

# CHALLENGES AND LIVELIHOOD STRUGGLES OF WOMEN STREET VENDORS

## A STUDY IN GUWAHATI, ASSAM

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**Abstract :** Women street vendors constitute a significant segment of the informal economy and they play an important role in sustaining urban livelihoods and local market systems. Despite their contribution to household income generation and urban economic activities, women street vendors continue to face numerous socio-economic and occupational challenges. The present study aimed to explore the socio-economic conditions, work-related challenges and coping strategies of women street vendors operating in the Beltola Market of Guwahati of Assam, India. The study adopted the descriptive method with 30 women street vendors as sample through the convenience sampling technique. Both quantitative and qualitative data were utilized for the study. Primary data were collected through an interview schedule and observation method. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. The findings of the study revealed that most women vendors belonged to economically weaker sections and depended heavily on street vending for household survival. The major challenges faced by them included financial insecurity, inadequate market infrastructure, lack of sanitation and drinking water facilities, health-related problems, harassment, insecurity in public spaces, and irregular income. The study also found that despite these adversities, women vendors adopted various coping strategies to sustain their livelihoods and support their families.

**Index Terms -** Women street vendors, informal economy, livelihood challenges, socio-economic conditions, coping strategies

## 1. INTRODUCTION

For a long time, the work that Indian women did was not really recognized or valued, especially since they were mostly expected to stay at home and take care of household duties. But over time, things have started to change and now there is a growing appreciation for the roles women play in the economy. This change is seen in both formal and informal job sectors.

In formal job sectors, like offices and companies, women are starting to be seen as equals to men. Their ability to earn their own money is helping them become more independent and is playing a big role in promoting gender equality. On the other hand, in informal job sectors, which include jobs like street vending, even women who haven't had much education are making important contributions to their family's income. Unfortunately, even though these jobs are very important, they often don't get enough attention when policies are made or when people talk about the economy in general. "Street vendors contribute significantly to urban economies and public convenience." (Roever & Skinner, 2016, p. 362) Hence, Street vending forms an important component of the informal economy across developing countries, particularly in India. Women street vendors contribute significantly to urban and semi-urban livelihoods by providing affordable goods and services. However, despite their economic contribution, they continue to face multiple socio-economic, gender-based, legal and occupational challenges.

### 1.1 Street Vending and Informal Sector-A General Understanding

The informal sector is a crucial component of the global economy, particularly in developing countries. It includes a variety of activities that operate outside of official regulation and taxation, such as street vending, artisanal crafts, domestic work and small-scale manufacturing. The informal sector acts as a survival mechanism for the urban poor." (Bromley, 1978, p. 1167). This sector is characterized by easy entry, reliance on indigenous resources and labor-intensive practices. It provides crucial employment opportunities to vulnerable populations, including women and marginalized groups. However, workers often lack formal employment contracts, are not covered by social security and have little to no legal protections, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and financial instability. The informal economy remains a major source of livelihood for vulnerable and marginalized populations." (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2016, p. 41)

#### Street Vending

Within the informal economy, street vending is very important because it provides jobs for millions of people around the world, particularly in cities. Vendors contribute to city life by offering a wide variety of products right on the streets, like on sidewalks and at street corners. This not only helps the urban economy but also meets the demand for products that might not be available in regular stores.

However, street vending comes with its own set of challenges. Vendors often don't receive legal or social recognition and the rules and regulations that govern their work can be unclear and inconsistently enforced. This can lead to issues like being kicked out of their vending spots or being fined. Additionally, there are significant health and safety risks, especially for vendors who sell food, which add to the difficulties they face.

