



www.eprawisdom.com

Research Paper

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF STREET VENDORS IN MADURAI CITY – A STUDY

Mahadevan M¹¹ Ph.D. Scholar in Rural Industries and Management, Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India.**Dr. Well Haorei²**² Assistant Professor in Rural Industries and Management, Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed University, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, India.**ABSTRACT**

This research paper explores the socio-demographic characteristics of street vendors in terms of gender dimension, age, marital status, educational qualification, composition of caste, practices of religion, type of family, family size, place of residence and migration status in Madurai city. The study concludes with female constitute high proposition among the sample street vendors in Madurai city constituting about 61.6 per cent, 37.2 per cent of the respondent had completed primary level of formal education, the majority of respondents practiced Hindu religion, an absolute majority of the respondents were from a household of 4 members to 6 members in their family, and the majority of the street vendors were originally from Madurai city.

KEYWORDS: sociological and demographic characteristics: gender dimension, marital status, practices of religion; street vendors, Madurai city.

INTRODUCTION

The term “socio-demographic” refers to a group defined by its sociological and demographic characteristics. In plain terms, it looks at the life around individuals and characteristics such as gender dimension, age, marital status, educational qualification, composition of caste, practices of religion, type of family, family size, place of residence and migration status. It is basically a grouping of people by those characteristics. Social demography emerged as an academic discipline in the United States over the course of the last half of the twentieth century. Kingsley Davis coined the term *social demography* in a 1963 paper (Heer 2005). Previously, the term *population studies* were used to denote the study of social status using demographic techniques. There is a large literature focusing on sex differences in health. While different authors argue on

the importance of either biological or socio-economic and behaviour factors in these sex differences, it is generally agreed that women live longer than men. On average, women in developed countries live more than five years longer than men (Waldrone, 1983; Verbrugge, 1989). Marital status has also been found to influence health status. Married people have significantly better health than their single counterparts (Smith and Zick, 1994). These results are particularly strong for men (Lillard and Panis, 1996; Hu and Goldman, 1990). A number of studies (Korenman and Goldman, 1993; Goldman, Korenman and Weinstein, 1995; Mineau, Smith and Bean, 2002) have found that widowed, divorced and never married individuals were more likely to die than married people. In the case of the street vendors in Madurai city field survey, it has been particularly important to look at proportion of gender dimension,



age, marital status, educational qualification, composition of caste, practices of religion, type of family, family size, place of residence and migration status.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The broad objective of the present work was to study the socio-demographic characteristics of sample street vendors in Madurai city and the specific objectives were to study the gender dimension, age, marital status, educational qualification, composition of caste, practices of religion, type of family, family size, place of residence and migration status.

STUDY AREA

The present work confined with ten streets in Madurai city, namely, Anna Nagar, East Masi Street, Goripalayam, Nethaji Road, North Veli Street, South Veli Street, Thalavai Agraharam Street, Town Hall Road, West Chitrai Street and West Masi Street.

METHODOLOGY ADOPTED

Explorative method has been adopted to study the socio-demographic characteristics of street vendors in Madurai city. The structured interview schedule was used to collect primary data relating to gender dimension, age, marital status, educational qualification, composition of caste, practices of religion, type of family, family size, place of residence and migration status by employing simple random sampling technique. The present study employed tools like percentage, mean and standard deviation for primary data analysis.

MAJOR FINDINGS

An analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of the street vendor's in Madurai city is presented in table 1.

1. Gender Dimension

The study reveals that female constitute high proposition among the sample street vendors in Madurai city constituting about 61.6 percent and male street vendors constitutes about 38.4 per cent.

2. Age

The age distribution of street vendors in Madurai city shows 34.6 per cent fall under the age group of 35 years to 60 years, 29.8 per cent of the respondents fall under the age group of 60 years and above, 23.4 per cent of the respondents fall under the age group of 18 years to 35 years, and 12.2 per cent of respondent's age was below 18 years. The mean age of street vendors in Madurai city was found to be 44.56 years and their age standard deviation was 18.971 years. The standard deviation that measures how concentrated the data are around the mean; the more concentrated, the smaller

the standard deviation and a large standard deviation, means that the values in the data set are farther away from the mean, on average, the present study reveals that, the calculated standard deviation of age of the street vendors in years is 18.71. Hence, the study found that there was more deviation from the mean score.

3. Marital Status

An absolute majority of the sample street vendors in Madurai city were married (82 per cent), unmarried street vendors were 10.6 per cent among sample population, 3.6 per cent of the respondents were judicially separated, divorced street vendors registered 2.2 per cent and widowed respondents constitute 1.6 per cent.

4. Educational Qualification

The educational level of the sample street vendors in Madurai city represents that 37.2 per cent of the respondent had completed Primary level, 26.4 per cent of the street vendors were illiterate, 14.6 of the respondents had completed up to Upper Primary, 9.4 per cent of street vendors could sign only, 6.2 per cent of respondents had completed up to Secondary level, 4 per cent of the respondents had completed up to Higher Secondary level and 2.2 per cent of the street vendors studied Graduate & above.

