

# A Comparative Study of Member Based and Non Member Based Vegetable and Fruit Vendors under Decent Work in Ahmedabad City

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**Abstract:** We started with the research as we came across some interesting pieces of literature on the topic of street vendors in informal sectors and their role in development of economy of the country. While searching through the internet, magazines, newspapers, books, journals, etc. our group found that there were significant researches done on the concept of decent work which showed the provision of decent working life of street vendors in many countries. While gathering the literature on the topic, we found various researches done upon the concept of decent work on street vendors in India. There were many researches that talked about the role of member based organization in providing decent work to street vendors and also stated important reasons highlighting the importance of street vendors in India. The researches also talked about the poor conditions of vegetable and fruit vendors in India. From our interview of various academicians working on street vendors and social workers, we came to know the importance of doing research on vegetable and fruit vendors in Ahmedabad City.

## 1. Introduction

### What is Informal Sector?

The First Indian National Commission on Labor (1966-69) defined 'unorganized sector workforce' as – "those workers who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of their common interest due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and

illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments" (Broomley, 2000).

### Definition of 'Street Vendors'

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).

An integral component, distributors of goods and services at affordable prices and those who provide consumers with retail options and form a vital part market of a city are described as Street Vendors (Broomley, 2000).

Street vendors have many options of distribution vehicles like kiosks, semi-fixed stalls like folding tables; crates, collapsible stands, or wheeled pushcarts that are moved and stored overnight. Other vendors operate from fixed locations without a stall structure, mobile vendors walk or bicycle through the streets as they sell (International Labour Organisation, 2002).

The employment topic for street vendor varies from one to the other. Many work from the same site on regular basis. These vendors and their families are dependent on profits from vending as their primary source of household income. Other vendors operate among two or more sites, taking advantage of different types of clients and

different patterns of urban movement and infrastructure. Some vendors work on a more part-time basis, as seasonal vendors of specialty items. While some are dependent on street vending as a regular primary or secondary occupation, others operate only when an opportunity presents itself to earn extra income (WIEGO, Street Vendors).

### Asian perspective- Facts and Figures

- In India, street traders constitute about 3 % of total non-agricultural employment. According to official statistics, this depicts more than 3.1 million street traders. Unofficial estimates there are more than 10 million.
- According to local static data, NGOs and academics, there are about 90,000 street vendors in Dhaka (Bangladesh); 10,000 in Colombo (Sri Lanka); 100,000 in Bangkok (Thailand); 50,000 in Singapore; 47,000 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia); 50,000 in Manila (Philippines); and 800,000 in Seoul (South Korea).
- The informal sector consist more than 90 % of total trade employment in India and Indonesia.
- Women represent over two thirds of street vendors in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. In Ahmedabad-India, women represent about 10 per cent of street vendors (Bhowmik, 2010).

### Decent Work

Decent work is a term founded by International Labour Organization (ILO) in a report in June, 1999. The research paper described the goal as 'not just creation of jobs, but also the creation of jobs of acceptable quality (Eurofound, 2012).

To understand and bifurcate decent work, ILO has developed an agenda which works for providing integration programs in coordination with its constituents. The agenda can be explained through these 4 strategic objectives:

- Creating jobs – an economy which creates opportunities for investment, entrepreneurship, skills development, employment and sustainable livelihoods.

- Guaranteeing rights at work – to gain respect and recognition for the rights of workers.
- Extending social protection – to promote inclusion and productivity by ensuring that women and men can have safe working conditions, leisure time, social life etc.
- Promoting social dialogue – engaging strong and independent workers is the prerequisite for productive work and to avoid disputes at work (Decent work agenda).

A research paper indicates that employment refers to both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Thus the notion of decent work is applicable not just to workers in the formal economy but also to “unregulated wage workers, self-employed, and home workers”.

A concept of decent work raises the question of the nature and priority of its different components. For any particular purposes, it is convenient to group the different components of decent work into two categories: employment and social security and workers' rights and social dialogue. (Decent work).

### SEWA

Trade union registered in 1972, SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) is an organization of poor and self-employed women workers. These women earn a living through their own labor or small businesses. They fall under the unprotected labor force of our country. These workers which are unorganized are 93% of India's total workforce.

SEWA aims at providing full employment to women and their family members and organize them for the same. Full employment encompasses the obtaining of work security, income security, food security and social security by the workers.

The guiding force for SEWA's poor, self-employed members in organizing for social change is based on Gandhian principles. SEWA follows the principles of Satya (truth), Ahimsa (non-violence), Sarvadharm (integrating all faiths, all people) and Khadi (promotion of local employment and self-reliance).

### What is a Comparative Study?

Comparative research or analysis is a wide ranging concept, which encompasses both quantitative and qualitative comparison of social entities. These social entities can be classified into various lines, such as geographical or political ones based on the form of cross-national or regional comparisons. The comparative analysis aims at finding similarity and variance. The existence of social patterns is often assumed as universal and independent from time and space. But, it remains complex to establish these universal patterns in social research. Hence, the segregation of the more general and isolated regularities from context laden environment is executed using comparative research is used to separate patterns that are more general and isolate regularities from the context laden environment. Keeping in mind Weber's comparative sociology, an emphasis is placed on perspective and difference to understand specificities while the search for variance takes place. At last, not only the differences between social entities are uncovered but also the unique aspects of which would have been virtually impossible to detect otherwise (Mills, 2009).