## Women in Street Vending

Women play a vital role in the street vending sector. Many women turn to street vending as a way to contribute financially to their families, often because other job opportunities are limited due to educational barriers or family responsibilities. Despite making significant contributions, women vendors face many challenges that are specific to their gender. They often earn less than men doing the same work, may experience gender-based violence and usually have to manage more household duties as well. Women street vendors demonstrate resilience despite structural inequalities and occupational insecurity.” (Phukan & Ghosh, 2025, p. 6). The lack of legal recognition for street vendors makes these issues worse for women, putting them at higher risk of being exploited and marginalized. This lack of formal status in the eyes of the law can leave women vendors particularly vulnerable, affecting their security and overall well-being in the job market. “Women vendors face the dual burden of domestic responsibilities and economic survival.” (Odyuo & Thangkhiew, 2025, p. 8)

### 1.2 Multiple Lenses of Women In Street Vending Beyond Boundaries

From *International perspective*, the informal sector is increasingly recognized for its essential role, particularly the challenges faced by women within it. Research indicates that women in this sector encounter significant obstacles stemming from economic, social and structural inequalities. A major issue is the lack of legal recognition and protection, which leaves women vulnerable to exploitation and harassment. Financial difficulties, such as limited access to credit and savings, severely hamper their ability to sustain and grow their businesses. These problems were intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic, which specifically impacted women by restricting their business activities and increasing their domestic responsibilities, as noted in studies by Duy and Thanh in 2024. (Duy & Thanh, 2024, p. 812)

In the Global South, women street vendors are vital to city economies, yet they contend with economic instability, inadequate legal protections and social inequalities, often exacerbated by entrenched patriarchal norms. For instance, in India, women vendors frequently face harassment, suffer from insufficient legal protections and have limited access to financial resources, with their challenges magnified by gender biases “Women street vendors constitute one of the most vulnerable groups within the urban informal economy” (Dimitrov, 2024, p. 214). The pandemic further worsened these issues, diminishing their business opportunities and increasing their family responsibilities.

Street vendors, especially women, are excluded and unfairly treated.” (Tong, Zhang, & Zhang, 2022, p. 313). This study illuminates how street vending can alleviate poverty and boost economic development, yet often fails to fairly treat women in this sector.

These global insights reveal the common and specific challenges that women face in the informal sector, emphasizing the urgent need for policies and actions tailored to overcome the unique barriers that hinder women’s full participation and success in this crucial economic area.

### National Perspectives

In India, it is estimated that there are 11.9 million street vendors, of which 1.2 million are women. This statistic comes from the 2023 report titled "Fostering Gender Diversity and Inclusiveness in Street Vendor Associations in India" by the International Center for Research on Women (ICRW). The report sheds light on the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on informal women workers, revealing deep-seated systemic inequities such as economic instability, absence of social security and vulnerability to gender-based violence. These challenges are further intensified by factors like unpaid care work, lower education levels and inadequate workplace facilities, including poor sanitation.

The ICRW has partnered with grassroots organizations like the National Association of Street Vendors in India (NASVI) to conduct capacity-building workshops. These initiatives have empowered women to actively participate in Town Vending Committees (TVCs) and assert their presence in predominantly male environments. The report also highlights the importance of collecting gender-specific data to formulate policies that effectively address the unique challenges faced by women vendors.

Supporting these findings, an article in "Social Law Today" (April 2023) titled “Women Street Vendors in India – Issues & Challenges Faced by Them,” echoes the critical situation of these vendors. It points out how the lack of legal recognition subjects women vendors to harassment, evictions and economic instability. “Women street vendors often suffer from economic insecurity and social discrimination.” (Social Law Today, 2023, para. 4). Issues like gender-based discrimination, unsafe working conditions and the dual burden of managing both domestic responsibilities and earning an income further impede their progress. The challenges have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a decline in income and heightened food insecurity.

Both the report and the article advocate for legal reforms, gender-sensitive policies and a robust social protection system to empower women vendors, protect their livelihoods and acknowledge their contributions to the economy. Implementing these measures is crucial for promoting equity and inclusiveness within the informal economy, ensuring that women can participate fully and fairly.

### Regional Perspectives – Assam, Guwahati

In Guwahati, surveys conducted by the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 have identified around 7,182 street vendors. However, the Assam Street Vendors’ Association (ASVA) believes the actual number might be over 40,000. Women vendors, who sell items like fresh produce, street food and crafts, are a vital part of this sector. Despite their significant contributions, they face numerous challenges that affect their livelihoods and well-being.

