

Urban Space Vulnerability of Street Vendors in Ganeshguri and Uzanbazar Market, Guwahati City

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Abstract

Street vending is one of the most visible informal activities of the urban poor that have an interconnected relationship with urban space. The production of social space is by means of human action and by social practice (Lefebvre, 1974, 116). These spaces are constituted personal (e.g. imaginary), private (e.g. domestic residence), public (e.g. streets), or mixed (e.g. schools, shopping-centres) (Charlotte Spinks, 2001, 6). **Purpose:** The study thus focuses on the spatial vulnerability of street vendors in Guwahati city where street vendors work under different legal and socio-environmental conditions and vendors use the public space as a source of livelihood, place of socialization and management of their household. **Methodology:** A total of 70 respondents were selected through Simple Random sampling method from the two markets- Ganeshguri and Uzanbazar market. The descriptive statistics are used through using SPSS to identify the demographic status, socio-economic variable and including major vulnerabilities of vendors in both the markets. **Results:** The study findings show that 55.7 percent vendors earn 20,000 on average and 1.5 percent vendors earn above 30,000 rupees in a month. **Conclusions:** Thus, the majority of the street vendors' monthly income does not suffice for maintaining or meeting the household requirements in urban areas.

Keywords: Informal, Market, Space, Street Vending, Vulnerability

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I. Introduction:

The production of social space is by means of human action and by social practice (Lefebvre, 1974, 116). These spaces constitute personal (e.g. imaginary), private (e.g. domestic residence), public (e.g. streets), or mixed (e.g. schools, shopping-centres) (Charlotte Spinks, 2001, 6). Street vending is one of the important informal activities found in every country, major cities around the world and they have played a significant role in the city's informal economy. A street vendor is defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure from which to sell. Street Vending is one of the most vulnerable occupations because of the absence of proper regulation, social acceptance, and lack of infrastructural facilities, low profit and difficulty in access to resources (Chen, 2012). Informal sector covers unrecognised, unregulated small scale activities including small enterprises, self employed workers such as street vendors, cleaners, shoe shiners, hawkers etc. Street vending connects people of different classes in the society being one of the important informal economic activities. Thus, the study is concentrated on street vendors in two different markets of Guwahati city and how vendors use the public space as a source of livelihood, place of socialization and management of their household.

Overview of Markets in Guwahati City: Guwahati is the fastest growing city of North East India. Guwahati is a thriving city with people from all walks of life engaged in diverse economic activities becoming a major trade and commerce hub for its geographical location as the gateway to India's North East. Guwahati Municipal Corporation has three types of markets – auctioned markets (leased), rented markets and private markets. Rented markets are those markets whose land and buildings are owned by the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) and these markets are also rented out to shopkeepers or leased out to lessees through annual bidding and these markets are functioning on open plots or roadside. “Unnayan Samities is a committee within

the markets entrusted with the collection of taxes who then submit the taxes to the GMC. The concentration of the study is mainly on vendors in two different locations of i.e., Uzanbazar and Ganeshguri that are popular public spaces that attract people from all nearby areas and different walks of life.

1.1 Review of Literature:

In the context of vulnerability of street vendors in the markets of the city, Solomon Mulgeta (2020), discussed in his study “Analysis of Socio-Economic Vulnerability of Street vendors: Case Study for Dire Dawa City”, Eastern Ethiopia that the vulnerability in terms of risk or uncertainty of street vendors in their social, economic, political and environmental conditions. Therefore, city administration should properly plan for implementation of inclusive and participatory approaches in management and governance of urban public spaces upon which the livelihoods of vendors largely depend in the city.

Lalnglakmawia Thangluah and Benjamin L. Saitluanga, (2021) explained in their study Vulnerability of Street vendors in Aizawl City, India where the authors discussed street vendors working under diversified legal and socio-environmental conditions. The authors have identified the spatial vulnerability of street vendors vulnerability of street vendors in Aizawl City is related to variations in availability of vending spots and institutional management of vendors. Street vendors have faced harassment in Aizawl city from shop owners at their workplace. As a result, they have negotiated to avoid conflict with shop owners by paying ‘rent’ to sell their items in front of the shops.