## 2. Literature Review

### Introducing Street Vendors

According to Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and organizing the term "street vendor" in English is typically used interchangeably with "street trader," "hawker," and "peddler." Also there are many local terms and regional variations. Street vendors are sometimes distinguished from vendors who operate in the types of public spaces that are not specifically streets or related to streets viz. train stations, buses, public parks, and so on but most commonly the term is used inclusively. In official statistics in some countries, street vendors are a part of the category "informal traders," which also includes people who trade from their homes (WIEGO, Street Vendors, 2014).

### Street Vending- A Global Perspective

A research paper, 'Street Vendors in Asia' by Sharit Bhowmik in 2005 claims Street Vendors to be the most visible segment of the urban informal economy, it is indisputable that there are thousand's – and in some cases, tens or hundreds of thousands – of street vendors in most big cities of the developing countries. In some countries, official statistics on street vendors are available, though they likely

underestimate the total number of people engaged in street vending (Bhowmik, 2005).

Street vendors in Mexico City; push-cart vendors in New York city; rickshaw pullers in Calcutta; garbage collectors in Bogota; 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 economy. The streets of cities, towns, and villages in most developing countries – and in many developed countries – are lined by barbers, cobblers, garbage collectors, waste pickers, and vendors of vegetables, fruit, meat, fish and snack foods of non-perishable items ranging from locks and keys to soaps and detergents, to clothing. In many countries, head-loaders, cart pullers, bicycle peddlers, rickshaw pullers, and camel, bullock, or horse cart drivers jostle to make their way down narrow village lanes or through the maze of cars, trucks, vans, and buses on city streets (WIEGO, 2014).

### Introducing India's Informal Economy

Shopping and marketing in the traditional Indian sense have always been informal (Genesis of Municipal Laws Regarding Vendors). India, the terms 'unorganized sector' and 'informal sector' are being used interchangeably (NCEUS, August, 2007). According to NCEUS' report (2007), the unorganized sector in the Indian context is defined as a sector which 'consists of all unincorporated private enterprises owned by individuals or households engaged in the sale and production of goods and services operated on a proprietary or partnership basis with less than ten workers which is characterized by a high incidence of casual labor mostly doing intermittent jobs at low wage rate at low investment rate' (NCEUS, August, 2007). The informal sector workforce in India is estimated to be about 422 million workers, representing nearly 92 percent of the total workforce about 457 million (NCEUS, August, 2007).

According to National Commission on Labor, there are 106 categories of workers including agricultural workers, agarbatti makers, beedi rollers, construction workers, home-based workers, rickshaw pullers, and street vendors and so on. Around 10 million vendors in India and about 250,000 vendors in Mumbai are meeting ends from these professions (NCEUS, August, 2007).

### Role of Street Vendors in the Urban Informal Sector in India

On account of street vendors being identified as self-employed workers in the urban informal

sector, this sub section mainly focuses on the role of the street vendors in the urban India. According to the level of income, NCEUS (2007) has also categorized workers in the unorganized sector. Interestingly, it has found around 75 percent self-employed workers belong to poor and vulnerable group and only around 25 percent belong to high income group in India (NCEUS, August, 2007).

In a research '*Condition of Decent Working Life of Street Vendors in Mumbai*' conducted by a PhD. Scholar Dr. Debdulal Saha of Tata Institute of Social Sciences, it was found that street vendors play a very important role in urban India by providing employment and income and other aspects. Street vendors prop up urban rich to provide daily requirements, such as availability on their doorsteps because some street vendors built up their profession in front of housing complexes. Also, there is a need to provide decent work in terms of access to formal financial institutions, social protection and occupational well-being (Debdulal Saha, 2011).

An article published in Bloomberg View '*India's Street Vendors Come Out of the Shadows*' written by famous novelist Mr. Chandras Chaudhary on September 26, 2013 states the estimated number of Street Vendors in India to be 10 million. Moreover, the article talks about the bill passed by Lok Sabha for organizing the working of Street vendors in India. Also, the measure acknowledges that street vending is an economic reality that works to the advantage of both sellers and consumers, providing productive employment for many and cheap goods and services for the urban poor. This shows the importance of street vendors in whole of informal sector identified by the Government of India (Chandras Chaudhary, 2013).

### **Vegetable and Fruit Vendors and India**

The sub category of street vendors i.e. vegetable and fruit vendors suffers from the real hardships as compared to other categories of street vendors. This is clearly shown in one of the researches done by Debdulal Saha in Mumbai. The research states that, "those who sold raw material namely vegetable and fruit vendors have miserable working condition. They start their activity from 5 am in the morning to till around 12 o'clock at night and they work around 365 days in a year and most of the vegetable and fruit vendors are women (Debdulal Saha, 2011).

An article talks about the problem of the vegetable and fruit vendors by not having any type of cold storage and health facilities by

doing hard work of coming early in the morning and going late in the evening. They also get the permission from the government to stay after 9 for selling their vegetables and they are also suffering from health issues (SV Mohan).