Efforts under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) have led to the establishment of a Town Vending Committee and six zonal vending committees, which have organized designated vending zones near key areas like the Guwahati Medical College Hospital and Sixmile. These zones help manage the vendors and reduce encroachment on public spaces.

Despite these measures, women vendors continue to confront substantial obstacles. Many do not have legal recognition, making them vulnerable to eviction and harassment. The absence of essential infrastructure such as clean water, proper sanitation and storage facilities further complicates their operations. Moreover, societal pressures, including the need to balance domestic responsibilities and overcome cultural barriers to financial independence, remain significant challenges.

The economic and cultural contributions of these street vendors are immense. They not only provide affordable goods and services to the city’s residents but also help preserve Assam’s rich culinary traditions through their diverse street food offerings. Recent

initiatives, including legal reforms and support from NGOs, aim to empower these vendors by providing training, financial resources and advocating for their rights.

To fully harness the potential of women street vendors in Assam, a comprehensive approach involving stronger legal protections, improved infrastructure and community support is crucial. These efforts will not only boost their livelihoods but also contribute to a more inclusive and vibrant urban economy.

Women street vendors constitute an important segment of the informal economy and play a significant role in sustaining urban and semi-urban livelihoods. They engage in small-scale trading activities such as selling vegetables, fruits, food items, clothes and household goods in streets, markets, railway stations and public spaces. For many economically disadvantaged women, street vending serves as a primary source of income and survival. Despite their contribution to local economies and household sustenance, women street vendors continue to remain socially and economically marginalized. Women street vendors often remain excluded from formal labour protections, social security benefits and urban planning policies. Although the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 was enacted to safeguard vendor rights, its implementation remains inadequate in many regions. As a result, women vendors continue to struggle for recognition, dignity and livelihood security.

## 2. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present study is delimited to the women street vendors of Beltola Market in greater Guwahati, Assam. This market, held twice weekly, is known for its organic vegetables and attracts customers from both urban and rural areas. A significant proportion of the vendors are women from nearby villages and hilly regions, who rely on this trade for their livelihood. Despite their contributions, these women operate in a challenging environment with minimal social protection and poor working conditions.

## 3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To explore the socio-economic profile of the women street vendors of Beltola Market in greater Guwahati, Assam
- To find out the various challenges faced by women street vendors of Beltola Market in greater Guwahati, Assam

## 4. RESEARCH QUESTION

- What are the socio-economic characteristics of women street vendors of Beltola Market in greater Guwahati, Assam?
- What challenges do the women street vendors face of Beltola Market in greater Guwahati, Assam?

## 5. NEED OF THE STUDY

This study focuses on the conditions of women street vendors at Belotla Market in Guwahati, which operates twice a week and draws customers from distant areas looking for organic vegetables. The majority of vendors at this market are women from nearby villages and hilly areas around Guwahati. These women have turned to street vending as a means to support their families financially. Despite their hard work, they face numerous challenges that jeopardize their ability to sustain their livelihoods.

Women vendors at Belotla Market suffer from inadequate social protection and their working conditions on the streets expose them to various health and safety risks. These include serious health issues like migraines, acidity, urinary tract infections, kidney problems, constipation, depression, high blood pressure and diabetes. Additionally, they contend with sanitation issues, lack of space, security concerns and financial exploitation. The vendors expect the government to intervene and provide a hygienic, well-organized and secure marketplace.

The objective of this study is to conduct a thorough examination of the women vendors' working conditions, identify shortcomings in existing policies and support mechanisms and propose specific interventions to enhance their working conditions and economic prospects. The ultimate aim is to highlight the difficulties faced by these vendors and advocate for concrete actions by the Government, District Administration and Guwahati Municipal Corporation to improve their situation.