In regard to the city’s infrastructure planning and policies, the author Taz Mazinder Barua (2021), carried out a study on Markets & the City: Planning Interventions & Markets in Guwahati City, India. He has rightly pointed out the urban city planning policies are divergent in India and urban public markets have been affected by significant political and economic challenges. He has discussed the irregular and disordered public markets spread out in Guwahati city and markets were not yet designed as well as observed through proper master plans. The master plans of urban planning were planned to improve the living, hygiene conditions of the citizens; and creating zones for separation of residential, commercial, public markets, other specific urban spaces as well.

Theoretical Framework of the Study:

French Marxist philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre’s “**Production of Space**” is a unitary theory to discover or construct a theoretical unity between different fields. Representations of Space “conceptualized space, the space of scientists, planners, urbanists, technocratic sub dividers and social engineers all of whom identify what is lived and what is perceived with what is conceived” whereas Spaces of Representation are the space of the lived social relations of inhabitants and users (Lefebvre: (1974: 38). Both the approaches discuss how societies produce their own spaces with their spatial practices, representations of space and spaces of representation. This study has focused on the concept of right to work and right to the city approach (to space) to help informal sector workers. The concept of right to city is relevant in understanding the street vendors’ preference to work on the streets or pavements which are convenient for them to make their livelihood. However, the city administration restricts them from accessing the public spaces to the extent of evacuating the street vendors from time to time.

Objectives of the Study:

To study the Socio-economic and demographic status of street vendors in Guwahati city

To study the spatial vulnerability of street vendors in Guwahati city

Methods: The study is descriptive as well as analytical in nature. The study relied on primary and secondary sources of data and presented a mix range of data compiled through interviews and content analysis. Interviews were conducted with the vendors in both the markets of Guwahati city using structured interview schedule to gather primary data while secondary data collected from various journals, and Government reports. A total of 70 respondents were selected through Simple Random sampling method from the two markets- Ganeshguri and Uzanbazar market. The descriptive statistics are used through using SPSS to identify the demographic status, socio-economic variable and including major vulnerabilities of vendors in both the markets.

Analysis and Results: The findings and results shown below are for two markets of Ganeshguri and Uzanbazar separately for comparative purpose as well as combining the two markets.

Table 1 Age group

Age Group	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
16 - 25	1	2.9	6	17.1	7	10.0
26 - 35	12	34.3	9	25.7	21	30.0
36 - 45	11	31.4	11	31.4	22	31.4

46 – 60	11	31.4	7	20.0	18	25.7
Above 60	0	0	2	5.7	2	2.9
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The findings of two markets together shows that majority i.e. 31.4 percent of street vendors belong to the age group of 36-45 years, 30 percent of street vendors belong to the age group of 26-35 years, 10 percent of street vendors belong to the age group of 16-25 and 25.7 percent vendors belong to the age group of 46-60 years. 2.9 percent vendors belong to the age group that is above 60 years in both the markets. Thus majority of the street vendors were found to be between the age group of 26 to 45 years.

Table 2. Gender

Gender	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Male	29	82.9	24	68.6	53
Female	6	17.1	11	31.4	17	24.3
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: primary

The total percentage of both the markets shows that male vendors dominated in both the markets i.e. 75.5 percent and very few female vendors i.e. 24.3 percent are seen in both the markets. This outcome is basically because street vending is another kind of business in the informal sector which has been dominated by men.

Table 3. Social Category

Social Category	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
General	34	97.1	27	77.1	61	87.1
SC	0	.0	1	2.9	1	1.4
ST	1	2.9	6	17.1	7	10.0
OBC	0	.0	1	2.9	1	1.4
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The social categories of vendors in both the markets identified that most of the vendors i.e. 87.1 percent belong to the General category. The equal percentage i.e. 1.4 percent vendors belong to the SC and OBC category. Around 10 percent vendors belong to the ST category. The fact that, street vendors mostly belonged to General Category indicates that, street vending as an informal work is pursued regardless of social status as long as one has to earn for survival.

