

**YANGON UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS**  
**MASTER OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES PROGRAMME**

**A STUDY ON A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITION**  
**OF NIGHT MARKET STREET VENDOR AT HLEDAN,**  
**KAMAYUT TOWNSHIP, YANGON**

**NANG NOOM KHAM**  
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## **ABSTRACT**

The informal sector plays an important role in a country, especially in the developing countries. This study focused street vending business which is part of the informal sector and economy. It aims to examine social and economic status of street vendors in Hledan night market, to identify the driving factors of rapid increasing number of street vendors and to find out the difficulties and challenges of being in street vending business. Descriptive method is used based on both primary and secondary data. Majority of street vendor are doing in this business due to ease of entry, self-dependency, unemployment and poverty. Sixty five street vendors 33 Percent of the 192 stalls answered the questionnaire. The difficulties of the street vendors, instability and short operation time set by township YCDC were found out as challenges encountered by street vendors of the night market. As the gap between the challenges of the street vendors and the township YCDC become narrower, the street vending business will be sustainable for the long-run. Hence, YCDC should handle this difficulty as quickly as possible apart from managing rules and regulations of market operation to be stable.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

DHPT	Department of Hawkers and Petty Traders
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MPC	Marginal Product Consumption
MMK	Myanmar Kyat
NASVI	National Association of Street Vendors of India
SEA	South East Asia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USG	Urban Sector Group
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing
YCDC	Yangon City Development Committee

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Rationale of the Study**

Informal sector plays an important role in developing countries. In Asia 2005 to 2010 it was found out that 79.4% employment in the informal economy, 20.6% of informal workers outside, 35.8% of women in the informal economy, 53.3 % of self-employed in the informal economy and 41.7 % of employment in industries in the informal economy. (Charmes J, 2011). In Myanmar which is one of the developing countries in Asia, the common categories of informal work include contract workers in restaurants and hotels, sub-contracted janitors and security guards, casual day labourers in construction and agriculture, and temporary office helpers or offsite data processors, street vending, small workshops that repair bicycles and motorcycles, make furniture, stitch shoes, polish gems and sell paper and plastic waste and the garment workers. Since street vending business is considered as a part of the informal sector, it also includes women who are selling or producing goods from their homes, cigarette rollers, football or kite makers, food processors, and many others. They work without secure contracts, worker benefits, or social protection.

The reason for working in this condition is due to poverty and unemployment. Poverty is defined as that not having enough material possessions or income for a person's needs. Poverty may include social, economic, and political elements (Michael P.Todaro, 2015 ). Unemployment is the macroeconomic problem that affects people most directly and severely. For most people, the loss of a job means a reduced living standard and psychological distress. It is no surprise that unemployment is a frequent topic of political debate and that politicians often claim that their proposed policies would help create jobs (Mankiw, 2012).

Myanmar Street vending business is important for income and livelihood opportunity for the poor people. Although it is clear that street vending, the informal sector, plays an important role in providing income opportunities for the poor, it can also be argued whether the informal sector is merely a holding ground for people



awaiting entry into the formal sector. Street vending can be found everywhere selling goods of every possible kind. Thus, this paper focused to find out the case of street vendor booming in Hledan Night Market.

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are to examine social and economic status of night market street vendors as part of informal sector in Hledan junction, to identify the driven factors on causing of street vending and to find out the difficulties and challenges of street vendors.

## **1.3 Method of Study**

The study used descriptive method and also collected both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected by conducting a qualitative and quantitative survey in the night market and secondary data was received from key informant interviews with the staff member from Township YCDC office and YCDC head office. The questionnaire included five components such as sociodemographic profile of street vendors, general operation, income and expenditure, the difficulties and challenges and their future expectation on the business.

## **1.4 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

The Hledan Night Market located along the Hledan Road and Inn Sein Road, which are perpendicular to each other and known as Hledan Junction. Although there are 192 stalls due to official YCDC data, there are around 272 number of existing stalls (by counting). This study selected and interviewed sixty five stall owners who are selling with handcarts and the stalls providing the seats.

As of limitation, respondents hesitated to answer the part, “Income and Profit”, although it was just for indicating a range. The reasons might be that the respondents did not want others to know how much they were earning from the business. Lack of data was also another challenge for getting better overview to analyse the findings.

## **1.5 Organization of the Study**

This paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter one consists of introduction, rationale of the study, objective of the study, method of study and scope of the study. Chapter two is literature review and Chapter three is about Myanmar Street vending business, Policy and development plan, rule and regulation from Yangon City Development Committee, Strand road project and the background of Hledan night market street vendors. Chapter four presents the survey results. Chapter five is conclusion of the study with findings and recommendations.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Definition and Concept of the Informal Sector**

The informal sector of a country's economy, informal economy, or grey economy is the part of an economy that is neither taxed nor monitored by any form of government. Although the informal sector makes up a significant portion of the economies in developing countries, it is often stigmatized as troublesome and unmanageable. However, the informal sector provides critical economic opportunities for the poor and it has been expanding rapidly since the 1960. (Wikipedia ). Integrating the informal economy into the formal sector is an important policy challenge. The term is also useful in describing and accounting for forms of shelter or living arrangements that are similarly unlawful, unregulated, or not afforded protection of the state. Informal economy is increasingly replacing 'informal sector' as the preferred descriptor for this activity. Additionally, both in housing and livelihood generation has often been seen as a social ill, and described either in terms of what participant's lack, or wish to avoid (Wikipedia ).

