

**LIVELIHOOD STATUS OF STREET VEGETABLE  
VENDORS IN SELECTED LOCATIONS OF DHAKA  
CITY**

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VENDORS IN SELECTED LOCATIONS OF DHAKA  
CITY**

**BY**

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## **CERTIFICATE**

This is to certify that the research work entitled, “*LIVELIHOOD STATUS OF STREET VEGETABLE VENDORS IN SELECTED LOCATIONS OF DHAKA CITY*” conducted by **Akib Ahmed** bearing Registration No. **13-05624 (July-December/2020)** under my supervision and guidance in the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS) IN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY STUDIES** in the Faculty of Agribusiness Management, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh. No part of this thesis has been submitted for any other degree or diploma.

I further certify that any help or source of information received during this study has been duly acknowledged by him.

**Dated: June, 2020.**  
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**Dedicated to  
My Beloved  
Parents**

## **Abstract**

In Bangladesh, the informal area plays a noticeable role in respect of the growth of employment and the reduction of poverty. Street marketing comprises an important role of this area including the street vendors as the vital participants. The term ‘Street vendor’ refers to those who are unable to get regular jobs in the remunerative formal sector on account of their low level of education and skills. However, street vending is an important activity related to urban areas. The terms Street vendors describe them are based on the time or place where they work. However, the roles of the street vendors such as vegetable vendors are disregarded and their condition is rarely accentuated. This research tries to show the present living status of the vegetable vendors in Dhaka city along with the purpose of demonstrating their socioeconomic status with a field survey. This research also intends to investigate the problems they faced every day. This survey is based on different sections including their age, gender, educational background, accommodation, family size, economic condition, income, capital, and so on. The survey was conducted in March 2020 in two different areas, Mohammadpur Thana and Mirpur Model Thana in Dhaka city. Poverty, low education, and low capital are the leading reasons for carrying out the business according to this study. The study demonstrates that the male street vendors dominate this sector and little start-up capital is needed to start this business. In 60% of cases, the start-up capital source is personal saving. They face different problems doing this business like harassment from police and having to offer bribes. With the poverty and risk of city corporation interference in their business, street vegetable vendors face many problems in everyday life and 53.3% said lacking capital is the main problem in their street vegetable vending occupation. Their condition of life with so many problems is vulnerable. Therefore, the government can take proper steps for them.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

**DCC-** Dhaka City Corporation

**DNCC-**Dhaka North City Corporation

**ILO-**International Labour Organization

**BBS-**Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

**ADB-**Asian Development Bank

**UNDESA-**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

**NASVI-**National Association of Street Vendors of India

**NGO-**Non Government Organization

**CAB-** Consumers Association of Bangladesh

**NFPCSP-** National Food Policy Capacity Strengthening Programme

**PRSP-** Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

**ADP -**Annual Development Plan

# CHAPTER-I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Prelude

Bangladesh is a large and heavily densely populated country in South Asia. Bangladesh is a developing country with a population of 157.57 million in 2013 (World Bank, 2017) and a density of 1210 population per square kilometer in that year (World Bank, 2017). The number of the economically active population of the country was 67.98 million in 2013 (World Bank, 2017). Among them, 7.30 million population (BBS & ILO, 2015) are employed in the formal sector and 50.77 million in the informal sector (BBS & ILO, 2015). The rest of the population was unemployed or underemployed and not engaged in the formal or informal sector. Bangladesh has an abundant labor supply. The informal economy plays a significant role in the labor market and contributes a significant share of the total employment of the country. This sector plays an important role in the country's economy, both in terms of the number of jobs it creates and its contribution to total economic output (ADB & BBS, 2012). Informal employment dominated the country's labor market, estimated at around 87.4% of the total employed person (aged 15 and above) in 2013 and the highest number of engagement in informal employment was found for the agricultural sector (97.9% of total employment in that sector), followed by industry sector (91.4% of total employment in that sector) and service sector (71.2% of total employment in that sector) (World Bank, 2017; BBS & ILO, 2015). In addition, around 91.7% of the youths (aged 15-29) and around 84.1% of the adults (aged 30- 64) were engaged in the informal sector in 2013 (BBS & ILO, 2015). In fact, limited job opportunities by the formal sector push people to engage themselves in the informal sector (Sarker et al. 2016). The total gross value added of all informal enterprises accounted for 43% of the country's gross domestic product in 2010 (ADB & BBS, 2012). Therefore, the informal sector is very important for the Bangladesh economy, as its various channels have a major impact on both the formal economy as well as the overall economy of the country (Raihan, 2010). Bangladesh is one of the countries of the world that has been experiencing very rapid urbanization over the last four decades and more. Around 28% of the total population of the country was living in urban areas in 2011 and more than 57%

of the urban population was shared by Dhaka and Chittagong divisions in the same year (BBS, 2014). The increase in the urban population of the country from 1974 to 2011 has been close to 36 million (from 6.27 million in 1974 to 41.94 million in 2011). Because of rapid and unplanned urbanization, the threshold capacity of urban employment in urban areas surpasses its limits. Moreover, a large number of populations who are now coming to urban areas do not have sufficient education and skills to be engaged in urban formal employment. Instead of returning to the rural sector, however, they simply stayed where they are between the urban modern sector and the rural traditional sector (Emmerij, 2005). Ultimately, they engage the urban informal sector. The urban informal sector can generate more employment than the formal sector. As a result, the informal sector has been growing in spite of obstacles and a lack of external support. Around 75.2% of the urban population engaged in the informal economy in 2013 (BBS & ILO, 2015). The major characteristics of the informal sector in Bangladesh include (i) unregistered, small scale operation; (ii) low level of productivity; (iii) low level of income generation; (iv) low level of institutional credit access (sometimes lack of access to formal credit); (v) employment-based mainly on kinship, personal/social relations, and casual employment but mostly not on a contract basis; and (vi) generally the absence of recognition or regulation by the government (Raihan, 2010). Informal sector workers in Bangladesh include day laborers; rickshaw pullers; van drivers; wholesale and retail traders; and restaurant, manufacturing, transport, storage, and communication workers (Sarker et al. 2016). Dhaka is the capital as well as mega-city of Bangladesh where around 44,500 populations were living in every square kilometer in 2015 (UN Habitat, 2017). The population size of Dhaka city was 17.60 million in 2015 that increased from 1.38 million in 1970 (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs [UNDESA], 2015). Dhaka offers a large number of employment opportunities in both formal and informal sectors. As a result, a large number of people are entering Dhaka city from the rural area and most of those rural migrants engage themselves in the informal sector. Haque et al. (2010) noted that a census in 2003 in Dhaka City Corporation areas found that there were 90,000 street vendors in Dhaka city. The term “street vendor” in English is frequently used interchangeably with “street trader,” “hawker”. Street vendors are distinguished from vendors who use off-street markets, which can be public/private. When they

move off the streets, they are referred to as market vendors/micro-entrepreneurs, although their businesses might be the same (WIEGO, Street Vendors).

Vegetable vending is one of the informal sectors. With little capital, this business can be started. There is no need for experience and skill to start this business. Those who entering Dhaka from the rural areas have not much capital because they are without work for many days and for searching for work they come to Dhaka. Some of the first search job in hotel, workshop, factory, tannery, shop. If they not find any job invest their small saving in hawking or vegetable vending type small business. City dweller poor people who not come from the rural areas also involved in this occupation. They sell vegetables near the doorsteps of customers. People of all sectors buy vegetables from them. Especially the middle class and lower class who not afford to buy vegetables from super shops like AGORA, MINA BAZAR. Office return workers buy vegetables from them in off period at night. They make our life easy as we need not go out to the market every time and it saves time and money. For the lack of proper policy of the government, they have to face many harassments every day. Many problems and risks related to their occupation make their life vulnerable. Street vegetable vendors are mainly those who are unable to get regular jobs and have tried to solve their problems through their own little resources to live their life with dignity and self-respect through hard work, not engaged in begging or stealing. Although they live in poverty, they are generating employment as well as income and thereby, contributing to our economy.

## **1.2 Background of the study**

The share of the informal workforce in developing countries has been increasing. The street vegetable vendors in urban areas start their business with little capital. Street vegetable vending is a source of employment in the informal sector in most developing countries like Bangladesh. It has a huge labor supply, the number of formal jobs is so limited and every nine in 10 who were working in 2013 were informally employed (BBS & ILO, 2015). Most of the developed and developing country governments across the world have not recognized street vending as a legal activity and their view about street vendors as obstacles to the city's development. Even in the countries like Vietnam and Laos, which do not have a large formal economic sector, the governments did not give legal recognition to

street vending. Nowadays our neighbor country India has recently framed a national policy for street vendors, which if implemented, will provide security to them. But as of today street vendors face constant problems and harassment from the authorities like government authorities, building owners, and police. Dhaka, the most densely populated mega-city in the world, is home to 8.5 million people (World Population Review, 2016). A good portion of them engages themselves in informal income-generating activities like street vegetable vending. Most of the street vegetable vendors are rural-urban migrants due to the lack of work facilities in rural areas as a result of less demand for labor for modernizing agriculture. Although the city authorities of Dhaka city see the street vegetable vendors as a problem for their urban development because the street vegetable vendors create constraints in the regular movement of the city dwellers in the footpath and so on. Without street vegetable vending in the urban areas, a large number of urban dwellers will fall into a critical situation in their lives. Not only the low-income group but also the middle-income group of urban dwellers depend on street vegetable vendors for their daily cooking vegetable items. In addition, poor urban dwellers cannot fulfill their basic needs without those informal activities in urban areas. According to Dhaka City Corporation records, around 60 percent of the city dwellers lead an impoverished life mostly depend on street vending for their living.

### **1.2.1 Statement of the problem**

Landlessness, natural calamities, river erosion, and lack of income-earning opportunities push the rural poor to the urban areas. In the city, they however do not get any decent safe homes or jobs. In this case, they resort to living in slums and adopt informal sector jobs such as vegetable vending, hawking, or rickshaw plying as the general means of livelihood. Generally, street vegetable vendors prefer places where pedestrian flows are quite high, such as; bus stands, important road intersections, busy footpaths, near hospitals, schools, offices, large shopping centers, etc.

Street vegetable vendors play a significant role by providing fresh vegetables near our doorsteps. They can sell vegetables at a cheap rate because like the market they do not need to pay electricity bills, water supply bills, place rent but they have to pay a portion of their daily profit to the local police and gangs to conduct



business in a preferable place. Low-income and middle-income groups benefited from them because they offer low vegetable prices. The government of our country does not make any policy for street vegetable vendors. As a result, they arrive openly with their van on different important roads where pedestrians flow. Some street vegetable vendors fix a place and sell together near the busy roads. As a result traffic jams were created.

