CHAPTER – VII

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

This chapter highlights the various findings of the study, “An Economic Study of Street Food Vending in Madurai District” and the conclusions arrived at from the investigation are stated herein. Even after the development of food vending business in our country, studies regarding the various socio-economic aspects of street food vendors have not been drawn much attention of the social scientists. The socio-economic study is a problem and policy oriented one. To my humble knowledge there has been no indepth study on street food vending in the study area. Our country is facing paucity of practical problem oriented research studies. With this in mind the investigator has attempted to examine the socio-economic background and family profile of the sample respondents, analysis of working performance and food safety, consumer and street food vending. Our study has brought out the following findings.
7.1 Findings

In this section the investigator assesses the profile of the sample respondents, characteristics of the family, distribution of household income, pattern of expenditure, savings pattern, analysis of investment and debt, working performance, environment aspects, food safety measures, licenses or punishment system, reason for the offence, eviction by police, mode of harassment, profile of consumer and street food vending.

An analysis of age composition reveals that in the case of mobile street food vendors out of 139 sample respondents, majority of 48 (34.53 percent) of the respondents fall under the age group of 40 to 50 years. In the case of semi-mobile and stationary vendors, out of 161 sample respondents a majority of 77 (47.82 percent) of the respondents are under the age group of 30 to 40 years. This clearly shows that young persons below 30 years are not much interested in the street vending business.

The sex-wise classification reveals that out of 300 sample respondents, a majority of 239 (79.66 percent) are males and only 61 (20.33 percent are females.

Regarding marital status it is revealed that in the case of mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors, out of 300 sample respondents 216 (72 percent) are married.
Regarding the educational level among the 300 sample respondents 136 (45.33 percent) street food vendors have primary education only.

As regards the nature of family it is revealed that out of 300 street food vendors, a majority of 189 (63 percent) have the nuclear family.

The analysis of the size of the family reveals that in the case of mobile street vendors, out of 139 sample respondents majority of 57 (41.00 percent) of the respondents have a large size family. In the case of semi-mobile and stationary, out of 161 respondents a maximum of 91 (56.52 percent) have a medium size of family.

The analysis of the nature of housing reveals that tiled houses are the popular housing system for maximum of 168 (56 percent) street vendors out of 300 sample respondents.

The ownership of housing reveals that out of 300 sample street food vendors, a majority of 171 (57 percent) have their own houses.

An analysis of electrification of house reveals that in the case of mobile street food vendors, out of the 139 sample respondents, a majority of 129 (92.81 percent) have electricity in their houses. It is quite surprising that nearly 8 percent of the respondents still live in houses without electricity in the second major city in Tamil Nadu. It is appropriate to cross check that 14.39 percent, 3.16 percent and 6.06 percent in the case of mobile street food
vendors, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors respectively live in thatched houses without electricity.

The study further reveals that out of 300 sample respondents, 208 (69.33 percent) have access to water supplied by the municipal corporation.

As regards the toilet facilities the study reveals that in the case of all the category of street food vendors, out of 300 sample respondents, 212 (70.66 percent) respondents refer non-availability of toilet facility.

An evaluation of pattern of income distribution the study reveals that of the annual gross income, the income from self earning constitutes a major source of income for mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors. Next to this, earning by other family members gives a considerable amount of income to the households of mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors.

Regarding average annual per capita income of the sample respondents household the study shows that as much as 36.69 percent of the 139 respondents of mobile street food vendors are found in the income range between Rs.35,000-40,000. In the case of semi-mobile, a majority of them are in lower part of the distribution. In the case of stationary, as much as 48.48 percent of the 66 respondents come under the income range of 35000-40000.

The analysis regarding the inequality in the distribution of per
capita income shows that it is higher in the case of stationary vendors than others.

