

# LIVELIHOODS: STREET VENDORS



*Photo credits: Rashmi Choudhary for WIEGO*

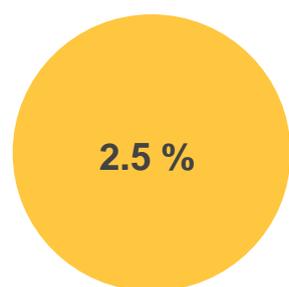
***Street vending is one of the most visible forms of urban informal employment and is an important part of our city's daily culture. But vendors are harassed and evicted in spite of a national legislation protecting their rights. Vendors demand proper recognition and access to quality vending spaces to practice their livelihood.***

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Main Bhi Dilli is a people's campaign aiming to envision and enable a more inclusive city. It is a collective of civil society organisations, activists, researchers and others who work on diverse issues of housing, livelihood, gender and other rights.

## STREET VENDORS IN THE CITY

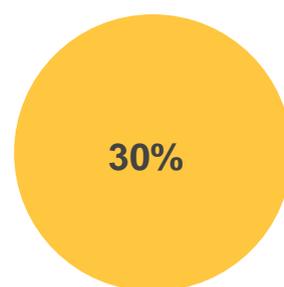
Street vending constitutes around 11% of total urban employment in India and is one of the most visible forms of informal livelihood. People get into it due to the low investment required and the ease of entry and exit. A 2012 study by the National Association of Street Vendors in India (NASVI) showed that a majority of vendors live in proximity to their vending places, and often work for around eight to twelve hours a day plus additional time for cleaning and display. They often live in low-quality informal housing where they also store and prepare their goods. Street vendors typically have very low earnings, only getting the bare minimum for survival and are often unable to accumulate any savings.



Of city population are vendors (minimum) according To SV Law)