It is seen that although street vegetable vendors provide valuable services to the urban residents, at the same time they create severe problems to the city life. Their services cannot be ignored since a large number of people depend on their services. So the decision-maker and city planner have to give special attention to the street vegetable vending issue and rehabilitate them in preferable locations so that they can perform their business smoothly without creating any problem to the functionality of the city. The hawkers cannot be ignored since they have created employment for themselves and others without the help of the Government. So repeated evictions failed to stop them from conducting business on the streets. This study will attempt to find out the services that the street vegetable vendors provide and the problems citizens face when vegetable vendors are interfered with, harassed, and forced to go to another place by City Corporation. This study will also attempt to find out the problems and risks that the street vegetable vendors face in their struggle for livelihood.

### **1.3: Scope of the study**

The study focuses on the socioeconomic structure of street vegetable vendors where their demographic characters as gender, age, religion, educational background, family size, economic condition, income, saving are explored. The research aims to identify the problems and risks that they face every business hour. This research will be conducted at Mohammadpur Thana and Mirpur Model Thana in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), Dhaka. City authorities impose restrictions on the use of city space for street vegetable vending. Informal economic sectors are unauthorized and our government gives little focus on this sector. But the street vegetable vendors are not socially and economically developed. So that there is a need to study the nature of the lifestyle, socioeconomic status, problems, and what risk the street vegetable vendors face in vegetable vending.

#### **1.4 Objectives**

In view of the above background, the present work aims to illustrate an overview of the street vegetable vendors in Dhaka city. The following specific objectives are given below:

- i) To illustrate the demographic view and socio-economic profile of the street vegetable vendors.
- ii) To explore the problems and risks faced by them in doing street vegetable vending and
- iii) To find the solution to the problems from the above faced by street vegetable vendors.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The study is attempted to explore the situation of street vegetable vendors in Dhaka city. The results of the study will provide a better understanding view of the street vegetable vendors and awareness to policy constructors, to design an operative and proficient policy for the improvement of the livelihood of the street vegetable vendors. The study also serves as stages who are interested to conduct research on street vegetable vending. Moreover, it maybe helps the policymakers as sources of information about subsistence view of the street vegetable vendors.

#### **1.6 Organization of the Thesis**

This study has been organized into several chapters.

Chapter I provides an introduction to the study.

Chapter II introduces a review of the literature.

Chapter III discusses the research methodology.

Chapter IV highlights the socioeconomic consequences of street vegetable vendors.

Chapter V provides risks identified by street vegetable vendors

Chapter VI provides problems of street vegetable vendors.

Chapter VII highlights the conclusion and recommendation.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Generally, before conducting an experiment, it is essential to know the information about the previous research works. In this chapter, an attempt was taken to review the past research works which are relevant to the objectives of this study. This was mainly concerned with the review of street vending and the livelihood status of street vegetable vendors.

#### **2.1 Review of literature of street vegetable vendors**

Hart (1973) reported that his study was based on self-employed workers in Ghana, who were outside the formal labor market and unable to search for jobs in the formal sector. Hart explained that price inflation, inadequate wages, and an increasing number of workers who were surplus to the requirements of the urban labor market had led to a high degree of informality in the income-generating activities of workers, which varied in terms of legality, skills required, and other factors.

Andringa & Kies (1989) considered the employment context, many street vendors work for long hours at the same site of the city on a daily basis while other vendors move to two or more sites to grab the opportunities to sell to different types of customers in different areas. Some of them carry out this occupation as a primary source of income and the rest others as part-time who keep open an opportunity to earn extra income. A variety of employment statuses can be found among street vendors as well. Most of the vendors work as independent self-employed entrepreneurs, with or without employees. There are also many vendors in the city who work for helping their family members and some work as employees of informal or even formal enterprises.

ILO (1999) reported that the four major pillars recommended by the ILO as essential to achieve the goal of decent work are opportunities for employment and income, respect for rights at work, social protection, and a strong social dialogue. Taking these four aims into consideration, ILO has defined decent work as

productive work in which rights are protected, which generates an adequate income, with adequate social protection. It also means sufficient work, in the sense that all should have full access to income-earning opportunities. It marks the high road to economic and social development, a road in which employment, income and social protection can be achieved without compromising workers' rights and social standards. Tripartism and social dialogue are both objectives in their own right, guaranteeing participation and democratic process, and a means of achieving all the other strategic objectives of the ILO. The evolving global economy offers opportunities from which all can gain, but these have to be grounded in participatory social institutions if they are to confer legitimacy and sustainability on economic and social policies.

Bromley (2000) supported street vendors in the light of following reasons. Provides entrepreneurial opportunity for the destitute people having problem in other start up business, it increases the competition in the trade sector by providing a diverse range of retail outlets with wide geographic coverage, provides a low-cost social safety net that supports income generating and provides an alternative to criminal activity.

Bhowmik (2001) conducted a study where he said that Urban youth prefer to purchase clothes and accessories from street vendors, because the products the vendors sell are typically cheaper than those found in formal retail outlets of the city. People from lower income groups also benefit from the vendors, spending a large portion of their income on purchases from street vendors because their goods are cheap and affordable. It has been estimated that around 30% of the Mumbai workforce buy at least one meal a day from street vendors.

Reddy et al. (2001) analyzed the Urban Informal Sector in Fiji with the objectives of identifying types, nature, number and size of urban informal sector activities, examining the sector's contribution towards income generation, examining the impediments to the growth of urban informal sector activities, and identifying what the state could do to assist the urban informal sector. To fulfill these objectives primary data were used. The study was conducted using a structured questionnaire. Primary data was collected in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa. The study

was limited to these three areas due to finance and time constraints. These three selected urban areas covered about 50% of the country's urban population. A total of 150 respondents engaged in informal sector activities were interviewed. They were selected on the basis of a street-by-street survey; those who cooperated were interviewed. This study shows that there has been a significant increase in the incomes and assets of those who are involved in the informal sector compared to their pre-informal sector days. The rise in the urban informal economy plays an important role in employment creation and labor absorption in the urban areas. Promotion of informal and small business activities have been as strategies in poverty alleviation and development in developing countries in the world. It also shows that the average education level for those involved in the informal sector is no higher than primary school level. This study also shows that the growth of the urban informal sector provided goods and services at relatively low prices. Another significant finding is that 77 percent of the urban informal enterprises are carried out from a public place. The survey results showed that a half of the informal sector operators in urban areas actually resided in rural areas. This study also points out some of the key problems faced by the informal sector operators. Among the major problems are a lack of access to credit facilities, and the national and municipal strict laws and regulations. This study focused on urban informal sector and did not explain about rural informal sector which is most important in developing countries.

Sharit K Bhowmik (2002) examined the problems faced by street vendors in urban areas of India. The purpose of his study is to understand the legal the problems they face, the perception of urban population towards street vendors and their position in urban society. It has been identified that in most of the metropolis in India the urban poor survive by working in the informal sector. The reasons being poverty and lack of employment in the rural areas and smaller towns. Thus there is a large increase in the hawker population in Indian metropolis. They provide a valuable service by supporting lot of industries as marketers of their goods. However it has been found that the urban authorities such as the municipality and police consider hawking more often as an illegal activity and treat them as criminals. They identified that in most cities municipal and police laws impose restrictions on the use of urban space for street vending. This study was conducted

in seven cities namely Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Imphal, Patna, Bhubaneswar and Bangalore. Researchers were appointed in these cities. The findings of this study are that in the area of municipalities has provisions for providing licenses for hawking but they are reluctant to issue them.

Bhowmik (2005) conducted a study to street trading is a growing urban phenomenon in Dhaka city, visible at different places in stationary or moving form. Hence, they are defined as traders who sell goods to the public without a permanent premise to conduct their business.

Sharit K Bhowmik (2005) assessed the magnitude of street vendors in different countries and their composition. The study collates information on the extent of unionization of vendors and their organizations such as NGO's, self-help groups. They collected information on street vendors for most of the countries in Asia. It was observed that the number of street vendors was growing. The growth in number was attributed to the changes in the economy of these countries. It is seen in the case of Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia that street vendors increases with the shrinking of jobs in the formal sector and with lack of gainful employment in rural areas. In the other countries, especially the Asian tigers Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Korea- there was a rapid increase in the number of street vendors after the monetary crisis of 1998. The governments in these countries have more or less refused to recognize street vendors as a legal activity. Malaysia, Philippines and India have policies for regulating and protecting street vendors. Of the three only Malaysia seems to be sincere in implementing its policy India too has recently framed a national policy for street vendors which if implemented will provide security to them. In general, street vendors are not represented in local bodies. Only two countries in Asia have federations of street vendors, Korea and India. In Korea the federation was formed mainly to resist the oppression of the state. In India, NASVI has been able to intervene at the national level and local levels and its greatest success has been the initiation of the national policy. In conclusion it has been identified that though the Asian countries have witnessed an increase in street vendors, their governments by and large have been indifferent to the specific needs of this sector.

Khanam (2006) reported that the number of women street vendors is increasing day by day in Dhaka city. This happening because women who do not have any other way to meet the subsistence needs of their families enter into the informal economic sector like street vending. But street vending is a non-traditional and male dominated job and there is a regular earning gap between men vendors and women vendors.

Chen (2007) recorded that we need to understand the theoretical debate on the informal sector economy before looking for a theoretical approach to street vending within that sector. Many researchers have tried to define the term “informal sector.” In the most recent discussion of the term, it is said to comprise employment without any labour protection or social protection, both inside and outside informal enterprises, including both self-employment in small unregistered enterprises and wage employment in unprotected jobs

Sharit K. Bhowmik (2007) said that *Urban Responses to Street Trading: India* examined the reasons behind people choosing street hawking as their profession, their fight for public space, various issues relating to organizing street vendors, the formation of various organizations supporting the right of street vendors, credit and social security of street vendors. He found that Poverty in the rural areas and in the smaller towns drive large numbers of people to the cities for work and livelihood, There is another section of the urban population that has taken to street vending, namely, those once engaged in the formal sector. Formal sector workers in these three metropolises have had to face large-scale unemployment due to the closure of these industries. He identified that the most important aspect is that street vendors are exercising their constitutional right to carry out trade or business hence it should be regulated properly and not abolished. Street vendors conduct their business a midst insecurity. Whenever eviction drives are conducted their wares are confiscated or destroyed. In order to overcome these restrictions street vendors organize themselves into unions that enable them to continue their activities. These organizations are mainly localized bodies representing street vendors in specific areas of the city. In fact in all the larger cities trade unions representing different political hues try to mobilize street vendors. Some of these trade unions are independent organizations but most of them are affiliates of the

larger trade union federations. Since street vending is not officially permitted the main role of these organizations is to negotiate with the local authorities (the officers in the municipal wards and police stations) for occupying public space. It is a coalition of trade unions and voluntary organizations working for street vendors spread all over India. NASVI, now based in Patna, started off as a net working organization of street vendors. It advocates for the basic rights of street vendors. It has been found that as street vendors are a part of the urban informal sector they have little or no access to institutional credit. This makes them dependent on private moneylenders who charge high rates of interests or they depend on their savings as working capital.