An analysis of item wise annual family expenditure pattern of the respondents reveals that in the case of mobile street food vendors, it is estimated that a sum of Rs.66,61,340 is the total expenditure of 139 sample respondents in the study area. It also reveals that in the case of semi-mobile, it is estimated that a sum of Rs.64,08,000 is the total expenditure of 95 sample respondents in the study area. In the case of stationary, it is estimated that a sum of Rs.61,85,000 is the total expenditure of 66 sample respondents in the study area. Item wise food item occupies major portion.

As regards the determinants of per capita consumption expenditure the study shows that the highest correlation is observed between the expenditure on food and fuel and light (0.5173) in the study area for mobile street food vendors. The highest correlation is observed between the expenditure on food and fuel and light (0.5316) in the study area for the semi-mobile food vendors. In the case of stationary street food vendors, the highest correlation is found between education and fuel and light (0.5319).

The savings pattern reveals that in the case of mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors, a maximum of 125 (41.66 percent) respondents save their income in commercial banks.

The analysis regarding per capita savings by income group
shows that there is a positive relationship between income and savings. It means that as income increases savings also increases positively. Further, it is inferred from the analysis that the ratio of savings to income is higher for mobile street food vendors in all income groups than that of semi-mobile and stationary.

To study the relationship between nature of employment of head of households and level of savings the null hypothesis has been formulated that the nature of employment is independent of level of savings. For this, chi-square test is used. Since the calculated value of chi-square is less than the table value, the established null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there exists no relationship between nature of employment and level of savings.

To study the relationship between family size and level of savings among mobile street food vendors chi-square test is applied. As the calculated value of chi-square is less than the table value chi-squares the established hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is a relationship between the family size and the level of savings.

In order to test the hypothesis that the family size is independent of the level of saving among semi-mobile street food vendors, chi-square test is applied. As the calculated value of chi-square is less than the table value at 5 percent level, the established hypothesis is accepted. In the case of stationary street food vendors, as the calculated value of chi-square is less than
the table value of chi-square, the established hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is relationship between the family size and the level of savings.

To identify the factors, which determine the volume of savings of the sample households of mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors, multiple log-linear regression model is estimated. It is inferred from the analysis that the variable annual family income has a greater influence on the volume of savings of mobile street food vendors. In the case of semi-mobiles, annual family income and earning members in the family are positively related to the volume of savings. In the case of stationary street food vendors, annual family income and earning members in the family are positively related to the volume of savings.

The analysis regarding investment and debt shows that the average per capita investment in all the households for mobile street food vendors is Rs.4521.16 and Rs.3261.10 for semi-mobiles. The variation is significant. The cause of this significant variation is due to the investment in tools and implements and on vehicles for mobile and semi mobile street food vendors.

The study regarding per capita debt by expenditure of the households shows that there is no significant variation in the per capita debt in respect of expenditure. For mobile street food vendors the overall annual average per capita debt is 5,910.92, for semi-mobiles, it is Rs.3262.14 and for
stationary, it is Rs.2844.96. The variation is moderate. It is observed that a positive relation between expenditure and per capita debt exists in the mobile whereas it is found to fluctuate in the cases of semi-mobile and stationary.

The study regarding the per capita debt by size of the family shows that there exists variations among the groups with respect to per capita debt. The variation is to the tune of Rs.743.34. Another interesting trend is that positive relationship prevails between family size and their per capita debt in mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors households.

The study regarding nature of business reveals that out of 300 sample respondents, majority of the respondents come from other nature of business and the next comes from snacks.

The analysis regarding the ownership of business the study indicates that in the case of mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors, a majority of 70.28 percent of the sample respondents are individual owners.

The study regarding child labour in street food vending indicates that in the case of mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors, the majority among the 300 sample respondents i.e. a maximum of 277 (92.33 percent) of the sample respondents are not engaging the child labour.
The study regarding the involvement of women in street food vending out of 300 sample respondents there are only 186 respondents availing women’s assistance directly or indirectly for their vending business.

The study regarding working hours reveals that out of 300 sample respondents, a majority of 98 (32.66 percent) work in the peak days up to 6 to 8 o’clock.

As regards the years of experience the study reveals that out of 300 sample respondents, a majority of 167 (55.66 percent) of the respondents have 10 years experience and above.

