CHAPTER-V
FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

The in-depth analysis of the socio economic conditions of the street vendors has led to the following findings:

FINDINGS

Findings Related to Hypotheses

1. There is no significant variation in income and there is no significant relation between the expenditure and the nature of the business of the street vendors.

2. The awareness level is very high on the government schemes on smart card and free medical insurance cover among the street vendors in the study area.

3. The education level is relatively very low among the street vendors when it is compared with the literacy rate of Tamil Nadu and Tiruchirappalli District. The overall literacy rate of Tamil Nadu stands 73 per cent and the overall literacy rate of Tiruchirappalli District is as high as 79.16 per cent.

4. The saving level is relatively very low among the street vendors when it is compared with the average national saving rate. The average national saving rate in India stands as 29.8 per cent to 30.8 per cent of one’s income.

5. All the street vendors are facing harassments in the study area.
FINDINGS

1. In the study area varied activities of street vending are taking place. Vegetable selling is done by major street vendors followed by fruit selling. Researcher finds more than 50 per cent of street vendors sell fruits and vegetables.

2. In the study area the women participation in street vending is lower than the male participation. This reflects the overall trend in Tamil Nadu.

3. Analysing the age factor of the street vendors a meager percentage of street vendors are below the age of 25. And major street vendors fall in the age group of 41-50 years. Researcher finds only a very low percentage of youngsters are involving in street vending.

4. Analysing the religion of the street vendors only 2 per cent of the street vendors belong to Christianity. Researcher finds that in the study area many educational institutions are run by Christian organizations. This has given the Christian population more opportunities to get education and employment. It has reduced the Christian population to engage in street vending.

5. In the study area almost 90 per cent of the streets vendors belong to the backward and the most backward communities. It shows that the study area consist of more backward and the
most backward population and also it is learnt that a very little percentage of people belong to forward community has engaged in street vending.

6. In the study area almost 89 per cent of the street vendors are married.

7. In the study area the street vending is done permanently by 82.7 per cent of the street vendors. This shows their only livelihood is street vending and this makes them vulnerable and poor.

8. In the study area 65.7 per cent of the street vendors have a small family not exceeding 4 members. This shows the awareness of family planning has grown among the minds of the street vendors. Researcher finds the family planning measures taken by the Government is a vast success.

9. In the study are 72.3 per cent of the street vendors live in rental houses. This shows the poor economic status of the street vendors and shelter being one of the essential needs for dignified living; it is not available to the majority of the street vendors. This indicates the street vendors are not having a decent standard of living. And also 79.3 percent of the street vendors live under thatched roofing houses. Thatched houses are prone to fire accidents. This type of houses usually lack basic facilities like bathroom, toilet and
other civic facilities. The nature of the house reveals the nature of unhygienic life of the major street vendors.

10. Almost 62 per cent of the street vendors are using LPG as the energy for cooking. This is really a boon which is achieved through the efforts taken by the state government to provide free LPG stoves and free LPG connections to the Below Poverty Line families.

11. In the study area only 46.7 percent of the street vendors get Rs.2000/- Rs. 5000 as their monthly income. The average annual income of India is Rs.44,000. This clearly endorsees the broad picture of income distribution prevailing in India. So it is learnt that 27.7 per cent of the street vendors earned less than Rs. 3000 and live below poverty line.

12. With regard to the monthly expenditure of the street vendors it is observed that they spend low on various requirements. Since expenditure is a crucial factor of economic welfare the lower expenditure leads to low consumption, lower welfare and low standard of living.

13. In the study area almost all the street vendors borrow from others according to their capabilities. They lead their life only with borrowing. This shows their inability to come out of the clutches of money lenders and indigenous bankers. They are debt ridden and reeling under depth trap.
14. The interest rate per year paid by the street vendors is very high, whereas the commercial banks in India charge 8-14 percent of interest per year. The high rate of interest makes them debt ridden.

15. In the study area 78 per cent of the street vendors favour the parties DMK and AIADMK. The trend simply echoes the popular trend prevailing in the state.

16. In the study area major street vendors feel the usage of smart cards is useful. Smart card enables the street vendors to have access with some social benefits.

17. Analyzing the support for the prevailing caste system almost 75.3 percent of the street vendors respond neutral stand. This shows the changing attitude of the street vendors towards caste system. Tamil Nadu is one of the most progressive states where caste system is vanishing steadily but slowly.