Akharuzzaman and Deguchi (2010) conducted a study among the street vendors in Dhaka city. The aim of the study was to clarify the real urban street environmental situation reflected by street vendors in Dhaka city. The study suggested that, due to the lack of formalization and weak management system, it creates difficult problems in urban areas by producing street garbage and gathering crowd on the busy footpath. The street vendors do business in the footpath and often they don't even take the responsibility to maintain the cleanliness of their surrounding environment in the city.

Bhowmik (2010) has given an example of housing societies of the middle and upper middle classes that encroach on public space around their own residences. In addition, shops and restaurants also encroach upon public space by extending to the pavements. In the present study, it is also seen that shopkeepers use the adjacent space for their advertisement purposes. Some of the small restaurants keep chairs for public/customers to be used as a waiting space. It was observed during the survey that in such cases, they are not evicted. Here, the public space is being encroached upon by private individuals. It is, however, the poor vendors who are evicted, though vending is the source of their own livelihood. However, street vendors are thriving successfully in the city and their numbers are also growing rapidly, as their services are widely demanded by the public.

Saha (2010) pointed out that the street vendors access capital from different sources and depend on the money lenders especially for their economic activity



as well as for social security purposes and street vendors are forced to borrow mainly for social security purposes at exorbitant rate of interest (amounting to 5-10% per month) rather than their economic activities which in turn cause to lead them to fall into a debt-trap situation which is a deep concern.

Saha (2011) analyzed the working life of street vendors in Mumbai, in terms of their financial conditions and the extent of indebtedness, the amount of bribes they have to pay to police in order to sustain themselves in the market, their working hours, the issues of public space utilization, and the legal aspect of their activity. It has been seen from the study that their entire existence and nature of activities are extremely informal and are trust-based.

Timalsina, 2011; Adhikari, (2011) Not only in Bangladesh, but also in Kathmandu, Nepal, street vending rendered as a prominent source of earning livelihood for rural people in urban area along with serving urban poor providing goods in cheaper price to urban dweller.

Rover (2012) pointed out Street vending as an occupation has existed for hundreds of years, and is considered a cornerstone of many cities' historical and cultural heritage in some cities, street traders account for as much as 20% of total employment.

Suraiya & Noor (2012) They are one of the most vulnerable and marginalized fragment of urban poor population. Despite, they play a dynamic role to meet the demand of urban dwellers in Dhaka city, providing cost effective and durable items together with generating income and employment opportunities for large number of inhabitants resulting a very important earning source of their families.

Monir Z (2013) reported that there are more than 5,000 regular street vendors in Sylhet city. City mayor circulated a public notice to free the city footpaths and evicted the hawkers within a week from the city streets. Such eviction may lead an in human life along with the families after losing their earning sources owing to the drive conducted against the street vendors. 'Step to refurbish the hawkers

market will be taken soon after discussing the matter in the city corporation meeting in order to rehabilitate the evicted street vendors,' Mayor said.

Monir Z (2013) reported that the corporation authorities, in association with the Sylhet Metropolitan Police, have already removed some makeshift shops from the main roads including Zindabazar, Chowhatta, Bandarabazar, Laldighirpar and Surma Point in the city as keeping the city streets congestion-free and reclaiming its footpaths from illegal occupation of street vendors was one of the main election pledges to the citizens.

WIEGO (2013) identified that the street vending is a matter of survival for informal vendors and their families, who have few or no other employment opportunities. They merit a policy framework that helps mitigate income loss and protects the earnings on which their households rely. Thus, it is saw that though street vending is expanding rapidly, there is a very few research on this issue, especially in Dhaka. So, there is an urgent need to encourage more research on this important segment of the urban vendors and special focus must be on women vendors.

Mullah S and Islam Z (2014) reported that there are over 5 lakh hawkers in the country and each of them on an average pays Tk. 50 every day to linemen, who are private agents of extortionists. The rates vary depending on the location of the stalls, hawkers trading busy streets buzzing with commuters have to pay more. Around Tk. 850 crore is extorted from hawkers every year claimed hawker leaders in a press conference. If the hawkers are unable to pay the extortion money, they often tortured, and their makeshift stalls and goods are damaged.

WIEGO (2014) Street vendors in Mexico City; rickshaw pullers in Calcutta; garbage collectors in Bogota; push-cart vendors in New York city; and roadside barbers in Durban. Those who work on the streets or in the open-air are the more visible occupational groups in the informal sector economy. The streets of cities, towns, and villages in most developing countries – and in many developed countries – are lined by barbers, cobblers, waste pickers, garbage collectors, and vendors of vegetables, fruit, fish, meat, and snack foods of non-perishable items

ranging from locks and keys to soaps and detergents, to clothing. In many countries, cart pullers, bicycle peddlers, head-loaders, rickshaw pullers, and camel, bullock, or horse cart drivers jostle to make their way down narrow village lanes or through the maze of , trucks, vans, cars, and buses on city streets .

From the above review of literatures discussion we have been found that the rise in the urban informal economy plays an important role in employment creation and labor absorption in the urban areas. Promotion of informal and small business activities have been as strategies in poverty alleviation and development in developing countries in the world. So this type of economic work as vegetable vending should be formalized and give them a proper identity for the shake of their better life.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study was actually descriptive in nature. This research was conducted based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through a pre-designed questionnaire. These questions included both open and close end questions. The objective of this questionnaire was to explore the current situation of street vegetable vendors and their livelihood status. On the basis of preliminary survey and discussion, the final questionnaire was made in which demographic characteristics, the fulfillment of basic needs, socioeconomic condition, problems of vending, and their social status were asked. In order to make the primary data valid, the study extensively surveyed available sources of secondary data like published articles, books, BBS(Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics), printed newspapers, online newspapers, online blogs, and websites.

#### **3.2 Study Area**

The study area took place in Dhaka city. Two specific places of street vending were selected based on their availability. The study mainly focused on their vending point and a convenient way to meet with them. The study chooses the places purposively to meet the research objectives stated on Mohammadpur Thana and Mirpur Model Thana. These places include schools, mosques, busy marketplaces, and other such public spaces. The population of this study was street vegetable vendors in the study area.

#### **3.3 Sample Size**

An effective effort has been made to develop the appropriate sample plan. To meet the researches objectives 60 street vegetable vendors were randomly selected within the study area where each specific location contained 30 street vegetable vendors. The preliminary survey and discussion with the street vegetable vendors helped a lot to construct an appropriate sample size for those specific areas. Information was taken from the respondent before the interview by

me. The respondent agreed to disclose his identity and other relevant personal information. Respondent's name was not identified by me to protect their privacy. Before conducting the interview of vegetable vendors the objectives of this study were disclosed by me. They were conducted during their business hour. After their permission, I started an interview with them. I was also careful not to do any harm to the respondent's sale. I stopped the interview if any customer came to buy vegetables. I also engaged one note-keeper during the interview session. No electronic devices were used to record the discussion. This research was classified as less harmful for all respondents. It carefully maintained the ethical standards as well as the confidentiality of sensitive and more personalized issues

### **3.4 Data Analysis**

After having the collected data from the field the researcher made the datasheet with proper caution and check. The study was conducted during the period of February 2020 to August 2020. For objective 1 descriptive analysis is used to illustrate the demographic structure and find out the vegetable vendor's socioeconomic characteristics. For objective 2 descriptive analysis is used to know the reasons and explore the major problems and risks which face vegetable vending. For objective 3 descriptive analysis to find the solution of the problems and recommendations to develop vegetable street vendors microenterprise development in the study area. Data were descriptively analyzed using SPSS 20 software.

Techniques of Analysis:

i) Tabular

ii) Statistical Techniques

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILES OF STREET VEGETABLE VENDORS IN DHAKA CITY**

Nowadays street vegetable vendors are part of urban life. They sell different types of vegetables to the customers. During field observation, it has been found that vegetable vendors of Dhaka city sell their vegetables mainly to the city dwellers. Generally, people of all the strata of society come to buy vegetables from them but mainly middle income and low-income customers are the main customers of them who can not afford to buy from super shops. People buy vegetables from them because they find vegetables near their doorsteps. This saves their transport cost and time.

In this chapter, the demographic features of vegetable vendors have been discussed which will help to understand why and what state they take vegetable vending as their means of livelihood. Their age, gender, family size distribution, education status will indicate the importance of the profession and how in most cases only one earning member maintains an average of 5.23 family members. How they live with poverty in this chapter will be clarified. Nobody is willing to choose vegetable vending as an occupation avoiding government rules but they are helpless for their poverty. Due to poverty, unemployment, illiteracy they choose this occupation. The following section will provide important information regarding the socioeconomic status of street vegetable vendors and their family

#### **4.1 Demographic status of street vegetable vendors**

For this thesis, 60 street vegetable vendors have been interviewed to know their location, gender, age, marital status, religion, family size, and educational status.

##### **4.1.1 Location wise distribution of gender**

In two different study area reflects two types of characteristics and have individual commercial flavor. Mirpur Model Thana area is mainly a market base area. Many constructions of building happening there. This area is so much busy with factory workers, shopkeepers, women garments workers. At night after working hours when they go home they buy vegetables from street vegetable vendors. There are

many vegetable vendors gathered in this area from 2 pm to 10 am. From field study, it has been found that males dominate in this occupation. From table 1 it has been found that 46.67 percent of them are male vegetable vendors and 3.33 percent of them are female vegetable vendors. Mohammadpur Thana is a school base area where apartments and flat buildings are available. The earning capacity of these people is high. There are many schools, colleges there. Here women who take their children to school buy vegetables from street vegetable vendors. Vegetable vendors gather in this area from 7 am to 10 am then scattered in different places for vending. Here also male dominates in this occupation. From table 1 it has been found that 48.33 percent of street vegetable vendors are male and 1.67 percent are female.