The study regarding annual income of the sample respondents reveals that out of 139 sample respondents 63 (45.33 percent) of the respondents are earning Rs.1,00,000 and above in the case of mobile street food vendors. Out of 95 and 66 sample respondents, a majority of 49 (51.58 percent) and 35 (53.3 percent) are earning Rs.75,000-1,00,000 in the case of semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors respectively.

Annual investment by the sample respondents reveals that the daily working capital requirement of street vendors is between Rs.100-200, for the majority of all category of street food vendors.

Again, the study regarding annual gross income shows that out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 56.84 percent of the respondents sell daily between Rs.200-300 for all the three kinds of street vendors.
The analysis regarding manual business expenditure of the various items reveals that out of Rs.72380 a maximum of Rs.37,600 (51.95 percent) is spent on purchasing raw materials for their food preparation in the case of mobile street food vendors. In the case of semi-mobile, out of Rs.68,470, a sum of Rs.35,200 (51.41 percent) is spent on purchasing raw materials. In the case of stationary, out of Rs.63,940, a maximum of Rs.34,320 (53.68 percent) is spent on purchasing raw materials.

The study regarding credit borrowing shows that money lenders are the main source of credit for the street food vendors. It is 52.52 percent, 49.47 percent and 50 percent of the respondents of all the three kinds of street food vendors respectively borrow from moneylenders.

The analysis regarding amount borrowing reveals that in the case of all kinds of street food vendors out of 300 sample respondents, only 122 (40.66 percent) respondents borrow below Rs.2000. The remaining 178 (54.33 percent) respondents borrow above Rs.2000.

The study regarding the rate of interest paid by the sample respondents reveals that the street food vendors out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum 200 (66.66 percent) of the respondents pay more than 10 percent of rate of interest.

As regards the mode of repayment of loans the study shows that in the case of mobile street food vendors out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 194 (64.03 percent) of the respondents repay daily.
The study regarding overdues shows that out of 139 sample respondents, a maximum of 70 (50.36 percent) of the respondents in the case of mobile street food vendors have overdues between Rs.75,000–1,00,000. It is also understood that out of 95 sample respondents a maximum of 46 (48.42 percent) of the respondents have overdues between Rs.75,000–1,00,000 in the case of semi-mobile. In the case of stationary out of 66 sample respondents, a majority of 34 (51.52 percent) of the respondents have overdues between Rs.75,000–1,00,000.

The analysis regarding monthly return, it has been observed that out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 83 (27.66 percent) of them earn monthly return income of Rs.1000-1500.

The study regarding the average return on investment, it has been observed out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 87 (29 percent) of them earned an average return of 5–7 percent on investment.

The analysis regarding factors discriminating good and poor performances the study shows that in case of mobile street food vendors among the mean differences obtained in over fourteen variables, the significant differences were found in case of eight variables. In the case of semi-mobile street food vendors, among the mean differences obtained in over fourteen variables, the significant differences were found in the case of nine
variables. In the case of stationary street food vendors among the mean differences obtained in over fourteen variables, the significant differences were found in case of eight variables.

The study regarding the location of street vending it reveals that in the case of all the three kinds of street food vendors, out of 300 sample respondents, a majority of 98 (32.66 percent) of them have been carrying on the vending operation on the platforms. It could be inferred from the results that a majority of the sample respondents have been doing their business in front of railway station or bus stand.

The study regarding vending area near sewage reveals that out of 300 sample street food vendors, 168 (36 percent) of the respondents do not carry on near drainage and sewage canals.

The analysis regarding selling the items the study reveals that in a maximum of 260 (86.66 percent) of the sample street food vendors sell the prepared items out of 300 sample respondents.

The study regarding the preparation method reveals that 160 (53.33 percent) respondents out of 300 sample street food vendors cook at the vending place.