18. Referring equal status for women almost 64.3 per cent of the street vendors stand neutral. This shows a major portion of the street vendors are not keen on improving the status of women.

19. Referring inter-religions marriage 72.3 per cent of the street vendors do not agree with the inter-religious marriage. This shows the religion holds still vice like grip in the behaviour of the street vendors.
20. Analyzing the inter caste marriage almost 83 per cent of the street vendors do not agree with inter caste marriage. This shows many street vendors are fitted with the caste sentiments and they are caste ridden.

21. With regard to the dowry system 64.3 per cent of the street vendors stand neutral. This implies they passively entertained the dowry system in vogue.

22. Almost all the street vendors have a good faith on their religion and they accept the religion makes them as a good human being. This shows the concept of ‘No God’, ‘No Religion’ preached by the Dravadian movements in Tamil Nadu has not succeeded.

23. Analyzing the relationship of the street vendors with other religious communities, 71.3 per cent of the street vendors feel it is cordial. This shows the mind setting of religious tolerance of the street vendors. Tamil Nadu is the state which is maintaining religious harmony among different religious sects of the society.

24. Viewing television seems to be a major entertainment by the street vendors. This is the outcome of the Government of Tamil Nadu’s scheme of free distribution of Television sets to the poor and also this implies the fast growth of the satellite
channels and a sharp decline on Cinema viewing in the theatres.

25. With regard to the opinion of the street vendors, they prefer the stars of Kamal, Rajihi, Shivaji and MGR in mostly. Since 1960, Tamil Nadu politics is fully influenced by the film heroes. The politics in Tamil Nadu and the film industry are indivisible.

26. Many of the street vendors like the family subject stories to view as an entertainment. This shows the strong sentiment on the family system prevailing in the study area.

27. Almost 70.3 per cent of the street vendors’ priorities their children’s education as an urgent need. Though the major portions of the street vendors are illiterates, they want to give education to their children. This implies the growing awareness of education among the street vendors.

28. Majority of the street vendors (88.3 per cent) have nuclear family. This clearly shows the break down of joint family system among the street vendors.

29. Among the total number of street vendors 96 per cent of the street vendors have the habit of smoke or drink. This unnecessary expenditure has eaten away a major chunk of their income. This is one of the major causes for the poverty among the street vendors.
30. Majority (58.95 per cent) of the street vendors takes treatment in government hospitals and 19.07 per cent of the street vendors take treatment in private hospitals. This shows the success of the free medical insurance schemes adopted by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

31. Majority of the (78 per cent) street vendors are not getting any assistance from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This shows the street vendors are not in the focus of the NGOs.

32. Majority (71.3 per cent) of the street vendors feel the prices of the essential commodities are very high and alarming. This is the major reason that leads to less consumption and less economic welfare.

33. Majority (55.7 per cent) street vendors feel happy with the performance of Trichy Corporation, the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the Union Government. This implies there is no anti-governmental sentiment among the street vendors, though they have some bitterness. Tamil Nadu is the State which is not affected by the terror groups like naxal movement.

34. During slack season 41.7 per cent of the street vendors borrow from others to meet their daily needs and 58.5 per cent of the street vendors spend from their savings. During
the slack season, especially during rains, they are pushed to withdraw their business, which leads to borrow or dilute their savings. This implies lack of occupational mobility and lack of alternative employment to the street vendors.

35. Analyzing the case of untouchability major street vendors reluctant to give their strong views against untouchability. This implies that untouchablity is not unanimously endorsed or opposed by the street vendors.

36. Astrology is believed by major street vendors in the study area. This implies the illiteracy and superstition are indivisible factors.

37. Among the street vendors only 16 per cent of the street vendors are physically challenged. For physically challenged people it is more difficult to do vending on the street.

38. Majority (88.3 per cent) of the street vendors are not looking after their aged parents. This shows a pathetic status of old age people hailing from the families of the street vendors. Their lives are marked by poverty and hopelessness.

39. It is very much encouraging that all the street vendors give education to their girl children. This exhibits the awareness among the street vendors to give education to their girl children in par with the boy children.
40. Almost 86.7 per cent of the street vendors have electricity facility at their houses. This is due to the reason that the Government of Tamil Nadu supplies free electricity to the poor sections of the society especially to the slum dwellers.