### **Role of Member based Organizations**

Debdulal Saha in his research has clearly defined the need of member based organizations in providing the decent working life to these street vendors (Debdulal Saha, 2011). Another research done by Ana Maria Vargas Falla on '*Legal empowerment of Informal Workers*' in Colombia states, the research talks about the role of member based organization in providing rights and better working conditions to the informal workers which ultimately lead to reduction in poverty and made these vendors live a decent working life (Falla, 2012).

A research done by Ana Vargas Fella in Columbia in 2012 talks about the role of legal empowerment in providing a better working condition and increasing productivity of informal workers at the workplace. The research talked about the role of law in providing a standard to these workers leading to a poverty reduction in the economy. It further illustrated upon the fear of these workers who faces frequent eviction, harassment and other constraints due to the element of law missing out of them. The research talks about the theory of formalization of informal worker to bring a better development of these workers which would ultimately lead to a decent working life of the informal workers (Falla, 2012).

### **Introducing Ahmedabad**

The city of Ahmedabad shares the same statistics about population of street vendors as the other states of country with a population of around 127,000 of vendors.

Even CEPT University has been working for researches on street vendors. A very good literature related to Ahmedabad city by Darshini Mahadevia has portrayed street vendors as 'they are eyes on the street'. The planning activities should take care of their spatial and services' needs. Women are predominantly found in this sector because of its characteristics like- ease of entry and exit, low initial and working capital requirements, flexible work hours, etc. (Mahadevia, 2012).

For identifying the market sites for field work, the concept of 'Natural Markets' developed by SEWA was used. A 'natural markets' is one



which develops because of commercial opportunity created in a location on account of its good accessibility and a significant pedestrian flow. In 2003 SEWA supported a survey of 165 'natural markets' in Ahmedabad (Mahadevia, 2012).

SEWA has a strong presence in Manek Chowk and Jamalpur market, wherein, it has organized the vegetable and fruit vending women.

The research done by C.N. Ray in 2011 explains the natural market. In Gujarat the Municipal Law prohibits the hawking of goods without having a license. The Municipal Corporation is also empowered to remove any encroachments and obstruction made on the streets. Natural market means a place where vending activities take place, because of the profitable location. In According to Kulkarni (2010) the location map of Ahmedabad city shows approximately 142 natural markets and illustrates that street vending is not related to one specific location in the city. Usually vendors concentrate on places having high traffic and high residential densities. The spatial dimensions at the macro level are guided by forces of factors, which create demand at particular locations, extent of demand, and the reasons for choices of location. In fact the natural markets are distributed all over the city. This is because street vendors cater a variety of demands at many diverse locations such as residential neighbourhoods, squares, parks and other nodes (C.N.RAY, 2011).

Researches done under the periphery of Ahmedabad showed a strong presence of Member based organization of SEWA who were involved in protecting the rights of these customers.

The report by Munshi in 2014 had data and schemes related to street vendors in Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad has been recently ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest growing city by Forbes Lists. The local government has undertaken many ambitious projects like the Sabarmati Riverfront project and Bus Rapid Transit System and requalification projects like the Kankaria Lake and Bhadra Plaza to uplift the city's real estate and attract foreign investments by promoting a global image of the city. But the challenge is not only redefining the city's look and ambiance but also accommodating contradictory needs. As quoted by Ms. Oriard Ahmedabad's current dilemma is to 'promote the city's image to develop market and simultaneously accommodate the needs of the urban poor'. Street vending is an ecosystem by itself,

providing employment and essential commodities at affordable prices, indeed it has been an intemperate activity since decades. After decades of struggle their right to the street has been recently recognized by the Street Vendors Bill – 2014 (Munshi, 2014).

Ahmedabad has approximately 67,000 street vendors and has been classified among the cities with most street vendors in India. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has developed the Street Vendors Scheme in 2009 following the guidelines proposed by the National policy (2009). The challenge for AMC has been to define general rules that set city scale principles, while at the same time develop planning tools that respond to the specific needs of the vendors at specific locations (Munshi, 2014).

Another research done by Mahadevia done in 2012 regarding 'Decent work in Ahmedabad- an integrated approach' talks about how improvement in some areas of informal sector can impact and improve the quality of life of urban poor in Gujarat and thus leading to overall growth of Gujarat and ultimately India as a whole (Mahadevia, 2012).

It starts with a concept of "decent work" which revolves around labor protection and their social security. This concept talks about 4 steps: creating jobs, assuring right at work, social protection and promoting social welfare. This decent work concept believes that if a labor is given minimum wages, safe working condition and social protection, Gujarat can bring sustainable growth. Other than these aspects safety and social protection, shelter is also an important factor for growth of labor of informal sector. Shelter security will lead to increased access to basic services, such as housing, water and sanitation, electricity, education, health and employment (Mahadevia, 2012).

The research by Saha conducted in 2009 has studies various problems related to street vendors. According to National Commission on Labor, street vendors are identified as self-employed workers in the informal sector who offer their labor for selling goods and services on the street without having any permanent built-up structure. However, literatures have stated many problems of street vendors regarding their social protection, working condition, credit accessibility, and their public space utilization. Vegetable and fruit vendors form a part of such street vendors. They have a huge market coverage and Ahmedabad does not

have any study on the Decent life of vegetable and fruit vendors in particular (Saha, 2009).