As regards the selling pattern the study shows that out of 139 sample respondents, a majority of 33 (23.74 percent) of the respondents using the leaf in the case of mobile street food vendors. In the case of semi-mobile
out of 95 sample respondents, a majority of 20 (21.05 percent) of the respondents are using leaves. In the case of stationary out of 66 sample respondents, a majority of 14 (12.21 percent) of the respondents are using newspapers.

The analysis regarding disposal methods of the leftover food materials shows that out of 300 sample respondents of street food vendors, a majority of 99 (33 percent) of respondents throw them away.

The study regarding method of disposing of the waste food materials shows that in the case of all the three categories of 300 street food vendors, a maximum of 155 (51.66 percent) of the respondents dispose the garbage by way of throwing near the vending place.

The study regarding licenses or permits shows that out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 218 (72.66 percent) of the respondents have obtained the licenses or permits for street food vending.

The analysis regarding authorities resorting to penal provisions shows out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 212 (70.66 percent) of the respondents have been fined.

The study regarding habit of getting receipts for fine amount reveals that out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 248 (82.66 percent) of the respondents of mobile vendors do not get receipts.
The analysis regarding lighting facilities indicates that out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 115 (38.33 percent) of the respondents use the street lights while others make their own arrangements.

The analysis regarding cleanliness of vending street food it is inferred that out of 300 sample respondents of street food vendors, a maximum of 237 (79 percent) of the respondents wash at the vending place using stored water.

The study regarding water facilities shows that, out of 139 sample respondents, in the case of mobile vendors, a maximum of 104 (74.81 percent) of the respondents do not ensure the safety of the water used in the vending operation. It is the same view in the case of semi-mobile and stationary vendors.

The analysis regarding details of training undergone for food-safety reveals that among 300 sample respondents of the street food vendors, a maximum of 272 (90.66 percent) of the respondents have not undergone any safety training.

Out of 300 sample respondents of the street food vendors, a maximum of 259 (86.33 percent) of the respondents have not undergone any food handlers training.

The study regarding various sources of training facilities reveals that out of various sources of trainers a maximum of 38 (44.71 percent) of the
Academicians have played the role of providing training to the mobile, semi-mobile and stationary street food vendors, and 36 (42.35 percent) and 11 (12.94 percent) of the NGO's and Local Municipal Officers have provided training to the three types of vendors respectively.

The analysis regarding the importance of personal hygiene reveals that out of 139 sample respondents in the category of mobile vendors, only 61 of them maintain the personal hygiene and the remaining do not attach much importance. In the case of semi-mobile out of 95 sample respondents, only 49 of them maintain the personal hygiene. In the case of stationary out of 66 sample respondents, only 33 of them maintain the hygienic deeds.

The study regarding the reason for the offence reveals that out of 300 sample respondents, a maximum of 202 (67.33 percent) of the respondents were fined for the use of sidewalk for vending.

The study regarding reasons for eviction shows that out of 300 sample respondents of street food vendors, a maximum of 160 (53.33 percent) of the respondents have faced eviction by police order.

The study regarding harassment and bribing shows that out of 300 sample respondents of street food vendors, a maximum of 170 (56.66 percent) of the respondents do not pay any amount for the bribery.
The study regarding age composition reveals that 50.67 percent of the consumers are in the age group of 20 – 30 years and 2.67 percent are in the age group of above 60 years.

The sex-wise classification reveals that among 300 sample consumers 94.33 percent of the consumers are males and only 5.67 percent of the consumers are females.

The distribution of consumers by marital status depicts that out of 300 sample consumers, 35.67 percent are unmarried, 41 percent are married, 16.66 percent are widows and 6.67 percent are widowers.

The study of consumers by their level of education reveals that on the whole out of the 300 sample consumers, 12.67 percent do not have formal schooling education (illiterate), 12.33 percent have elementary education, 17.67 percent have high school education, 21 percent higher secondary education, 6 percent have completed college course, 22.33 percent are graduates, 1.33 percent have vocational education, 4.67 are technical graduates, and 2 percent are self-employed.

