

Dynamics of Street vending Phenomenon in the Kisumu Municipality, Kenya

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Abstract

Street vending is the sub-sector of informal businesses that operate in urban spaces meant for other uses. It was believed that street vending would be absorbed by modern sector with time but instead it has grown to providing alternative jobs to a large urban population who cannot get formal employment. People migrating to urban centres, school leavers and retrenched workers find work in street vending. Vendors provide goods and services cheaply and conveniently to the urban population. Its ability to expand and offer employment was recognized in 1970 when developing countries were experiencing low rate of economic growth and increased unemployment. Integration of street vending activities in urban land use is affected by negative perception of local authorities. However, there is still little research on how street vending can be integrated in urban plans. Against this back drop, this study assessed dynamics of street vending in phenomenon in Kisumu Municipality. The objectives of the study were to: examine the nature and patterns of street vending activities. Study population constituted street vendors in the central business district, customers buying from street vendors and Kisumu Municipality administrators. Purposive sampling was used to sample Kisumu Municipality administrators. A multistage sampling technique was used to select the owner of the street vending enterprise to respond to questionnaires. Customers who participated in the study were introduced by street vendors who responded to questionnaire. Content analysis was used to analysis qualitative data from focus group discussion and interviews through creating themes, categories and patterns. Quantitative data was analyzed using percentages, multinomial logistic regression and Pearson Chi square (χ^2). Street vendors were found to sell food, personal items, household items, household suppliers, hardware items and services at comparatively cheaper price and conveniently to the customers. Street vendors were found to operate from Monday to Sunday while Saturday and Sunday records the highest number of street vendors. The peak periods for street vending

were between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. The vendors were found to station themselves on pavements, near a bank and business premises, hospital, parks and any open space with high pedestrian traffic when selling. Vendors were found to sell different products at different locations. The locations that street vendors took up were influenced by attractiveness, accessibility, number of customers, competitors, allocation by municipality and original site where vendor started. The study concludes that street vendors identify the locations where they vend on their own without any guideline. The sites taken at random by vendors make the pattern of street vending look haphazard within the urban built environment. This makes Local Authorities view street vending as disorganized activity giving bad image to the town. The main study recommendation is that there is need to guide planning of street vending to integrate them in urban land use.

Keywords: Livelihood; Street vending; urban space; Informal and Formal sectors; Municipality.

1.0 Introduction

The developing countries are experiencing unsustainable urban development as more people move to cities where opportunities for livelihood are limited. Consequently, poverty incidences are high resulting in a large increase in the number of urban poor (UNCHS, 2004). The poverty in urban areas have made people to turn to the urban informal for their livelihoods. The increases in urban population coupled with decline in economic growth in most countries have resulted in rapid growth of informal employment. Permanent jobs in the formal sector have been noted to be shrinking hence even those having requisite skills are unable to find proper employment (Muiruri, 2010). This has led to a rapid growth of informal sector that has been accompanied by dramatic increase in street trading. Street vending represents a significant share of the urban informal sector in the developing world.

For the urban poor, street vending is one of the means of earning a livelihood, as it requires minor financial input and the skills involved are low. A large section of street vendors in urban areas are those with low skills and who have migrated to the large cities from rural areas in search of employment. These people take to streets when they do not find other means of livelihood (ILO, 2002). Street vending is an income generating activity where individuals sell their wares along streets and sidewalks to passing pedestrians and motorists. Street vendors are generally defined as informal traders who sell goods or services outside of any enclosed premises or covered work places. Street vending provides employment and income to a significant percentage of people who make a contribution to urban life through providing goods and services and by generating employment (Charmes, 2005).