### Contribution by various organizations

Vendors are an important part of the urban economy, yet they are treated as criminals. In 1995 SEWA took the campaign for 'Legal rights for Street Vendors in our cities' to the international arena, with a meeting of vendors of 11 mega cities of the world organized in Bellagio, Italy. The meeting passed an International Declaration demanding policy and space for vendors. In 1996, they began a survey of vendors in Ahmedabad and other Indian cities. They also contacted various groups working with vendors and disseminated information on the Bellagio Declaration. In addition, they continued their campaign at the local level with the municipal authorities, for an end to forcible eviction of vendors and to obtain alternative vending sites. Negotiations for more sites, and an end to forced eviction till suitable alternative sites which are given, are in progress. In 1997, SEWA formed NASVI – the National Alliance of Street Vendors of India which now has – organizations in its network. In 2001, through SEWA's and NASVI's efforts, a national policy on street vendors was developed. The struggle to implement this policy continues (SEWA's Campaigns).

The literature review collected shows the need to study the working life and conditions i.e. concept of decent work of the lion's shareholder of street vending sector i.e. vegetable and fruit vendors of India.

### 3. Objective

- To conduct a comparative study between vegetable and fruit vendors covered under member based organization (SEWA) and those who are working independently on the decent work parameters which are guaranteeing rights at work, working conditions and access to credit facility drawing analyses for the same.

### 4. Scope

- The scope is limited to city area of Ahmedabad.
- Further the areas for the research are limited to Kalupur, Jamapalur and Khodiyarnagar.
- The scope is also limited to the vendors who vend in these Mandis (markets). Hence the

static vegetable vendors have been considered in the research.

- The research is scope is supported by the "Decent Work Approach" research by Darshini Mahadevia which shows the strong presence of SEWA and independent vegetable vendors in Kalupur, Jamalpur and Khodiyarnagar (Mahadevia, 2012).

## 5. Research Methodology

### Pilot Survey

In order to obtain a base for our research, the group conducted a pre-testing experiment where the street vendors were asked to give their reviews on a few questions. It was important for us to derive which standards to be considered for our research. We took a sample size of 40 respondents (10 respondents from 4 different areas) for our pre-testing and asked the following questions:

Q1. Do you work under any union or member based organisation?

Q2. What are the problems do you face in your daily working life?

Q3. Do they support or help you in your daily working life?

From the pre-testing, it was found that there is a strong presence of member based organisation (SEWA) in all the 4 areas we did the testing. We also found that a major chunk of street vendors were working independently, without the support of any organisations or unions. So we decided to carry out our research in the form of a comparative study between the street vendors working under member based organisations and those who are working independently with the reference to Decent Work parameters.

### Analysis of Interview

The group got a few researches for the vegetable vendors of Ahmedabad City. In order to have a better understanding of the situation of vegetable vendors in Ahmedabad the group then decided to conduct interviews of various experts in Ahmedabad. The group carried out interviews of various experts who were in the field of social work like Mr. Ramesh Srivastav, academicians like Professor Chandranath Ray, Professor at CEPT University and Mrs. Ela Ben Bhat, founder of SEWA. The group also conducted interviews of two leaders of SEWA who were Shanta Ben and Kanta Ben. They are the people

who have been protecting the rights of vegetable vendors in Ahmedabad from past 40 years.

- The population of Gujarat is of 6 crore and from that 90 lakh is of unorganized labor. And from 90 lakh only 7000 are registered. But those who are registered only few get the medical facilities or compensation from the government.
- The street vendors do not get any medical facilities as they are self-employed and so if anything happens to him then he is only responsible and no one else. Like in construction sites if anything happens to labor then at least the compensation can be claimed under workmen compensation act but there is no such law or act in favor of street vendors.
- The biggest advantage of getting into the street vending profession is that small amount of investment is required, there are no regulations and it is easily accessible and the disadvantage is that they are harassed by the police because they don't have the license.
- In Ahmedabad there are "no vending zones". Many acts have been passed for street vendors but they have still not been implemented.
- There is a need of city planning for designing the space for street vendors.
- They suggested the need of research on the role of member based organization in protecting the rights of these vendors and providing them better social security.
- It is important to study on Vegetable and Fruit vending profession because it is large in size i.e. the number of vegetable and fruit vendors is large, there is no skill is required in this business, there working conditions is miserable, they change their places and work for 365 days.
- There is also no proper system of registration, they don't know where to get registered and so they are not able to issue the license. And if they don't have license then they are either forced to close their business by police or they have to bribe the police, so half the income of theirs go to bribe the police otherwise they won't be able to do their business peacefully.
- There has been constant harassment that is faced by these vendors from

local authorities, which turns out to be havoc to them.

### **Research Design**

The research design is the "framework or blueprint" for collecting the information needed for your project in the best possible way.

This research is an exploratory research. In exploratory research, the researcher has an idea or has observed something but does not have enough information on a topic and further seeks to understand more about it. As a group we had knowledge about the member based organizations (SEWA) and its connection with vegetable and fruit vendors. Based on this knowledge of member based organizations (SEWA) providing help and assistance to vegetable and fruit vendors, the research studies the more detailed aspects of help and assistance and also takes into account the situations of vegetables and fruit vendors who are not a part of member based organization (SEWA) for better understanding.

### **Sampling Design**

Based on the research Decent Work in Ahmedabad- an Integrated Approach done by Darshini Mahadevia, the group found that majority of vegetables and fruit vendors who are a part of member based organization (SEWA) vend in the market of Jamalpur, Khodiyarnagar and Kalupur. And so the scope of this study is limited to these three areas of Ahmedabad city only (Mahadevia, 2012).

