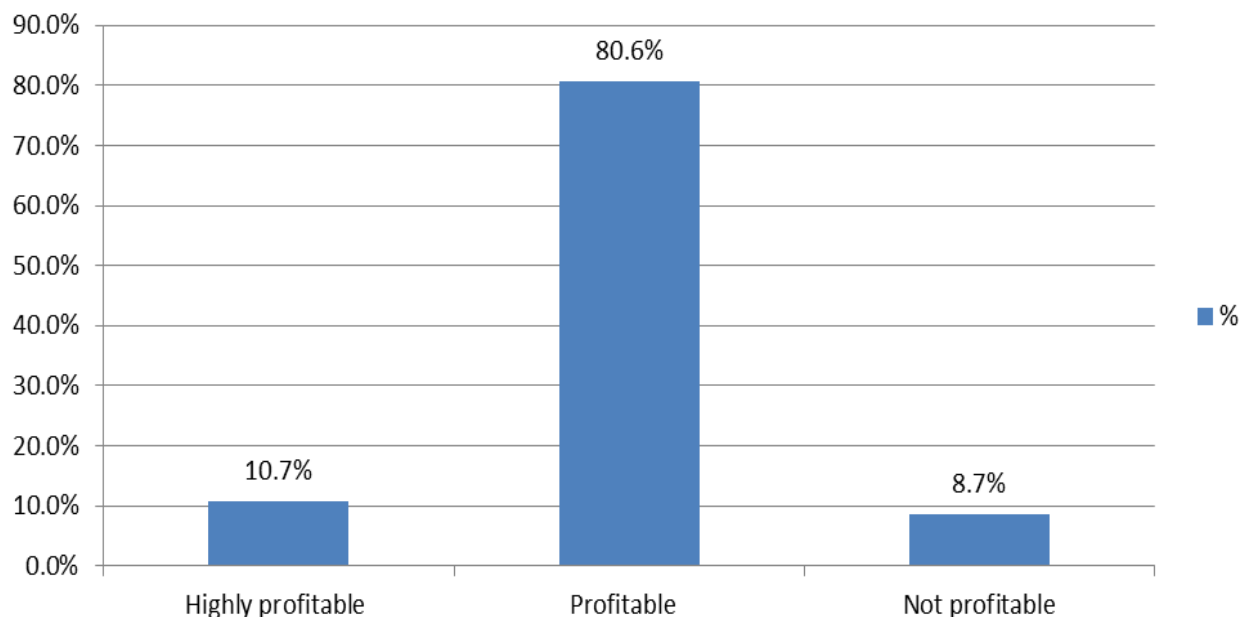


Figure 9. The profitability of the street vending business (Source: Field survey, 2024)

Intention of Street Vendors to Convert to Formal Business

One remedy for street vending is to convince the actors to shift to formal sector. Unfortunately, majority (87.2%) of the respondents revealed that the street vendors

other studies (10,11,13-15) who concluded that majority of the streets vending business participants are making a comfortable livelihood.

do not have intention to leave the street vending. This shows that city administration has a lot challenges ahead to convert this street vendors to formal business (Table 6).

Table 6: The intention to convert to formal business

S.No	Intention to convert to formal business	N	%
1	Yes	25	12.8%
2	No	171	87.2%
Total		196	100.0%

Source: field survey (2024)

Factors that Leads to Choose Street Vending in Hawassa City

There are various factors that lead people to street vending. The profitability of the sectors was identified by 21.1% respondents (including the street vendors, the formal business owners, and the customers of the street vendors) as the reasons that lead people to choose street vending. Rural to urban migration was also identified as one of the top reasons for people joining the street vending. The other main reason identified by 20.3% of the respondents was the expensiveness of the rents (Table 7). Similar studies at Addis Ababa also found out that the lack of employment in the

formal sector and the desire to survive were found to be the two pressing problems that enhance the growth of the streets vending business (11,13-15). Moreover, peoples choose street vending due to income earned is without paying tax for government. Informal economy is caused by increase of tax and social security burdens. Because the over tax system encouraged people to stick to untaxed economic sector (12,16). In line with this study, other studies on Hawassa, Guraghe, Addis Ababa and Wolayta areas also found out that street based self-employment is indeed dominated by migrant youth; large majority of them are migrants from rural areas or smaller towns (12,17,18).

