

THE EFFECTS OF REMOVING STREET VENDORS ON THEIR LIVELIHOODS IN CHIPATA - EASTERN PROVINCE

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Abstract

Street vending, an activity related to informal sector in urban parts Zambia. It provided an important source of earnings for the unemployed in urban areas, as well as a source of relatively inexpensive goods and services for city and rural residents. While we acknowledge that they were not conducted in a safe and orderly way in some parts of the cities, informal businesses played an integral part in our economy by providing an income to the majority poor.

With increasing urban migration and the shrinking formal sector in Chipata City, street vending has emerged as one of the critical means of earning a livelihood for the urban poor and the unemployed graduates. Vendors are not only a significant part of the informal sector but also an integral part of urban economy. It is stated that a very low skill and capital investment is required to enter this trade.

This paper analyzes the impact of the removing street vendors with respect to their income hence impacting on local domestic income. It examines whether the income of the people who were doing business on the street in Chipata city increases with the rate of increase in investment, education and labour supply, considering street vending as a thorny issue in many developing countries and Zambia is no exception.

Keywords—unemployment, vendors, income, livelihood, Chipata city, informal sector, capital, investment

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBD: Central Business District
CCC: Chipata City Council
GDP: Gross Domestic Product
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization
ICBT: Informal Cross Border Trade
ICU: Information Communications University
ILO: International Labour Organization

SAP: Structural Adjustment Programmes

SEDA: Small Enterprise Development Agency

SME: Small and Medium Enterprises

OPERATIONAL TERMS

Being Poor: will be defined as not being able to afford to be openly unemployed and almost any job may seem to be better than no job

Bylaws: these are regulation made by a local authority or corporation

Entrepreneurship is the process of designing, launching and running a new business, which is often initially a small business.

Empowering: to give or someone authority or power to do something.

Household income: This is a measure of the combined incomes of all people sharing a particular household or place of residence. It includes every form of income, e.g., salaries and wages, retirement income, near cash government transfers like food stamps, and investment gains.

Local Government: This is a system of Government at local level through which local people manage their affairs, for example Councils, and may include traditional establishments recognized by the Government.

Policy: is typically described as a principle rule or rule to guide decision and achieve rational outcome(s).

Street vendor: This is someone who sells food, goods and merchandise on the *street* or in an open-air market rather than at a traditional store.

Livelihood: is considered to consist of the assets, activities and entitlements that enable people to make a living. Assets that support livelihoods, including human capital, social capital, natural capital, physical capital and financial assets such as startup capital,

Unemployment: the ILO definition of unemployment will be adopted. According to the ILO it means those with zero incomes and seeking work

INTRODUCTION

Many researchers have noted that the presence of the street vendors is quite useful for a large section of the urban poor as street vendors provide goods, including food, at low prices. Street vendors subsidizing the existence of the other sections of the urban poor by providing them cheap goods such as food stuffs, clothes and many other items. Middle-income groups also benefit from street vendors because of the affordable prices offered.

Street vending is an attractive economic strategy and source of livelihood for the unskilled and illiterate new arrivals to the city. With increasing rural to urban migration and the contracting formal sector, street vending and other forms of informal employment become the most attractive means of survival for the urban poor, ¹ According to ² vending has become an important source of employment for a large number of urban poor and Chipata city is not an exception.

But signification of services provided by the street vendors doesn't get recognition by most of the city authorities in Zambia. Yet they are popular because they provide much needed services to the large section of society that neither the municipalities nor the larger retailing outlets can provide. The sheer size of this sector in an urban economy implies that equal, if not more attention be paid to spatial and location requirements of this sector.

In most Zambian towns, street vendors provide a low cost, decentralized and highly efficient system of distribution of a wide variety of goods of daily needs ranging from fruit and vegetables to clothes, utensils and many others. They reach the consumers at convenient locations, without whom people

would have to travel long distances to procure these goods.

The middle- and lower-income groups buy a large proportion of daily goods from these vendors at reasonable rates often lower than the formal stores. Food stuff and other commodities sold on the street are usually cheaper than are sold in the supermarkets as some products in these stores are imported into the country while goods sold by vendors are locally sourced and money simply revolves within the city.

Vendors can be categorized into three groups

- i. Street Vendors who carry out vending on a regular basis with a specific location,
- ii. Street Vendors who carry out vending not on a regular basis and without a specific location, for example, vendors who sell goods in weekly bazaars during holidays and festivals and so on,
- iii. Mobile Street Vendors.

Street vending is a common feature of cities the world over and has been a subject of academic research for many years ³ and ⁴. Street vending accounts for a significant proportion of employment in developing cities ⁵, although accurately measuring the size of this workforce is difficult due to its informal nature.

Street vendors contribute significantly to the urban economy, yet their role is often unrecognized by the state; many governments contest street vending and have implemented removal strategies and relocation policies ⁶. Because of this many street vendors lead difficult lives; their livelihoods are often risky with many focused on making a living day by day.

1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Despite government effort of diversifying from mining to other sectors, emerging entrepreneurs operating from the streets of Chipata were banned by the city council. Removing the street vendors without an alternative affected a lot of the unemployed Chipata City residents who depended on these small businesses which required less capital. The already existing market places are full and new entrants are finding it difficult to find trading space in these markets.

Some of these street vendors survived entirely on selling on the streets. According to ⁷ bicycles, pedestrians and bus traffic show that they attract street vendors looking on the number of vendors who were removed.

The removal of these vendors from their operational places created a problem to the affected traders and their families. Most of these vendors are unemployed and it is from the profits they make in these small businesses that they manage to pay for their children's education and health services.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

- i. To investigate the economic impact on domestic household income caused by the removal of street vendors in Chipata City.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- i. To assess the effect on household income caused by the removal of street vendors in Chipata City.
- ii. To investigate challenges faced by street vendors removed from Chipata streets by the city council.

- iii. To examine the alternatives provided by Chipata City council to the removed street vendors

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- i... What are the benefits of street vending to the unemployed and poor people with less capital?
- ii... How did street vending support households in terms of income generating activities?
- iii. What alternatives do the street vendors have after the removal from the streets?

