

## Impact of small entrepreneurship on poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood of street vendors

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**ABSTRACT:** Street vendors go on an essential role to fulfill the demands of many urban rural dwellers as well as pedestrian across the country and all over the world. The aim of this study is to explore the dynamics of small entrepreneurship and its contribution to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihood. A quantitative oriented qualitative mixed method has been applied in this study. The study reveals that a large number of people are directly and indirectly engaged with the street vendor profession and are contributing to the economy of Bangladesh. Three ideas constitute the central message of this study. Firstly, a large number of people are generating income through street vending by which the ways and means for developing street entrepreneurship. Secondly, this small entrepreneurship has a great contribution to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood of many street vendors. Thirdly, this study has explored the obstacles faced by street vendors in Bangladesh. Some problems of city dwellers are created by street vending such as lack of formalization, weak management system, producing street garbage and gathering crowd on the footpath. By the implementation of the proper public management system, street vendors would become a role model for the national economy.

**KEYWORDS:** Street vending, poverty, livelihood, informal business, footpath.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

In Bangladesh, informal sector plays a prominent role in terms of their contribution to employment generation and poverty alleviation. Street trading constitutes a significant part of this sector involving street vendors as the key players [1]. Nonetheless the roles of the vendors are ignored and their vulnerable condition is never emphasized [2]. A street vendor is a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanently built structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall [3]. Street vendors could be stationary and occupy space on the pavements or other public or private areas, or could be mobile, and move from place to place carrying their wares on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or could sell their wares in moving buses [4]. General people normally use the term 'street vendor' as inclusive of both traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile, and incorporates all other local/region specific terms used to describe them, such as, hawker, pheriwalla, footpath dukandars, sidewalk traders, and more [5], [6], [7], [8]. The street vendors' communities are one of the most underprivileged people of Bangladesh. They deserve special attention of the State, not just equal treatment. But unfortunately, they continue to remain socially excluded, low-paid, overwhelmingly illiterate, deprived and disconnected [9], [10], [11], [12]. Without fertilization of minds, they have lost dignity in their lives. Therefore, the findings of this study would be helpful not only to academicians but also to the policy planners and development workers [13], [14]. This

study is about to highlight the entrepreneurship development, poverty reduction, economic development, and so on. Given the geo-socio-economic context of Kamalganj Upazilla and Kamalganj Pouroshova of Moulvibazar district, the deprivation of social facilities put street vendors entirely at risk. Previous Bangladeshi studies have only concentrated on the socio-economic consequences of discrimination, community-based ignorance strategies and individual coping mechanism during social harassment and so on [15]. The dynamics of behavioral exploitation in conjunction with the pre-existing socio-economic exploitation of the street vendor communities have always been overlooked. Very few studies have been conducted with detailed focus of the dynamics of small entrepreneurship like street vending [13], [16], [17], [18] but most of them concentrate the street vending condition in Dhaka city but none of them emphasize the street vendors of other small city and their livelihoods. Therefore, it is imperative to find out the factors which affects as well as contribute to poverty reduction and ensures better livelihood of street vendors of the developing countries like Bangladesh. The objective of the study is to explore the dynamics of the small entrepreneurship development and its contribution on poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood.

The paper is arranged as the next section deals with review of literature, third section explains the methodology, fourth and fifth section deals with results and discussion focusing possible dimensions of livelihood and poverty of street vendors and final section concludes the article with recommendations.

## **2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **2.1 MARXIST FEMINIST'S THEORY**

Marxist feminism connects the oppression of women to Marxist ideas about exploitation, oppression and labor. Marxist feminists see women as being held down as a result of their unequal standing in both the workplace and the domestic sphere. Prostitution, domestic work, childcare, and marriage are all seen as ways in which women are exploited by a patriarchal system which devalues women and the substantial work that they do. Marxist feminists focus their energies on broad change that affects society as a whole, and not just on an individual basis. They see the need to work alongside not just men, but all other groups, as they see the oppression of women as a part of a larger pattern that affects everyone involved in the capitalist system [1].