**Table 1 Location wise distribution of gender**

Location	Gender				Total	
	Male		Female			
	NO.	%	NO.	%	No.	%
Mirpur Model Thana	28	46.67	2	3.33	30	50
Mohammadpur Thana	29	48.33	1	1.67	30	50
Total	57	95	3	5	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### **4.1.2 Age-wise distribution of street vegetable vendors**

Different ages of street vegetable vendors have been found during the survey in two selected thana. Not only old men or middle-aged men are involved in this occupation but also young boys whose ages less than twenty are involved in this occupation. Middle-aged women whose husbands are unable to work are also involved in this sector. Some young boys help their father in this business as per time workers. Some young boys whose father died and did not have any earning members in their family involve themselves in this occupation. A very old-aged man whose children do not financially support them also involved in this occupation. From table 2 it has been found that 58.3 percent of vegetable vendor's age range is 26 years to 35 years and around 31.7 percentage range is 36 years to

45 years. Most young ages of them are 6.7 percent whose age range is 11 years to 25 years. The old age group percentage is 1.7 percent whose age range is 56 years to 65 years. Rest 1.7 percentage range is 46 years to 55 years.

**Table 2 Age-wise distribution of street vegetable vendors**

Age Group (Years)	Frequency	Percent
11-25	4	6.7
26-35	35	58.3
36-45	19	31.7
46-55	1	1.7
56-65	1	1.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.1.3 Age-wise marital status distribution

According to the field survey from table-3, it has been found that 78.3 percent of street vegetable vendors are married and 21.7 percent are unmarried. Table 3 shows the age-wise marital status of vegetable vendors. Data reveals that 43.31 percent are married and 15.02 percent are unmarried in the age limit of 26-35 years. No one is married in the age range of 16-25 years. Similarly, no one is unmarried in the age range of 36-65 years.

**Table 3 Age-wise marital status distribution**

Age	Marital Status				Total	
	Married		Unmarried			
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
16-25	0	0	4	6.68	4	6.68
26-35	26	43.31	9	15.02	35	58.33
36-45	19	31.65	0	0	19	31.65
46-55	1	1.67	0	0	1	1.67
56-65	1	1.67	0	0	1	1.67
Total	47	78.3	13	21.7	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020



#### 4.1.4 Religion

Table 4 shows their religious status of them. Data reveals that 91.7 percent of them are Muslim and 8.3 percent Hindu. There is no other religion in selected vegetable vendors.

**Table 4 Religious distribution of street vegetable vendors**

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Muslim	55	91.7
Hindu	5	8.3
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.1.5 Family Size

During the field surveys, it has been found that the maximum vegetable vendor extended family of 4 to 6 members. From table 5 it has been found that 66.7 percent of them maintain a family size of 4 to 6 members. A small family which contains 1 to 3 members is maintained by 11.7 percent. A large family that contains 7 to 9 members is maintained by 21.7 percent of street vegetable vendors. The average number of vegetable vendors family members is 5.23 but the national average of the family size of Bangladesh is 4.060.

**Table 5: Family size distribution of street vegetable vendors**

Family Members	Frequency	Percent
≤3	7	11.7
4-6	40	66.7
7-9	13	21.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.1.6 Education Status:

In Dhaka city about 38.3 percent of street vegetable vendors involving their vending business after completing their primary level of education and 31.7 percent after secondary level according to table 6. Almost 28.3 vegetable vendors are totally illiterate. The percentage of them who completed SSC level is 1.7

**Table 6 Education level of street vegetable vendors**

<b>Education Group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
No Education	17	28.3
Primary	23	38.3
Secondary	19	31.7
SSC	1	1.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### **4.2 Nature of street vegetable vending**

The study showed that street vending in Dhaka is a male-dominated occupation although the proportion of female vendors has been significantly increasing over the past few years. Street vendors were observed in most public and private places including industrial and construction sites, fuel stations, cemeteries, outside schools, clinics and hospitals, colleges and universities, government buildings, bus terminates, railway station, church buildings, shopping and commercial centers, recreation centers, pavements, open spaces, traffic light-controlled junctions or any road junctions and along virtually every street in the central business district and residential areas or suburbs. These have become alternative shopping destinations where there are no permanent and designated market places for street vendors. In nature of street vegetable vending duration of their vending experience, working hour, vegetable collecting place, priority preference while collecting vegetables, number of vegetable items they collect, ownership of vending van and how they facilitate their customers have been discussed.

##### **4.2.1 Duration of vending experience**

Table 7 shows the duration of the vending experience. Data shows that 81.7 of the vegetable vendor's duration of the experience is lowest 5 years and 11.7 percent have 6 to 10 years. Almost 5 percent have 11 to 15 years. Rest 1.7 percent is the most experienced and their experience is 16 to 20 years.

**Table 7 Duration of vending experience**

<b>Duration of vending experience (Years)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Below 5	49	81.7
6-10	7	11.7
11-15	3	5.0
16-above	1	1.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### **4.2.2 Working Hour**

During the field surveys, it has been found that most of the vegetable vendors start their work at midnight. They even do not properly sleep. At midnight they go for the whole sell market like Kawranbazar. They go so early to collect fresh vegetables. They start vegetable selling at the morning session from 7 am to 10 am. They scattered in the city with their van and sell the vegetables near the doorsteps of customers. Then they take a break at lunchtime. After lunch, they start selling vegetables when the office closes and people go home. This selling happens till 9 or 10 pm. From table 8 it has been found that 48.3 percent of them work for 11 to 15 hours and 38.3 percent work for 16 to above hours. Almost 11.7 percent work for 6 to 10 hours. Rest 1.7 percent work for 1 to 5 hours.

**Table 8 The working hours of street vegetable vendors**

<b>Working Hour</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1-5	1	1.7
6-10	7	11.7
11-15	29	48.3
16-above	23	38.3
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### **4.2.3 Vegetable Collecting Place**

Someone who buys large quantities of goods and resells to small businessman rather than to the ultimate customers is called a wholesaler. A supplier is a person or business that provides a product or service to another entity. The role of a supplier in a business is to provide high-quality products from a manufacturer at

a good price to a distributor or retailer for resale. The farmer only produces crop and vegetables. Street vegetable vendors collect vegetables mainly from the wholesale market like Kawran Bazar. From table 9 it has been seen that 71.7 percent of them collect vegetables from the wholesale market and almost 15.0 percent collect from farmers who live backward side of Dhaka. Some vegetable vendors work as a supplier of other street vegetable vendors. They first collect vegetable from the wholesale market and then supply them to distant living street vegetable vendors. The percentage who collect vegetables from suppliers is 13.3 percent.

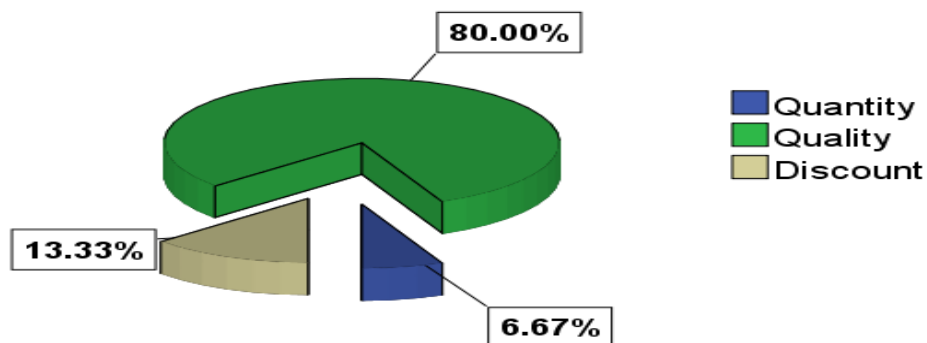
**Table 9 Vegetable collecting place**

Vegetable collecting place	Frequency	Percent
Supplier	8	13.3
Wholesaler	43	71.7
Farmer	9	15.0
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.2.4 Priority preference in collecting vegetables

From the survey field, it has been identified that most vegetable vendors think about quality first more than the quantity of average low-cost vegetables and discount on the half-rotten vegetables. From fig 1 it is seen that 80.0percent of vegetable vendors buy vegetables on the basis of their quality. Some vendors around 6.67 percent buy based on quantity as they are average low-cost vegetables. Rest 13.33 percent of vendors buy at discount as these vegetables are not fresh, dry, and in some cases half-rotten



**Fig-1: Priority preference in collecting vegetables**

#### 4.2.5 Number of vegetable items purchased by vegetable vendors

Street vegetable vendors collect many types of seasonal vegetables for sale. Summer vegetable items in Bangladesh are Brinjals, Pumpkin, Bitter Gourd, Green Leafy Vegetables, Green Beans, Ribbed gourd etc. Winter vegetables in Bangladesh are Carrots, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Bottle gourd, Tomato, Okra, Cucumber, etc. They try to collect as many items on the basis of capital. From table 10 it has been seen that 36.7 percent of vegetable vendors collect 6-10 items of vegetables and 30.0 percent collect 11-15 items. Most items 26-30 were collected by only 5 percent vegetable vendors.