Table 4. Educational Qualification

Educational Qualification	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Illiterate	4	11.4	3	8.6	7	10.0
Only sign	5	14.3	6	17.1	11	15.7
Primary	7	20.0	12	34.3	19	27.1
Upper Primary	1	2.9	6	17.1	7	10.0
Secondary	9	25.7	6	17.1	15	21.4
Higher Secondary	8	22.9	2	5.7	10	14.3
Graduate	1	2.9	0	.0	1	1.4
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The results regarding Educational attainment of street vendors in both the markets shows that 10 percent of vendors are found as illiterate and a similar percentage of vendors studied up to upper primary level in both the markets. Rest 15.7 percent vendors can only sign their names and 27.1 percent vendors studied up to primary level in both the markets. Whereas 21.4 percent vendors studied up to secondary level and 14.3 percent vendors studied up to higher secondary level. Only 1.4 percent of vendors completed their graduation level of education. Considering the fact that, educational qualification is not a requirement for street vending, most of the vendors have primary or not educated.

Table 5. Religion

Religion	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Hindu	19	54.3	16	45.7	35
Muslim	16	45.7	19	54.3	35	50.0
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The results identified two religious groups found in both the markets. Thus, the equal percentage of vendors i.e.50 percent belongs to the Hindu and Muslim. Both Hindus and Muslims are dominated in both markets because; Guwahati city has people from diverse communities but both markets are dominated by these two communities.

Table 6. Marital Status

Marital Status	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Married	30	85.7	31	88.6	61
Unmarried	2	5.7	2	5.7	4	5.7
Widow	2	5.7	2	5.7	4	5.7
Separated	1	2.9	0	.0	1	1.4
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The marital status of vendors identified in both markets that the majority of the vendors i.e.87.1 percent vendors found as married in both the market. Very few vendors have been found as separated and 5.7 vendors found as unmarried. Again the same percentage of vendors i.e. 5.7 percent found as widowed in both the markets. Majority of the street vendors found to be married as they had to earn their livelihood and provide their families through street vending considering that, they are mostly illiterate or have only primary level education thus having no scope to enter the formal job mark

Table 7. Family Type

Family type	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
	Nuclear	27	77.1	29	82.9	56
Joint	8	22.9	6	17.1	14	20.0
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The type of family is another important aspect, which identified that 80 percent of the vendors are from nuclear families whereas only 20 percent vendors are from joint families. It is obvious from the findings that having small family is easier to manage economically and therefore preferred.

Table 8. Ownership of Household

Ownership of Household	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Own	6	17.1	13	37.1	19	27.1
Rented	25	71.4	16	45.7	41	58.6
Share	4	11.4	6	17.1	10	14.3
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

Ownership of households highlighted that the majority of the vendors i.e. 58 percent vendors staying in rented houses and 27 percent vendors have their own houses in both the markets. Only 14 percent of vendors have shared their houses with others. Here, findings shows that, majority of the street vendors live in rented houses, thus, adding more burden of paying the rent apart from daily living expenses.

Table 9. Payment of Rent

Rent	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
1000-2000	13	44.7	4	18.1	17	33.3
2500-3000	11	37.9	12	54.5	23	45.2
3500-5000	3	10.3	5	22.7	8	15.6
5500 and above	2	6.9	1	4.5	3	5.9
Total	29	100	22	100	51	100

Source: Primary

House rent is another important expenditure of vendors. The payment of rent also differs from vendor to vendor. The results highlighted from both markets that most of the vendors i.e. 45.2 percent have spent 2500 to 3000 rupees as their monthly rent and 33.3 percent vendors have spent 1000 to 2000 rupees. 15.6 percent vendors have paid monthly rent 3500 to 5000 rupees and very few vendors i.e. 5.9 percent have paid above 5500 rupees as their monthly rent. Here, study result indicate that majority of the house rents is either between Rs. 1000- Rs. 2000 or Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3000 which are the lowest amount found in Guwahati city.

Table10. Source of Drinking Water

Source of Drinking Water	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Tube well	1	2.9	9	25.7	10	14.3
Bore well	8	22.9	2	5.7	10	14.3
Supply water	18	51.4	17	48.6	35	50.0
Piped water	6	17.1	6	17.1	12	17.1
Stream	1	2.9	1	2.9	2	2.9
Buy mineral water	1	2.9	0	.0	1	1.4
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The drinking water facilities of vendors at their residential places highlighted that 14.3 percent vendors accessed drinking water from tube wells and again 14.3 percent of vendors' accessed drinking water from bore wells. Most of the vendors i.e. 50 percent vendors in both the markets accessed drinking water from government water supply. 17.1 percent of vendor's accessed piped water and 2.9 percent vendors accessed drinking water from streams. Only 1.4 percent of vendors used mineral water as a source of drinking water. Here, vendors are found to be using Supply water for drinking and cooking purposes that has been installed by the house owners since majority live in rented houses.