Marx felt that when class oppression was overcome, gender oppression would vanish as well. According to socialist feminists, this view of gender oppression as a sub-class of class oppression is naive and much of the work of socialist feminists has gone towards separating gender phenomena from class phenomena. Some contributors to socialist feminism have criticized these traditional Marxist ideas for being largely silent on gender oppression except to subsume it underneath broader class oppression. Other socialist feminists, notably two long-lived American organizations Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party, point to the classic Marxist writings of Frederick Engels and August Bebel as a powerful explanation of the link between gender oppression and class exploitation [19]. In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century both Clara Zetkin and Eleanor Marx were against the demonization of men and supported a proletarian revolution that would overcome as many male-female inequalities as possible. In his introduction to Marx and Engels, Richard Schmitt insisted the statement "Human beings create themselves" is not to be read as "Men and women, individually, make themselves what they are" but instead as "Men and women, through production, collectively create a society that, in turn, shapes them." This emphasizes on the collective accounts for the Marxist view of history. For the liberal, the ideas, thoughts, and values of individuals account for change over time. For the Marxist, material forces—the production and reproduction of social life—are the prime movers in history. In the course of articulating this doctrine of how change takes place over time, a doctrine usually termed historical materialism, Marx stated, "The mode of production of material life conditions the general process of social, political, and intellectual life. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but their social existence that determines their consciousness". In other words, Marx believed a society's mode of production—that is, its forces of production (the raw materials, tools, and workers that actually produce goods) plus its relations of production (the ways in which the production process is organized)—generates a superstructure (a layer of legal, political, and social ideas) that in turn holsters the mode of production. So, for example, Americans think in certain characteristic ways about liberty, equality, and freedom because their mode of production is capitalist [20]. Like Marxists in general, Marxist feminists believe social existence determines consciousness. The comment that "women's work is never done" is, for Marxist feminists, more than an aphorism; it is a description of the nature of woman's work. Always on call, a woman forms a conception of herself that she would not have if her role in the family and at the workplace did not keep her socially and economically subordinate to men. Thus, Marxist feminists believe in order to understand why women are oppressed in ways men are not, we need to analyze the links between women's work status and women's self-image [19].

## 2.2 FRIEDRICH ENGEL'S: THE CITATION OF DOMINATION IN THE SOCIETY

Although the fathers of Marxism did not take women's oppression nearly as seriously as workers oppression, some of them offered explanations for why women are oppressed qua women. Engels believed proletarian women experience less oppression than do bourgeois women [21]. As he saw it, the bourgeois family consists of a relationship between a husband and a wife in which the husband agrees to support his wife provided that she promises to remain sexually faithful to him and to reproduce only his legitimate heirs. "This marriage of convenience," observed Engels, "often enough turns into the crassest prostitution—sometimes on both sides, but much more generally on the part of the wife, who differs from the ordinary courtesan only in that she does not hire out her body, like a waged worker, on piecework, but sells it into slavery once and for all." Without explaining how this division came to be, Engels simply stated that in the tribe women were charged with the care of the household, whereas men provided food and engaged in productive work. As mentioned earlier, the sexual division of labor originated, for Engels as well as for Marx, from the "division of labor in the sexual act". But if the institution of heterosexuality is more responsible for women's oppression than the institution of private property, a program for women's liberation that begins with women's entrance into public industry continues with women's domestic labor being taken over by service industries, and peaks in class struggle against capitalist exploiters cannot in and of itself end women's oppression. The institution of heterosexuality, as well as the institution of private property, must be challenged [21].

## 2.3 CONTEMPORARY MARXIST FEMINISM

Because Marxist theory has little room for issues dealing directly with women's reproductive and sexual concerns (contraception, sterilization, and abortion; pornography, prostitution, sexual harassment, rape, and woman battering), many Marxist feminists initially focused on women's work-related concerns. They elucidated, for example, how the institution of the family is related to capitalism, how women's domestic work is trivialized as not real work, and how women are generally given the most boring and low-paying jobs. As we shall see, even if the nature and function of woman's work are not complete explanations for gender oppression, they are very convincing partial ones. To view women's work—the production of people—as nonproductive when compared to men's work—the production of things—is, according to Engels's theory, a failure to understand what the term production includes [19].