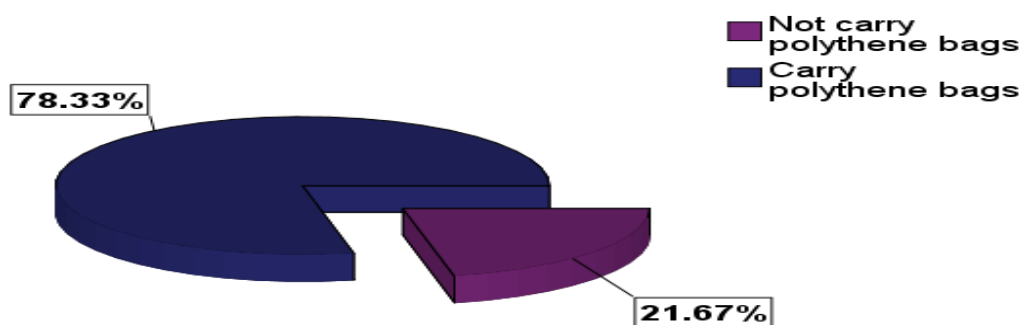
**Table 10 Number of vegetable items purchased by vegetable vendors**

Number of vegetable items	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	5	8.3
6-10	22	36.7
11-15	18	30.0
16-20	9	15.0
21-25	3	5.0
26-30	3	5.0
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.2.6 Carrying Polythene bags to facilitate customers

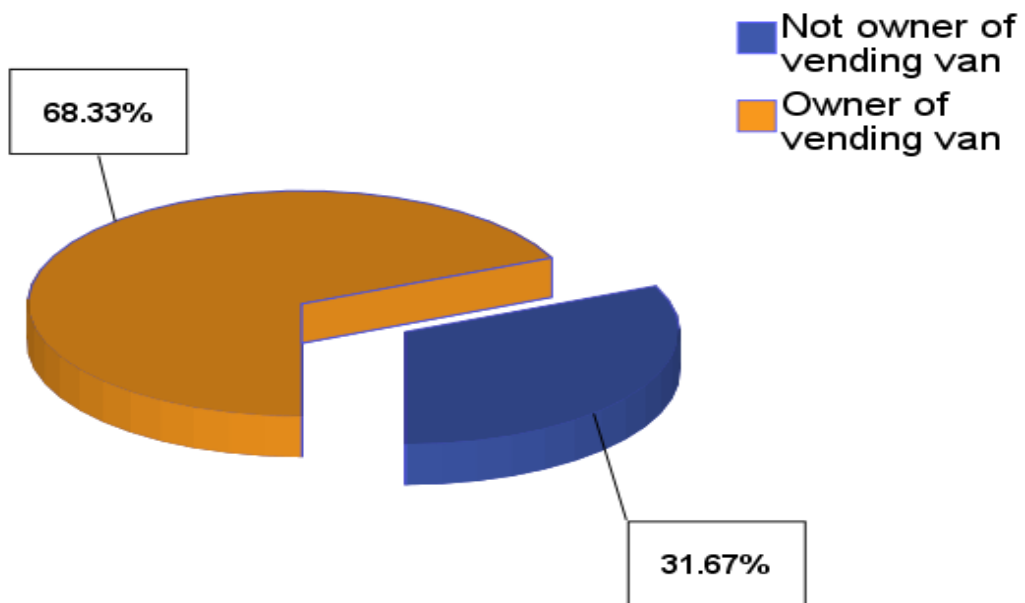
Most vegetable vendors carry polythene bags to facilitate customers. Polythene bags are so cheap in cost. It is also easy to carry vegetables. Normally vegetable vendors who sell only leafy vegetables do not supply customers with any polythene bags. They only use a rope to bind the root areas of leafy vegetables. From figure 2 it has been seen that 78.33 percent of street vegetable vendors carry polythene bags to facilitate customers and 21.67 percent do not carry any polythene bag as they use a rope for leafy vegetables.



**Fig-2: Carrying Polythene bags to facilitate customers**

#### 4.2.7 Ownership status of vending van

Van is one of the most vital factors of street vegetable vending. The total business of vending is mainly dependent on this three-wheeler van. Vendors sell their goods from their vans. In a risky situation, they paddle on the van and go out of the risky place. By van, they cope with different problematic situations. They buy vegetables from wholesalers, suppliers and carry them in their van. For a full business hour, they use this van. Some vendors own this van and others who do not own have to pay 70 tk to 80 tk per day known from the field survey. From figure 3 it is seen that 68.33 percent of street vegetable vendors own a van and 31.67 percent do not own a van as they have to pay rent per day for the van.

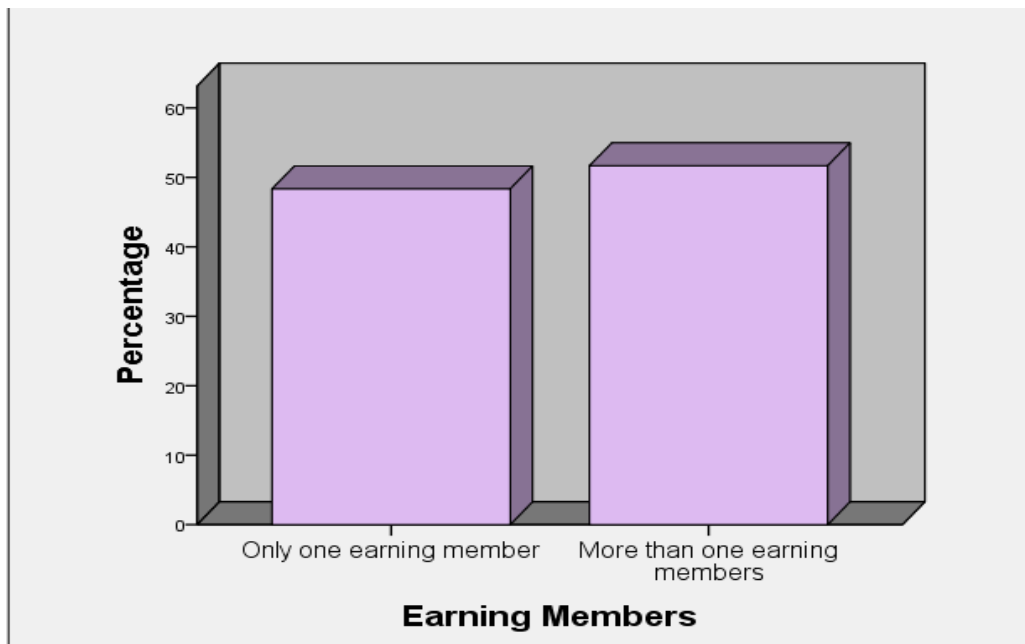


**Fig-3: Ownership status of vending van**

#### 4.2.8 Number of earning members in the family

Street vegetable vendors earnings is not much. Most of the time it is difficult to maintain the average number of family members 5.23. Someone has a larger family. It is difficult to maintain 6 to 9 members in a family with the income of only one earning member. Most of the time wife of vegetable vendors works as a maidservant to support his family. From figure-4 it has been seen 51.7 percent of

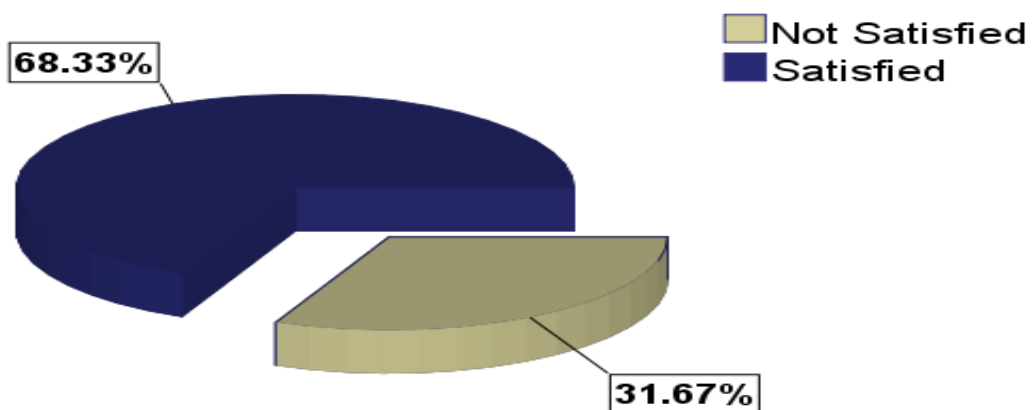
families have more than one earning member and 48.3 percent of families have only one earning member who hardly supports a total family.



**Fig-4: Number of earning members in the family**

#### 4.2.9 Satisfaction Level

From a field survey, it has been found that most street vegetable vendors are satisfied with their vegetable vending. From figure 5 it has been seen that 68.33 percent of street vegetable vendors are satisfied with their occupation and 31.67 percent are not satisfied.



**Fig-5: Satisfaction level**

### 4.3 Nature of Utilities

#### 4.3.1 Residence Status

The earnings of street vegetable vendors are poor. Most of their earning level is poor. Maintaining the needs of family members they are often unable to live in a secured, well-decorated building. From field survey, it has been found that most of them live in a rent house. From table 11 it has been seen that 91.7 percent live in rented houses. The income of some of them is too much poor. They live in a slum which is unhealthy. Almost 6.7 percent live in slums. Only 1.7 percent of them afford to live in their own house.

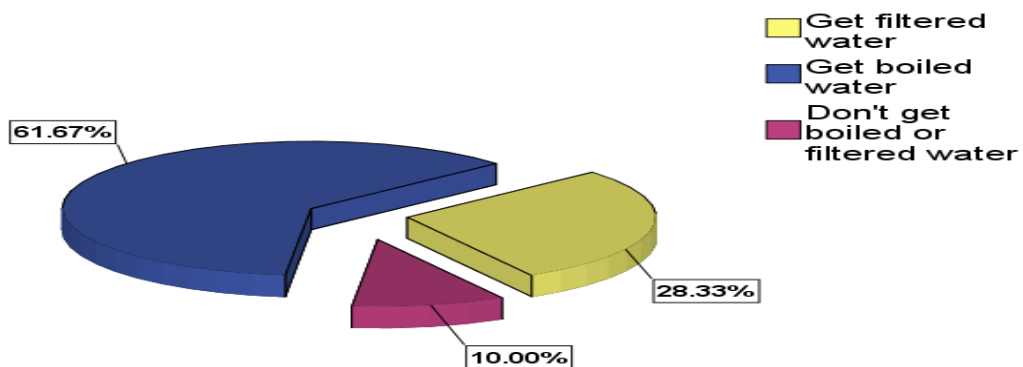
**Table 11 Residence type**

Residence Type	Frequency	Percent
Own House	1	1.7
Rented	55	91.7
Slum	4	6.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.3.2 Sources of drinking water

From a field survey, it has been found that most of them are conscious about their drinking water. They boiled water easily before drinking as a gas supply is available. Most of them not afford to buy a filter and maintain it. From figure 6 it has been found that 61.67 percent get boiled water. They boiled the supply of water before drinking. Some of them can maintain filter water and this percentage is 28.33. Rest 10 percent not get any filtered or boiled water.