5. Composition of Caste

The composition of caste among the respondents in Madurai city shows that, the majority of respondents (62.2 per cent) belonged to other than Scheduled Caste and 37.8 per cent of the respondents belonged to Scheduled Caste. Hence, the majority of respondent belongs to other than the scheduled caste.

6. Practices of Religion

The distribution of respondents in Madurai city by religion showed that, the majority of respondents (61.4 per cent) practiced Hindu religion, followed by 22.4 per cent practiced Christianity, 16.2 per cent of the respondents practiced the Muslim religion and none of the respondents practiced another religion among the sample respondents. Hence, the majority of respondent practiced Hindu religion among the studied population.

7. Type of Family

The type of family of sample households shows that, an absolute majority (89.2 per cent) of the sample households were from nuclear families and merely 10.8 per cent were from joint family among respondents in Madurai city.

8. Family Size

The sharing of family size of the sample population in Madurai city revealed that an absolute

majority of the respondents (80.4 per cent) were from a household of 4 members to 6 members in their family, 15 per cent of respondents were from a household of below 3 members in their family and merely 4.6 per cent of respondents were from a household of 7 members and above in their family.

9. Place of Residence

The distribution of street vendors by their place of residence reveals that, the majority of respondents (63.4 percent) come daily to Madurai city for their vending business from nearby villages and 36.6 per cent of the respondent resides within the city of Madurai among studied population.

10. Migration Status

The majority of the street vendors (61 percent) were originally from Madurai city and 39 per cent of the street vendors had migrated from other places among the studied population.

11. Reasons for Migration

The 39 per cent of the sample street vendors' reasons that migrated to Madurai city revealed that 18.2 per cent of the respondents migrated due to unavailability of job opportunities in their respective native, 10.4 per cent of the street vendors were in search of better job opportunities and 9.8 per cent of the

respondents migrated due to poverty for unable to get work in their respective native.

12. Migrated with Whom

Among the 39 per cent of the sample street vendors that migrated to Madurai city revealed that 12.8 per cent of the respondents migrated with relatives, 10.4 per cent of the street vendors had come alone to Madurai city, 8.8 per cent of the street vendors had come with their friends and 7 per cent of the respondents migrated with their own family members to Madurai city for their street vending business.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The study concluded that female constitute high proposition among the sample street vendors in Madurai city constituting about 61.6 percent, 37.2 per cent of the respondent had completed primary level of formal education, the majority of respondents practiced Hindu religion, an absolute majority of the respondents were from a household of 4 members to 6 members in their family, and the majority of the street vendors were originally from Madurai city. However, it is suggested that public restroom should be constructed in each street so that during their business hours they can use it. In the present scenario a vast majority of the street vendors goes for defecating in open space.

Table 3.1
Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Street Vendors in Madurai city

Sl. No.	Socio-Demographic Characteristics		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Gender	Male	192	38.4
		Female	308	61.6
		Total	500	100
2.	Age Distribution (In years)	Below 18	61	12.2
		18 – 35	117	23.4
		35 – 60	173	34.6
		60 & Above	149	29.8
		Total	500	100
		Mean Value	44.56	
	Standard Deviation	18.971		
3.	Marital Status	Unmarried	53	10.6
		Married	410	82.0
		Judicially Separated	18	03.6
		Divorced	11	02.2
		Widowed	08	01.6
		Total	500	100
4.	Educational Level	Illiterate	132	26.4
		Can sign only	47	09.4
		Up to Primary	186	37.2
		Up to Upper Primary	73	14.6
		Up to Secondary	31	06.2
		Up to Higher Secondary	20	04.0
		Graduate & above	11	02.2
		Total	500	100
5.	Caste Composition	SC	189	37.8
		Other Caste	311	62.2
		Total	500	100
6.	Religion	Hindu	307	61.4
		Muslim	81	16.2
		Christian	112	22.4
		Total	500	100
7.	Types of Family	Joint Family	54	10.8
		Nuclear Family	446	89.2
		Total	500	100
8.	Family Size	Below 3 Members	75	15.0
		4 – 6 Member	402	80.4
		7 and Above Member	23	04.6
		Total	500	100
9.	Place of Residence	Daily comes from village	317	63.4
		Resides within the city	183	36.6
		Total	500	100
10.	Migration	Migrated	195	39.0
		Not migrated	305	61.0
		Total	500	100
11.	Reasons for migration	Lack of job opportunity	91	18.2
		Natural calamities	03	0.6
		In search of better job	52	10.4
		Poverty	49	09.8
		Not applicable	305	61.0
		Total	500	100
12.	Migrated with whom	Family members	35	07.0
		Relatives	64	12.8
		Friends	44	08.8
		Migrated alone	52	10.4
		Not applicable	305	61.0
		Total	500	100

Source: Primary data

REFERENCE

1. H. Lungdim. (2014), "Population Ageing in India Socio-demographic and spatial dimensions," Sita, Mumbai.
2. P.C. Jain and Monika Bhatt. (2004), "Consumer Behaviour in Indian Context," S. Chand Limited, New Delhi, p.p:233-235