## 2.4 MARXIST ARGUMENTS AGAINST WORKERS' PROFIT

Despite the power of Dalla Costa and James's line of reasoning, the emerging consensus among Marxist feminists is that, ultimately, paying wages for housework is neither feasible nor desirable as a liberator strategy for women. It is not entirely feasible because even if the state pays out wages to housewives, it will do so in a way that will preserve itself. Contrary to the dreams of wages-for-housework campaigners, the state has no intention of going under as it pays to housewives a salary that, according to several reliable estimates, would exceed the salary of the average woman in the workforce two or threefold [3]. If breaking down the division of sexual labor is one of the ultimate goals of Marxist feminists, then paying housewives for housework seems at best a distraction and at worst an impediment. It would be far better to take Benton's recommendations and socialize housework and childcare. Even if a woman winds up doing "women's work" outside of the home, it will give her an opportunity to work with other women and to form a class consciousness; if a woman is paid what her work is truly worth, at least some of "women's work" might become appealing to men who can earn a decent wage doing it. Working class women are super-exploited in their wage work and exploited in their domestic work. In other ways as well, they suffer more from sexism than do middle and upper-class women. They have less reproductive freedom in that they have less access to abortion; contraception and child care, and are often subject to sterilization abuse. They are also more subject to sexual abuse on job in the streets. Hence the interests of working-class women are consistently opposed to sexism as well as capitalism than are the interests of middle-and upper-class women [21].

## 2.5 IRIS YOUNG'S THEORY

According to Iris Young, so long as socialist feminists try to use "class" as their central category of analysis, they will not be able to explain why women in socialist countries are no less oppressed than women in capitalist countries. Because class is a gender-blind category, it is not adequate for the analysis of women's specific oppression in Young's estimation. Thus, Young suggested only a gender-sighted category such as "division of labor" has the conceptual power to transform Marxist feminist theory into a socialist feminist theory able to discuss women's entire estate—that women's position in the family as well as the workplace, women's reproductive and sexual roles as well as women's productive roles. Because she believed that capitalism and patriarchy are necessarily linked, Young insisted that a division-of-labor analysis is a total substitute for, not a mere supplement to, class analysis. We do not need one theory (Marxism) to explain gender-neutral capitalism and another

theory (feminism) to explain gender-biased patriarchy; Rather, we need a single theory—a socialist feminist theory—to explain gender-biased capitalist patriarchy. Capitalism is, was, and always will be essentially and fundamentally patriarchy [19].

## **2.6 ALISON JAGGER'S EXPLANATION**

Like Young, Alison Jagger advanced a concept other than class as the quintessential Marxist concept. In her book *Feminist Politics and Human Nature*, Jagger identified “alienation” as a concept powerful enough to accommodate the main insights of Marxist, radical, and even liberal feminist thought. Jagger noted that Marx considered work the humanizing activity par excellence; it is meant to connect human beings to the products of their minds and bodies, nature, and other people. Under capitalism, however, work becomes a dehumanizing activity. Labor is organized in ways that put human beings at odds with everything and everyone, including them. Rejecting the traditional Marxist doctrine that a person has to participate directly in the capitalist relations of production in order to be considered truly alienated, Jagger claimed not only non-wage-earning women can be alienated but also that wage earning women experience alienation in different ways than wage-earning men do. Alienation, insisted Jagger, is a gender-mediated experience [19].

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN**

This exploratory research utilized survey method of quantitative methodology through close ended interview schedule to collect data. Besides this case study of qualitative methodology has also been conducted. Most quantitative data techniques are data condensers. They condense data in order to see the big picture. On the other hand, qualitative research method is perfect to visualize the real-life subjectivity.

### **3.2 STUDY POPULATION**

This study is about the entrepreneurship development of the street vendors in terms of attitudinal and behavioral practices. It investigates particularly rootless street vendors community's vulnerability to their basic rights and their varied coping strategies regarding customary practices. Though the general target population indicates some vendors with a view to getting a vast concept about national scenery of Bangladesh, however, the study specifies the persons living in Kamalganj Upazilla & Pouroshova under Moulvibazar District in Bangladesh. This study specifies the street vendors of Kamalganj Upazilla as the unit of analysis.

### **3.3 FEATURES OF THE STUDY AREAS**

The study focuses the street vendor's socio-economic characteristics. The study area was Kamalganj which is an upazila (local administrative unit) under Moulvibazar District of Bangladesh. It is situated in between 24°08' and 24°27' north latitudes and in between 91°46' and 91°50' east longitudes. It is near to border area of India at its south and east. The total population was 229648 in 2001 census comprising male and female with some ethnic communities like Manipuri, Khasia, Tripura and Halam. The major crops of this area are rice, wheat, tea, potato, sugarcane, vegetables and beetle leaf. It is one of the most tourist visited places in Bangladesh.