41. With utmost sadness it is noticed that almost 76.3 per cent of the street vendors do not have toilet at their houses. This clearly shows their unhygienic life style. And 76.33 per cent of the street vendors have no water facility and 70.7 per cent do not have drainage. This further exhibits their poor life style.

42. With regard to the transport, almost 81.67 per cent do not own a vehicle and depend up on public transport system.

43. It is a great success to the mobile telephony in India; the cell phones have reached almost all the street vendors.

44. The well being index of the street vendors are worked out to the just 28.59 out the maximum of 100. There are certain spheres where the street vendors lacking behind.

45. There is no significant relationship between sex and political affiliation of the street vendors. It is against the belief in Tamil Nadu that the female voters are favouring AIADMK.

46. There is a significant relationship between age and political party belongs to.
47. There is no significant relationship between religion and political party affiliation. It is against the beliefs in Tamil Nadu that the religious minorities are supporting DMK party.

48. There is no significant relationship between community and political party affiliation of the street vendors.

49. There is no significant relationship between borrowings and vices.

50. There is no significant relationship between religion and inter-caste marriage.

51. There is no significant relationship between age and their opinion about dowry system.

52. There is no significant relationship between religion and their opinion about dowry system.

53. There is no significant relationship between the community and opinion on dowri system.

54. There is no significant relationship between nature of business and problems encountered by street vendors.

55. There is no statistically relevant relation between vices of the street vendors and diseases.
SUGGESTIONS

In the light of the foregoing analysis and findings the following suggestions can be made to improve the conditions of the street vendors.

- Sustained and continuous efforts are needed to improve the education, health and employment conditions of the street vendors. The government can create a separate ministry or a special cell under the Ministry of Labour to look after the welfare of the workers in the unorganized sector under which the street vending falls.

- Street vendors can be trained in food preservation methods. And they can be provided with a common chilling warehousing to preserve their unsold articles.

- The government can assist them financially for their business activities at free rate of interest. And government can extend the subsidy to the street vendors, especially for vending perishable items.

- A market place can be allotted specially for street vending where the street vendors may be charged a very nominal rent.
• A vigilance team can be constituted under the headship of the City Police Commissioner to prevent the harassments on street vendors.

• Free education can be given to the children of street vendors and a quota system can be implemented to the children of the street vendors in higher education.

• Pension scheme can be implemented and to protect the aged vendors and the premium can be paid by the Government.

• Government can provide a job in government sector to atleast only one member from the vendor’s family.

• The state run housing board can allocate low cost houses to street vendors with proper toilet, water and drainage facilities.

• Awareness programmes on environment and waste disposal management can be given to the street vendors.

• Government can set up counseling centers to council the street vendors to get rid of their vices.

• All the street vendors can be declared as people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL families).
CONCLUSION

The indepth analysis of the socio economic facets of the street vendors in Tiruchirappalli town has led to the unambiguous conclusion that their economic condition is really deplorable and there is a dive need for concrete action plan to ameliorate the socio economic conditions of the street vendors. The social security net work of Tamil Nadu Government is quite strong. The noon meal scheme, a unique scheme specially designed to enhance the enrolment of children in the primary school has served a vast chunk of the vulnerable sections of the society. The smart card provides old age persons to get assistance from the government. The distribution of 1kg of rice for Re.1 is another path breaking scheme of Tamil Nadu Government. Under Samathuvapuram, houses are allotted for the BPL families. Inspite of these concreted efforts of the government still majority of the street vendors are reeling under acute poverty and deprivation. The needs of food, clothing, shelter, education and alternate employment opportunities are not accomplished by the vast majority of the street vendors. The government would formulate tailor made programmes to suit and address the specific needs of the street vendors. The blanket approach is not giving to solve the problems of the street vendors. We should not forget the everlasting slogan that says “Poverty in anywhere; is a threat to the prosperity in every where”.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Government must ensure the equal treatment of unorganized workers in par with organized workers.
- Retail trade which is done by the street vendors must be protected and reserved; so the multinational companies and giant companies from India should not be allowed in retailing.
- Nationalized banks should give priority in giving loans to the street vendors at a nominal interest rate.
- The scope of the smart card should be extended to various usages.
- Allotment of houses to the street vendors should be done through the housing board.

Reservation policy should be implemented by the government to intake the children of the street vendors in higher educational institutions.