### **Sampling Method**

Sampling method stands very useful when we look at the kind of sample we are researching on.

The sampling methods used for questionnaire includes:

- *Strata sampling*  
The sampling method applied is stratified sampling. In stratified sampling, the strata are intergroup homogeneous and intra group heterogeneous the two strata include: 1) vendors who are part of member based organizations (SEWA) and 2) vendors who vend independent of any organization.
- *Convenience sampling*  
The sampling of our research is also convenience sampling because the respondents i.e. vegetable and fruit vendors chosen to fill the questionnaire from all the three areas are based on convenience of the group member.

The sampling method used for interview includes:

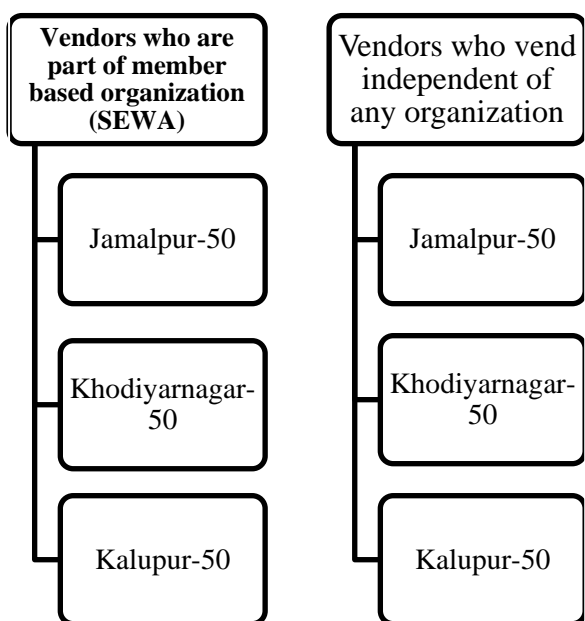
- **Snowball sampling**  
Snowball Sampling is a type of non-probability sampling technique wherein the researchers collect data from the few members of the target population they can locate and subsequently ask those individuals to give references or information needed to locate other members whom they know. In this study the group has taken interviews of various experts who were in the field of social work like Mr. Ramesh Shrivastav, academicians like Professor Chandranath Ray, Professor at CEPT University and Mrs. Ela Ben Bhat, founder of SEWA. The group also conducted interviews of two leaders of SEWA who were Shanta Ben and Kanta Ben.

**Sample Size**

Sample size refers to the size of the sample that is to be targeted for conducting the research. The sample size for our study is 300 respondents, wherein the numbers of vendors who are part of member based organization (SEWA) are 150 and the number of vendors who work independent of any organization are 150.

**Sampling Mix**

Our sampling mix consists of vegetable and fruit vendors who are part of member based organization (SEWA) and the vegetable and fruit



vendors who vend independent of organization.

**Data Collection Method Used**

- **Primary Data Collection**
  - Questionnaires: The group used questionnaires as one of the methods for primary data collection. The questionnaires were filled from vegetables and fruits vendors who vend in Jamalpur, Kalupur and Khodiyarnagar areas of Ahmedabad city.
- **Secondary Data Collection**
  - Web pages / sites
  - Journals / magazines
  - Research papers
  - SEWA (Street Vendors Department)

**6. Data Analysis**

**Table 1. License for vending**

License	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendor	%	Number of vendor	%
Have license	3	2	-	-
Don't have license	147	98	150	100

**Inference and Analysis:**

The very first question made us find that majority (98%) of the vendors vend without having license. SEWA has been ineffective in providing the right to have proper recognition of these vendors. AMC lacks in guaranteeing rights at their work place.

**Table 2. Do you have a secured place for vending?**

Secured place	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendor	%	Number of vendors	%
Have a secured place	84	56	131	87
Don't have a secured	66	44	19	13

**Inference and Analysis:**

As compared to Independent vendors, more (44%) vendors working under SEWA believe of not having a secured place. While only 13% of



independent workers said that they do not have a secured place for vending.

The analysis again shows us the ineffective working of SEWA is providing a secured place to vendor. The analysis could be further supported with the question of constraints faced during vending. Interestingly vendors who got a secured place, none of them paid any rent for the secured place.

**Table 3. Are you willing to pay rent for a secured place?**

Secured place and vending	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendors	%	Number of vendors	%
Have and pay	50	40	31	19
Have and don't pay	25	16	43	68
Don't have and willing to pay	33	24	28	2
Don't have and not willing to pay	42	20	48	11

**Inference and Analysis:**

There are 24% of vendors under SEWA who are willing to pay for a secured place while on the other hand there are only 2% of independent workers who would like to pay for a secured place. This question and graph completely shows that the presence of SEWA is motivating enough for these vendors that they are willing to pay for a secured place even when their earnings are not very high. Also it is easily observed that SEWA can charge money for a secured place as there is willingness in vendors as compared to independently working vendors.

