



## Social status of vendors: With respect to Muslim women

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### Abstract

The present study is related to unorganised sector of street vendors. The study tries to understand the social status of street vendors with respect to Muslim women. The study also finds the different social problems and challenges of the women street vendor face while vending in the market place.

**Keywords:** social, cultural, unorganised, poverty, street

### Introduction

Women do not enjoy equal status in social conditions. Religion and socio-cultural practices have denied opportunities of the growth of the women. Therefore they are the victims in the field of social status. Women are economically dependent on men and carry out household work which is painful and restless. Their work is unrecognized and not paid. She serves her family without taking any leave and there is no record maintained. A woman spends her whole life in upbringing of their family. Even though she is illiterate, she has the good knowledge of economy and manages her household expenses. She is a good economist of the household however it is not recognized.

Muslim women enjoy a good social status in their religion. In pre-Islamic Arabia, female foeticide became the regular practice. The girl children were buried alive in the grave of Arabia. After Islam's arrival, the social norms were fixed as per Quran for women and strict laws were enforced to protect the woman's dignity.

At present, Muslim women are engaged in unorganized sector jobs due to illiteracy. Muslim women do the jobs like agricultural labours, coolies, industrial workers, domestic labours and street vendors. They are doing dual duties of working outside for money and household work in the home. The illiterate women's condition is very poor in the family due to gender discrimination and patriarchal society. Many women are fulfilling the economic needs of their family due to their husband's death; they are not working. The woman who is not educated and economically very weak is engaged in small scale business like street vending. The street vending job is easier for them. The street vendors are illiterate but they know how to do a business; they have skills of calculating the requirement of goods and making profit. The Indian development commission recognised women as the beneficiaries in our country and they are not involved in the development process because they are working in the unorganized sector and that cannot be recognized in the production of the country.

In Islam, the woman has the right of working when her

husband fails to carry out her children's basic requirements of life. One of the examples who was the companion of Prophet Mohammed (SA), Hazrat Asma, the daughter of Abu Bakr, who was working in the farm as female labour for the upbringing of her kids.

### Objectives

1. To find the socio-economic status of Muslim women vendors in Vijayapur city.
2. To study also focuses on their social problems and challenges.

### Scope of the study

The study gives importance on socio-economic analysis of the vendors and identifies suitable strategy for their upliftment.

### Limitations of the study

This study is restricted to areas under the jurisdiction of the Vijayapur Municipal Corporation with all the markets. And also Muslim women street vendors among the unorganized sectors. Newly developed areas remained outside the purview of this study.

### Methodology

The study is basically concerned with the broad understanding of the social profile of street vendors and to integrate them in the process of city development in Vijayapur. The feminist research methodology is used to study the Muslim women vendors in the unorganized sector. The primary data will be gathered by filling questionnaire and in-depth interviews of women street vendors. The surveys based on the socio-economic background also conducted in the city. The Muslim women street vendor's problems, vending details, issues and needs were collected. The secondary data will be gathered from the books, research articles, newspapers etc.

### Analysis

The study is based on 50 samples collected in different markets of Vijayapura city. The analysis on age reveals that 28

percent of respondents are in the age group of 50 to 60 years and 26 percent of respondents are in the age group of 40 to 50 years. It shows that 54 percent of respondents are in the age group of 40 to 60 years. This situation is due to the poverty and in the Muslim community. The social obligations are less on old women there for they are coming for the vending in the market. The analysis of education shows that 80 percent of the respondents are illiterate and 20 percent of them are got primary education. This is due to patriarchal system of the society, and where women are restricted to household work. Regarding the marital status, out of 50 respondents, the 68 percent of the respondents are married and 32 percent of the respondents are widows. About the family responsibility out of the 50 respondents the 60 percent of the married respondents are solely handling their family and 32 percent of the respondents express their views that both husband and wife are take care of their family responsibility. It shows that due to husband's failure of handling the family responsibilities the women are coming to the vending work for their livelihood. As we see the health status the study revealed that out of 50 respondents 92 percent of the respondents has body pain and 86 percent of respondents have Psychological problems. This shows that the respondents are working hard both in house and market place which results to health problems.

### **Findings**

1. The respondents are sitting in open place which is not protected from the weather condition
2. Respondents are sitting in the market for 10 to 12 hours a day.
3. There is no place to eat or take rest while vending.
4. They are working for the livelihood of their families.
5. Majority of the respondents are illiterate
6. Most of the respondents' children are dropouts.

### **Conclusion**

Muslim population is lagging behind because of the illiteracy, unemployment and lack of opportunities and most of them are coming under the below poverty line. The government should provide schemes to develop them. The women street vendors work from morning 8 am to evening 6 pm for 8 to 10 hours daily. There is no toilet facility for some of the weekly vending places there for the government should provide toilet facilities for them.

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