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The study is broadly to understand the impact of street vendors on their domestic income in Chipata City. The understanding of the existing situation of vendors is expected to give detailed practical solutions of the whole process of integrating vendors in a fast-growing city

LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

There was a very limited amount of recent literature on the subject especially in contexts similar to the domain of this study. This was a major limitation in the review of literature, hence the inability of the researcher to cite more recent literature on Chipata and Zambia.

It was difficult to collect data from vendors as some of them thought the researcher worked for the City Council and sent to spy on their activities. While it was thought prior to data collection (as revealed by the literature reviewed) that various agencies are involved in regulation and enforcement of trade in the city gave little information on the subject matter.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theoretically, scholars such as ⁸ have found the study of street vending difficult to categorise. The challenge emanates from the lack of analytical rigour and dearth of studies that independently look at urban street vending. As a result, there are competing theories regarding the role of street vending as an important economic activity.

Since street vending is largely considered as a mere spectacle of the urban informal sector, most of the arguments on street vending are polarised into either the Reformist or Marxist theoretical discourses within the informal sector, ⁹.

LITERATURE REVIEW THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The reformist theory's view is that street vending contributes to economic growth through alleviation of poverty and unemployment, ¹⁰ On the other hand there is no clarity on how the reformist perspective can be achieved; ¹¹ On the contrary, the Marxist theory does not acknowledge the informal sector contribution to national gross domestic product (GDP). The theory states that that there would be very little loss to the economy, if the informal traders are taken off their occupation, ¹². The two theories of Reformist and Marxist on street vending have left too much room for speculation about street vending contribution to the economy. This study therefore seeks to provide an in-depth account of the economic importance of street vending activities to the urban population and the general state economy.

WHAT IS STREET VENDING

Street vendors, according to ¹³ are sellers without permanent structures. ¹⁴ posits that

street vending is the exchange of goods and services in which the sellers operate without appropriate permits, flout zoning regulations, hide tax liability, and do not adhere to formal labor regulations and contracts with suppliers and customers. Though people who sell products dominate the business of street hawking, there are street hawkers who provide services whilst others sell both products as well as provide service ³ While some vendors are stationary in a location with their kiosk, shed, a table or simply displaying their goods on the ground, others are mobile, as they carry their wares around on their heads in pans or trays. Some mobile vendors hold their wares in their hands; others put their wares in wheelbarrows or carts pulled by the sellers. Still, some mobile vendors, especially those selling traditional medicines/drugs, put their wares in bags that hung on their shoulders.

¹⁵ divided vendors according to three main types of locations:

- a. Vendors who sell in places where people assemble, such as markets and bus terminals.
- b. Vendors who sell on the street. This type of vendor poses problems of congestion and obstruction.
- c. Vendors who sell in a bazaar. According to McGee, a bazaar is a place for entertainment as well as a place for selling. It is the "department store" of a dual economy's traditional sector. A bazaar is equivalent to the seasonal or periodic market where vendors sell on a piece of public or private land.

Street vending is one of the most visible features of street life, particularly in the developing world where it is a popular informal activity ¹³. Despite its prevalence, street vending is a contested practice,

criticised for causing congestion, tainting the city image and facilitating clandestine activity in the underground economy ³.

STREET VENDING IN ZAMBIA

The informal sector in Zambia has a specific function in the economy and that it is not inferior, it is not invisible, it is not stealing customers away from the formal economy, it is not a third class economy and it is not submerged in the formal economy but it is a specific segment of the consumers 'market, it is visible and operates in the open, it is just another sector which government happens not to like. It is a sector which has found a niche in the market, a niche that government has failed to recognize and appreciate.

A research done by Hansen on Zambia provides a background to the problem of street vending and the interventions that government has made so far. In the late 1990s Zambia constructed a new ultra modern market in the capital city of Lusaka to cater for street vendors; the construction was preceded by relocation of all vendors who used to run their daily business in the space allocated for the new market infrastructure. Initially, the vendors fought to be allocated stores in the new market, but consequently most vendors turned to the streets as the fees for operating in the new privately managed structure were too high for most vendors to afford ¹⁶. Hence those that could afford to pay occupied the stores and those that could not afford continued to trade in the streets.

On the other hand, all the interventions made by the local government in removing the street vendor does not leave the street vendors with enough choice to stop completely vending if they have to continue supporting themselves and their families. The mushrooming of shanty compounds

such as Nabvutika, Muchine and Magazine compounds had accommodated many people who migrated from the rural areas to the urban area of Chipata. These people's income is very low such that they cannot have enough capital to start a business or pay for rent. Nevertheless, the little they may make from selling small items on the streets can manage to support the basic living needs.

STREET VENDING IN AFRICA

In 2002, Africa's informal sector was approximately over 60 percent of all urban jobs and over 90 per cent of all new urban jobs, though estimates differ, street vending has been estimated to account for the largest share of these jobs after home work ⁵ The increase is much more rapid in sub-Saharan African cities, where urbanisation has not been accompanied with equivalent economic growth ¹⁷.

¹⁸ regard the informal activity (street vendors) as an employer and also a provider of services to the urban population. He views that the activity has a potential to contribute to economic development as a whole since it is labour intensive, efficient and has a high out-put capital ratio in comparison with the formal sector. He recommends that the growth of the sector can be encouraged. Street vending activities as capable of generating high quantity of employment especially in the cities.

Street vending provides employment and income to a large number of traders in Kenya, many of whom are women. For a long time, urban authorities have viewed hawking within their urban centres as illegal traders and as a 'nuisance', which is bound to disappear. On the other hand, most local authorities have now recognized the need to integrate hawkers into urban planning.

¹⁹ in their paper on Street Vending and the use of Urban Public Space in Kumasi, Ghana studied the reasons for choosing the particular location for vending. The study based on 517 street vendors revealed that availability of customers; cost effectiveness and limited options were the main reason for choosing the location. About 75% of the vendors paid some fees daily or monthly. As many as 59% experienced eviction from city authorities and 41% were free from evictions.