The concentrations of street vending activities continuously rise in parks, streets and bus terminals. This has resulted in huge demand for new suitable worksites in urban spaces to cope with rising number of job seekers in Kisumu Municipality. The vendors have occupied most streets in the CBD, taking up any available urban space for trade. Local Authorities view the move of street vendors to occupy all the spaces meant for other uses as distorting the urban plans, they are meant to protect. In most situations they use their legal mandate to ensure the urban spaces are used according to plan. They give notices of the streets, the vendors are not supposed to operate in. Failure to heed these orders lead to forced eviction, confiscation of merchandise and arrest. In view of high unemployment in Kisumu, street vendors' are determined to use urban spaces to earn income while KMC authorities have a legal mandate to ensure that the urban spaces are used for planned purposes to maintain the image of clean and modern town. The two groups, street vendors and KMC authorities feel they have a valid reason to control the use of urban spaces. None of the two groups seems ready to give in for the other on how

the urban space should be used. There is a competition for urban space use between street vending activities and planned uses.

1.1 Street vending and Local Authorities

The greatest challenge facing street vendors is with regard to site of operation and right to trading space. Traders settle in streets spontaneously without any official allocation. Most of the spaces the traders occupy have no tenure, and are not allocated and sanctioned by urban authorities, hence they are considered illegal. Street vendors are seen to occupy public spaces, and disturb order in public spaces. In most cases street vendors jostle for sites close to transport and commuter nodes. The response of city authorities may range from outright prohibition of street vending to regulated and negotiated use (Bhowmik, 2005).

Harassment, confiscation of goods, imposition of fines, physical assault and time spent in court are some of the problems street vendors face in the process of their operations. In cases where they are allowed to operate, the spaces are considered temporary and eviction occurs at the will of urban authorities. In spite of the important role of street vendors in an urban economy, they are viewed as a problem for urban governance (Cross, 2000). Rupkamdee et al (2005) reported that policy makers blame street vendors for dirty state of the city, pedestrian and traffic obstruction in the streets. In several cases (most notably, Lima, Mexico City, Caracas, and Bogotá), the proliferation of street vending created intolerable conditions of pedestrian congestion, trash accumulation, noise, and other problems in the mid-1990s (Roever, 2006).

Drakakis-Smith (1987) points out that informal sectors activities whether street traders or informal builders had long been anathema to western planners and advisors to city administrators for instance, in Cali, Columbia, the urban authorities consider hawkers to be a nuisance making the city look untidy and ugly by their presence, causing traffic congestion, dropping litter, molesting passer-bys, depriving law abiding and paying shops of trade and spreading diseases by physical contact and the sale of contaminated or rotting food (Roever, 2006). Similar negative attitudes were prevalent in the mindset of officials in many parts of developing countries in Asia and Africa.

1.2 Socio-Economic significance of street vending

In Africa, street vending has operated outside the mainstream economic development, falls within the informal economic activities. In view of the difficult economic situation that has faced Africa with reduced external support and increasing levels of poverty, many countries have begun considering the sector as one of the channels of fostering the growth and equitable development. Bayat (1997) argued that vending represents people's quest for progress and a search for socio-economic success. The street vendors, most of whom are recent rural-urban immigrants are motivated by higher expectations to partake in the promises of a better life. Cities are deemed as places where opportunities for self-fulfillment are in abundance. Street vending is one self-fulfillment especially for poor men and women struggling for survival. As occupation, the street vendors attach great value to the streets, referring to the spaces they operate on as offices.

Mutullah (2003) pointed out that street vending attracts those who have limited opportunities for obtaining formal employment and it minimizes chances of social exclusion and marginalization. A number of entrepreneurs have entered the trade as an option, especially since the beginning of the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) that resulted in the retrenchment of civil servants across Africa.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study was;

To examine the nature and patterns of street vending activities within Kisumu Municipality

2.0 Methodology

The study population consisted of street vendors occupying urban spaces along the streets, parks and bus-stop, customers who buy from street vendors and Local Authority officials. The study population comprised of 2146 street vendors who operate in the Kisumu Municipality (KMC, 2010). Bus-stop, Oile market, Kenyatta Highway, Oginga Odinga Street, Ojino Okewi, Ang'awa, Miriu, Nyamlori and Otieno Oyoo were chosen for study because they record the highest concentration of street vendors Kisumu Municipality. The Mayor, Town clerk, Town Treasurer and Town Planners views were sought on the patterns and nature of street vending..