The analysis regarding different types of consumers availing street food only 19.62 percent of consumers are regular customers, 18.11 percent are workers, 14.69 percent of them are students, 13.38 percent of the respondents are travellers, 12.68 percent are visitors, 12.37 percent are
families, 6.84 percent are tourists and 2.31 percent are retired persons. Out of the 994 consumers most of the consumers are regular customers and workers.

The study regarding frequency to buy street food shows that most of the consumers (64 percent) buy and consume street food daily and a very small percentage (5 percent) once a month. 24 percent of the consumers buy and consume street food on a weekly basis and 7 percent of the consumers eat street food at least once in a while.

The study of choice of time to consume the street food shows that 51.33 percent of the consumers who eat street food consume it in the evenings, 26.67 percent of the consumers in the afternoons. It could be seen that about 78 percent of them consume street food during their lunch and evening dinner. Only 15.33 percent of the consumers avail food during nights.

The study regarding different categories of street food vendors reveals that 56.33 percent of the consumers surveyed were consuming food sold by stationary vendors, 33.33 percent from semi-vendors and 10.34 percent from mobile vendors. It should be inferred from the above analysis that most of the sample consumers buy/eat food sold by stationary street food vendors.

The study regarding various locations to buy or consume the street foods shows that 32.33 percent of the consumers buy food from vendors
in front of establishments like bus stands or railway stations. 14.33 percent of in front of shopping complex, 10 percent in front of market, 7 percent in front of school, 6.67 percent other places, 5 percent in front of worship, 4.67 percent in front of hospitals, 3.33 percent in front of park or exhibition, and 2.67 percent in front of restaurant.

The analysis regarding reason for interest to buy from women vendors shows that most of the consumers prefer to buy from women vendors. The reasons they give are that 40 percent of consumers feel women are cleaner, 36 percent feel that their service is motherly, 7.33 percent feel the atmosphere is homely and 16.67 percent of consumers have other reasons.

The analysis regarding type of street food consumed reveals that the street food consumers buy and consume several varieties of fruits. The study shows that a majority of the consumers buy and consume pineapples and banana.

Among those who go for cool drinks, a majority of the consumers buy sambath from street food vendors. Consumers who go for boiled food the study reveals that a majority of the consumers buy sundal from the street food vendors.

Among the consumers, 207 persons buy deep fried foods like vadai/bonda, 205 buy/consume bajji, 35.26 percent of consumers buy or
consume vadai or bonda. 50 percent of the consumers buy grilled foods such as chicken, 21.6 percent corn.

Among those consumers interested in buying sandwich, out of the 60 consumers 36.67 percent buy egg sandwich, 23.33 percent egg-dosai, 16.67 percent chicken and cheese, 11.66 percent pizza, 6.67 percent others and 5 percent bread with jam or butter. As for as native cakes are concerned a majority of the consumers prefer to buy idly and dosai.

Consumers who buy dry finger food items, the study reveals that a majority of the consumers prefer to buy puri from the dry finger foods.

Those who go for cooked dishes, a majority of the consumers buy chicken and omlett. Most of the consumers prefer to buy tea or coffee and soup.

The study regarding reason for eating street foods shows that 37.33 percent consumers felt the items were cheap 28.33 percent felt street foods were tasty, 10 percent felt they had fast services, and 7.33 percent felt it was easily accessible.

The analysis regarding facilities to consume the street food shows that out of the 300 consumers 11.67 percent of consumers said that the vendors covered the food to be sold, 62.33 percent of consumers responded that there were facilities for hand washing.

The study regarding street foods and cleanliness shows that 82
percent of the consumers were satisfied with the vending area, 9.33 percent were fully satisfied, 4 percent were unsatisfactory, and 4.67 percent were very unsatisfactory.

The study regarding the food is safe to eat shows that 20 percent felt that there were no objectionable taste, 14 percent felt they were served well, 13 percent said that there were no objectionable colour, 6.67 percent no unnatural odour or smell, and 6 percent felt the packing was good.