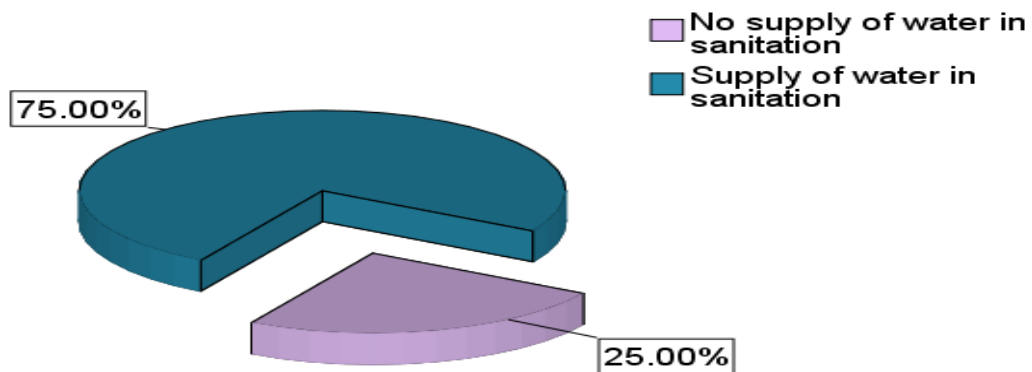


**Fig-6: Sources of drinking water**



### 4.3.3 Water supply in sanitation

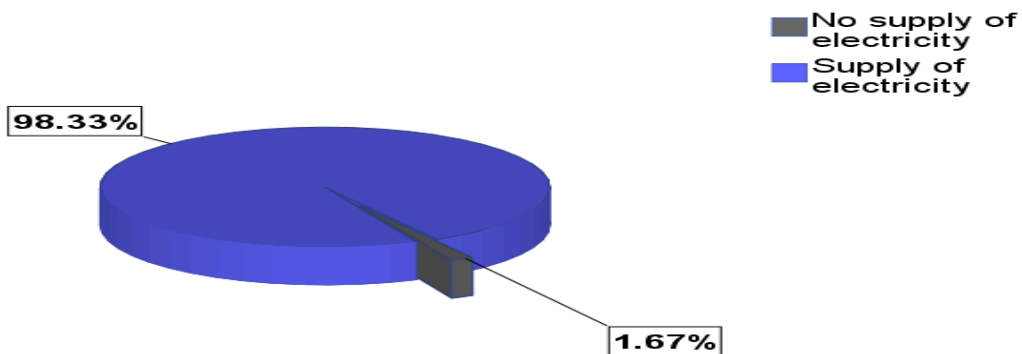
Street vegetable vendors normally live in a rented houses. These houses are normally not so developed. Some houses have water supply facilities in sanitation and some houses have no water supply facilities. According to figure 7, it has been seen that 75.00 percent has supply water in their sanitation and 25.00 percent has no supply of water.



**Fig-7: Water supply in sanitation**

### 4.3.4 Electricity

Our government already developed in this sector. Nowadays a proper supply of electricity is available from village to city. Almost everyone getting the facilities for electricity. From figure 8 it has been seen that 98.33 percent of street vegetable vendors use the benefit of electricity. Only 1.67 percent do not use electricity due to living in a backward area slum.



**Fig-8: Electricity Use**

#### 4.3.5 Use of cell phone

The supply of low-cost Chinese phones in Bangladesh makes them easy to afford. Low-income level people can afford to buy a mobile to communicate with family members or use them for their business purpose. Nowadays most vegetable vendors use mobile to communicate with farmers, wholesalers, suppliers, and sometimes with customers. From the field survey, 78.33 percent have been found to use cell phones for different purposes shown in figure 9. Among them, 21.67 percent do not use any cell phone.

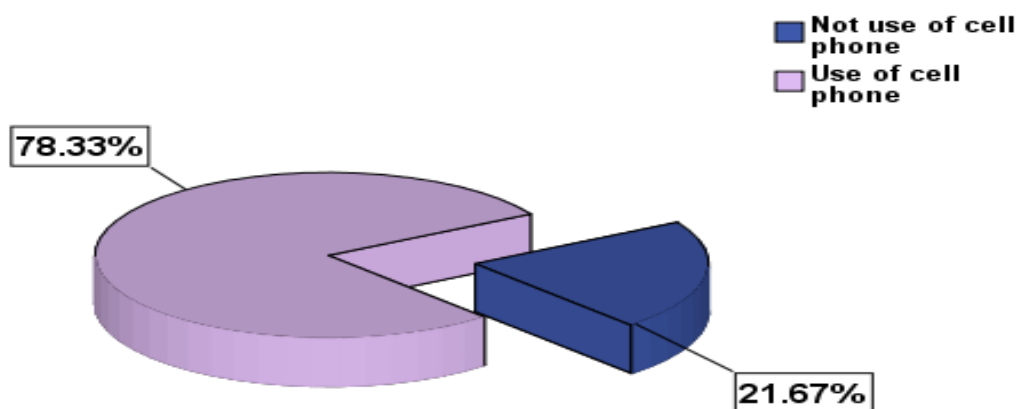


Fig-9: Use of cell phone

#### 4.4 The economic status of street vegetable vendors of Bangladesh:

##### 4.4.1 Reasons for joining this profession

In Bangladesh, a large number of people are illiterate and unskilled labor force. So they can not get any suitable job apart from being engaged in agriculture, hawking, or vending. Again natural disasters often destroy all of their crops, lands, wealth and hamper their economic life. It is not easy for them to get any suitable job. For livelihood, they migrate to the cities and search for suitable jobs for livelihood and settled in vending occupations finding it a convenient one to maintain their lives. During the survey the following reasons were identified as the main factors behind their involvement in the hawking profession:

- i) Poverty
- ii) Illiteracy
- iii) Others

**Poverty:** Poverty is the main cause of joining this occupation. For lack of capital, they can not go for other businesses. From a field survey, it has been found that 41.7 percent of them join this profession only for poverty.

**Illiteracy:** Illiteracy is the other main cause of joining this occupation. An illiterate person has no hope for a better or skilled job. They have no other way of choosing a formal job except entering this informal economic sector. From table 12 it has been found that 23.3 percent of them join this profession for illiteracy.

**Table 12 Reasons for joining vegetable vending**

Reasons of joining	Frequency	Percent
Poverty	25	41.7
Illiteracy	14	23.3
Others	21	35.0
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

**Others:** There are many other reasons for joining this profession. Almost 35.0 percent show the other reasons for joining this profession in Table 12

**Table 13 Other Reasons**

Other Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
This business requires little capital	7	11.67
Business can be carried out any place	3	5.00
No skill requires	1	1.67
No professional experience requires	2	3.33
Requires less physical labor	3	5.00
Profitable than many other business	5	8.33
Total	21	35.0

Source: Field Survey 2020

**This Business Requires Little Capital:** Street vegetable vending needs little capital to start. From table 13 it has been seen that 11.67 percent show this reason to enter this occupation.

**Business can be carried out any place:** A van is related to this business by which vendors carry vegetable from one place to another. It is easy to carry business according to customers gathering. Almost 5 percent show this cause to enter this occupation

**No Skill Requires:** For starting this business no skill is required. Customers normally come and buy vegetables from them. Around 1.67 show this reason to enter this occupation.

**No professional experience requires:** No one has to gain professional experience to do vegetable vending. Almost 3.33 percent show this as their main cause.

**Requires less physical labor:** Vegetable vending is an occupation where no one has to apply physical hard labor as like another informal job. FTable13 date revealed that 5.0 percent agree that this occupation requires less physical labor which is why it is suitable for them.

**Profitable than any other business:** Street vegetable vending is a running business because vegetables are the everyday needs of city dwellers. Always there is a demand for the vegetable. Much informal hawking business is not demandable every time. So 8.33 percent of vegetable vendors think that this occupation is more profitable than other hawking businesses.

#### 4.4.2 Start-Up Capital

Table 14 expresses the start-up capital amount of street vegetable vendors. From this table, data revealed that most vegetable vendors almost 53.3 percent start their business below 3000 Tk. and 33.3 percent start with the range limit of 3001-6000 Tk. The highest start-up capital range has been seen from table 14 is 9001-12000 Tk. Only 8.3 percent in this range. Rest vegetable vendors percentage is 5.0 percent whose start-up capital range is 6001-9000 Tk.

**Table 14 Start-up capital of street vegetable vendors**

Startup capital in Taka	Frequency	Percent
Below 3000	32	53.3
3001-6000	20	33.3
6001-9000	3	5.0
9001-12000	5	8.3
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.4.3 Sources of capital

The main sources to start a vegetable vending business were

I) Personal Saving

II) Parents

III) Loan

**Personal Saving:** Personal little saving one day can start a business. A bright example is street vegetable vending. Table 15 data revealed that 60.0 percent of vegetable vendors start their vending business with personal savings.

**Parents:** When someone wants to start a business at a young age their source of capital in most cases is their parents. From table 15 it has been seen that 26.7 percent of them start their business with their parents' help.

**Loan:** A loan is a common factor to start a business in the formal sector but in the informal sector taking a loan for starting a business is so tough. Because when someone wants to take a loan he has to show a proper mortgage. But street vegetable vendors are unable to show and give mortgages for loans because they are poor. As a result, they do not find bank loans easily. In most cases, they have to collect loans from informal ways like neighbors, Mohajon with high interest. This high-interest loan paying is very much difficult. Almost 13.3 percent of vegetable vendors' start-up capital source is loans

**Table 15 Sources of capital**

Sources of Capital	Frequency	Percentage
Loan	8	13.3
Personal Saving	36	60.0
Parents	16	26.7
Total	60	100.0

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.4.4 Daily Sale

It has been seen from table 16 that 73.3 percent street vegetable vendors daily sell is below Tk.5000. Almost 23.3 percent daily sale in the range of Tk. 5001-10000. Highest range of sale which is Tk.15001-2000 done by only 1.7 percent vegetable vendors daily. The average daily sale is Tk.4210

**Table 16: Daily sales of street vegetable vendors**

Daily Sale in Taka	Frequency	Percent
Below 5000	44	73.3
5001-10000	14	23.3
10001-15000	1	1.7
15001-20000	1	1.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.4.5 Daily Income

Table 17 data revealed that 58.3 percent of street vegetable vendors' daily income is between 251-500 Tk. and 21.7 percent between 501-750 tk. The highest income holder percentage is seen 1.7 at daily basis. Their income range is Tk.1751 or above. The lowest income holder is 3.3 percent whose income range is below 250.

**Table 17 Daily income of street vegetable vendors**

Daily Income in Taka	Frequency	Percent
Below 250	2	3.3
251-500	35	58.3
501-750	13	21.7
751-1000	8	13.3
1001-1250	1	1.7
1251-1500	0	0
1501-1750	0	0
1751-above	1	1.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.4.6 Monthly Income

Table 18 expresses the monthly income of street vegetable vendors. From the table, data revealed that the monthly income of most street vegetable vendors is below 15000 Tk. . About 61.7 percent of street vegetable vendors' monthly income is in the range of below 15000. But it is not enough to maintain a family member of 6 to 9 people in Dhaka city. So the other member of the family also engaged themselves in income-generating activities. Their wife works as a maidservant in the resident area. From the field survey, it has been found that 1.7 percent of them do the highest monthly income which is seen to be 45000 or above Tk.