2.1 Sampling procedure for quantitative survey

During the quantitative survey, an initial sample size of 405 street enterprises was considered appropriate to participate in the study (N=2146), allowing for a 20% non-response rate and incompletely filled questionnaires (approximately 68 people). This sample size was obtained from Israel's (1992) published statistical table (see appendix VI). Use of published tables is recommended for determining the size from a given approximate population (Creswell, 2003). From the table, for an approximate research population of 2,000 units, data must be collected from a minimum of 337 subjects in order for the sample size to be within ± 0.05 level of precision at 95% confidence level. Thus, the sample size of 405 was obtained by adding the recommended sample size from the published table (337 respondents) and an allowable non-response rate & incompletely filled questionnaires 20% of this sample (68 respondents).

Multi-stage sampling method was employed to (1) choose the areas for study, (2) get the equity of members from each group who were to participate in the survey and (3) determine the illegible owner of business units that participated in the survey. The owners of street vending enterprises were the unit of analysis in this quantitative study. The first sampling stage areas with the highest vending activities were purposively selected for study. Secondly, each area had its members organized into groups whose names are listed. Equity was used to determine the number of respondents to participate in the research from each group. Thirdly, to determine the illegible owner of business units that participated in the survey simple random sampling was used.

2.2 Sampling strategy for the qualitative inquiry

Those who participated in qualitative inquiry were purposively selected based on the grounded theoretical sampling and availability (Bowen, 2005; Charmaz, 2006). The goal of theoretical sampling is to enable the researcher to seek out individuals who are to help answer the research questions and thus, offer the best chances for creating solid theory (Strauss and Corbin, 1990). The participants were, therefore, chosen from the existing groups. The researcher requested the leaders of each group to attend the focus group discussions (FGDs) for the street cluster. For big clusters like Oile market, 12 leaders mainly chairperson and secretary of each group were recruited for FGD while smaller street cluster like Miriu all the officials and a few members included in FGD. For the discussion to yield fruitful results those included in FGDs were six to twelve members which was considered appropriate (Dick, 2005). A total of 9 FGDs were held.

To gain perception of customers after administration of questionnaires, the researcher requested street vendors who responded to the questionnaires to introduce the researcher to their regular customers for the interview. Eighty-four (84) interviews were carried out but sixty-four (64) were used for analysis since the data collected after sixty-fourth interview recorded repetition of what had been collected earlier. Gender was considered when choosing the customer to interviewed, 53 female customers were interviewed against 31 males. In qualitative data collection concentration is reached when the collection of new data does not shed any further light on the issue under investigation (Glaser & Strauss, 1967).

The Mayor, Town Clerk, Director of Planning, and Town Treasurer were involved in in-depth interviews. The key informants were selected by the researcher, mainly for their knowledge and ability to shed light on a wide range of issues affecting vending activities in CBD.

2.3 Data collection methods.

The study employed different methods of data collection. Structured questionnaires, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were used in the study.

2.3.1 Structured questionnaire

One of the tools used to generate primary data was structured questionnaire. It was administered to all sampled street vendors operating in the streets selected for this study, to obtain their opinion on issues affecting street vending.

2.3.2 Focus Group Discussions

In each street, separate FGD was held with leaders of each group in the street cluster. Focus group consisting of between 6-12 members considered suitable for qualitative research founded on the grounded theory (Dick, 2005). In this study, FGDs were made up of between 6-10 participants per session. The participants included the chairperson and secretary, treasurer and other incorporated members of the group. Gender was considered when constituting FGDs. The FGD guide was developed and comprised of a set of open-ended questions aimed at eliciting explanations on a wide range of issue pertaining to effects of street vending on the use of urban spaces. The FGD guide covered effects of street vending on the use of urban space. A research assistant took detailed notes during FGDs.

The proceedings of the sessions were recorded using a tape recorder in addition to notes taken by moderator and the Research assistant.