The analysis regarding consumer opinion about street food vending reveals that 35 percent of the consumers said that it was important that the vendors served only fresh and tasty food. 25 percent of the consumers said that the reason for choosing street food were the quick service and immediate satisfaction of hunger. 16.66 percent of the consumers chose street food because of the cost (affordability) factor.

The analysis regarding health problems after consuming street food shows that 48.33 percent of the consumers felt that they did not have any health problems, 16.67 percent suffered from food poisoning, 10 percent from diarrhoea, 8.33 percent from vomiting.

The study regarding awareness on street food policies reveals that a majority of the consumers are aware of the role of the municipalities regarding street food policies.

The study regarding level of satisfaction and factors influencing
the satisfaction of consumers reveals that the majority of the consumers of street food vending have medium level satisfaction (69 percent) followed by high level satisfaction (17.33 percent) and low level of satisfaction (13.67 percent).

An attempt has been made to understand the factors which influence the satisfaction of consumers such as age, sex, marital status, education, type of consumer, frequency of buying.

It may be concluded that there is no relationship between age and level of satisfaction of the consumer that there is a relationship between sex and level of satisfaction of the consumer. It may also be concluded that marital status is independent of level of satisfaction and also that there is no relationship between education and levels of satisfaction. Again it may be concluded that the type of consumer is independent of their levels of satisfaction that the frequency of buying is independent of levels of satisfaction and finally that the level of satisfaction is independent of the time of visit.

7.2 Suggestions

1. Street food vendors should not be seen as a nuisance and hindrance in the platforms, pavements, side walls and road traffic. Convenient unhindering spots with or without cover should be set aside on road
margins and officially and legally rented out to the street vendors to avoid any type of harassment to them.

2. Street food vendors need to be educated and drilled in the safe practices of cooking and preparing food, protecting them from dust and contamination, flea profiting and the like.

3. They must be made aware of all the laws, rules and regulations on food safely and made to adhere to them.

4. They should be made aware of cleanliness of their premises and their environment and safe disposal of solid and liquid wastes including left over and spoiled food should be made into their prime concern.

5. Street food vendors are forced to borrow from loan sharks at exorbitant interest rate. This eats away a good part of their meagre profits. Safe loans at nominal interest rates will be of great advantage to them.

6. A co-operative venture on the lines of the self help groups could help them. NGOs need to acts as catalysts in this laudable effort.

7. Adequate measures should be taken by the authorities concerned and improve the knowledge of the food vendors regarding existing food handling practices.

8. The lending policies and procedures of credit institutions should be streamlined so as to give adequate and timely credit to street food
vendors. The procedures should be so designed that food vendors
should get the loan in proper time with least difficulty.

9. For improving the safety of street food based upon studies of the local
street food system the following consideration are imperative:
   a) Policy, regulations, registration and licenses;
   b) Infrastructure, services and vending unit design and
      construction;
   c) Training of food handlers and
   d) Education of consumers.

10. Awareness needs to be created among the vendors to let them know
    that they can avail credit facilities to carry their business.

11. The Ministry of labour is administering five welfare funds for beedi,
cine and certain categories of non-coal mine workers. The funds are
    financed out of the proceeds of cess levied under respective cess. This
    facility should be extended to street food vendors.

7.3 Conclusion

   Street food vending and street food vendors are unalienable
   integral part of the society and are interdependent. Not withstanding minor
drawbacks in hygiene cleanliness and upkeep the consumers of all classes are
willing to patronize the street food vendors for the affordable tasty and
homely food items and snack items. With the modern day hotels and
restaurants abandoning the traditional, cultural and heritage Indian dishes in favour of western dishes like thandoori it is the street food vendors who preserve and protect the traditional and cultural heritage Tamil Nadu dishes like Kulai puttu, Kuzhi paniyaram, Idiappam and the like. Street food vendors are a great force in keeping the cost of food items in check. Big hotels and restaurants are forced to limit the prices of their items lest they may lose their business to the street food vendors. As the saviours of the lower rung of poor consumers street food vending must be looked upon with kindness and compassion and deserve to be helped in every way.