Table11. Savings Behaviour

No savings	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	3	8.6	5	Percentage	Number	Percentage
<1000	16	45.7	14	25.7	10	14.3
1000 - 2500	9	25.7	13	5.7	10	14.3
2501 - 5000	4	11.4	3	48.6	35	50.0
5001 - 7500	0	.0	0	17.1	12	17.1
7501 - 10000	2	5.7	0	2.9	2	2.9
>10000	1	2.9	0	.0	1	1.4
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The savings behaviour of vendors in both the markets observed that 11.4 percent vendors don't have savings whereas 42.9 percent vendors have monthly savings less than 1000 rupees.31.4 percent vendors have savings up to 1000-2500 rupees and 10 percent vendors have savings up to 2000-5000 rupees.2.9 percent vendors have savings up to 7000-10000 rupees and only 1.4 percent vendors have more than 10,000 rupees in a month.

Table 12.Daily Income through Street Vending

Daily Income	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
100 - 500	5	14.3	2	5.7	7	10.0
501 - 1000	5	14.3	3	8.6	8	11.4
1001 - 2000	4	11.4	5	14.3	9	12.9
2001 - 3000	6	17.1	10	28.6	16	22.9
Above 3000	15	42.9	15	42.9	30	42.9
Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The daily income of vendors identified that 10 percent vendors have earned daily 100 to 500 rupees in a day; whereas 11.4 percent vendors have earned 501 to 1000 rupees as per their availability of goods. Again, 12.9 percent vendors earned daily up to 1001 to 2000 rupees and 22.9 percent vendors 2001-3000 rupees in a day. Majority of the vendors in Ganeshguri market earned above 3000 rupees in a day.42.9 percent vendors earned above 3000 rupees in a day in both markets. However, the study shows that majority were earned Rs 3000 and above daily from vending in both markets.

Table.13.Availability of Basic Facilities

Basic Facilities	Response	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
		Number	percentage	Number	percentage	Number	percentage
Q_16c Storage Room		3	8.6	1	2.9	4	5.7
Q_16d Electricity	Yes	5	14.3	1	2.9	6	8.6
	No	30	85.7	34	97.1	64	91.4

	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_16e Sanitation	Yes	12	34.3	1	2.9	13	18.6
	No	23	65.7	34	97.1	57	81.4
	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_16f Garbage dumping place	Yes	11	31.4	33	94.3	44	62.9
	No	24	68.6	2	5.7	26	37.1
	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_16g Drainage	Yes	25	71.4	35	100.0	60	85.7
	No	10	28.6	Nil	.Nil	10	14.3
	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_16h Proper Shade	yes	2	5.7	Nil	Nil	2	2.9

Source: Primary

The respondents highlighted that there is no drinking water facilities made available in both the markets. However, certain other facilities available were found to be accessed differently by vendors, therefore study shows that, 8.6 percent vendors accessed storage facilities in Ganeshguri market whereas 2.9 percent vendors do access storage facilities in Uzanbazar market. The total 5.7 accessed storage facilities in both the market. Electricity facility at Ganeshguri market is not available for vendors in both the markets. Thus, 14.3 percent vendors have accessed electricity connection from the bazaar committee of Ganeshguri market whereas 2.9 percent vendors have electricity connection in uzanbazar market. The total 8.6 percent vendors have electricity connection in both the markets. 34.6 percent vendors have accessed the toilet because of their space of vending spot nearby public toilet whereas 65.7 percent vendors are unable to access toilet due to lack of toilet nearby vending place. Toilet facility is not available in Uzanbazar market. In Uzanbazar market 2.9 percent vendors accessed toilets nearby roadside whereas 97.1 percent vendors have no access to toilets in the market. Thus, the total 18.6 percent vendors have accessed toilet facilities and 81.4 percent vendors unable to access toilets in both the markets. In Ganeshguri market 31.4 percent vendors used dustbins for garbage disposal whereas 68.6 percent vendors were unable to use dustbins due to lack of dustbins in the market area. In Uzanbazar market dustbin is provided by the municipality and 94.3 percent vendors have used dustbin whereas 5.7 vendors are unable to use dustbin. Thus, the total 62.9 percent vendors used dustbin at the marketplace whereas 37.1 percent vendors were unable to use dustbin in both the markets. The study identified that there is a proper drainage system available in both the markets. Thus the 85.7 percent vendors responded that there is drainage system available in the market place whereas 14.3 percent vendors responded not availability of drainage system in both the markets. Proper shade is another important requirement of vendors in the markets. The results identified from Ganeshguri market that 5.9 percent vendors have proper shade at their vending place. However, there is no provision of shade for vendors in uzanbazar market. Thus the total findings revealed that only 2.9 percent vendors have proper shades at their vending place.

