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Socio-Economic Condition of Street Food Vendors: A Case Study of Patna Municipal Corporation Area (PMC)

• Shriya Bajaj • Arya Singh • Ishita Karmsheel
• Sister Anna A.C.

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Corresponding Author : Sister Anna A.C.

Abstract: A street food vendor is a person who offers cooked food on streets or other public places for immediate consumption. In every locality of Patna, we can see street food vendors selling ready- to- eat items, like chola batura, chat, pani-puri, chowmein, momos, egg roll etc. Street food is popular among students because it is cheap and affordable. Street food vendors contribute significantly to the informal as well as to the overall urban economy, in terms of employment and cheap availability of food and services. Even though

street food is less hygienic and less nutritious, it is preferred because it is appealing. It tastes good and is cheap in price. Despite the importance of street food and street food vending, the fact that the street food vending involves many problems is an issue to be discussed. The present conditions in which most of the street food vendors cook and sell are unsuitable. By taking advantage of poor monitoring and controls, vendors sell and prepare food in an unhygienic manner. A proper food handling training programme would save many from diseases resulting from unsafely prepared food. The other issue faced during study was vendor's vulnerable condition in the society. Unlike the formal job sector, selling food on streets does not require any prior skills. It leads to low income and an insecure work environment. Therefore, the purpose of the study was to explore the contribution of the street food vendors to the society, to observe the role of street food vendors in hygienically maintaining food, to assess the problems faced by the street food vendors, to examine the role of Patna Police and Municipal employees in the business of street food vendors, to investigate the role of government in their smooth running of the business and to know the overall socio - economic condition of the street food vendors of Patna.

Key words: Street food vendor, Economic Status, Education and illiteracy, Social status, Nutrition, Hygiene.

Shriya Bajaj

B.A. III year, Geography (Hons.), Session: 2015-2018,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Arya Singh

B.A. III year, Geography (Hons.), Session: 2015-2018,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Ishita Karmsheel

B.A. III year, Geography (Hons.), Session: 2015-2018,
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,
Bihar, India

Sister Anna A.C.

Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Geography,
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,
Patna-800 001, Bihar, India
E-mail : srannaac@gmail.com