## 6. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Women street vendors constitute an important segment of the informal economy and play a significant role in sustaining urban and semi-urban livelihoods. They engage in small-scale trading activities such as selling vegetables, fruits, food items, clothes and household goods in streets, markets, railway stations and public spaces. Studies conducted across different regions indicate that women street vendors face numerous challenges in their daily lives and occupations. Few of such studies serves the purposes here: *Roever and Skinner (2016)* analyzed the relationship between street vendors and urban governance. Their findings showed that women vendors frequently experience eviction threats, confiscation of goods, workplace insecurity and harassment from authorities. These conditions negatively affect their earnings, time management and asset accumulation. The study argued for inclusive urban policies that recognize street vending as a legitimate economic activity.

*Saradhamani, Kavitha and Sindhuja (2019)* studied the challenges faced by women street vendors in Karur and found that women in the informal economy often work under insecure and uncertain conditions. Harassment by local officials, lack of social protection, poor economic status and absence of institutional support were identified as major obstacles affecting their livelihood sustainability. *Chaudhari (2021)*, while critically examining the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, argued that the legislation inadequately addresses the specific concerns of women vendors. The paper pointed out that issues such as childcare, sanitation, safety and gender-sensitive vending spaces remain largely neglected within the legal framework.

**Phukan and Ghosh (2025)**, in their study on women street vendors in Guwahati, approached the issue from a feminist and intersectional perspective. The study highlighted how patriarchal norms, regulatory exclusion and spatial marginalization contribute to the invisibility of women vendors in urban economies. Despite these hardships, women vendors demonstrated resilience and adaptive strategies for survival.

**Das (2026)**, studying women street vendors in Guwahati, noted that although street vending presents economic hardships, it also offers opportunities for livelihood generation and self-employment among women. The study emphasized the importance of policy support, financial inclusion and infrastructural facilities for improving the socio-economic conditions of women vendors.

Collectively, these reviewed literature indicates that women street vendors occupy a marginalized position within the informal economy. Their livelihood struggles are shaped by economic insecurity, gender discrimination, inadequate legal protection, poor working conditions, health vulnerabilities and exclusionary urban policies

The methodology section outline the plan and method that how the study is conducted. This includes Universe of the study, sample of the study, Data and Sources of Data, study's variables and analytical framework. The details are as follows;

## 7. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study employed the *descriptive method* of research to investigate the socio-economic conditions, occupational challenges, and coping strategies of women street vendors. The study was conducted among women street vendors operating in the Beltola Market of Guwahati, a prominent periodic market held twice a week. The sample frame comprised women vendors engaged in different forms of street vending activities within the market area. A sample of *30 women street vendors* was selected through the *convenience sampling* technique owing to the accessibility and availability of the respondents during the period of data collection.

Both *quantitative and qualitative* data were utilized in the study to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the research problem. Primary data were collected through an interview schedule prepared by the researcher. Since a considerable number of respondents were illiterate or had limited literacy skills, the interview method was adopted to ensure clarity, accuracy, and meaningful responses. In addition, the researcher employed non-participant observation to examine the working conditions, interaction patterns, vending environment, and daily occupational practices of the respondents.

The collected data were analyzed using simple statistical techniques such as frequency and percentage distribution for quantitative interpretation, while qualitative responses were interpreted descriptively to provide contextual understanding of the issues faced by the respondents.

The interview schedule was divided into two sections. The *first section* focused on collecting information related to the socio-economic profile of the respondents, including age, educational status, marital status, family income, nature of vending activities, and business-related characteristics. The *second section* explored the occupational challenges encountered by women street vendors, such as financial insecurity, lack of infrastructure, harassment, health-related issues, and work-life imbalance, along with the coping mechanisms and survival strategies adopted by them in their everyday lives.

## 8. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

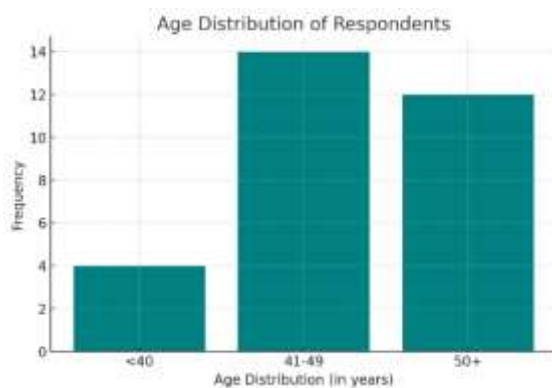
Analysis of data is done on the basis of responses collected from the interview schedule. The first portion of the questionnaire contained questions related to the respondents' demographic factors. The second portion contained questions related to respondent's work-related challenges and their expected solutions.

