

A Study on Problem and Prospects of Women Street Vendor with Special Reference to Tirunelveli City

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Abstract: *Street vending plays a vital role in providing livelihoods for many women in Tirunelveli city. It enables them to earn income, support their families, and gain a measure of financial independence. Despite their contribution to the local economy, women street vendors face several challenges that affect their work and overall well-being. This study was undertaken to understand the major problems, prospects, and day-to-day struggles experienced by women street vendors in Tirunelveli, as well as to suggest practical measures for their improvement. The study is based on responses from 102 women vendors, using percentage analysis and simple ranking techniques to interpret the data. The findings reveal that most respondents are between 40 and 60 years of age, married, and living in urban areas with nuclear families. A large proportion of them are illiterate and earn below Rs. 20,000 per month. Many have been vending for more than six years, primarily selling fruits and vegetables along roadside pavements. The study also found that a majority of women use Self Help Group (SHG) accounts for savings but lack awareness of government welfare schemes. Common problems include lack of space, absence of permanent vending spots, limited government support, and frequent health issues such as body pain due to long working hours. Based on these findings, the study suggests creating designated vending zones, providing access to microcredit, ensuring better sanitation and storage facilities, and organizing health camps. Awareness programs on hygiene, financial literacy, and business skills are also recommended. By offering structured support and recognizing their role in the informal sector, women street vendors can achieve greater economic security and social dignity.*

Keywords: Women street vendors, government support, empowerment, microcredit, social security.