Table 7: The factors that leads people to choose street vending

S.No	Factors	n	%
1	Profitability of the sector	52	21.1%
2	Rural to urban migration	50	20.3%
3	Expensiveness of the rents	50	20.3%
4	Desire to avoid tax	43	17.5%
5	Ease of mobility	35	14.6%
6	Unattractiveness of formal jobs	16	6.5%
	Total	246	100.0%

Source: field survey (2024)

Positive and the Negative Consequences of Street Vending in Hawassa City

Perceived Benefits of Street Vending

Obviously, street vending has sort of benefits. Employment creation was identified by the majority (69.4%) of the

respondents as the major benefit of street vending; on the other hand, the easy availability of services and goods to customers was identified by 18.4% of the respondents as one of the benefits of street vending (Table 8). The findings of the

present study were found to be in with previous similar studies reported in

literatures (10,18,19).

Table 8. The benefits of street vending

S.No	Particular benefits	n	%
1	Employment creation	136	69.4%
2	Cheaper goods and services to customers	24	12.2%
3	Easy accessibility of the services and goods to customers	36	18.4%
Total		196	100.0%

Source: field survey (2024)

Reasons Why People Buy Items or Use Services of Street Vendors

There are various reasons why people tend to buy from street vendors. Some of the reasons are (i) Street vendors sale goods and provide services at lesser price, and this is identified by the 68% of the customers as one of the basic reason why they buy or use services of the street vendors; (ii) Around 28% of the customers identified that the

easy availability of items is second important factor that makes them buy from the street vendors. The least factor was the quality (Figure 10). In line with this study, other studies also concluded that street vendors offer low priced commodities for the poorer segment of the society (10,11,15). Other studies also concluded that street vendors enable consumers obtain fresh vegetables and fruits with reduced and unnecessary transportation costs (10,19-21).

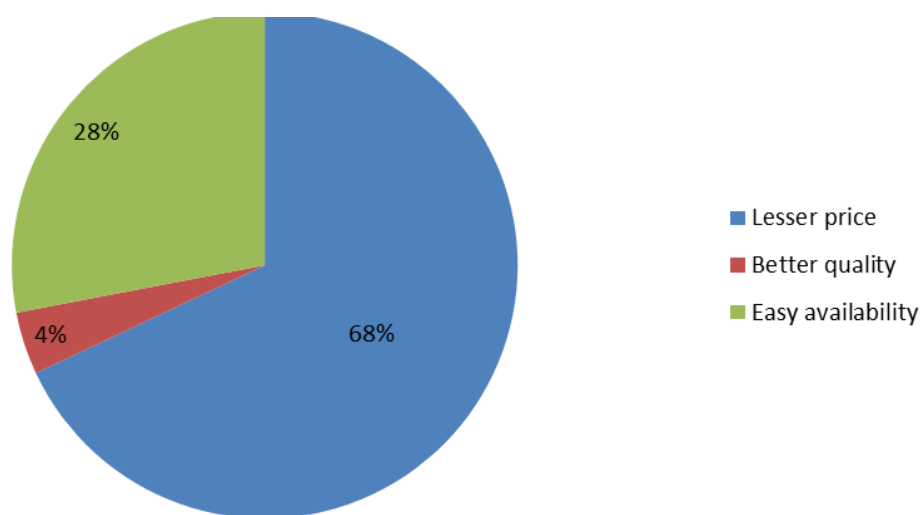


Figure 10. The reasons why people buy items or use services of street vendors (Source: Field survey, 2024)

Negative Consequences of Street Vending

Street vending has its own negative consequences. The possible consequences are: effect on free movement on road sides; environmental pollution; tax evasion; health risks; unfair competition against formal businesses; and fraud and sell of poor quality items. According to the findings of the study, there is no clear major negative consequence identified by the respondents.