²⁰ in its paper on Informal Street Trading Policy Framework for Metropolitan and Local Municipalities brought to light the constraints that negatively impacted street traders in South Africa. The main challenges faced by them were lack of access to financial services such as credit and saving, limited access to training, and improper linkages and improper supplies from formal businesses. The municipal challenges in dealing street traders were also found. It revealed that instability in informal traders' representation and association, and proliferation among informal trading organization in the form of fight for recognition; support and power were the major problems they had to face with regard to street vendors.

²¹ made a study Beyond Modernist Planning: Understanding Urban Street Vending in Botswana" based on 160 street vendors and 40 customers in Gaborone City. The study revealed that 49.4% of the street vendors were previously engaged in wage employment, 43.1% were working in the private sector and 26.3% were previously unemployed. Many of the previously employed had lack of security of employment in the private sector. Reason for leaving the previous job was retrenchment, underpayment and the quest for self employment. About 50.6% of the vendors

chose street vending as it was the only available alternate and for 41.3%, it was very easy to get into street vending. About 67.5% used personal savings as their source for start-up capital.

Street vending activities are not peculiar to the recent era in Zimbabwe urban space but are rather traceable through various epochs of the nation's history. Scholarly evidence indicates that the hype of street vending dates back to economic policies such as the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP) of the mid 90's, the Land Reform Programme of 2000' and Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act of 2007 ¹. In Zimbabwe, Economic Structural Adjustment Programme sounded the death knell of state subsidies, free healthcare as well as free basic education.

STREET VENDING ON GLOBAL PERCEPTIVE

Sharit, in his study „Street Vendors in Asia: A Review“ examined the street vendors in Asian countries. The study analysed the magnitude of street vending in different countries. The assessment found that the number of street vendors in the countries was on an increase. The number increased because of shrinking of jobs in formal sector and with lack of employment in rural areas. This factor was common in Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam and Cambodia.

In the Asian Tigers, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Korea, there was rapid increase in the number of street vendors after the monetary crisis of 1998. The governments of all Asian countries have more or less refused to recognize street vending as a legal activity. Malaysia, Philippines and India have policies for regulating and protecting street vendors. Most of the street vendors in Asia are not

unionized. Only Korea and India have federations or alliances of street vendors and in India NASVI has been more successful.

²² paper titled 'Fighting Poverty from the Street – A Survey on Street Food Vendors in Bangkok', was based on 744 street vendors and 385 buyers of street food from Klogtoey and Dindaeng districts in Bangkok Metropolis. The study revealed that about 88% of the vendors were migrants. Food vending was not the first occupation of most vendors. Many of them were previously engaged in other occupations like farming, manual labour and monthly wage work. About 56% were engaged in street vending as individual operators and 44% were family operators. About 48% got into food vending only because of need for more income. Around 22% street vended with a desire for autonomy. Around 97% felt that earning opportunity was high in vending. About 80% earned adequate income. And 86% were satisfied with their occupation.

The findings on consumers of street food revealed that about 33.2% purchased food more than once in a day. About 43.5% purchased cooked food. They purchased food because of proximity of food vendors near home (44.7%) and because it was cheap (39.2%). The advantages and disadvantages of food vending were also analysed. The main advantage found was convenience (70.1%) and main disadvantage was, it caused obstruction for pedestrians (53.5%).

⁵ in its paper on 'The Regulatory Framework and the Informal Economy' studied the good practices that support street vendors in Thailand and Dar Es Salaam. It revealed that street vendors in Dar Es Salaam were issued licenses and were allowed to operate. Shelves and tables have been standardized and guidelines adopted for managing street vending. In Thailand, street vendor market was organized and managed by private

company. A high rent was charged and high standards of hygiene, orderliness and security were maintained. The market had good infrastructure including rest rooms and car parking which was a reason for the increase in customers and thus resulting in increase in income of the vendors. Vendors were also willing to pay high rent.

Self employment is 70 per cent of informal employment in sub-Saharan Africa, and 62 per cent in North Africa. Taking a gender perspective, the ILO observes that in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, most of the female non agricultural labour force is in informal employment – 97 per cent in Benin, 95 per cent in Chad, 85 per cent in Guinea and 83 per cent in Kenya ⁵

INFORMAL ECONOMY

Different authors have used different terms to refer to the informal economy. It has been called the irregular economy. In addition, the popular media uses terms such as invisible, hidden, submerged, shadow, irregular, non-official, unrecorded, or clandestine.²³ The common practice is that informal activities in many countries are not recognized by their governments.

The informal sector is characterized by small scale, labour intensive, low fixed cost, use of simple technology, reliance on family labour, use of personal or informal sources of credit, nonpayment of taxes, relatively easy to establish and exit, etc. ²⁴. In addition, it relates to economic activities involving the production and distribution of goods and services that are not registered and regulated by the state or local government in the context where similar activities are regulated. The informal sector excludes those activities legally proscribed and sanctioned which are indeed by their nature criminal, underground or hidden. As

far as street vending, therefore, fits into these characteristics, then it is of course a segment within the informal sector¹⁰. Over the years, street vending has become a rampant source of employment and income to many urban dwellers. Hence, it is the largest sub-group of informal workforces after home-based workers. All together, these two groups represent 10-35% of non-agricultural workforce in developing countries

EMPIRICAL LITERATURE

²⁵ classified literature on street vending into four groups. The first category represents literature which examines how street vending contributes to the income of the urban economy,³⁰ and how street vendors provide consumers with convenient and affordable services and retail options for the urban. The second collection of literature supports and expands the political economy perspective of street vendors by analysing how street vending contributes to women's economic empowerment and independence.

Income generated contributes to daily expenditure for family livelihood needs. Furthermore, the income earned from this business can be spent on commodities that are not related to the current business operation such as buying agricultural land, supporting children's education, paying medical fees and medical insurance.

Apart from creating jobs and being a source of income, street vending offers business opportunities where vendors can successfully compete. In addition, street vending can serve

STREET VENDING AND GENERATION OF INCOME FOR LIVELIHOOD

Street vending is credited with creating jobs and generating income for many households in Africa, where the levels of unemployment

have reached alarming proportions³¹. Legalisation and proper management of street vending can have a trickle-down effect on the mainstream economy. This is enough testimony to the potential of the sector as far as livelihood sustenance is concerned.