**Table 4. Has your income changed in the past 2 years?**

Reasons of borrowing	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendors	%	Number of vendors	%
Child education	33	22	20	13
Child marriage	5	4	42	28
Family healthcare	22	14	55	37
Insurance	3	2	-	-
Daily needs	63	42	33	22
Other	25	16	-	-

**Inference and Analysis:**

It is evident from the table that people working under SEWA have an increase in income while non-members don't have an increase in income. SEWA guides them for proper utilization of funds and provides financial products i.e., loans, savings, gold investment and others. A clear

difference can be seen in work done under proper guidelines and assistance.

Change in income	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendors	%	Number of vendors	%
Increase	30	20	-	-
Decrease	51	34	82	54
Same	69	46	68	46

**Table 5. How frequently do you borrow money?**

**Inference and Analysis:**

People working under SEWA have a tendency to borrow money after certain time period even survival in market of 6% of vegetable vendors depends on borrowing money. This shows clearly that non-members have free nature in borrowing money and generally they tend to borrow when market is low but not certainly over period of time.

Frequency of borrowing	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendors	%	Number of vendors	%
Everyday	8	6	150	100
Every month	75	50	-	-
When needed	67	44	-	-

**Table 6. Why do you borrow money?**

**Inference and Analysis:**

It is clearly noticed that some SEWA members do take insurance policy as a security while non-members don't do so eventually their family health and medical borrowing is higher as compared to member vegetable vendors. Even non-members borrow a huge amount for social occasions like weddings while member vegetable vendors are prepared with savings for it.

Sources of borrowing	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendors	%	Number of vendors	%
Personal savings	38	25	-	-
Money lenders	40	27	-	-
Co-operatives	11	7	-	-
Retailers	24	16	88	58
Wholesalers	11	7	62	42
Commercial banks	3	2	-	-
SEWA	24	16	-	-

**Table 7. Sources of borrowing?**

**Inference and Analysis:**

SEWA members have various sources for borrowing money while non-members borrow from traditional ways i.e. wholesaler and from relatives. SEWA banking facilities have been great help to the vendors though the procedure was bit lengthy. Even members have proper sense of saving money and corporative bank help as well as from money lenders i.e. generally on 10% of rate of interest while in that case non-members doesn't pay great amount of interest as money is majorly borrowed from relatives.

**Social Protection**

Facilities	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendors	%	Number of vendors	%
Toilet	37	25	75	50
Drinking water	35	24	-	-
Shades	13	9	-	-
Place to take rest	10	6	-	-
Street light	10	6	-	-
Storage	7	5	-	-
Disposal of garbage	38	25	75	50

**Table 8. Facilities at Workplace**

**Inference and Analysis:**

The members under SEWA have more and better facilities than non-SEWA members. What is more striking is that non-SEWA members have no access to proper drinking, neither a proper place to take rest nor storage facilities.

**Question 9. What time of the day do you usually vend?**

Time of vending	SEWA members		Independently working	
	Number of vendors	%	Number of vendors	%
Morning	45	30	55	37
Afternoon	30	20	62	41
Evening	5	3	16	11
Entire day	70	47	17	11

**Inference and Analysis:**

It is evident from the graph that majorly SEWA members vend entire day while only 11% of non-members vend entire day. While morning share of vending of members and non-members are close, on-members have a major part of them vending in the afternoon as compared to members.

**Question 9. Have you ever met with an accident at your workplace?**

Mostly, both the members and non-members have not met with an accident, while it is surprising to know that still a less number of SEWA members have met with an accident.

**Table 10. Income (Per Day)**

Income (RS)	SEW A	Percenta ge	Non-SEWA	Percenta ge
100-150	9	6	0	0
150-200	12	8	0	0
200-250	18	12	15	10
250-300	18	12	9	6
300-350	21	14	27	18
350-400	15	10	9	10
400-450	12	8	0	0
450-500	15	10	12	8
500-550	12	8	21	14
550-600	15	10	3	2
600-650	0	0	21	14
650-700	0	0	0	0
700-750	0	0	6	4
750-800	0	0	0	0
800-850	0	0	15	10
850-900	0	0	0	0
900-950	0	0	0	0
950-1000	3	2	12	8
	150	100	150	100
Average	365		520	

**Inference and Analysis:**

In the above table, the income slabs of vegetable vendors belonging to the member group and non-member are stated. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 100 to 150 are 9 while those of independent street vendors are 0. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 150 to 200 are 12 while those of independent street vendors are 0. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 200 to 250 are 18 while those of independent street vendors are 15. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 250 to 300 are 18 while those of independent street vendors are 9. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 300 to 350 are 21 while those of independent street vendors are 27. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 350 to 400 are 15 while those of independent street vendors are 9. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 400 to 450 are 12 while those of independent street vendors are 0. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 450 to 500 are 15 while those of independent street vendors are 12. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 500 to

550 are 12 while those of independent street vendors are 21. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 550 to 600 are 15 while those of independent street vendors are 3. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 600 to 650 are 0 while those of independent street vendors are 21. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 650 to 700 are 0 while those of independent street vendors are 0 as well. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 700 to 750 are 0 while those of independent street vendors are 6. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 750 to 800 are 0 while those of independent street vendors are 0. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 800 to 850 are 0 while those of independent street vendors are 15. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 850 to 900 are 0 while those of independent street vendors are 0. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 900 to 950 are 0 while those of independent street vendors are 0. The number of members belonging to SEWA in the income slab of 950 to 1000 are 3 while those of independent street vendors are 12.