The effect on free movement was identified by 31.3% of the respondents (including the street vendors, the formal business owners, and the customers of the street vendors). Environmental pollution was identified by the 19.9% respondents as the other major negative consequences (Table 9). Our findings are found to be in line with other studies that also identified street vending create traffic congestions and environmental pollution at Addis Ababa (10,11,14).

Table 9. The negative consequences of street vending

S.No	Negative consequences	n	%
1	Effect on free movement on road sides	77	31.3%
2	Environmental pollution	49	19.9%
3	Tax evasion	30	12.2%
4	Health risks	34	13.8%
5	Unfair competition against formal businesses	25	10.2%
6	Fraud and sell of poor quality items	31	12.6%
	Total	246	100.0%

Source: field survey (2024)

Personal observation and key informant interview was also made to have further insight into the negative consequences of street vending. The observations are summarized follows.

- The personal observation of the researcher shows, road sellers are not uniformly spread across the city. They pack intensely in a couple of areas, and those areas are regularly the focuses with

the most elevated levels of passerby and vehicular blockage.

- Street vendors of food and drink present significant health problems issues on the grounds that their product might be more exposed to the sun and contamination. Some street vendors are also accused of selling contraband, fake or contaminated goods, and disappear or just change the location before they will be located by angry clients or the police.

- Customer of street vendors frequently accuse street vendors of using inaccurate scales to offer short weight, and not posting prices so that they charge extra once they suspect the purchaser doesn't know how much he or she should be paying.
- Street vendors fail to give receipts and keep accounts. They are continually blamed for presenting unfair competition to burden paying off-road businesses, undercutting their off-road rivals since they pay fewer overheads and no charges.
- The street vending is embedding extra middlemen into marketing chains. The proliferation of street vendors is considered dysfunctional to the economy

as a whole, pulling labor away from places and economic activities which need to grow and devote it to fundamentally useless activities.

The Impact of Street Vending on the Formal Businesses

The street vending has direct impact on the formal businesses. It takes away the customers of the formal businesses. In addition, these street vendors operate nearer to the premises of the formal businesses. Majority (52%) of the formal business owners confirmed that these street vendors have high impact on their businesses (Table 10). Similar finding was reported from another study conducted in Addis Ababa (15).

Table 10. The impact of street vending on the formal businesses

S.No	Level of impact	n	%
1	Yes, high impact	13	52%
2	Yes, medium impact	6	24%
3	Yes, but low impact	4	16%
4	No impact at all	2	8%
	Total	25	100%

Source: field survey (2024)

Measurement Taken by the Government against Street Vendors

The formal business owners were asked about the measures taken by the government on these street vendors. Around 48% of the

formal business owners said that the measures taken by the government to curb street vending is very inadequate. Only 4% of the respondents said the measures were very adequate. The key informant interview

made with the government officers showed that there are efforts to control the street vending. But the efforts were not strict, organized and sporadic. In addition, the government offices do not have organized secondary data on their effort to control the street vending. Likewise another study concluded that majority of the government officials confirmed that the government holds a positive perspective towards the presence of the street vending business even if negatively influence the performance of the formal sector (13).

Conclusions

Depending on the analysis, the following conclusions were forwarded:

With regard to the trend and current practice of street vending, it was observed that street vending has been increasing over time in Hawassa city. Most of the street vendors were found to be mobile in nature, and the most commonly sold items on the street included fruits or vegetables, second-hand clothes, and shoes. The formal businesses were identified as the primary sources of items sold on the street. Furthermore, the majority of the street vendors' customers were identified as frequent light buyers. The sector was recognized as profitable by the vendors themselves; however, most of the street vendors expressed no intention of transitioning into formal businesses.

With regard to the factors leading people to choose street vending over formal business, several factors were identified. These included the profitability of the sector, rural-to-urban migration, the high cost of rents, and a desire to avoid taxes. These factors collectively motivated individuals to engage in street vending rather than pursue formal business avenues.

With regard to the consequences of street vending, both positive and negative outcomes were identified. On the positive side, street vending was found to be a significant source of employment creation. On the negative side, it was found to contribute to issues such as restricted free movement along roadsides, health risks, and environmental pollution..