Table.14a. Alternative for non availability of drinking water at market place

drinking water	Number	Percentage
Bring from home	16	22.9
Buy at vending place	51	72.9
Nearby Restaurant	3	4.3
Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary

Since, drinking water facility is not provided in both markets, vendors are found to be resorting to other alternatives. Thus, 22.9 percent vendors are found to be bringing drinking water from home, 72.9 percent vendors bought from nearby shops and 4.3 percent vendors bought from nearby restaurants.

Table.14b Alternatives for Storage of goods/products

Storage	Number	Percentage
70 rupees pay for private storage places/ godowns	16	22.9
All goods are kept at home	39	55.4
by paying 100 rupees monthly to look after	1	1.4
footpath	2	2.8
10 rupees per day to look after all the goods	2	2.8
keep it in nearest shop	1	1.4
Looks after by Chowkider	1	1.4
nearby house	1	1.4
nearby market	1	1.4
nearby shop	2	2.8
other shopkeeper	3	4.3
parking place	1	1.4
Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The storage facility is not meeting the needs of every vendors in both markets, they resort to other ways to store their goods, both perishable and non-perishable. Thus, 55.4 percent vendors keep their goods in their own house. 22.9 percent vendors pay monthly 70 rupees to keep their goods in godown run by some individuals. 1.4 percent vendors pay Rs. 100 rupees to others to look after their goods. Some of the vendors i.e. 2.8 percent kept their goods on footpaths and the rest of the vendors also stored their goods in nearby shops and other markets. Some of them vendors packed up all the goods and keep their goods in parking places.

Table.14c Alternative for Electricity at the marketplace

Electricity	Number	Percentage
by convincing with nearby shopkeeper	21	29.9
candle	5	7.1
charging light	3	4.2
chowkidar	5	7.1
daily 10 rupees pay as rent	2	2.8
pay 600 monthly	1	1.4
provide by committee	1	1.4
rent 300 rupees	2	2.9
street light	28	40
temporary light	2	2.8
Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary

Electricity facilities are not available in both the markets. Thus, 40 percent of vendors have been engaged in vending business using street lights during at night. 29.9 percent vendors convince nearby shopkeepers for electricity and some of them paid monthly rent for using electricity in the market. 2.8 percent vendor’s pay rent of Rs. 10 and 1.4 percent vendors pay 600 rupees monthly as a rent for electricity extension from permanent shops. 7.1 percent vendors used candles and 4.2 percent vendors used charging light at night.

Table.14e Alternative for accessing toilet /urinal facility at the marketplace

Toilet facility	Number	Percentage
Use Nearby flyover toilet by paying 10 rupees	20	28.6
Under the flyover market /near hotel/house/parking place/roadside (open space)	39	55.7
Nearby hotel	1	1.4
Municipality office bathroom/municipality office	4	5.7
nearby G.M.C market/	1	1.4
Not able to use public toilet at marketplace	2	2.8
Own room	3	4.2
Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary

Most of the vendors i.e. 55.7 percent often urinate at open public spaces like parking places, roadside and nearby shops etc. 28.6 percent vendors urinate by paying 10 rupees. Some of the vendors i.e.5.7 percent vendors used to urinate nearby municipality office bathroom. 2.8 vendors are not able to use due to very unhygienic public toilets and rest 4.2 percent went to their own rooms to access the toilet.