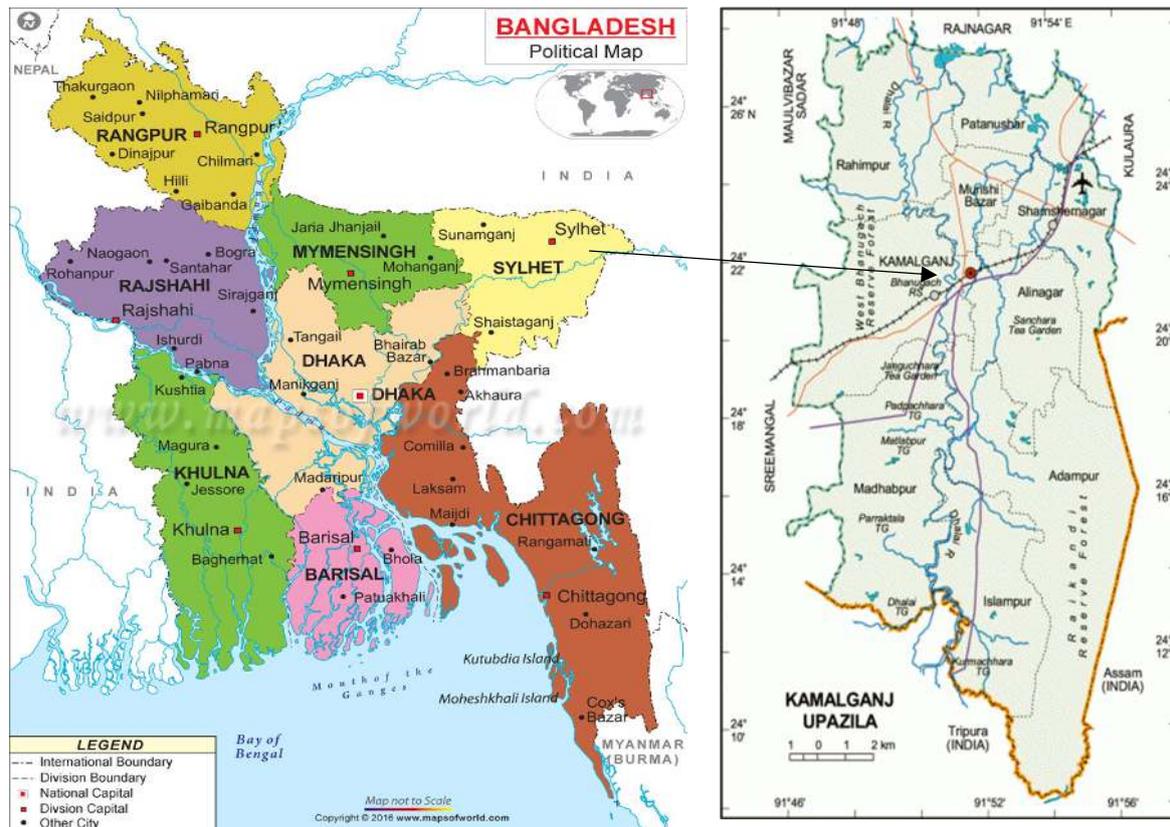


Fig. 1. The study area: Kamalganj, Moulvibazar, Bangladesh

Source: mapsofworld.com

### 3.4 SAMPLING AND DATA COLLECTION

Non-probability sampling approach was followed for conducting survey for the quantitative part of this study. Particularly purposive sampling procedure was adopted to draw sample for the survey. As mentioned earlier, this study was conducted at an Upazila and the unit of analysis was each street vendor. The total number of street vendors under study area is not fixed and it is not possible to count all these all this street vendors as the sampling frame out of which the required number of samples was drawn. The sample size was estimated through an approach based on confidence level and precision rate. For conducting survey, a structured interview schedule was developed. The interview schedule included six parts with 31 close-ended questions containing the information on: demographic profile, business/entrepreneurship, financial support, capacity development / training, support from government, and institutional contribution. Pre-testing and finalization of interview schedule adhered to the few procedures. The researcher designed the draft interview schedule and also completed pre-testing. Based on pre-test findings the translation, consistency and integrity of the interview schedule were checked. During pre-testing survey instruments, the major issues were considered such as the probing techniques, the language necessary to address specific occupational and risk behavior issues, the sequencing of questions, the technique/method/option for documenting responses, and providing appropriate skips in the interview schedule. The fieldwork for present study was conducted for a period from December 2016 to January 2017. A team leader and other members administered the survey among the respondents according to the sampling plan set out earlier. Before approaching the sample respondents, the interviewers informed them about the purpose of this study, topics under study and the need for collecting data. The data collection team then sought their cooperation and formal permission to administer survey.