Recommendations

In order to come up with recommendations, necessary literatures were consulted. Key informant interview was also made with the following bodies: NGOs working on the area of livelihoods of street vendors; Hawasa city office of labor and social affairs officers; Hawassa city trade officer's officers; and the revenues office officers. Accordingly, the following remedies were identified from the discussion.

Enhancing the Rural Development and Reducing Migration

The researcher believes that the effort of the City Administration alone cannot solve the problem as the major cause of increased street vendor population is due to rural labor migration caused by rural poverty. Rural development is very important to prevent rural labor migrating to urban areas. With prosperity in the villages, there will be less need to search for employment in the already crowded cities.

Organizing Street Vendors into Micro Enterprises

Hawassa city administration needs to organize (some of the street vendors) who fill the minimum requirement of microenterprises. The government, private sector, NGOs and other stakeholders should support the operations of the street vending business by providing for their required credit or capital needs, training programs and work place for their business operations with no or minimal precondition.

Having Street Vendors Supportive Policy

In spite of its crucial role for providing employment and livelihoods to both urban and rural poor, its economic importance was rarely recognized either in national poverty reduction strategies or in city governance initiatives. It is obvious that we can't totally

eradicate street vending at once. It is a gradual process. In addition to converting the street vendors to formal business through SMEs, there is a need to have complementary policy that helps to care for the remaining street vendors. Considering the employment creation potential of the sector, this approach needs to be supported. The following are some of the suggested supportive measures

Setting Time and Space

A study of area foot traffic during different time frames will identify the best space and hours of operation for the vendor's with reduced reduced congestion. Street management is a way to accommodate the social and economic needs of the community and at the same time ensure efficient use of public space, sustainable development and safety of road users. Hence accommodating street vendors on the road infrastructure itself through street management needs to be considered by authorities as a further alternative solution.

Demarcating Pedestrian Movement

Urban planning and local economic development strategies should explicitly recognize street vendors as works for the role they play in generating economic activity, providing jobs, and bringing retail goods to consumers. Necessary width of

road has to be reserved for pedestrian movement and vending activity has to be permitted within demarcated width of walk away with suitable space allocation. Vending activity should be done away from vehicle movement and preparing ample parking area for safety of vendors, customers as well as for drivers

Relocation, Confiscation and Evictions

When side walk is being affected by street vending, relocation of street vendors to designated market places can be used as a possible alternative to this situation. However, vendors may oppose the relocation plan considering the benefit and social network at their current location. To implement relocation, the vendors should be noticed as the initial step before starting to the relocation process. In case of relocation, compensation in allotment of new vending site should be provided. With regard to confiscation of goods street vendors will be allowed to get their goods back within permitted time on payment of penalty fee, determined by local authority. Evictions can also be used on worst cases.

Organizing Data Bases, Formulation of Policies

The entire government official respondent's contacted for this study purpose did not have any precise statistics on how many people

were involved in the informal sector and the respective marketing practices. In this regard, for a better informed and research based decision making, the Hawassa city government needs to compile a systematized data base and official statistics of the street vending business that will guide policy formulation and help design support programs for the sector.

Declarations

Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate

Ethical approval for the study was obtained from the college research office after a thorough review of the research proposal to ensure that the study adhered to ethical guidelines. The review process assessed the study's potential risks, benefits, and the measures taken to protect the rights, confidentiality, and welfare of participants. The approval confirms that the study complies with the required ethical standards and ensures the integrity and credibility of the research process.

Consent for Publication

The authors have provided their full and explicit consent for the publication of this article. This consent signifies their agreement to share the research findings publicly, ensuring transparency and

accountability. They affirm that all necessary permissions have been obtained and that the publication aligns with ethical and professional standards.

Availability of Data and Material

The data have been carefully compiled and are readily accessible. For more requests, contact the corresponding author.

Competing interests

There are no conflicts of interest or competing interests disclosed among the authors contributing to this work or study.

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Authors' Contributions

Both authors actively participated in every step of the paper's development, including conceptualization, drafting, revisions, and finalization, ensuring a collaborative effort throughout the entire process.

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