2.3.3 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were used to collect data from the Mayor, Town Clerk, Director of Planning, and Town Treasurer. They were chosen on basis that their work which in one way or the other relates to street vending. The interviews with these administrators of Kisumu Municipal Council, explored their views on the factors affecting street vending.

2.3.4 Customers interviews

The customers of street vendors who participated in interviews were introduced to researcher by street vendors who responded to questionnaires. Customers were asked to give their views on street vending regarding the presence of vendors on streets and their perception concerning integrating street vendors in the urban land use.

2.4 Data Analysis Methods

This study used data triangulation, which involve different method of data collection as well as data analysis (Croswell, 2003). This allowed researcher to exhaustively answer research question as required. The procedures for analyzing quantitative and qualitative data are described respectively.

2.4.1 Quantitative data analysis

The data collected from questionnaires were analyzed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16.0 for Windows (SPSS Inc., 2007). Data from the questionnaires were assigned codes that describe the various variables tested in the field. A dictionary of codes used was created before data was entered in the SPSS. The variables that required descriptive analysis such as frequencies percentages, means and chi square were derived from the SPSS.

2.4.2 Qualitative data analysis

The data from the proceedings of each FGD was transcribed into a sheet. The similar themes were identified.

3.0 Findings

3.1 Nature of street vending.

The aim was to know the types of goods and/or services street vendors are selling, whether license is paid, products or services comparative prices, value of vending enterprise, income per day and customers served to inform planning to integrate of street vending in urban plans.

The study found that street vendors sell food, personal items, household equipment, household supplies, hardware items and services. The food was being sold in all the areas studied. Some items were mostly found in one cluster areas than in other areas. Shoes were mainly sold at Miriu and Oginga Odinga streets. Household suppliers were sold at Oile, Bus-stop, Oginga Odinga and Ang'awa streets. Hardware materials were sold at Nyamlori, Otieno Oyoo, Oile and Bus-stop.

The prices of services and products sold by street vendors were priced lower than supermarkets and other formal businesses. The fruits and vegetables they sell were fresh. This makes vendors to attract large number of customers to buy their goods and services.

The study also found that vendors pay the license but they are not allowed to have vending sites permanently. The Kisumu Municipality by-laws spells that vending is allowed upon payment of prescribe fee but the General Nuisance By-law overrides this provision and can be used to declare street vending a public nuisance therefore illegal. The study found that the by-laws give and remove the legitimacy to vend.

Capital investments for street vending businesses were comparatively lower than investments in other businesses. This makes street vending easy for people with little capital to join. The study revealed that the income obtained by street vendors was fairly high above the poverty line established by World Bank of \$1 per day. The results on customers indicated that the low, middle and high income groups in Kisumu buy items sold by street vendors. Low income group was found to buy most of the items they need from street vendors. The customers noted that the items sold by street vendors were available at convenient points and cheap.

The findings infer that the poor urban population finds it easy to join street vending because it requires little capital to start and operate. It earns them income that is better than people working in other sectors. Street vendors have customers from all income groups but their services are not recognized by Local Authority. This means that street vending consists of unemployed people who are innovative and can create their jobs through selling to the urban population the services and products they need. Street vendors pay license fee but they are not guaranteed a permanent vending sites. Street vendors were ready to pay for their license to take street vending as a way of life. Street vending being an equal offer of job opportunity whose members abide by requirement to do business and providing vital services to urban population. For this reason there is need to recognize their role and integrated into urban land use. The by-laws give and remove the legitimacy to vend should be harmonized to allow street vending.

Understanding the nature of street vending activities is important in informing planners how to integrate street vending activities to co-exist with other planned activities in the central business district. It also brings out the vending activities that can be grouped together and reasons why street vending persist in urban spaces.

3.2 Patterns of street vending

The temporal patterns of street vending indicate that Saturday and Sunday are the days when most street vendors make heavy use of urban spaces compared other days of the week. The vending activities were also found to be at peak between 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. Street vendors providing services were found to work from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and vegetable vendors come up by 4.00 p.m. till 8.00 p.m. Those who sell processed food take positions of selling from 12.00 up to 3.00 p.m. This means on the

same urban space processed food can be sold from 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m. then the vegetable vendors start using the place from 4.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. This implies that street vendors may not require a big space for their street trade.