### 3.5 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

There were two hypotheses for this study which made according the local context of the study. It was made to explore the administrative intervention status with street vending and their relationship with poverty reduction and livelihood. The hypotheses were (a) lack of Government's initiatives increases less economic security among street vendors, and (b) hegemonial attitude makes a confined risky environment for street vendors.

### 3.6 MEASUREMENT OF THE VARIABLES

Demographic profile of the respondents has been measured by the various characteristics of the street vendors like area, region, age of the respondent, householder size, religion, gender, marital status, education, residential status, school going children, children’s monthly schooling cost, and monthly health cost. The Socio-economic status of the respondents has been measured by the following certain criteria like type of business involvement, type of ownership in business, capital investment, monthly income, monthly saving, daily expenses, work location, business register, and business impact. A three-point relative scale has been set to measure the level of financial support as like as loan for business, taken loan, and driving force to run business. Whether any capacity development/training had been taken measured by receive any training/skill to launch new IGA, and receive any training/skill manage business. Whether any patronization or cooperation provided by the government has been measured by receive any support from government, issues and problem selected by street vendors gradually in turns. Government organization and NGO’s contribution have also been measured.

### 3.7 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

The research has involved a great deal of descriptive analysis in line with a study at providing a holistic synthesis that can explain the trends observed in data. The statistical procedures used for analyzing data are those adequate for descriptive purposes. The analysis follows a general scheme of simple description at bivariate level. Data were analyzed in two stages using SPSS software version 20. Differences were tested by Cramer’s V.

## 4 RESULTS OF THE STUDY

### 4.1 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

The From the analysis, it is revealed that 10 (33.33%) of the respondents are urban and 20 (66.66%) of the respondents are rural. The respondents who are between 45 and 55 years old are the topmost in number as 10 (33.33%). Only 7-8 members householder size of the respondents are the topmost as 12 (40.00%) and divorced respondents are the lowest as 4 (13.33%). The majority (80.00%) of the respondents are married and 6 (20.00%) of the respondents are single. Only 12 (40.00%) of the respondents get 1-5 years schooling and 4 (13.33%) of the respondents get 6-8 years schooling. The majority (66.66%) of the respondents have own house and 4 (13.33%) of the respondents has free house.

*Table 1. Demographic profile of the respondents*

Demographic characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percent
Area	Urban	10	33.33
	Rural	20	66.67
Age (years)	15-25	4	13.33
	25-35	4	13.33
	35-45	8	26.67
	45-55	10	33.33
	Above 55	4	13.33
Householder Size	4 Members	4	13.33
	5-6 Members	6	20.00
	7-8 Members	12	40.00
	9 and above Members	8	26.67
Marital Status	Single	6	20.00
	Married	24	80.00
	Widowed	00	00.00
	Divorced	00	00.00
	Separated	00	00.00
Year of Schooling	Nothing	8	26.67
	1-5 years	12	40.00
	6-8 years	4	13.33
	9 years and above	5	16.67

Residential status	Own house	20	66.67
	Rent House	6	20.00
	Free House	4	13.33
Education status	Illiterate	8	26.67
	Not completed Primary	6	20.00
	Primary School	5	16.67
	Junior High School	4	13.33
	High School	4	13.33
	SSC	3	10.00
	HSC	00	00.00
Number of Children	None	13	43.33
	1-2	8	26.67
	3-4	7	23.33
	5 and above	2	6.67
Monthly schooling cost	below BDT 1,000	5	16.67
	BDT 1000-2000	3	10.00
	BDT 2000-4000	2	6.67
	BDT 4000 and above	7	23.33
	None	13	43.33
Monthly health cost	below 1000 BDT	14	46.67
	1000-2000 BDT	6	20.00
	2000-4000 BDT	6	20.00
	4000 BDT and above	4	13.33
Type of business	Vegetable	3	10.00
	Fruits	2	6.67
	Garments / Textiles	0	00.00
	Electronics	0	00.00
	Grocery	3	10.00
	Tea	2	6.67
	Others	20	66.67
Capital investment	BDT 2000	8	26.67
	BDT 2000-4000	6	20.00
	BDT 4000-10000	10	33.33
	10000 BDT and above	6	20.00