### 8.1 Socio-Economic Profile of the Women Street Vendors

#### i. Age of the respondents:

Table 1: Age of the respondents

Age distribution (in years)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 40	4	13.33
41-49	14	46.67
50 and above	12	40
Total	30	100

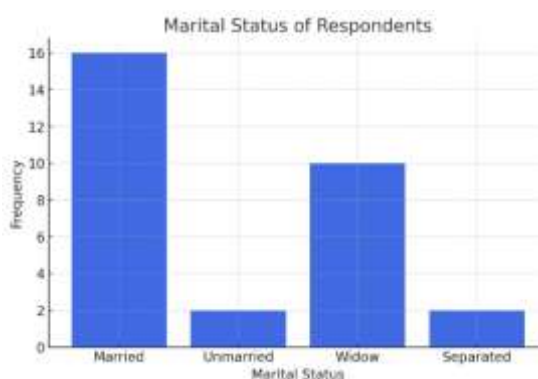


It has been found that almost all the respondents were middle aged, of which majority (46.67 %) were between the age of 41 to 49 years. 40% of them were above the age of 50 years and only 13.33% of the respondents were less than 40 years.

**ii. Marital status of the respondents:**

Table 2: Marital status of the respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Married	16	53.33
Unmarried	2	6.67
Widow	10	33.33
Separated	2	6.67
Total	30	100

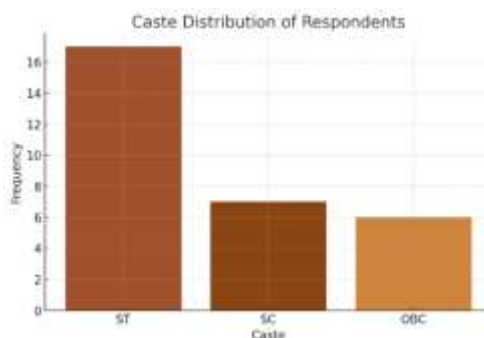


Most of the respondents (53.33%) were married, 33.33% of them were widowed and 6.67 % were separated from their husbands. Only 6.67% of the respondents were unmarried.

**iii. Caste of the respondents:**

Table 3: Caste of the respondents

Caste	Frequency	Percentage (%)
ST	17	56.67
SC	7	23.33
OBC	6	20
Total	30	100

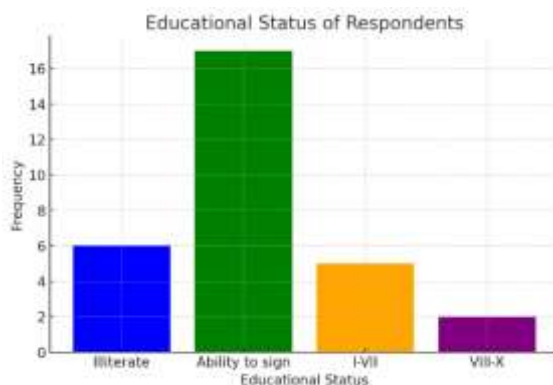


A major part of the women respondents (56.67%) were from tribal community, 23.33 % of them belonged to the SC community and the rest 20 % were from other backward community.

**iv. Educational status of the respondents:**

Table 4: Educational status of the respondents

Educational status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Illiterate	6	20
Ability to sign	17	56.67
I-VII	5	16.67
VIII-X	2	6.67
Total	30	100



20% of the respondents were illiterate whereas 56.67% of them had the ability to sign. 16.67% had gone to lower primary school and only 6.67 % of them attended secondary classes.