The flexibility of street vending in terms of day and time make it attractive to both men and women in the urban center. The women can do their domestic roles and report to work at peak time while the men who missed to find jobs in the formal sector can still vend in the streets.

The spatial patterns show that street vendors station themselves in pavements, near banks, business premises or District hospital. The vendors also station themselves close to the sources where they obtain the goods they sell. Other vendors were found to change selling sites while others sell different products in different sites. This means that vendors respond to the patterns of demand for their products and services by taking sites that make net maximum sales. This result reveals clearly that there is a significant relationship between the location and the level of patronage as by the larger proportion of respondents. Pavement attracts high pedestrian flows there is more attractive than other locations.

The findings also reveal that street vendors identify the locations where they vend on their own without any guideline. The sites taken at random by vendors make the pattern of street vending look haphazard within the urban built environment. This make Local Authorities view street vending as disorganized activity giving bad image to the town.

3.4 Street vending as a livelihood

The study revealed that about half (51.6%) of the respondents are not willing to take street vending as a way of life but they take it to earn a living. The respondents further stated if there are other job opportunities they would not chose street vending. Demographic factors such as sex, education and residence were found significantly associated with taking street vending as a way of life. This means that the female respondents are more likely to join street vending than male counterparts. Those who have primary education or below are more likely to join street vending as a way of life compared to those who have secondary and above. The people living in low class areas of Nyalenda where poor urban population reside are more likely to take street vending as a way of life than those in the upper class of Milimani.

The implications of these findings are that sex, level of education and area of residence are factors that influence people to join street vending. The people who have low education especially women can only get employment in street vending and not other sectors. The large population of the urban poor residing in low class areas can also derive their income from street ending.

It can be concluded that the presence women, people with low level of education and those who reside in low income residential areas in urban centers derive livelihood from street vending. Integrating street vending in urban land use is the only way to ensure that this group of people is assured of employment and income.

3.5 Factors determining location of street vendors in the CBD

The locations street vendors position themselves explain why some urban spaces are more competitive than others. It also brings out why street vending activities are concentrated in the CBD as oppose to peri-urban. The location factors explain why it easier unemployed person to start a vending enterprise in CBD and succeed compared to per-urban. This means CBD create sites for business that could provide the much need jobs for urban unemployed. The information generated when exploring location factors is importance for planners when integrating street vending into urban plans to mitigate unemployment in the urban environment.

The researcher explored the reasons why street vendors took up certain locations in the CBD. The respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the statements that specified possible reasons why

vendors may have chosen to vend in a particular location. The factors that examined were; attractiveness, accessibility, number of customers, competitors, allocation and place of origin of vending business.

3.5.1 Attractiveness of location

Vendors were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree that the site occupied is the best location for attracting customers, 45.7% disagreed with the statement, 51.3% agreed and 2.9% neutral. Most of vendors view the sites where they vend as the most attractive to carry out vending. The sites such as streets, market, parks and bus-stop are considered by vendors as the most attractive sites for street trade. These sites provide most employment to unemployed urban population inform of street vending.

The opinion on whether where the vendor was found is the best location for vending was further associated with taking street vending as a way of life. Pearson's chi square was employed and results are reported in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Attractiveness and decision to take vending as a way of life