Source: Field survey

From the Table 1, it is found that 8(26.67%) of the respondents are illiterate and 3 (10.00%) of the respondents are SSC qualified. Only 13(43.33%) of the respondents have none to go school and 2 (6.67%) of the respondents have many children to go school. A small part (23.33%) of the respondents have their children monthly cost 4,000 and above. The table 1 shows that 14 (46.67%) of the respondents have their monthly health cost below 1,000 and 4 (13.33) of the respondents have their monthly health cost BDT 4,000 above. It reveals that others type of business 20 (66.67%) of the respondents have much involvement while only 10 (33.33%) of the respondents had their capital investment BDT 4,000-10,000. The findings are almost similar to the studies of some other researchers [22], [23], [24], [25].

#### 4.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE RESPONDENTS

The analysis explores that 12 (40%) of the respondents have their monthly income 8000 taka and 2 (6.67%) of the respondents have their monthly income 15000 taka. From the Table 2, it is got that 8 (26.67%) of the respondents have their monthly saving BDT 2,000 and above.

Table 2. Socio-economic circumstances of the respondents

Socio-economic characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percent
Monthly income	8,000 BDT	12	40.00
	8,000 BDT-10,000 BDT	10	33.33
	10,000-15,000BDT	6	20.0
	15000 and above	2	6.67
Monthly saving	Nothing	6	20.00
	1,000	8	26.67
	2,000	8	26.67
	2,000 and above	8	26.67
Business impact	Family income increased	30	100
	Physical Asset increased	20	66.67
	Savings increased	10	33.33
	Social network development	8	26.67
	Ensuring family's children education	14	46.67
	Having 3 meals in a day	30	100
	Access to natural assets	16	53.33
	Other	8	26.67
Main driving force to run business	Poverty	15	50.00
	Employment	5	16.67
	Family pressure	5	16.67
	Social pressure	3	10
	Independence business	2	6.67
	Others	0	00.00
Receiving any training/skill	Yes	1	3.33
	No	29	96.67
Receiving any support from government	yes	1	3.33
	no	29	96.67

Source: Field survey

From the above table, it is clear that only 1 (3.33%) of the respondents have received training to manage business while only 1 (3.33%) of the respondents have receiving support from government. The findings are almost similar to the studies of some other researchers [20], [18], [26].

#### 4.3 CHALLENGES RELATED TO STREET VENDING

The analysis reveals that most of the street vendor does not face institutional difficulty to run their business but does not get any institutional support. It indicates that concerned institutions are not cordial to support them properly (Table 3).

**Table 3. Challenges faced by the respondents related to street vending**

Dimension of challenges	Major challenges	Always	Often	Seldom	Never
Problems related to their business	Local political pressure	00	00	00	30
	High space rent	00	00	00	30
	Poor government intervention	00	00	10	30
	License, fees, tolls	00	00	10	30
	Inadequate store facility	00	00	10	30
	Insecurity	00	00	10	30
	Evictions	00	00	10	30
	No fixed space	00	00	00	30
	Water removal system is not good / sanitation system is poor on the road	00	00	00	30
Institutional contribution	National govt.	00	00	00	30
	Local govt.	00	00	00	30
	City govt.	00	00	10	30
	Community police	00	00	10	30

Source: Field survey

Similar challenges are found by some of the researchers in other developing countries like India [1], Indonesia [27], Vietnam [28], Thailand [29], and Zimbabwe [30].

#### 4.4 MEASURES OF ASSOCIATION

The hypothesis test reveals that no. 1 hypothesis of this research is lack of government's initiatives & master plan. Increases better secured family life which Cramer's V is 0.093 and P.V is 0.832. It shows that it has no significant relationship between lack of self-awareness and mass exploitation (Table 4).