Street vending is perceived as an important sector, having vast vitality for promoting economic growth, employment creation and on the job training or developing entrepreneurial skills in fact, it has a potential role in alleviating poverty through income generation from the sector. In other words, it is a means of survival and confers financial independence. Street vending creates economic resources to sustain the livelihoods of vendors and other people who benefit from their services, especially low-income families

Additionally,²⁶ argues that street vending is a poverty alleviation strategy to many urban households. Therefore, employing repressive approaches militates against the role played by street vending in sustaining the livelihoods of the poor, and also constrains development in the formal economy.³² Informal economic activities like street vending are more standards of living of many urbanites. Street vending provides "an honourable and respectable means of livelihoods"¹ argues that more than a billion people are employed in street vending across the globe. Street vending is playing a crucial role in sustaining the livelihoods of African urbanites and generating income particularly in Zimbabwe.

Having presented these scholarly arguments, it is instrumental to note that street vending plays a crucial role in sustaining the livelihoods of many urbanites. It is a source of livelihood; it generates income for the poor, creates employment for many and acts as a "stepping stone to the formal economy" as argued by³¹ Therefore, the following

section discusses how street vending is regulated and governed in cities of the South.

IMPORTANCE OF INFORMAL SECTOR PARTICULARLY STREET VENDORS

Street vending is an attractive economic strategy and source of livelihood for the unskilled and illiterate new arrivals to the city, ¹. With increasing rural to urban migration and the contracting formal sector, street vending and other forms of informal employment become the most attractive means of survival for the urban poor, ¹ According to ² vending has become an important source of employment for a large number of urban poor.

However, despite the widespread occurrence of street vending by most households in Harare, its contribution to household income as a source of livelihood is still not clear ¹ Street vending has not been studied extensively to show its contribution to the state economy. This has resulted in limited appropriate policy interventions to harness the economic potential from this form of entrepreneurship.

Furthermore, ² stated that street vendors offer a low-cost, decentralized and highly efficient system of distributing products required on a daily basis. These are goods such as fruits and vegetables, a market which the formal sector cannot adequately serve. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has also acknowledged the important role played by street vendors in promoting access to food at low prices, ²⁶ In Surakarta, the street vendors have also been seen as tourist attraction aiding to the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) contribution.

FORMALISATION OF THE INFORMAL SECTOR AND ITS POLICY

Informality is differentiated in by activities, size and types of industries, are benefits from formalization. For instance, stopping police harassment and get permanent place for business activity is a benefit of formalization. Focusing on the labour market aspects of informality it gives right and better working condition as formal employees. These include freedom from discriminations, minimum wage salary, health care and safety working condition. On the other hand, formalization gives benefits almost the whole informal sector such as possibility to limit liability and risk, divide labour, organize internal management of business, access to credit, access to larger markets, secure documented contracts and relationships, business information, enforcing rights and access to sophisticated technology.

GOVERNANCE AND REGULATION OF STREET VENDING

Modernist planning theories conceptualize urban informality as an inheritance of the past, a sign of backwardness or underdevelopment, expected to disappear with modernization ²⁸ This concurs with the dualistic approach theory which argues that informality is a transitory sector which would disappear with development ²⁷ The modernist ideology and theory have been inherited by cities of the global south in the management and control and the ideology does not consider the role of street vending in sustaining the livelihoods of the urban poor ¹ and ²⁶. ¹ argues that street vending is targeted with evictions and harassments due to congestion and environmental problems it poses in Cities and this has unfortunately resulted in the harassment of vendors by the city officials. Reviewing and interrogating the 'Operation

Clean Sweep' which took place in South Africa in October, 2013, ²⁶ argues that street vendors are 'treated as human waste.' Thus, street vendors operate in a very hostile environment since urban policies generally do not recognize them. ²⁷

Modernist planning approaches do not sufficiently consider the challenges posed by mass poverty, chronic unemployment and large inequalities that mark the contemporary world and Cities of the South in particular. Vending operations are brutally controlled in the Central District Business Centres of urban areas in Africa ²⁶ Restrictions have come into being due to several reasons (Ibid.). He illustrates that informal traders in general and street vendors, in particular do not pay tax and avoid registration of their activities.

On one hand, some vendors do not want to obtain vending licenses to operate at designated places because of lack of desirability to pay council levies and on the other, street vendors may be willing to operate on designated places, but municipalities fail to provide adequate facilities (Ibid.). Street vendors would like to get licenses and designated areas, but in areas that are conducive for trading hence they flock back to undesignated sites if there are no facilities like clean water and toilets in designated sites ¹ This has become the major reason why street vending has become a threat to city officials who expect to generate revenue from vending licenses. Street vendors continue to hide from municipal police, triggering confrontational approaches by the latter purporting to be implementing municipal by-laws.

SUMMARY LITERATURE

The problems faced in Chipata City between the local authorities and street vendors are found in other towns and city all over the country. Street vending is one of the major activities in the informal economy and it is

known to be an old practice that has always had a presence in the composition of cities. However, street vending in Zambia is considered illegal and considered as a public nuisance.

Street vending is one of the most visible activities in the informal economy and is found everywhere in the world, both in developed and developing countries. It has been defined in many different ways by various authors. However, a common theme among definitions is the location of trade. It may include trading without a permit, trading outside formally designated trading locations and non-payment of municipal/national taxes or self allocation of shelter for trading ³⁵

Street vendors are known to play a very important role in the urban economy by providing employment, income and other items to the public. They sell different kinds of goods such as second hand clothes, vegetables, fruits, food stuffs, plastic goods, and various household necessities, which are manufactured in small scale or home-based industries. In many countries the urban poor prefer to buy clothes and accessories from street vendors because the goods that they sell are usually cheaper and affordable than those found in formal retail shops ²⁹

To sum up, the majority of survivalist micro-enterprises in developing countries do not pursue expansion in their business rather they are necessity driven entrepreneurs that are forced into selling due to joblessness or other economic shocks. The poorest entrepreneurs started selling as a means of surviving and that the products of the survival entrepreneurs are generally of low-quality mainly supplying the survival needs of low-income consumers whose purchasing power is limited to the lowest priced products or cheap imports ³⁶

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

A qualitative approach was adopted for this research study because qualitative research is effective for studying the “participants meaning and the relationships between them”³⁷. A qualitative study is also effective for studying the views and opinions of participants. This is appropriate when studying the impact on family income of the street vendors.