Table.14f Alternatives for throwing Garbage at the marketplace

Garbage	Number	Percentage
Cleaning by G.M.C	39	55.7
G.M.C dustbin	9	12.8
In the market place	3	4.3
Does not use dustbin	1	1.4
Own dustbin	1	1.4
Plastic bags	15	21.4
Roadside	2	2.8
Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The study identified that there are no common garbage dumping ground and therefore, vendors have been resorting to different ways to dispose their garbage. 55.7 percent vendors responded that Guwahati Municipality garbage van collect garbage and clean their vending place. 12.8 percent vendors have used GMC dustbin in the marketplace. However it has also been observed that 2.8 percent vendors have been disposing their garbage on the roadside, 21.4 percent vendors have been using plastic bags to throw away their garbage.

Table. 14g Alternative for shades where proper shades are not available at the marketplace

Alternative for Shade in the marketplace	Frequency	Percentage
Cover with plastic	64	91.3
Not able to manage proper shade	2	2.9
Open space	1	1.4

Tirpal	1	1.4
Umbrella	2	2.8
Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The results on the alternative ways to shed themselves and their products where there is no proper shade in the vending place shows that most of the vendors i.e. 91.3 percent vendors protect their goods with plastic from heavy rain and sunrise. 2.8 percent vendors use umbrellas and 1.4 percent vendors use tirpal to cover their goods during the rainy season. Whereas, there were still some 2.9 percent vendors who were not able to manage even a temporary shade in the market.

Table 15. Different commodities sold in the markets

commodities	Frequency	Percentage
Agarbatti	1	1.4
Betel nuts and Egg seller	1	1.4
Decorated items	1	1.4
Flowers	2	2.9
Fruits	6	8.6
Fruits and Traditional Pitha-ladu	1	1.4
Garments	4	5.7
Household Utensil and Electronic items	2	2.8
Jewellery	8	11.4
Lentils	1	1.4
Masala and Dry Fish	1	1.4
Masala and Variety of Rice	1	1.4
Tea Stall	1	1.4
Traditional herbs	1	1.4
Vegetables and fruits	38	54.2
Vegetables and Traditional Masala	1	1.4
Total	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The above results show that the vendors have varieties of items sold in both the markets. 1.4 percent vendors sold Agarbatti, Betel nuts, Egg, fruits and traditional pitha ladu. 54.2 percent vendors have sold vegetables and fruits in both the markets. 5.7 percent vendors sold garments, 11.4 percent vendors sold Jewellery and 2.8 percent vendors sold Household Utensil and electronic items. 2.9 percent vendors sold flowers. The remaining vendors sold lentils, masala, dry fish, and traditional herbs, runs Tea stall etc.

Table 16. Ways for occupying vending space at the market place

Statements	Responses	Ganeshguri		Uzanbazar		Total	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Q_19_a Wait for some time to get a space	Yes	3	8.6	0	0	3	4.3
	No	32	91.4	35	100.0	67	95.7
	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_19_b Space keep on changing every time	Yes	26	74.3	30	85.7	56	80.0
	No	8	22.9	1	2.9	9	12.9
	NA	1	2.9	4	11.4	5	7.1

	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_19_c Manage to get space by convincing other vendors	Yes	23	65.7	7	20.0	30	42.9
	No	1	2.9	1	2.9	2	2.9
	NA	11	31.4	27	77.1	38	54.3
	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_19_d Comes early in the morning to get space	Yes	2	5.7	2	5.7	4	5.7
	No	9	25.7	9	25.7	18	25.7
	NA	24	68.6	24	68.6	48	68.6
	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0
Q_19_e Regularly sell products in the same place	Yes	21	60.0	6	17.1	27	38.6
	No	3	8.6	1	2.9	4	5.7
	NA	11	31.4	28	80.0	39	55.7
	Total	35	100.0	35	100.0	70	100.0

Source: Primary

The study observed that vendors have faced major problems due to lack of space in the Ganeshguri market. 8.6 percent vendors of Ganeshguri market responded that they found a space for vending but they stuck it for overtime and 91.4 did not stick for overtime for space.