**Table 4. Relationship between variables**

	Independent Variables		
Dependent Variables	Lack of Government's initiatives & master plan.	Irresponsibility of Law enforcing agencies	Lack of education
Better secured family life	Cramer's V = 0.093 P.V = 0.832 *	NA	NA
Monthly Savings income.	NA	Cramer's V = 0.582 P.V = 0.000**	NA
Health risks.	NA	NA	Cramer's V = 0.120 P.V = 0.652 *

Note: Here, NA = Not Applicable, \* = No significance, and \*\* = Significance

In the above table it is clear that no. 2 hypothesis of this research is irresponsibility of law enforcing agencies makes a monthly savings income and it's Cramer's V is 0.582 and P.V is 0.000. It shows that it has significance. In the above table it is clear that no. 3 hypothesis of this research is lack of education is more likely related with health risks and it's Cramer's v is 0.120 and P.V is 0.652. It shows that there is no significant relationship between lack of education and health risks.

## 5 DISCUSSIONS

### 5.1 ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Street vending is a vital piece of economic framework of the poor who mostly belong to the deprived class of the society (Fig. 2). Three ideas constitute the central message of this study. Firstly; a large number of people are generating income by street vending which helps them and their dependent family members to live from hand to mouth [22]. Secondly, street

vending is a source of employment. People who are illiterate, unskilled and lacking capital can easily generate income by involving in this job [25]. Their dependent family members are also benefited in this way. Moreover, street vendors are rendering very useful service to the community of Bangladesh [31].



**Fig. 2.** Street vendor is selling fried groundnut and rice flak and so on.

### **5.2 EMPLOYMENT PROVIDED BY STREET VENDORS**

Street vending is vital for the economic development of many countries. The contributions of street vendors to the economy in Bangladesh are under estimated and neglected. Now days a notable number of people are investing on street vending as it is the least costly form of investment compared to investment in other business [18]. Each street enterprise is generally small in size, requires relatively simple skills, basic facilities and small amount of capital. They are very potential for generating income and employment [5]. Incomes from street vending are relatively higher than those from other informal sectors (Fig. 3). In Southeast Asia, the average earnings of a vendor may be three to ten times more than the minimum wage and they are often comparable to the wages of skilled labors employed in the formal sector [32]. Street vending requires low capital expenditure which is one of the attractive factors for certain type vendors. Vendors have the freedom to choose their work hours and they have few constraints on their movements and are self-employed [1].



**Fig. 3.** Street vendor is selling beetle nut and vegetables

It has been found that vendors work in two shifts daily. Thus, the actual employment generation is almost double against vendors included in this study. In this study, we surveyed at designed type market, as well as un-designed and mobile shop as well. We found various types of vendors in those markets who were financially independent, dependent and semi dependent. We also found the vendors who were involved in selling perishable goods, non-perishable and providing services.

### **5.3 POVERTY REDUCTION**

Street vending is not only the means of income generation or employment generation, but also rendering a very useful service to the community of Bangladesh by playing the important roles such as street vending is very helpful for providing door to door services [33]. So, it is very convenient for citizens to purchase their necessities from street vendors. Among the street vendors, food vendors are very common in our daily life. Both high income and low-income people purchase food items from

the food vendors (Fig. 4). There are some rural areas in Bangladesh, where street vendors are only means of shopping. Because any shopping mall is far away from their area, people of those areas are familiar with street vending for purchasing their daily goods. They cannot imagine even that they do their shopping in other stores or malls. A large number of people in Bangladesh are low income group who are not able to afford the products and services from the formal shopping malls. They want to purchase their goods comparatively in low price than the other shopping malls and retail stores. The capital expenditure and rent are relatively lower in street vending. That's why, street vendors offer items at lower price [34].



**Fig. 4. Street vendor selling banana, apple, other fruits and vegetables**

Vendors purchase their ingredients in large quantities and in cheapest market. So, street vending requires less cost as they serve several consumers [35].

#### 5.4 FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Market In this research Marxist class struggle theory is fitted as well as tested, because Marxist feminism specifically focuses on street vendor's deprivation. In this study survey, most of the respondents did not have any initiative from national government or local government (Figure 5).