TARGET POPULATION

The research study was carried out in the Central Business District (CBD) of Chipata in eastern province and from the Muchine and Nabvutika targeting street vendors and market traders at Kapata and Saturday market. The city of Chipata had been selected because a lot of street vendor were removed from the streets and some lost their property during that period.

SAMPLE SIZE

³⁴ views population as all the numbers of a hypothetical people, event or object to which we wish to generalize the results of this research. In this research, sample size refers to street vendors and local authorities that conform to the eligibility criterion and are accessible to the researcher. The sampling size comprise of the street vendors from the Kapata streets, second class trading area roads and central district roads within the city. 50 respondents took part in the research.

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

Purpose sampling was used to select a group of people that had the characteristics of what was being studied and also targeted those that were available and willing to answer the questionnaires and interviews. Purposive sampling helps to confirm or disconfirm stories that one gets from the field. According

to ³³ purposive sampling involves the selection of a sample with a particular purpose in mind, representativeness will depend on the researcher ‘s ability to select cases that meet particular criteria including typically, wide variance, expertise, etc.

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

Data collection refers to the process of finding information for the research study. It involved conducting an interview, administering a questionnaire, or a focus group discussion or observing what is going on among the subject of the study. Data collection exercise was conducted on the Central Business District of Chipata where questionnaire was given and interviews were also conducted.

DATA ANALYSIS METHODS

After acquisition, data was coded and entered in Microsoft excel. The database was then entered in SPSS for analysis. Several manipulations will be done and relationships among variables were sorted out using the same software. Further, the outputs from SPSS were sent back to Excel were graphical representations were made and further analysis will be conducted.

DATA VALIDITY

Research validity can be divided into two groups: internal and external. It can be specified that “internal validity refers to how the research findings match reality, while external validity refers to the extent to which the research findings can be replicated to other environments”³⁸.

This research data validity is based on sampling validity. Sampling Validity ensures that the area of coverage of the measure within the research area is vast. No measure

is able to cover all items and elements within the phenomenon; therefore, important items and elements are selected using a specific pattern of sampling method depending on aims and objectives of the study.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION BENEFITS OF STREET VENDING TO THE UNEMPLOYED AND POOR PEOPLE

4.1.1 Description of sample by sex

The distribution of respondents by sex was as indicated in the figure 1 below.

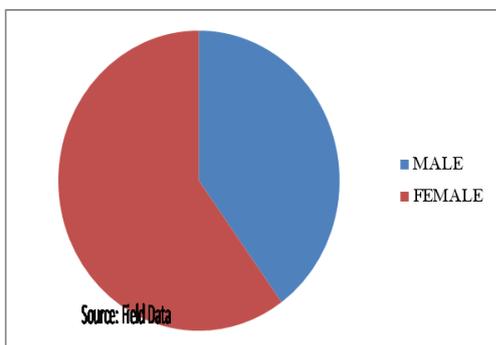


Figure 1

The issue of sex was an important variable in the study as it showed the gender dimensions of the sample. The distribution of the responses according to sex was as indicated in the figure above (figure 1). Out of the total number of 50 respondents involved in the study, 20 were males whilst 30 were females. This represented 40% of males and 60% females

4.1.2 Type of business representation about the respondents

The study reviewed a total of five respondents who sold fruits four were female and one male. This represented 10% of the total number of street vendors been 2% for male and 8% female from the total number. It

also reviewed that some types of businesses shared the same figures; 7% for male and 7% for female, 6% for male and 6% for female, 8% for male and 8% for female from the total number engaged in clothes, mixed products and house utensils respectively, While vegetables was predominately for female at 18% of the total number.

On the other hand, men dominated businesses were in shoes and electric appliances. This stood at 2% female and 6% male, 2% female and 8% male respectively. In the drinking water and freezes category, female dominated with 8% while male at 4% as show in table 1 below

TYPE OF VENDORS	NUMBERS			PERCENTAGE
	FEMAL	MALE	TOTAL	
Fruit	4	1	5	10%
Clothes	3	3	7	14%
Mixed products	3	3	6	12%
Vegetables	9	-	9	18%
House utensils	4	4	8	16%
Drinking water and freezes	4	2	6	12%
Shoes	1	3	4	8%
Electric appliances	1	4	5	10%
Total	30	20	50	100%

Table 1

The study pins certain types of business to be more female dominated such as selling of vegetables and fruits while electric appliances for men.

Street vendors provide food, services and commodities at cheaper prices and at convenient locations. For this reason, they provide basic necessities from the pavements, particularly for low income groups who cannot afford to shop in formal shops. Street vending also offers goods and services at prices that are affordable for the low-income population. The distinct advantages of buying from street vendors are that one can buy very small quantities of goods such as a single bar of soap, for example, instead of a package of three. In this sense, street vending makes goods accessible to those with scarce resources.

4.1.3 Levels of education completed representations of the respondents

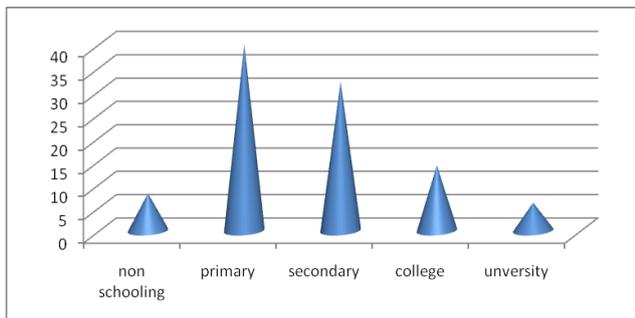


Figure 2

Figure 2 shows the level of education attained by the respondents. The research outlined that the majority were primary school dropout standing at 40%, seconded by school leavers at 32%, 14% of college graduates, 8% of people who never went to school and 6% university graduates. It shows that the lever of education has contributed to them resorting to street vending since they cannot enter formal employment.