<i>This site is the best location to attract customers</i>	Take street vending as a way of life			Total	χ^2 value	p value
	Yes	No	Not sure			
Agree	103(59.5%)	85(43.6%)	6(60.0%)	194(51.3%)		
Disagree	65(37.6%)	104(53.3%)	4(40.0%)	173(45.8%)	10.05	.040
Neutral	5(2.9%)	6(3.1%)	0(.0%)	11(2.9%)		
Total	173(100%)	195(100%)	10(100%)	378(100%)		

df=4

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The chi square results presented in Table 3.1 revealed that the belief that the location where the vendor occupy is the best location was significantly associated with taking vending as a way of life ($\chi^2=10.054$; df=4; p=.040). This suggests that those who take vending as a way of life occupy streets, parks or bus-stop as their best sites to attract customers. The vendors position themselves in locations that induce impulse buying and convenience to buyers. Streets, market, parks and bus-tops sites will continue to attract many vendors. Hurley and Trimarco, (2008) observed that the large number of people who visit bombing site of World Trade Centre at Ground zero in New York City attract many street vendors. The vendors view the large crowd at site of bombing of World Trade Centre on September 11th 2001 as a market that has willing buyers. Mutullah, (2003) reported vendors station themselves in parks, pavements, schools, churches and at prominent corners of streets where the vendors are visible to pedestrians and motorists.

3.5.2 Accessibility

The respondents 56.7% agreed that they make choices on sites to occupy based on accessibility by customers while 41% disagreed with the statement and 2.4 % remained neutral. The findings indicate that 56.7% choose the site of trade based on ease of access. This means that areas which have easy access will continue to be invaded by street vendors. The streets indentified to have easily accessed by pedestrians were Kenyatta Highway, Ang'awa and Oginga Odinga streets.

This result was examined further to ascertain how taking street vending as a way of life associate with the view of respondents that the location is easily access by customers from other streets. To achieve this, Pearson's chi square test was used. Descriptive report, χ^2 results and significance level are given in the Table 4.18.

Table 3.2: Accessibility and vending as a way of life

<i>The location is easily accessed by customers</i>	Taking street vending as way of life			Total	χ^2 value	p value
	Yes	No	Not sure			
Agree	111(64.2%)	97(49.7%)	6(60.0%)	214(56.6%)	14.85	.005
Disagree	56(32.4%)	96(49.2%)	3(30.0%)	155(41.0%)		
Neutral	6(3.5%)	2(1.0%)	1(10.0%)	9(2.4%)		
Total	173(100%)	195(100%)	10(100%)	378(100%)		

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The chi square results presented in table 4.18 revealed that location is easily access by customers significantly associated with taking vending as a way of life ($\chi^2= 14.85$; $df=4$; $p= .005$). The results suggest that streets which are easily accessed by customers influence decision of vendors to take vending as a way of life. The goods sold in these sites move fast encouraging people to continue with the activity. Juan (2006) found out that the best location for street trade is influenced by access roads which are in agreement with this finding.

3.5.3 Number of customers

The results show that 51.9% of respondents agreed that vendors located themselves in sites where they got comparatively large number of customers, 46.1% disagreed with statement and 2.1% took a neutral position. This study found that 51.9% of the respondents' base their location decision on the number of customers found in that location. Places such as Oile market and Bus-stage which receive large numbers of customers are likely to be the target or street vendors.

Pearson's chi square was employed to further examine the willingness to continue vending throughout life associated with taking a site with comparatively large number of customers. The results are reported in the Table 3.4.

Table 3.4: Number of customers and Vending as a way of life

<i>Number of customers</i>	Taking street vending as a way of life			Total	χ^2 value	p value
	Yes	No	Not sure			
Agree	101(58.4%)	89(45.6%)	6(60.0%)	196(51.9%)	12.35	.015
Disagree	67(38.7%)	104(53.3%)	3(30.0%)	174(46.0%)		
Neutral	5(2.9%)	2(1.0%)	1(10.0%)	8(2.1%)		
Total	173(100%)	195(100%)	10(100%)	378(100%)		

$df=4$

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The chi square presented in the Table 3.4 revealed that the location with large number of customers significantly associated with continue to vend throughout life of a vendor ($\chi^2=12.35$; $df=4$; $p=.015$). This suggests that the decision of vendors to take up a location is influence the customers they are likely to receive. The location with high number of customers is a predictor of locations vendors would take up. Bromley (2000) reported that vendors take strategic points with heavy human traffic along main streets and roads. Kyoko and Nirathron (2006) noted that the major reason for selection of a vending site is proximity to customers. Yankson (2000) stated that street vendor's only crowded at strategic points with heavy human traffic which provide ready market for their products. This, therefore, assures street vendors of continued survival in this trade.