#### Irregularities Handled

- Some vendors were not ready to co-ordinate with us for filling up of the questionnaires. The other vendors that coordinated were taken into the consideration as respondents for the research.

It was difficult to talk to vendors during their working hours. The group members used informal way of asking questions to them from the questionnaire. Also the languages used in the field were Gujarati and Hindi. Further, the collected data is purely based on respondents' responses which might lead to personal bias as a factor affecting the study.

#### 7. Findings

- We have seen through our survey that nobody has the license for vending and hence are not recognised under the law despite their involvement in any Member Based Organisation (SEWA) or independently working.
- Member Based Organisation (SEWA) does not play any role in providing a secured place to its member street vendors. Majority of them had a

secured place regardless of their involvement with Member Based Organisation.

- SEWA came out as inefficient in guaranteeing rights to their members.
- Proper working facilities has been permitted to the member street vendors of SEWA. Although there is a need of storage demanded by the members.
- The working hours are comparatively poor for the people working independently as they work for 14 hours/day in comparison to the members of SEWA who work for 11 hours/day (Average of working hours has been taken).
- Nearly all of them work as street vendors and it is their only source of income.
- SEWA members has seen a gradual increase in their income while on the other hand no increase has been noted in the case of the vendors working independently.
- SEWA has been ineffective in providing proper credit facility as all of their members borrow money while only few of them borrow from SEWA Bank.

The reasons they gave for the same were-

1. Lengthy procedure involved in acquiring funds from the bank.
  2. Many of them are unaware of the credit schemes provided by SEWA.
- There are no fatalities faced by the street vendors (fruit and vegetable).

#### 8. Recommendations

##### SEWA:

- *Recognizing through provision of licenses:*  
The first recommendation that the group has to offer is to insist SEWA to help its vegetable and fruit street vendor members to get the license, as the theory of formalization states that the legal recognition will provide them with self-esteem and it will help them increase their productivity.
- *Communicating the updated schemes of SEWA:*  
An improved communication system needs to be put in place, as a significant proportion of the

respondents being a part of SEWA are not aware of SEWA bank, moreover, the proportion of the respondents who do not know about its schemes is even larger, which in itself defeats the purpose of the setting up of the SEWA bank.

- *Using regional leaders as liaisons:*  
Our third recommendation is, to let the regional leaders of SEWA carry an amount of money that they can use to lend to its fruit and vegetable street vendor members, who, according to our findings rely heavily on borrowings from relatives and money lenders, who charge them heavily.

#### AMC:

- *Providing storage facility:*  
AMC (Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation) in co-operation with SEWA should provide storage facility to vegetable and fruit street vendors as it leads to the safety of their goods and an improvement in their working condition due to increased longevity of their goods.
- *Shortening time of issuance of license:*  
Our second recommendation for AMC is to make the issuance process of license as short as possible, in the earliest possible time as, one of our findings reflect that the reason for the street vendors to not have the license is because of the long and cumbersome issuance process.
- *Implementation is the key:*  
Our third recommendation to AMC, insists it to, put emphasis on the implementation of the laws and hence it should carry out an inspection for the same.
- *Redesigning of the working space:*  
Our last recommendation to AMC is to plan a proper redesigning of the working space of these street vendors in a way which provides them ease of work.

#### Independent:

- *Formation of a union:*  
The only recommendation for the independent fruit and vegetable vendor is to initiate the formation of unions. The members of these unions will contribute a definite sum of money towards the formation of its fund,

which will serve the purpose of lending money to its needy members and thus solve the problem of high interest loans from moneylenders.

### 9. Further Research Gaps

- The research can be further conducted on the laws and policies available for the benefit of vegetable and fruit vendors and their effective implementation, as per our research limitations we were not able to work upon the same.
- Even further research can be conducted on the micro financing for vegetable and fruit vendors for their daily requirements as well as the buying vegetables and fruits for vending
- A research in terms of urban space designing for providing better work place to vegetable and fruit vendors

### 10. Limitations

- The data's accuracy is only limited to the sample population considered for the primary data collection.
- The group has only taken into consideration the confounding factors during the experiment which are:
  - there was hesitation while the vendors were answering our questionnaire
  - personal biasness of vendors while answering the questions
- The outcome of the research is to the best of the groups' efforts.
- The research may have missed out several points, which were not considered due to time constraints.

### 11. Conclusion

Street vendors have always been an integral part of economic development of any country. They contribute to a large portion of Informal Sector in Indian economy. In India, Street vending provides a scope of a healthy profession and employs a number of 10 million people in it. The profession of street vending is serving to a large number of urban poor in India. The biggest pie of street vendors is covered by vegetable and fruit vendors. Vegetable and fruit vending forms to be the easiest and most viable sector among



all other street vending businesses. At the same time the investment in terms of finance is also low and hence attracts a larger portion of people to roll into the profession of vegetable and fruit vending. The literature also showed various researches which provided findings for the role of member based organizations in providing decent work to these workers. Also the theory of formalization also talked about the legal empowerment of street vendors to boost their productivity at their workplace.