4.1.4 Earns per day representations about the

respondents

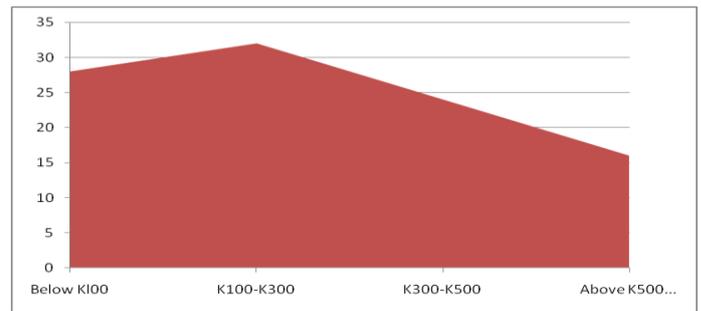


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows the earning for the respondents per day. The earnings per day for the vendors also had an integral part in the research. 32% of the respondents earned between K100-K300 per day, while 28% earned less than K100 per day. It was reviewed that 24% earned between K300-K500 and 16% had a daily earns above K500.

4.1.5 Reasons for vending representation about the respondents

REASONS FOR VENDING	NUMBER
Ancestral/family tradition	12
Loss of agriculture	15
Easy means of setting oneself up as self-employed up/low initial invest	32
Flexibility in working	6
Community feeling from people working in the same area	6
Lack of competition from large units/ease of entry	18
I was fired	2
Difficulty to find other salaried job	15
For survival	38

Table 2

Table 2 represents the reason why the respondents to part in street vending. 12 respondents cited ancestral/family tradition, 15 respondents due to the loss in agriculture, 32 respondents outlined that it is an easy

means of setting oneself up as self-employed up/low initial invest, 6 respondents cited the flexibility in working conditions. 18 respondent outlined lack of competition from large units/ease of entry, while 15 respondents explained the difficulty to find other salaried job and the 38 respondents for survival.

A sustainable source of livelihood is very important for all the people for any economy to grow. Migration from rural to urban areas has made this difficult. The concept of livelihoods became prominent in the middle of the 1980s with work done by Robert Chambers and the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex (Schafer, 2002). During the 1990s a new approach to poverty reduction, the sustainable livelihood approach emerged.

The sustainable livelihood approach is promoted by multilateral and bilateral organizations such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Livelihood strategies are the way in which people adopt different activities for survival in different socio-economic and environmental settings. Livelihood strategies are composed of activities that generate the means of household survival. Street vendors adopt various strategies by choosing to sell goods in various settings for their livelihood.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES FOR STREET VENDORS

4.2.1 Reasons for hawking

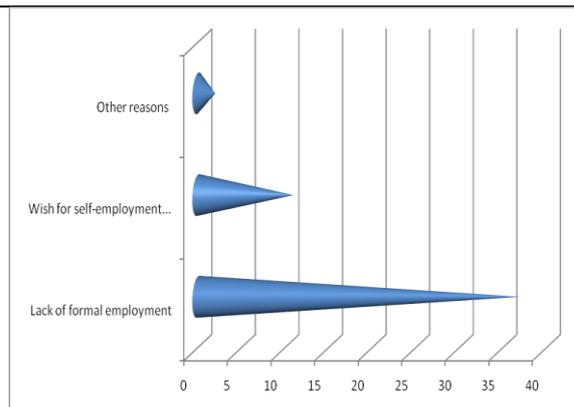


Figure 4

Figure 4 highlight the responses based on a given range of reasons for engaging themselves in vending. It is important to the research as it shows or proves whether vending generates income to support their families. Out of 50 respondents 37 (representing 74%) stated that it is due to lack of formal employment, 11 respondents (22%) expressed their wish for self-employment while 2 respondents (4%) had other reasons known to themselves.

Most of the street vendors are self-employed; they are not generally paid employees. They do not work on commission for formal business enterprises. As with other formal workers, street vendors are subjected to business risks such as sluggish demand, unreliable supply chains, etc. But again, street vendors are exposed to physical risks which formal workers are not subjected to, because they do not enjoy a legal framework as formal workers especially that they work without licenses to use public spaces.

The study also established that street vending could be a growing sector beyond the survivalist opportunity and strategy, but it is hindered by the limited access to credit, lack of fixed working spaces and other challenges that undermine its development. Another major constraint is unfavorable legal

environment in which street vendors leading to abuses by authorities.

There should, therefore, be a clear policy intervention for street vending activities. The policy should lead the sector to transformation, and provide a secure and a conducive working environment with access to credit to support increase of assets. This will lead to the sector improvement and the well-being of the street vendors.

Street vending is a survival strategy that sustains the livelihoods of the poor people in Cities of the Global South (Chen and Skinner, 2014). On the other hand, street vending is labeled as an activity practiced by the southern African urban poor and a sign of poverty engaged simply to obtain something for survival (Lyons and Snoxell, 2005).

4.2.2 Sources of goods/raw materials sold by vendors

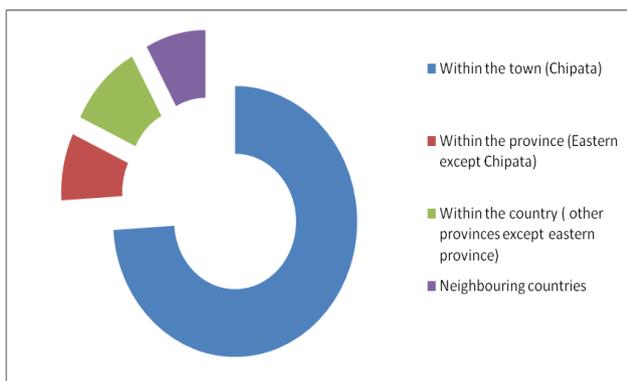


Figure 5

In Figure 5 are responses on the sources of goods sold or raw materials used by vendors in their business. If the source is far, the cost of doing business is high. The results showed that 37 got their merchandise within Chipata City, 4 purchased their goods within the province but not Chipata, 5 bought within Zambia but not Eastern province and only 4 got their goods from the neighboring country.