People are vendors in Delhi



Of vendors are women

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY

Main income source for family

Create demand for other goods and services- crucial part of larger supply chains

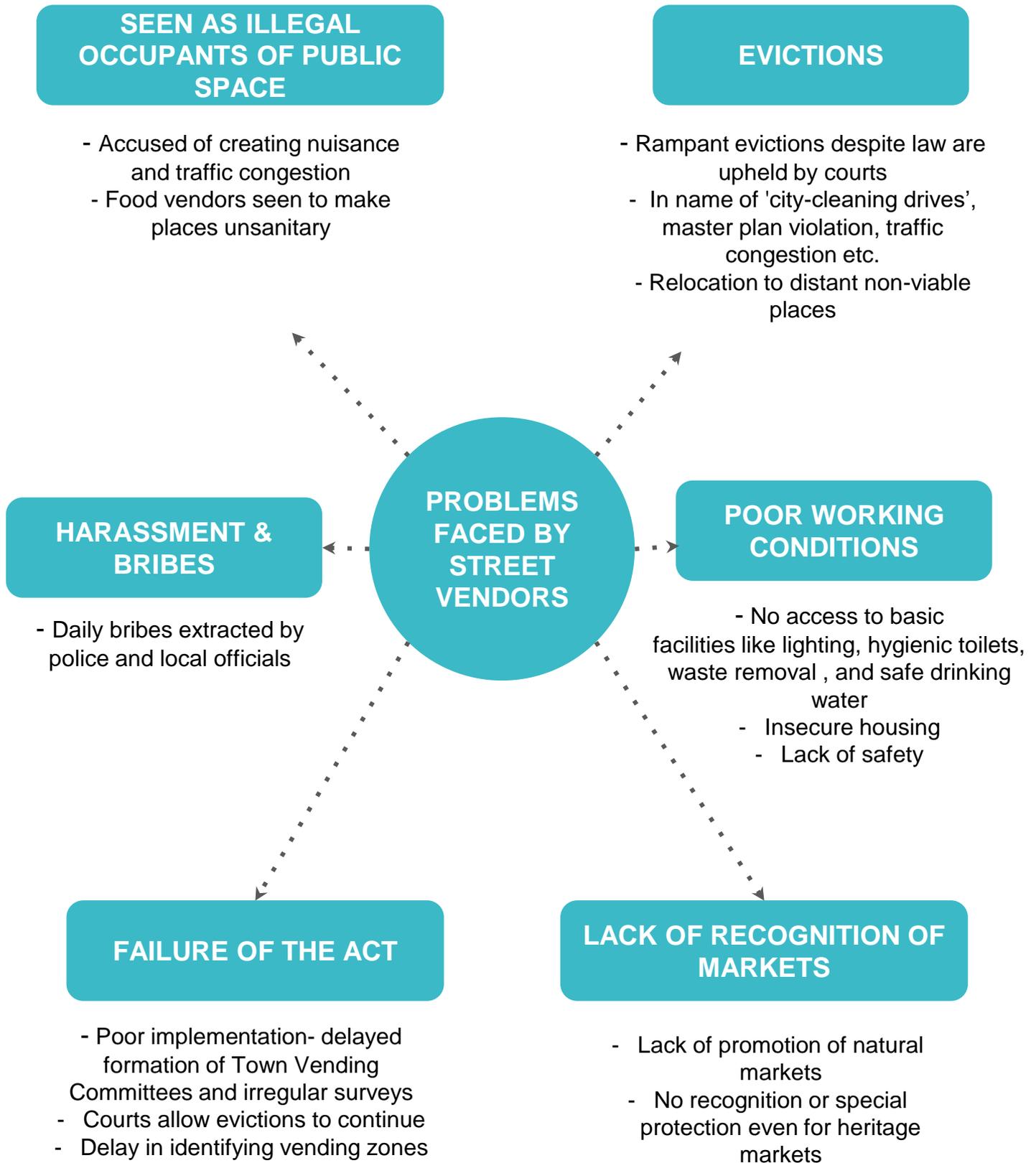
Revenue to state through taxes

Integral to social and cultural life of city- adding to safety and accessibility

Provide goods at affordable rates to the urban poor

Environment friendly through local sourcing and provision of goods and services in decentralised locations

# KEY ISSUES



# WHAT CAN MPD '41 DO FOR STREET VENDORS?

## 1 RESERVATION OF LAND

- To accommodate at least 2.5% of population who are vendors
- Minimum 6\*4 ft for stationary and 4\*4 ft for mobile vendors
- Amendment of MPD based on TVC's recommendation

## 2 INCORPORATION OF NATURAL MARKETS

- Land reserved in commercially viable areas
- Need to survey and recognise location of existing natural and weekly markets

## 3 STREET AND PAVEMENT DESIGN

- Widening of pavements under urban design norms- Gaiinda Ram judgement- 4 ft of 9 ft wide pavement for vendors, open space reduced from 5 ft to 3ft where not possible

## 4 PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES

- Adequate public conveniences like toilets, solid waste disposal, drainage etc in addition to storage facilities
- Special facilities for women vendors

## 5 DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S AND NIGHT MARKETS

- Decentralised women's markets in SEWA Mahila Haat model at neighbourhood level
- Night food markets to create accessible public space for all

## 6 MORE VENDING SPACE IN COMMERCIAL AREAS

- Opening up more vending spaces as population increases
- More numbers of informal units per formal units in the planning norms

## 7 HERITAGE MARKETS

- Should be recognised and protected as historical and cultural legacy- upgraded through service provision

## 8 FLEXIBLE LAND USE

- To facilitate environment where vending can come up based on natural demand
- No need of permanent space for seasonal and weekly markets
- Negative list of no- vending zones while leaving rest open

## 9 VENDING SPACE IN NEW URBAN FORMS

- Vending to be seen in conjunction with creating public spaces- like parks, along canals, walk paths
- Use of parking lots post office hours
- Use of spaces under flyovers, outside metro stations and parking lots- Eg- Singapore, London, California etc
- Allotment of space for vendors per built up area, in the lines of ECS

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### References:

- NASVI report- 'Overview of street-vendors-A Little History'
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- Roever, Sally and Caroline Skinner. 2016. "Street Vendors and Cities." Environment and Urbanization 28(2).
- 'Ahmedabad's Street Vendors: Realities and Recommendations' as part of Informal Economy Monitoring Study as part of Inclusive Cities project by WIEGO.
- Kumar Dharmendra and Akhtar Masaud (2015), ' Sidelined at the Sidewalk: A study on the state of street vendors in Delhi' for Janpahal.