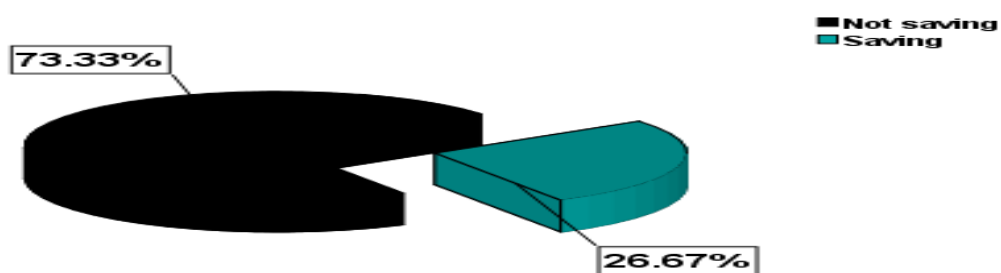
**Table 18 Monthly income of street vegetable vendors**

Monthly Income in Taka	Frequency	Percent
Below 15000	37	61.7
15001-30000	21	35.0
30001-45000	1	1.7
45000-above	1	1.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

#### 4.4.7 Saving Status

From the field survey, it has been known that most of the vegetable vendor's income level is low. In Dhaka city the daily living expenses are high. With little income, it is almost impossible to maintain average family members of 5.25. Then saving is so much more difficult. From fig 7 it has been seen that 26.67 percent of street vegetable vendors have little saving tendency. Almost 73.33 percent have no saving status.



**Fig-10: Saving status**

## CHAPTER V

### RISKS IDENTIFIED BY STREET VEGETABLE VENDORS

Street vegetable vendors are performing a vital role in our daily life. Vegetables are necessary food items in our everyday meals. It is easy to collect vegetables near doorsteps from them instead of going to market. Sometimes street vegetable vendors' price is lower than the market price. As a result, it saves our time and energy from walking a long way to market. Though they make our life easy, their business is vulnerable to some risks identified by them.

#### **5.1 There are four occupation-related risks identified by street vegetable vendors**

- i) Interference of city corporation
- ii) Harassment from police
- iii) Rotten of vegetables
- iv) Bad Weather

**Table 19 Risk faced by street vegetable vendors**

<b>Name of risks</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Bad Weather	4	6.7
Interference of city corporation	30	50.0
Harassment from police	17	28.3
Rotten of vegetables	9	15.0
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

**Interference of city corporation:** Pedestrians are usually the customers of the street vegetable vendors. They gather with their van where pedestrians are available. But not all the roads and roadside areas are allowed for street vegetable vendors. For example, VIP roads are vendors free. There are such these types of important roads where vendors are not allowed. But it is true that no designated place for vegetable vendors. They move randomly and face interference of city corporation authorities. Most of the vendors agreed they face risk from the interference of DCC authority. They force them to left the important roads where they are not allowed. Most of the time they gather on roads or nearby roads where pedestrians are available. Then roads become narrow and traffic jams create. Then



DCC authorities force them to leave the places. From table 19 it has been found that 50.0 percent of street vegetable vendors feel the risk of interference from Dhaka City Corporation Authority. The government allowed vegetable vendors in some points but they are so less than their numbers. As a result, many of them have to enter the restricted area for livelihood and face the risk of interference of DCC.

**Harassment from police:** During business hours vegetable vendors face the risk of harassment from police. Most of the time they have to pay bribes daily to carry their business in illegal places. From table 19 it has been found that 28.3 percent of vegetable vendors face the risk of harassment from police. Police often disturb and torch them.

**Rotten of vegetables:** They collect their vegetables at midnight. Vegetables are perishable. Vegetable vendors have no cold storage facilities. As a result, they have to purchase vegetables on a daily basis and sell them daily. If they can't sell them in one day there is a risk of rotten vegetables. Table 19 data revealed that 15.0 percent of them face the risk of rotten vegetables. As a result at night hours, they sell them at low prices.

**Bad Weather:** They face risks when the weather is not suitable. Because at the rainy season for rain pedestrians are not gathered. Their business depends on the availability of pedestrians. As a result, it makes a loss in their business. When the weather is bad and rains heavily for many days the vegetable vendors can not run their business. Almost 6.7 percent of them face the risk of bad weather shown in table 19.

## 5.2 Different negative effects of risks

There are some negative effects of risk in the business of street vegetable vendors.

**Table 20 Different negative effects of these risks on vegetable vending**

Effect of Risk	Frequency	Percent
Displacement from the business avenue	27	45.0
Damage of vegetables	7	11.7
Loss in the business	26	43.3
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

**Displacement from the business avenue:** The effect of risk is multidimensional. When they face DCC (Dhaka City Corporation) authorities or police they have to change the avenue of present business and have to search for a new place for vegetable vending. For this, their sell minimized until they find a new place. Their time also waste meaninglessly. Adjustment in the new place is a big issue. From table 20 data revealed 45 percent of street vegetable vendors agree that the effect of risk is a displacement from the business avenue.

**Loss in the business:** The risks make a loss in their daily business. When they have to leave the place for Dhaka city authorities and police their sell not happen. As a result, loss happens. In new place first, some days adjustment is needed and sales become less. As a result, causes loss. Around 43.3 percent agree that they have lost in their business when they facing a risky situation.

**Damage of vegetables:** When they can not sell their vegetable as a result of searching for new places their perishable vegetable become damages. From table 20 it has been seen that almost 11.7 percent of them agreed that their vegetable becomes damaged when the face risky situation and have to search a new place for vending.

**5.3 Risk coping strategy:** The coping strategy they apply for overcoming risk is

- i) Saving
- ii) Change the location
- ii) Don't do business 2-3 days

**Table 21 Risk coping strategy**

<b>Risk coping strategy</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Saving	10	16.7
Change the location	37	61.7
Don't do business 2-3 days	13	21.7
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

**Saving:** Saving is a source of money that they use in times of hardship period. Every day a little saving can prove a backup for hard days. From table 21 it has been seen that 16.7 percent use their saving to overcome risks.

**Change the location:** Police and DCC authorities force them to leave the restricted areas and busy road area. Then they change the location to cope with this risk. From table 21 data revealed that 61.7 percent of vegetable vendors change their present location to save themselves from the eviction of police or high government authority.

**Don't do business 2-3 days:** For government intervention, they not do business for 2-3 days as the situation of the area become hard. They search for a better vending place. From table 21 data revealed that 21.7 percent does not do any business as a coping strategy.

**5.4 Suggestion to overcome the risk:** In field survey time vegetable vendors has given some important suggestion to overcome the risk

- i) Vendor Association
- ii) Government policies
- iii) Specific vendor identity card

**Table 22 Suggestion to overcome the risk**

<b>Suggestions to overcome risks</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Vendor Association	16	26.7
Government policies	41	68.3
Specific vendor identity card	3	5.0
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

**Vendor Association:** Vendor associations make unity among all vendors. There must be a leader there. This leader bargain with government authority about the vendors demands. He makes a bridge of cooperation between vendors and the government. From table 22, it has been found that 26.7 percent of them suggest making a vendor association for them.

**Government policies:** Our government nowadays planning to decorate our Dhaka city and make traffic jam-free. As a result of they creating some strict traffic rules. It has a negative impact on street vendors. Our government has some projects to alleviate poverty and a portion of the budget to help poor people by VGF, safety net program, VGD. Though our government has good policies for

many vulnerable poor groups of people but not a strong policy for vendor groups of people. A vendor-favored policy should be developed by the government. From table 22, it has been found that 68.3 percent suggest that a good vendor-favored policy can minimize the risk of their everyday life.

**Specific vendor identity card:** A specific vendor identity card can protect them from many types of harassment. Government-approved identity cards can make their life almost risk-free. From table 22, it has been found that 5.0 percent of vegetable vendors suggest government-approved vendor identity cards.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE PROBLEMS FACED BY STREET VEGETABLE VENDORS

The following section will provide information about the problems street vegetable vendors face every day in their vending business. All these problems have been identified during the field survey. A street vegetable vendor not only struggles in his life with poverty but in everyday life for maintaining livelihood he has to face different problems like lack of capital, lack of cold storage facilities, harassment, scarcity of permanent place for business. Moreover, they also face a lack of toilet facilities, bribes and tolls, absence of toilet facilities, no financial assistance and derive from easy loan facilities.

#### **6.1 Problems of street vegetable vendors**

In urban areas, street vegetable vending is not so easy. Every day during business hours they have to face different problems which make vegetable vending difficult. Though they have a major supporting role to our lower-class and middle-class families, we do not care about their difficult problems. There are some vital problems identified by street vegetable vendors. They are lack of cold storage, lack of capital, harassment, collecting dues from customers, and some other problems.

**Table 23 Identified problems faced by street vegetable vendors**

Name of problems	Frequency	Percent
Lack of cold storage	8	13.3
Lack of capital	26	43.3
Harassment	8	13.3
Collecting dues from customers	6	10.0
Others	12	20.0
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020

i) **Lack of capital:** The street vegetable vendors can't invest proper money in their business only for lack of capital. As their income is low, capital is low. From table 23 it has been seen that 43.3 percent of street vegetable vendors face a lack of capital problem as a major problem.

ii) **Lack of cold storage:** Vegetables are perishable items. So it is tough for them to sell the vegetables on second days without the facilities of cold storage. As a result, they have to sell all the vegetables in a day. From the above table 23, data revealed that 20.0 percent of street vegetable vendors face a lack of cold storage problems.

iii) **Harassment:** From table 23 it has been known that about 23.3 percent of them face harassment in vending time. In the vending period, they sometimes face misbehavior from the customers, sometimes they are torched by police, vegetables are taken away by force by local gangs, owner of the building disturb them to leave the vending place which is near their building.

iv) **Collecting dues from customers:** It has been known in the interview time that dues collection is a difficult problem. In some cases, customers forget, and in some cases, customers intentionally do not give the dues. In most cases, dues are a loss project. Table 23 data revealed that 10.00 percent of them face problems during collecting dues.

v) **Other Problems:** Except for the major problems, street vegetable vendors face many other problems during business hours.