In Ganeshguri market 74.3 percent vendors told that their space is not permanent and 22.9 percent vendors occupied their own space. 2.9 percent vendors were neutral regarding occupying space in the market. 65.7 Percent vendors convinced others to get their space in the market and 2.9 percent vendors are not convinced others to get their space. 31.4 percent vendors are neutral in regard to managing space in Ganeshguri market. On the one hand 5.7 percent vendors came early in the morning to get their space whereas 25.7 percent vendors are not required to come early to get their space. It was observed that 68.6 percent vendors were neutral and that they were also faced with the problems of space in the market but they did not want to explain during the interview. In Ganeshguri market, about 60 percent vendors take up vending in the same place and 8.6 percent vendors are not able to take up their vending at the same space. Rest 31 percent vendors were not interested to disclose about the issues of space in the market. All the vendors of Uzanbazar market responded that they never found a space for vending; they stuck to it for overtime. In Uzanbazar market 85.7 percent vendors told that their space is not permanent and 2.9 percent vendors occupied their own space. 11.4 percent vendors were neutral but also faced the problems of space. 20.0 Percent vendors convinced others to get their space in Uzanbazar market and 2.9 percent vendors manage to get their space by themselves. The remaining 77.1 percent also did not properly mention their problems to manage their space in the market. 5.7 percent vendors come early in the morning from different districts of Assam and get their space whereas 25.7 percent vendors are not required to come early and get their space. Here in this case 68.6 percent vendors were not responding properly to get their space in the market. In Uzanbazar market, about 17.1 percent vendors take up vending in the same place and 2.9 percent vendors are unable to take up their vending at the same space. 80 percent vendors are neutral and that means they also take up their vending at the same place.

II. Discussions and Conclusion:

The study specifically discussed the spatial vulnerability of street vendors at both the markets, Guwahati and how street vendors take up this business as their source of livelihood and use public space for socialization. The socio-demographic status of street vendors pointed out that street vending business has been dominated by men. The study clearly stated that majority of the street vendors live in rented houses, thus, adding more burden of paying the rent apart from daily living expenses. General categories of vendors were found to be higher than SC, ST and OBC categories. Most of the vendors staying in Nuclear families and the average household member of the vendor's family in both the markets are 4.9 persons. Most of the vendors migrated to the cities due to lack of opportunities in their own places and they have been staying in rented houses. They have to pay 2000 to 3000 rupees as their monthly household rent. Although vendor's daily income is very low as compared to their expenses. The facilities of drinking water, sanitation, shelter, storage facilities are not available at both the markets. Women are basically faced with specific challenges due to the lack of basic facilities such as shade, drinking water, well-lit toilets and other facilities. Women are also specifically faced with problems especially during the menstruation cycle due to non-availability of public toilets in the market. Vendors in Uzanbazar market occupied the public space that attracts people from all nearby areas. On the other hand, vendors in Ganeshguri market occupied the space nearby the flyover and pavement for buying and selling different goods. These spaces for vending are occupied by negotiating with other vendors and also by coming early to the market. As a result, the local authorities like, the police and municipal authorities frequently try to prevent street

vendors from occupying such spaces as it leads to overcrowding and traffic jams. Moreover, the street vendors have conflict with government authority because the Municipal authorities displace them from the market from time to time by forcefully vacating the vendors. Interestingly, the study identified that vendors of both the markets are found to be paying bribes as well as rent to the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) on regular or weekly basis, or sometimes even daily for occupying public space. Accordingly on the one hand authorities are of the view that some vendors are illegally occupying public spaces and on the other hand vendors are of the view that, they are paying rents legally and some vendors bribe to do their vending business in the market. But this process of paying bribe or rent involves harassment and exploitation of vendors in the markets. It has been observed from the study that due to lack of social security benefits and formal credit facilities the street vendors have faced problems for legalisation of their business.

Regardless of the fact that the Government policies on Street vending clearly stated that street vendors are part of urban informal economy and they have right to use and avail social security benefits from the Government but it is revealed from the study that street vendors suffer from inadequate sanitation, drinking water, electricity facilities at the marketplace. The government authority and town vending committee have ignored the hygienic condition of street vendors at the workplace. Further, the pathetic situation regarding basic sanitation facilities do not meet the achievement of Swacch Bharat Mission of India. Hence, Swacch Bharat Mission in India should not be merely a part of the policy or implemented in selected places and spaces but should also cover and improve public places like the street vending zones.

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