**v. Types of products sold:**

Table 5: Types of products sold

Types of Products	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Vegetable	15	50
Fruits	10	33.33
Clothing	3	10
Others	2	6.67
Total	30	100

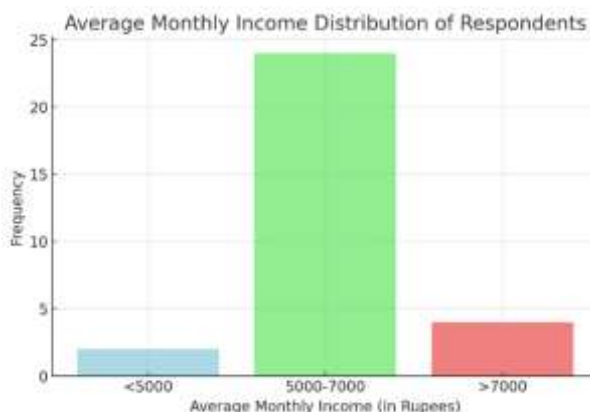


The majority of the respondent (50%) sold vegetables, 33.33% of the women vendors dealt in fruits, 10% offered clothing for sale, and a smaller group, 6.67%, sold items categorized under others, such as snails, fish, etc.

**vi. Average monthly income of the respondents:**

Table 6: Average monthly income of the respondents

Average monthly income (in Rupees)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 5000	2	6.67
5000-7000	24	80
More than 7000	4	13.33
Total	30	100



The average monthly income of most of the respondents lies between Rs. 5000 to 7000 (80%). A very few of them (6.67%) reported that their monthly income to be less than Rs. 5000, whereas 13.33% of them said that they earn more than Rs. 7000 per month.

**vii. Working hours of the respondents:**

Table 7: Working hours of the respondents

Working hours (in hours)	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Less than 9	2	6.67
9-12	20	66.67
More than 12	8	26.67
Total	30	100



Majority of the respondents work for 9 to 12 hours in a day (66.67%) and 26.67% of them even work for more than 12 hours. 6.67% of the respondents work less than 9 hours a day.

## 8.2 Challenges Faced by the Women Street Vendors

During interviews with the women street vendors, they shared numerous significant challenges that affect their daily activities and overall sustainability within the urban informal economy. The insights gathered provide a detailed overview of the adversities they face:

### 1. Basic Workplace Amenities:

- **Facility Shortcomings:** Vendors consistently highlighted the absence of essential amenities such as toilets, reliable water sources and adequate storage facilities, including cold storage for perishable items. These deficiencies complicate their daily operations and pose significant health risks.
- **Environmental Exposure:** Women reported working in unprotected environments, directly exposed to harsh weather conditions like intense sunlight and heavy rainfall, leading to various health issues such as dehydration, heatstroke and cold-related ailments.

### 2. Security Concerns:

- **Safety Risks:** Many vendors expressed concerns about their personal safety, particularly when working early in the morning or late at night. This vulnerability makes them cautious of theft and harassment, even though physical assault cases were not reported.
- **Collective Safety Efforts:** To address these concerns, vendors often organize in groups for mutual security and support. However, this approach does not completely alleviate their fears.

### 3. Occupational Health Hazards:

- **Lack of Sanitation:** The absence of proper toilet facilities emerged as a critical issue. Many vendors reported health problems such as urinary infections and other sanitation-related illnesses due to the lack of access to clean restrooms.
- **Physical Strain:** Prolonged sitting without proper ergonomic support results in chronic back and joint pain, as reported by several vendors.
- **Mental Health Issues:** Vendors also shared that long working hours and financial insecurity contribute to stress, anxiety and feelings of helplessness, further affecting their overall well-being.

### 4. Financial Exploitation:

- **High-Interest Loans:** Many vendors are forced to rely on private money lenders who charge exorbitant interest rates, leading to cycles of debt and financial instability.
- **Inconsistent Fees:** Arbitrary fees imposed by market authorities or informal bidders place an additional financial burden on these vendors, reducing their already limited earnings.

### 5. Seasonal and Environmental Challenges:

- **Impact of Seasonal Changes:** Seasonal variations significantly impact the vendors' operations. They reported higher profits during the winter when weather conditions attract more customers, but the rainy season results in financial losses due to reduced customer footfall and operational disruptions.
- **Protective Measures and Costs:** To cope with adverse weather, vendors incur additional expenses on waterproof covers and drainage solutions, further straining their limited financial resources.