3.5.4 Number of competitors

The study revealed that 61.9% respondents agreed that they chose sites that have low number of competitors, 36.2% disagree that sites they located themselves have low numbers of competitors and 1.9% were neutral on this issue. 61.9% of the respondents indicated that the choice of their location is influenced the number of competitors. This implies that street vendors will continue to invade empty urban spaces when competition increases in other areas. Ojino Okewi and Otieno Oyoo Road were areas where the vendors indicated they moved to avoid competition with other vendors.

To further examine how willingness to continue vending throughout life of a vendor associated with a vendor taking up location with low number of competitors, Pearson's chi square was employed. The results are reported in Table 3.5

Table 3.5: Numbers of competitors and Vending as a way of life

Low number of competitors	Vending as a way of life			Total	χ^2 value	p value
	Yes	No	Not sure			
Agree	116(67.1%)	111(56.9%)	7(70.0%)	234(61.9%)	10.58	.032
Disagree	51(29.5%)	83(42.6%)	3(30.0%)	137(36.2%)		
Neutral	6(3.5%)	1(.5%)	0(.0%)	7(1.9%)		
Total	173(100%)	195(100%)	10(100%)	378(100%)		

$df=4$

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The chi square results presented in the Table 3.5, revealed that there was significant association between a vendor taking up a site with low number of competitors and opinion on taking street vending as a way of life ($\chi^2=10.58$; $df=4$; $p=.032$). This suggests that the site having low number of competitors in the CBD encourage vendors to take street vendors as a way of life. Nirathron (2006) reported that street vendors consider appropriate selling location as one of the important success factors to their trade.

3.5.5 Temporary occupation

The results shows that 61.1% agreed that Municipality Authority allows vendors to operate temporarily, 36.7% disagreed with statement and 2.1% were neutral on the issue. Most respondents (61.1%) reported that their decision to occupy the sites they are using as vending sites was because of temporary allocation by Municipality Council. Nyamlori Street was temporary allocated to street vendors.

It was of interest to examine further taking street vending as a way of life associated with temporary allocation. To achieve this, Pearson's chi square test was used. Results are presented in Table 3.6

Table 3.6: Temporary allocation and vending as a way of life

<i>Temporary allocation</i>	Vending as a way of life			Total	χ^2 value	p value
	Yes	No	Not sure			
Agree	118(68.2%)	105(53.8%)	8(80.0%)	231(61.1%)	11.64	.020
Disagree	50(28.9%)	87(44.6%)	2(20.0%)	139(36.8%)		
Neutral	5(2.9%)	3(1.5%)	0(.0%)	8(2.1%)		
Total	173(100%)	195(100%)	10(100%)	378(100%)		

df=4

Source: Field Survey, 2011

As shown in Table 3.6, results of Pearson's chi square tests for association revealed that the view of respondents on being allowed to operate in the sites temporarily was significantly associated with decision to take street vending as a way of life ($\chi^2=11.58$; $df=4$; $p=.020$). This suggests that allowing vendors to operate temporarily in particular sites allow street vendors to continue with their work. Stren (2004) reported that there are a lot of restrictions in urban spaces that make vending illegal because they believe street vending is responsible for traffic obstruction, piles of waste material in the urban space and spread of diseases through food vending. The Public Health Act in some countries forbade anyone from selling things on footpaths, public roads, and public pathways. Vendors are allowed to sell on the streets only when they receive permission from authorized officials (Browmik, 2005). This means that street vendors can take sites given them by local authorities.

3.5.6 Original site

Of the respondents, 57.1% agreed that they occupy the sites where they originally started vending in, 40.2% disagreed with the statement while 2.6% were neutral. This study revealed that the location of 57.1% of respondent is influence by the original site they first started vending. Majority street vendors in the Bus-stop and Oginga Odinga street stated they locate themselves in these areas because they first started vending here. Inferential analysis using Pearson's chi square was employed to further examine how willingness to continue working as a vendor throughout life associate with the perception that vendors locate themselves in sites they originally started vending. Table 3.7, presents these results.