4.2.3 Method of transporting goods and raw materials

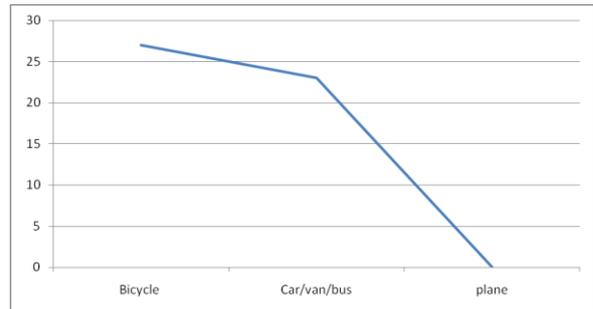


Figure 6

Figure 6 are responses on the method of transporting goods and raw materials used by vendors in their business. The method of transportation has a great bearing on the business. The results were that 27 used bicycle transportation, 23 used motor vehicles and none used a plane.

The response showed that the common method of transporting goods from one area to another was through bicycles.

4.2.4 Reliability of the method of transportation used

Methods of Transportation	Yes	No
Bicycle/ oxcart	32	18
Car/van/bus	36	14
Plane	0	50

Table 3

Table 3 are responses on the reliability of the method of transportation used by vendors in their business. The method of transportation has a great bearing on the business. The results were that 32 were for while 18 were against the use of bicycle transportation. 36 were for while 14 were against the used motor vehicles and none was for the used a plane.

Type of Family	No of Members in a Family	N o	%
Extended Family	Above 5 Members	14	28
	2- 4 Members	22	44
	Single Member Only	10	20
Nuclear Family	Above 5 Members	6	12
	2- 4 Members	16	32
	Single Member Only	8	16

member. The respondents have a nuclear family was 40% of the respondents showed that 15% of a family above five members, 20% of a family with two to four members and 5% a family of only one member.

Table 4

4.2.7 Sources of income used to support household

Source of Income	No Dependi ng On	%
Proceeds from the street	30	60
Wages paid for tasks done on the streets	13	26
Other sources	7	14

Table 5

Table 5 shows the sources of income used to support their households for the respondents per day. The response was that 60 % was from the proceeds of their sales, 25 % was from wages paid in doing certain tasks on the streets and 15% from other sources apart from the streets.

The street vendors get a certain range of opportunities from their activities. The study revealed that all street vendors pointed out that their activities give them an opportunity to receive cash on daily basis and it helps them to meet their daily needs as they also improve gradually their livelihood. This can be confirmed by the fact that more than 90% of the respondents were able to change their social-economic status for the better, thanks to street vending activities.

4.2.5 Warehousing of the goods / raw materials for street vendors

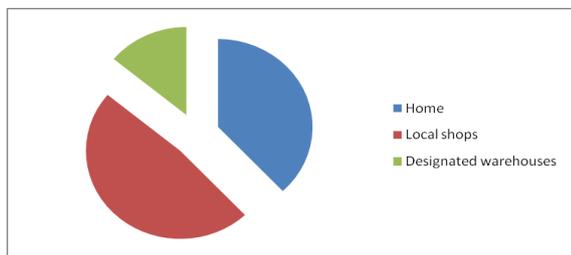


Figure 7

Figure 7 shows responses on the warehousing of the goods / raw materials for street vendors used by vendors in their business. Warehouse is an aid to trade. The results were that 19 kept the goods at home, 24 in shops near the places where they operate from and 7 in designated warehouses.

4.2.6 Family size supported by the respondent

Table 4 shows the graph of the family sizes the respondents support. It represents 60% been extended family with 28% of a family above five members, 22% of a family with two to four members and 10% a family of only one

4.2.8 Income sufficient to cater for the needs

INCOME FROM THE STREETS	PERCENTAGE
Meets the basic needs	34%
Does not meet all the basic needs	66%

Table 6

Table 6 shows response if their income was sufficient to cater for the needs of their families. The results showed that 34% manage to meet their basic needs while 66% still find it difficult to meet all the needs. In this case the needs are referred to as a home to sleep Atleast Three meals a day, send children to school and have good health services when sick, In short meeting the food basket for a month.

Street vending plays a key role in social welfare as well as in the national economy by providing livelihoods to street vendors, through selling goods and commodities at affordable prices to the poorer segment of the urban population and by providing retail markets to goods produced in small and large industries.

4.3 AVAILABLE MARKET SPACES IN THE CITY CENTRE

The study reviewed that the two major markets within the city centre had no space to accommodate other traders as all market spaces had already been taken. The city had shortage of second hand clothes and other goods market space.

4.3.1 BARRIERS TO NEW ENTRY

According to some respondents, the major barriers that hindered them to find trading space in markets were;

- i. The select process to be given places involved a long procedure and that a lot of people were applying for the same spaces that fell vacant at that time.
- ii. The city council delegates the responsibility of selecting applicants to the market committees which most of the times could consider the political affiliation before been selected.

4.3.2 REQUIREMENTS TO FIND TRADING SPACE

It reviewed that one needed to apply through the market chairperson to find a place. The chairperson and the committee will check if they are trading spaces which are vacant before interviewing the applicant.

4.3.3. ALTERNATIVE SPACES FOR MARKETS

The city council identified the closed Jere market trading space and temporary reopen it.