### 6. Challenges Compared to Male Counterparts:

Women vendors also shared that their challenges are more pronounced compared to male vendors. Male counterparts face fewer issues related to safety and harassment and often have better physical resilience to endure harsh work conditions. Furthermore, men tend to have better access to resources and support systems.

### 7. Lack of Support Systems:

- **Absence of Support:** Most vendors reported that they do not receive any form of support to overcome these challenges, either from the government, local authorities, or NGOs. This lack of assistance exacerbates their difficulties and limits their ability to address their problems independently.
- **Desire for External Support:** Many women expressed their wish for targeted support from government programs or NGOs to address their needs, including access to basic amenities, financial aid and safety measures.

## 9. SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following suggestions are proposed for improving the socio-economic conditions and occupational well-being of women street vendors:

- The government should establish a permanent and well-organized market complex for street vendors instead of allowing them to operate on roadsides and streets. Such market spaces should be equipped with essential basic amenities including safe drinking water, toilets, rest rooms and cold storage facilities to ensure a secure and hygienic working environment.
- Adequate arrangements should be made by the government to facilitate access to bank loans and financial assistance with government subsidies in order to strengthen the economic stability and business sustainability of women street vendors.
- Proper norms and regulations should be incorporated in market tender notices, particularly regarding the provision of basic amenities and the collection of daily fees from vendors. The concerned authorities should ensure strict implementation and monitoring of these provisions to prevent exploitation and irregularities.
- The Police Commissionerate of Guwahati should deploy women police personnel during market days to ensure the safety, security and protection of women vendors.
- The district administration should establish a dedicated control room comprising officials from the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC), district administration, doctors, and paramedical staff to address issues related to the safety, health and welfare of vendors, particularly women street vendors.
- Training programmes on organic farming practices should be organized for vegetable vendors to enhance their knowledge, improve product quality and promote sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- Skill development and entrepreneurship training programmes should be conducted to help women vendors manage and operate their businesses more efficiently and effectively.
- A women street vendors' association should be formed to represent their interests, strengthen collective bargaining, promote awareness regarding rights and welfare schemes, and provide a platform for mutual support and cooperation.

## 10. CONCLUSION

This study sheds light on the socio-economic conditions and challenges faced by women street vendors, based on interviews with 30 respondents. The majority of these women were above 40 years of age, with many being illiterate or possessing limited literacy skills. While most could sign their names, only a small percentage had the ability to read and write.

The challenges reported by the respondents were multifaceted, including a lack of basic workplace amenities such as toilets, drinking water and storage facilities. They also faced issues related to workspace inadequacy, exposure to harsh weather conditions and workplace security concerns. Financial exploitation through high-interest loans and arbitrary fees further compounded their struggles. Seasonal variations, particularly losses during the rainy season, added to their financial instability. Additionally, health issues due to poor sanitation and stress related to long working hours were prominent among the challenges faced.

These findings underline the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve the working conditions of women street vendors. Providing basic amenities such as sanitation facilities, drinking water and sheltered workspaces would significantly enhance their quality of life and operational efficiency. Financial support mechanisms, such as access to low-interest loans and fair fee structures, could alleviate the burden of financial exploitation. Policies addressing workplace security, health support and mental well-being are equally critical.

Moreover, it was observed that a large proportion of these women belong to marginalized communities such as tribal, Scheduled Caste and Other Backward Classes. Effective government policies that focus on inclusivity and empowerment can bridge socio-economic gaps and improve the livelihoods of these groups. Collaboration with NGOs and community organizations to provide training, access to government schemes and support networks can further strengthen these efforts.

Empowering women street vendors with better working conditions, financial support and targeted policies would encourage greater participation in the informal sector. This, in turn, could help reduce unemployment, improve household incomes and contribute to the economic upliftment of marginalized communities. A holistic approach to addressing their challenges would not only empower women but also promote equitable growth and social justice.

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