Table 3.7: Original site and vending as a way of life

<i>Original site</i>	Vending as a way of life			Total	χ^2 value	p value
	Yes	No	Not sure			
Agree	51(29.5%)	63(32.3%)	7(70.0%)	121(32.0%)	16.07	.003
Disagree	114(65.9%)	131(67.2%)	2(20.0%)	247(65.3%)		
Neutral	8(4.6%)	1(.5%)	1(10.0%)	10(2.6%)		
Total	173(100%)	195(100%)	10(100%)	378(100%)		

df=4

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The chi square results presented in Table 3.7, revealed that taking street vending as a way of life significantly associated with taking a site where the vendor originally started vending ($\chi^2=16.07$; $df=4$; $p=.003$). This suggests that vendors continue vending throughout their lives in sites where they first started vending. Most street vendors stated they preferred to station themselves where they first started vending activities because their customers know those places as areas where they are found. Any move that relocates them from the location destabilizes their businesses and denies them means of livelihood.

3.5.7 Proximity to suppliers

On the influence of suppliers on location, 51.9% respondents indicated they took up locations where they were because it is close to their main suppliers, 32% disagreed with the statement and 16.1% were neutral. In the FGD, some participants indicated that they locate themselves strategically to capture customers. In case a customer wants something not in stock, they would quickly get it from the supplier, sell it to the customer and pocket the difference.

To further examine how willingness to continue vending throughout life associate with street vendor's location being influenced by their main suppliers, Pearson's chi square was used. The results are reported in Table 3.8.

Table 3.8: Proximity to suppliers and Vending as a way of life

<i>Locate in proximity to suppliers</i>	Vending as a way of life			Total	χ^2 Value	P Value
	Yes	No	Not sure			
Agree	80(66.1%)	38(31.4%)	3(2.5%)	121(100%)	12.244	0.000
Disagree	63(32.1%)	130(66.3%)	3(1.5%)	196(100%)		
Neutral	30(49.2%)	27(44.3%)	4(6.6%)	61(100%)		
Total	173(45.8%)	195(51.6%)	10(2.6%)	378(100%)		

Source: Field Survey, 2011

The chi square results presented in Table 3.8, revealed that views on street vendors locating themselves in proximity to suppliers significantly associates with the decision to continue working as street vendor throughout life ($\chi^2=12.244$; $df=4$; $p=.000$). This suggests that the location of street vendors to be close is an encouraging factor to vend as a way of life. Some street vendors who take goods on credit and pay after selling normally locate themselves close to their suppliers.

The sites that is attractive, accessible, having low competitors, temporary allocated, proximity to suppliers and original sites where vendors started street trade such as streets, market, parks and bus-stop will continue to attract large number of street vendors. The trading location is very important to the vendors and their operations require such a location that must induce impulse buying and convenience to buyers. The CBD creates a conducive environment for street vending because it provides diverse sites with large customers who are willing to buy their wares. The presence attractive, accessible, sites having low competitors and temporary allocated sites is a pull to street vendors to the CBD to tap this market. If vendors are not allowed in the streets, some street vendors would be unemployed, many street vendors and their dependents would be destitute, and some might turn to crime, rioting or revolution.

It is recommended that, street trading areas must be integrated in urban planning schemes to ensure that the activity is accommodated adequately in the urban spatial environment.

Conclusion

The study concludes that street vendors identify the locations where they vend on their own without any guideline. The sites taken at random by vendors make the pattern of street vending look haphazard within the urban built environment. This makes Local Authorities view street vending as disorganized activity giving bad image to the town.

Recommendation

1. Street vending needs to be planned spatial patterns of street vendors to reduce the amount of urban space underutilized and to organize the way vendors use the spaces available.
2. There is a need to change the negative perception of KMC authorities about street vending activities through researches that highlight the role of street vending in urban economy.

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