After the analysis of the responses we received from the survey the group did in different vegetable and fruit vending zones including vegetable vendors working under SEWA and working independently the group came across some mixed findings. The group observed that SEWA as a member based organization has been ineffective in providing proper credit facility and guaranteeing rights of the vegetable and fruit vendors at their workplace as compared to people who are working independently. SEWA has proved to be effective in providing proper working conditions such as toilet facilities, shades, drinking water etc. The group also came across a need of vegetable and fruit vendors for having a proper storage facility for their goods. Also the group found that majority of vendors even though facing different problems at workplace found their place to be secured. Also there has been no role of SEWA in providing a secured place. Poor working hours of vendors have also been sparked from our research where we found that these vegetable and fruit vendors are working for 11-14 hours a day. Talking about Income of these vendors, a decent percentage of vegetable and fruit vendors under SEWA have seen an increase in their income while vendors working independently have either seen a decrease or no change in their income. The research on overall basis is able to bargain over the role of member based organization to not being very effective in providing decent work to vegetable and fruit vendors, while there is a good opportunity to develop upon the same. SEWA should also develop upon the micro financing facility and make it more viable to the vendors working under them. Also there is a decent work deficit that has been observed in the vegetable vendors in Ahmedabad which could only be removed by providing them recognition, facilities like storage, and proper credit facility.

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### 13. GLOSSARY

**(1) Street vendor-** The term “street vendor” in English is typically used interchangeably with “street trader,” “hawker,” and “peddler.”

**(2) Informal sector-** “Those workers who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of their common interest due to certain constraints like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments”.

**(3) WIEGO-** Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) is a global action-research-policy network that seeks to improve the status of the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy.

**(4) ILO-** 'International Labor Organization - ILO' A United Nations agency that strives to serve as a uniting force between governments, businesses and workers to "promote decent work throughout the world.

**(5) Informal economy-**The informal economy is the diversified set of economic activities, enterprises, jobs, and workers that are not regulated or protected by the state. The concept originally applied to self-employment in small unregistered enterprises. It has been expanded to include wage employment in unprotected jobs.

**(6) Unincorporated private enterprises-** (of a company or other organization) not formed into a legal corporation.

**(7) NDP-** 'Net Domestic Product - NDP' An annual measure of the economic output of a nation that is adjusted to account for depreciation, calculated by subtracting depreciation from the gross domestic product (GDP).

**(8) NCEUS-** The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS) has been set up as an advisory body and a watchdog for the informal sector to bring about improvement in the productivity of these enterprises for generation of large scale employment opportunities on a sustainable basis.

**(9) Self-employed-** Working for oneself as a freelance or the owner of a business rather than for an employer.

**(10) Decent work-** Decent work is a term coined by International Labor Organization (ILO) in a report in June, 1999. The research paper described the goal as ‘not just creation of jobs, but also the creation of jobs of acceptable quality. The society had a notion of decent work which was proven wrong by the report and clear demarcations were made under the report that quantity of employment cannot discount quality of employment.

**(11) BBC-** The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is a UK-based public-service broadcaster headquartered at Broadcasting House in London.

**(12) Member based organization-** An association or corporation established for the purpose of providing services on a non-profit basis to its shareholders or members who own and control it.

**(13) CEPT university-** 'Center for Environmental Planning and Technology' (CEPT) University focuses on understanding, designing, planning, constructing and managing human habitats. Its teaching programs build thoughtful professionals and its research programs deepen understanding of human settlements. CEPT University also undertakes advisory projects to further the goal of making habitats more liveable.

**(14)APMC-** Agricultural produce market committee. The state government of Gujarat, in order to facilitate farmers to sell their produce and get reasonable prices, created APMCs in many towns. Most of the APMC have market where traders and other marketing agents are provided stalls and shops for purchase of agriculture produce from farmers. Farmers can sell their produce to agents or traders under supervision of APMC.

**(15)AMC-** Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.

**(16)SEWA-Self Employed Women's Association.** SEWA is a trade union registered in 1972. It is an organisation of poor, self-employed women workers. These are women who earn a living through their own labour or small businesses.

**(17)Minimum wages-**The lowest wage permitted by law or by a special agreement, which are necessary for survival.

**(18) NASVI-** NASVI is an organization working for the protection of the livelihood rights of thousands of street vendors across the country. Beginning as a Network in 1998, NASVI was registered in 2003 under the Societies registration Act of 1860.

**(19) Gandhian principles-** The first principle which guided all his thoughts and activities is the complete unity and integrity of body, mind and soul in the individual human being. The second principle of Gandhian philosophy may be stated as follows: All social action should be governed by the same simple set of moral values, of which the main elements are selflessness, non-attachment, nonviolence and active service. His third conviction was that no society, state or any other institution has any worth or importance apart from its part in

contributing to the growth of the individuals of which it is composed.

**(20) Secured place-** A place which gives feeling of safety as well as sense of security with regularity without any botheration from legal authorities. The problems like eviction, cattle, violence doesn't prevails.

**(21) OECD countries-** The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world even India became its part to achieve common goals.

**(22) Vegetable and fruit vendor-** Vegetable and fruit vendors refer to a sector of street vendors who sells perishable agricultural goods to earn their living.

**(23) Secured place-** A secured place refer to a place where a vendor is operating his business without the fear of any constraints that could be certain or uncertain.

**(24) Comparative study-** Comparative research or analysis is a wide ranging concept, which encompasses both quantitative and qualitative comparison of social entities. These social entities can be classified into various lines, such as geographical or political ones based on the form of cross-national or regional comparisons.