**Fig. 5. street shoemaker and mobile hawker**

#### **A Successful Vendor Street: Fahim Shariar Huson**

Fahim Shariar Hussien is a 35-year-old woman who sells fruit in Kamalganj Upazilla. He first worked as a domestic maid, then as laborer in the plastic industry. Six years ago, he started his street food business beside the heavily used embankment road in front of one of Kamalganj Upazilla. He did not continue his studies after first SSC examination due to his poverty. He is happily married with two school going children. His children monthly schooling cost 2,000 BDT. His monthly health treatment cost 800 BDT. He resides in his own house. He has his own paid staff. His capital investment 50,000 BDT. His monthly income 15,000 BDT. His monthly saving 3,000 BDT. His daily real expense is 700 BDT. His work location is fixed and registered local government. Mr. Fahim has been doing his street vending business for 14 years. After starting his business, he is insuring children education, having 3 meals in a day, increasing family income, and also increasing physical asset. He has taken firstly a

loan from NGO Samity. Starting an independent business was the main driving force to run his business. He did not receive a training to launch new income generating activities. He also did not receive any training to manage his business. He insisted on entrepreneurship development, consumer behavior, accounting management etc. He did not receive any support from government. He has to pay local tax regularly. In addition to this permanent 'tenure' insecurity, the recent price hike of fruit has hit him very hard: but his business' profit margin is better now after reducing his all wants or poverty.

## **6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Street vending provides an important and popular means of shopping in the urban, semi-urban and rural areas of Bangladesh. Without street vending in urban areas a large number of urban dwellers fall into a critical situation in their lives. Not only the low-income group but also the middle-income group of urban dwellers depends on street vending to purchase their necessities. In this backdrop it may be asserted that Street vending in Bangladesh is not only generating income and employment of some poorer section of people, rather providing useful service to the community. In providing services to the urban population, especially the poor, street vendors perform a significant role. But their assistance is unfortunately hardly ever recognized by the governments. The government of Bangladesh is indifferent to their existence instead of defending this sector and ensuring that its workers get their minimum dues. Street vendors are a key part of the informal sector not only because of their numbers but because of the crucial roles they play in protecting this sector. This Study indicates that poverty, migration from rural area, low education, exorbitant supply of labor and large family size are the major driving forces of carrying out this business. According to this survey, Personal savings is the single most important source of financing the vending business. Selling assets and lending from cooperative society are the two other major sources of financing the business representing the absence of formal credit facilities for these poor street vendors. This reveals the importance of social capital in street vending and the excessive work hour of the vendors and lack of opportunities of alternative formal employment evident from their fulltime working status even in the presence of political instability, natural calamity or financial crisis. Street vendors are an integral part of urban economies as well as rural economies around the world, offering easy access to a wide range of goods and services in public spaces. They sell everything from fresh vegetables to prepared foods, from building materials to garments and crafts, from consumer electronics to auto repairs to haircuts.

The street vendors play an important role in Bangladesh. At root, it creates various jobs and absorbs a rising proportion of unemployed workers. For the betterment of the street vendors a number of suggestions can be put forward. Recognition and proper assistance of this sector will improve their economic and social status significantly. Higher education is not necessary for better performance in this business. Experience and capital are more important than formal education for this sector. So, it is a potential area for the massive unskilled/semi-skilled unemployed population. For proper management of street vending the cooperation between municipalities and the police is necessary. Municipalities should update national policies for the management of vendors which will be helpful to tackle the social and economic problems associated with vendors. Street vendors suffer from lack of security and lack of access to credit. Government should formulate some comprehensive plan like different training programs to improve the life style of street vendors and introduce credit facilities. Street vendors in Bangladesh are unlicensed. Government should issue licenses to those who want to hawk goods. Through the representation of municipalities, vendors and hawker's association, NGOs and cooperatives they can express their needs, problems and inform government about the deprivation of any of their civil rights. In this way they can incorporate themselves in national policy consultation process. The street vendors are usually educated at the secondary level according to our field study which is not a disappointing picture. But what is more important is to make the vendors more educated since higher education can develop their sense of doing business in a better way by managing and improving their source of capital, increasing the level of investment, maintaining proper hygiene and more importantly improving their attitude and behavior with the customers thereby securing a sufficient amount of customers which is known as social capital making their business less vulnerable in the face of natural calamity, political instability or financial crisis. Since hundred percent of the respondents of the sample are the only earning member of their families, necessary steps should be taken to ensure certain level of income. The government should come forward to create, enact and enforce legislation for the street food vendor practices, their working conditions and food handling in close association with consumer participations. Proper supply of water, sanitation and waste management services in the natural markets should be engaged by local waste collectors and municipal personnel should be engaged in the management of services. Special markets can be allowed for women vendors. As storage is one of the major problems encountered by the street vendors, government can take proper initiative to create storage or can give monetary incentive to the vendors to maintain proper storage to minimize the loss.

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