4.4 PAYMENTS MADE BY TRADERS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

The traders are subjected to pay the following fees;

- i. A K5 daily for garbage collection
- ii. A K30 annual trading license

CITY COUNCIL LAWS ON STREET VENDING

Chipata municipal council enforces the Local Government Act Cap 281 (street vending and Nuisances) (Amendment) Regulations of 2018.³⁹

Majority of street vendors around the world, undertake street vending business with the threat of eviction, jail, harassment, and fines because street vending activities are usually not recognized or protected under legal and regulatory frameworks. Almost in all countries in Africa, they operate with restrictive policies and regulations that lay emphasis on the illegality of street vending.¹³ As informal activities (street vending activities) in many countries are on the fringes of the law, authorities often confuse them with criminal activities and subject them to oppression.⁵

Street vending is mainly affected by policy and practice of both national and local governments. According to⁴⁰, actions of local governments can be a major hindrance to the development of a secure environment for street trading. For the street vending business to work towards poverty reduction there is need for the African governments to formulate supportive policies, regulations and organization of street vending space that will provide legal protection while conducting business.

PENALTY OF STREET VENDING

The penalties are that the vendor is arrested and taken to court. Disposable items are sometimes given to social welfare to distribute to the vulnerable.

CONCLUSION

This study shows that street vending is an important as a source of income and employment in all the case studies. Vending provides an opportunity that minimises the impact of social exclusion for many urban residents. Despite the important role of street vending, the activity is less understood, less recognised, and unaccounted for in national economic statistics. This has resulted in lack of enabling policies, regulations and organisation of the sector.

The street traders work in hostile environments without basic infrastructure and services, but full of harassment, beating and confiscation of goods by the local authorities. They face both market and investment problems. Overcrowding, dwindling sales due to poor location and low purchasing power among customers are some of the market problems. Investment problems include: lack of capital, secure site of operation, and confiscation of goods.

Mainstream economists are perceived as lacking an understanding of street vending, and hence its lack of coverage in economic measurement in all the countries and cities covered. Even the Local Authorities who collect substantial revenue from the sector do not maintain records of the numbers and the contribution of the sector to urban economy. This implies that the Local Authorities cannot adequately plan since they have no representative statistics of the sector. There has also been minimal research in the area of street vending. For example, in Zambia a number of researches conducted on street vending have only outlined the negative aspect of street vending that than the positive ones.

The negligence of the street vending activities has resulted in the lack of accurate estimates

of the numbers of street traders.⁴¹ in his work provides some figures that can be used for assessing the importance of vending activities.

The above situation shows that street vending has a significant contribution in the urban and national economy of African countries. In Zambia, street vending falls within the Small and Micro Enterprises [SME] which provides employment and income to about 70 per cent of Zambia's population, especially in urban areas.

Although it has been argued that vending attracts those who have limited opportunities for obtaining formal employment and/or prestigious business, and minimises chances of social exclusion and marginalisation; street vending is increasingly becoming an option for many citizens. It is no longer limited to the lower social groups, especially the underprivileged who carve out a living in an environment full of harassment by authorities as experienced in the case studies.

A number of entrepreneurs have entered the trade as an option, especially since 1991 at the beginning of the Structural Adjustment Programmes [SAPs] that resulted in the retrenchment of parastatal companies' workers in Zambia. According to⁴² the strategy behind SAPs backfired leaving Africa with a lot of debts. Furthermore⁴² explains that SAPs lead to overall economic failure and had destructive social consequences. While⁴³ notes SAPs "exacerbated" government debts, the repayment of accumulated Zambian debt had been rescheduled four times, due to skyrocketing prices for essential goods, and shrinking which⁴² outlined that as being caused by the low levels of employment and low income as a result of privatisation.

Due to the limited economic opportunities for women in both rural and urban areas, gender

bias in education, and augmenting husband's income, street vending has a special appeal for women due to its flexibility. Women can easily combine street vending with other household duties, including taking care of children. The Zambian case study points out those women participate in street vending as a way out of a predicament. Women have moved from being subsistence and commercial farmers to engaging in trade and informal employment. In most cases they vend when their husbands cannot sustain the family or to supplement their incomes. The Zambian case study argues that the formation of women's groups gives women some form of recognition and freedom in an otherwise male dominated society.

Considering economic crisis and poverty in Zambia, street vending is sustaining the livelihoods of many urbanites in Chipata City. Therefore, the local government should provide new designated areas in the Central Business District and/or either legalize or regularize street vending. Similarly, with the alarming numbers of street vendors, there is a need for new sites to ensure that vendors do not use unavailability of designated vending areas as a scapegoat.³¹ argues that "the proper management and organization of cities must include the informal sector, embracing the qualities of the informal sector that can drastically help create jobs and livelihoods where there are none." This also helps the city council through receiving fees and payments of vending licenses from street vendors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The result of this study reveals importance of informal sector as reduction of urban employment and it is as a base of formal sector.
- ii. Further research on this subject should focus on relationship between criteria of registration of formal business with and that of the informal sector.
- iii. The selection in markets to be transparent and non-political
- iv. To deal effectively with the informal economy and those who earn their livelihoods in it, the Zambian government will require a comprehensive economic strategy with the following interrelated components, creating more employment opportunities through employment-intensive growth and formalizing informal enterprises through a context-specific mix of incentives⁴⁴
- v. In addition, the government has to consider making the law on street vending relevant to the economic situation of today with high unemployment rates. Instead of treating street vendors as a nuisance, illegal, tax evaders, and government needs to revisit the law on street vending to accommodate the vendors to formalize.
- vi. Allow vendors to sell from the streets after 16 hours when the formal shops are winding up their business and the local authority can come up with a system of collecting revenue from the street vendors.
- vii. To ensure credit and business empowerment programmes are coordinated by government institutions. For example, Zambia is currently implementing a citizen economic empowerment programme were all citizens are invited to apply for funds to invest in entrepreneurship. However, the pre-requisite of applying for the funds is to have a registered business. As a result, street vendors do not have a chance of benefiting from such programmes unless they formalize.
- viii. The government of the republic of Zambia through local authorities to simplify business registration process and have PACRA offices in all districts. The government to formulate a national policy on vendors drafted jointly by the government and street vendors which should bring out the voices of the vendors that has been missing in Zambia⁴⁶. This can help build consensus on regulatory and enforcement issues and in turn help the government to come up with actual needs of the vendors instead of responding to assumed needs such as building formal market infrastructure for all.

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