**Table 24 Other problems**

<b>Name of other problems</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Shortage of toilet facilities	2	3.33
Bribe and toll	2	3.33
Derive from easy loan facilities	2	3.33
Financial assistance	1	1.67
Food taking problems	1	1.67
Increased traffic affects their mobility on main street	2	3.33
Road construction	1	1.67
Scarcity of vending space	1	1.67
Total	12	20

Source: Field Survey 2020

**Shortage of toilet facilities:** In Dhaka city, the number of public toilets is so limited. As a result, vegetable vendors who work every day 10 to 15 hours have to stay in street for a long time. Most of them face the problem of lack of public toilet facilities. From table 24 data revealed that 3.33 percent of vegetable vendors face a shortage of proper toilet facilities. As a result, they sometimes use an open place for a toilet.

**Bribe and toll:** From table 24, it has been found that most of the street vegetable vendors have to pay Tk. 30 to Tk. 70 per day to police and 10-20 Tk. to local gangs. From the above table, it is found that 3.33 percent of them face the problem of bribes and tolls.

**Derive from easy loan facilities:** As they are poor they have no proper mortgage for finding easy interest loans from banks. So that they take loans from informal sectors like Mahajan, local leaders, neighbors in high interest. From table 24, it has been found that 3.33 percent said that they are derived from easy loan facilities.

**Financial assistance:** No street vegetable vendors do not get any financial assistance from any sources like Government and NGO. Our Government has some financial assistance projects under PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper) or ADP (Annual Development Plan) budget for poverty alleviation, but they have financial plans for the street vegetable vendor's rehabilitation and improvement program. National Commercial Banks, Non-Commercial Banks, and some Private Banks provide different types of credit loans like; SME loans, agriculture loans, livestock farming loans, farming loans, self-employment loans, women entrepreneur loans, etc for poverty alleviation and economic development. But they have no financial arrangement for an informal sector like a vending business in urban areas, which are playing a significant role in the informal sector. Almost 1.67 percent of them think that they are derived from financial assistance from the government shown in table 24

**Food taking problems:** From a field survey, it has been known that vegetable vendors rise at midnight to go to Kawran Bazar for collecting fresh vegetables. Most of them said if they do not go mid-night for collecting vegetables they will not find fresh vegetables. Then they have to sell them in the morning shift temporary vending place. Then they randomly scattered in the city. As a result most of the time they have to stay outside and not find proper time for breakfast

and lunch. They take food from outside for breakfast. Some of them go to their home during the lunch period and take a rest. Many of them complete lunch outside which is not hygienic. As a result, they face many diseases. Almost 2.8 percent think that they can not properly take breakfast or lunch because they have to pass a long time in their business. Around 1.4 percent think that they have no social support from the city dweller.

**Increased traffic affects their mobility on the main street:** Dhaka city is full of traffic jams. Increased traffic jams affecting the mobility of street vegetable vendors when they go through a van to their business place. This traffic jam often wastes their time to reach a timely vending place. Table 24 data revealed that 3.33 percent of street vegetable vendors feel the problem of traffic jams in their business.

**Road construction:** Dhaka city authority randomly constructs roads. During road construction time pedestrians, vegetable vendors, hawkers, rickshaw pullers face problems passing the roads. Most of the time street vegetable vendors have to change the business location and search for a new place. This situation is often difficult. Table 24 data revealed that 1.67 percent of them face this problem.

**Scarcity of vending space:** In some areas of Dhaka city street vegetable vendors do not find proper space for vending for city authority. Table 24 data revealed that 1.67 percent of them face this problem.

## 6.2 Suggestion to overcome these problems

Infield survey time vegetable vendors have given some important suggestions to overcome these problems.

**Table 25 Suggestions to overcome these problems**

Suggestion to overcome problems	Frequency	Percentage
Low-interest Government Bank loan	24	40.00
Allotment of some designated vegetable vendors business space	17	28.33
Build up a public toilet	4	6.67
Cooperation from police and local authorities	5	8.33
Facilitate cold storage	7	11.67
Control of traffic jam	3	5.00
Total	60	100

Source: Field Survey 2020



**Low-interest Government Bank loan:** Most of the street vegetable vendors fall into the problem of lack of capital. As they work in the informal sector and lack mortgages they do not find bank loans. The government can arrange low-interest loans with easy terms and conditions. Table 25 data revealed that 40.00 percent of vegetable vendors suggest low-interest government bank loans.

**Allotment of some designated vegetable vendor's business space:** It has been seen from table 25 that 28.33 percent suggest for allotment of some designated business space.

**Build up public toilets:** It has been suggested by 6.67 percent of vegetable vendors to build up more public toilets.

**Cooperation from police and local authorities:** Most of the time they face harassment from police and local authorities. So it has been thought by 8.33 percent of vegetable vendors that police and local authorities should behave well and cooperate with them.

**Facilitate cold storage:** Vegetables are normally perishable. If there are proper facilities for cold storage this perishable items can be sold for a long time and loss can be minimized. Almost 6.67 percent suggest cold storage.

**Control of traffic jams:** Traffic jams make their transport difficult and waste their business time. About 5.00 percent suggest for control of traffic jam.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 7.1 Summary

The research was conducted at Dhaka city, during the period from February, 2020 to August, 2020 to analyze the socio-economic conditions of street vegetable vendors. Data was collected from 60 respondents from two different places in Dhaka city 30 vegetable vendors choose from each area. Among the respondents most of the vendors around 58.3 percent engaged with vegetable vending in the average age of 26-35 years. It has been found that 78.3 percent of them are married, 21.7 percent are unmarried. Here, 95 percent vegetable vendors are male and 5 percent vegetable street vendors are female. Majority 91.7 percent of the vendors are Muslim whereas only 8.3 percent are Hindu. Almost 70 percent vendor's academic qualification is below Secondary school certificate and 28.3 percent of them are illiterate. Around 66.7 percent of them having a family size between 4 to 6 members. Among the respondent's 91.7 percent lived in rented house, 6.7 percent lived in Slum. Near to 81.7 percent vendors have below 5 years' experience in vending profession. Almost 48.3 percent is the only earning member in family. Around 48.3 percent is working 11 to 15 hours per day. Much of them have the daily sales below 5000 (73.3 percent) and 23.3 percent sales Tk. 5001- Tk. 10000. The average sale of per vendor per day is Tk. 4210. Almost 61.7 percent vendor's monthly income below Tk. 15000. Around 53.3 percent had started with an initial investment below Tk.3000. Among them, 73.33 percent didn't response about their savings. About 60 percent have started their business by their own personal savings. Around 10 percent of the respondents don't get pure water and 25 percent of them don't have hygienic sanitation. It is also found that about 98.33 percent use electricity. Around 41.7 percent of street vegetable vendors joined this vending only for poverty and 23.3 percent for illiteracy. All vendors have to pay a fixed daily sum to the police or dalals every day, yet, they are often abused verbally or even physically. It has been found that around 43.3 percent of street vegetable vendors facing the problems of lack of capital. Almost 20 percent facing the other problems as like shortage of toilet facilities, bribe and toll, lack of easy loan facilities, scarcity of vending space. Due to absence of union,

they are always harassed, and dislocated by the municipal authorities and the police, local authorities or dalals and mafias.

## **7.2 Conclusion**

The street vegetable vending sector is an important sector that is providing employment and income to the poor people in the urban sector. Street vending is pervasive across the globe, especially in developing countries. It provides an important source of earnings for the unemployed in urban areas, as well as a source of relatively cheap vegetables for city residents. The objective of this paper is to identify the causes behind choosing street vegetable vending occupation, their demographic and socioeconomic condition, highlight the importance of street vegetable vendors, the problems and risks they face in vegetable vending. The street vendor's contributions are not properly recognized by the government. This is a result of a broader issue concerning the informal sector as a whole. In most Asian countries the informal sector is very large and it constitutes the mainstay of the economy. This study reveals that the best way for the planners to address this issue is to formalize the street vendors by issuing licenses. This will go a long way in giving these workers space within the legal framework, as well as easing the regulation of street vendors for the government itself. In conclusion, it can be said that though Bangladesh has witnessed an increase in street vegetable vendors, the government is not properly monitoring the specific needs of this sector. Street vegetable vendors perform an important role in providing services to the urban population especially the low income group and middle class. So the government of Bangladesh and other developing countries should monitor their problems and take proper policy in favor of them to make their life more stable.

### **7.3 Recommendations**

The contributions of the street vegetable vendors are very important in the economic development of a developing country like Bangladesh so our Government should adopt proper vendor base policies to develop this sector to upgrade the social-economic status of the vendors. Therefore, this study offers the following recommendations to develop the street vegetable vending sector in Bangladesh and to upgrade the vendor's social-economic and livelihood status. Here are some policy recommendations for street vegetable vendors including their field-level suggestions:

1. City corporations must have special guidelines for street vegetable vendors and should provide those licenses so that no one can harass them and take bribes from them.
2. The Government can provide low interest or interest-free loans to street vegetable vendors.
3. Special efforts should be made by the Government to train up street vegetable vendors to lead a healthy life and attract the children of vegetable vendors to school.
4. Social activists should come forward to provide some informal basic education to them.
5. Street vegetable vendor's organization should be established so that the organization leader can communicate with the city authority if any problem happened.
6. The Government should develop storage facilities for street vegetable vendors because vegetables are perishable things. Only for the perishable character vegetable vendors not wait for the other day and sell the vegetable at low cost at night.
7. City corporation should divide all street vegetable vendors into different areas so that it is easy for selling their vegetables in less time without much competition.
8. Government can take steps for the security of street vegetable vendors.
9. Skill training and credit facilities to be made available for them.

10. Authorities should provide permanent sheds for vendors and minimum facilities such as first aid, drinking water, toilet, garbage collection, and solid waste disposal, etc.

#### **7.4 Limitations of the study**

In this type of study, a lot of sectors need to be dealt with to have a clear view of the whole situation in the complex urban system. Again, it needs a lot of primary data collection that would ideally represent the livelihood scenario of street vegetable vendors. The study is actually based on primary data. Moreover, enough literature was not available to relay the area of study regarding Bangladesh's perspective. Since the street vegetable vending business is very large in Dhaka city. The number of a street vegetable vendors is so much in different parts of the city. The main limitation of the research is that it is limited to two thanas of Dhaka City. Some variables can be changed on an area basis. So, it is difficult to cover the full demographic scenario, socioeconomic aspects, and problem identification of street vegetable vendors through a single research study. On the other hand, the respondents have not enough time for responding to the questionnaires. But the researcher expects that all these limitations will not affect the research findings.

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