The choice in favour of activities of enterprise as the basic unit for dichotomization implies that the urban economics is viewed as a continuum of enterprises engaged in the production of good and service. The studies cited earlier on dualism provide some indication about the type of enterprises that belong to each of the two sub-systems. They suggest that the activities can be sorted out on the basis of one or more of the characteristics mode of production, organization and the scale of operation. The ILO/UNDP employment mission report on Kenya, is an effort to distinguish the informal from formal sector, suggested the following the informal sector is one where free entry to new enterprises exists enterprises in this sector rely on indigenous resources they are family owned and small scale they use Labour intensive and adapted technology, their work rely on non-formal sources of education and skills and finally they operate in unregulated and competitive market. (ILO and UNDP, 1972)

Correspondingly the formal sector enterprises possess characteristics obverse to the above entry for new enterprises is difficult; the firms rely frequently on overseas resources; they are generally subject to corporate ownership and large-scale operation; they use capital-intensive and often imported technology; their workers possess education and skills acquired through formal sources, and they are often expatriate; and finally they operate in protected markets. In other words, the Kenya report has made explicit what some of the earlier authors had implied in their writings. Not surprisingly the mission's attempt to characterize the informal sector in specific terms mentioned above has come under criticism from some quarters even though it was a step in the right direction. Part of the criticisms was however unjustified in so far as the above criteria were interpreted in a wider and general context even though they were proposed in the specific context of Kenya (ILO and UNDP, 1972).

## **2.2 The Urban Informal Sector and Economic Development**

This dualistic analysis has also been applied specifically to the urban economy, which has been decomposed into a formal and an informal sector. The existence of an unorganized, unregulated, and mostly legal but unregistered informal sector was recognized in the 1970s, following observations in several developing countries that massive additions to the urban labor force failed to show up in formal modern-sector unemployment statistics. The bulk of new entrants to the urban labor force seemed to create their own employment or to work for small-scale family-owned enterprises. The self-employed were engaged in a remarkable array of activities, ranging from hawking, street vending, letter writing, knife sharpening, and junk collecting to selling fireworks, prostitution, drug peddling, and snake charming. Others found jobs as mechanics, carpenters, small artisans, barbers, and personal servants. Still others were highly successful small-scale entrepreneurs with several employees and higher incomes. Some could even eventually graduate to the formal sector, where they became legally registered, licensed, and subject to government labor regulations. With the unprecedented rate of growth of the urban population in developing countries expected to continue and with the increasing failure of the rural and urban formal sectors to absorb additions to the labor force, more attention is being devoted to the role of the informal sector in serving as a panacea for the growing unemployment problem (Michael P. Todaro, 2015).

The development theory has been on the dualistic nature of developing countries' national economies the existence of a modern urban capitalist sector geared toward capital-intensive, large-scale production and a traditional rural subsistence sector geared toward Labour intensive, small-scale production. This dualistic analysis has also been applied specifically to the urban economy, which has been decomposed into a formal and an informal sector (Michael P.Todaro, 2015 ).

The existence of an unorganized, unregulated, and mostly legal but unregistered informal sector was recognized in the 1970s, following observations in several developing countries that massive additions to the urban Labour force failed to show up in formal modern-sector unemployment statistics. The bulk of new entrants to the urban Labour force seemed to create their own employment or to work for small-scale, family-owned enterprises. The self-employed were engaged in a remarkable array of activities, ranging from hawking, street vending, letter writing, knife sharpening, and junk collecting to selling fireworks, prostitution, drug peddling, and snake charming. Others found jobs as mechanics, carpenters, small artisans, barbers, and personal servants. Still others were highly successful and higher incomes (WIEGO)

The informal sector continues to play an important role in developing countries, despite decades of being neglected and even outright hostility. In many developing countries, about half of the employed urban population works in the informal sector. Most of these cities reflect the typical range of informal-sector employment share, from about 30% to 70%.

The informal sector is characterized by a large number of small-scale production and service activities that are individually or family-owned and use simple, Labour-intensive technology. They tend to operate like monopolistically competitive firms with ease of entry, excess capacity, and competition driving profits (incomes) down to the average supply price of Labour of potential new entrants. The usually self-employed workers in this sector have less formal education, are generally unskilled, and lack access to financial capital. As a result, worker productivity and income tend to be lower in the informal sector than in the formal sector (Wikipedia).

A large fraction inhabits shacks and small cinder-block houses that they themselves have built in slums and squatter settlements, which generally lack minimal public services such as electricity, water, drainage, transportation, and educational and health services. Others are even less fortunate, homeless, and living on the pavements.

They find sporadic temporary employment in the informal sector as day Labourers and hawkers, but their incomes are insufficient to provide even the most rudimentary shelter (Todaro and C Smith , 2015).

According to classical theory mentation that the discovery of the informal economy, though most likely older than the formal economy, is commonly designated to economist Keith Harts through his studies of urban employment in Ghana in the early 70' (Keith and Hart, 1973). Hart's presentation of an informal sector existing alongside the conventional economy was then rapidly adopted by the ILO. Theoretically, the notion of informality was put into the dual two-sector Labour market model of Arthur Lewis, dividing the economy into one formal *sector* and one informal sector where firms and workers operating in both sectors are profit-maximizing and income-maximizing, respectively.

Economic activities that operates outside of the government's observation and regulation are referred to as the informal economy. In this study street vending is the activity that is focused on and which is part of the informal economy.

Dualism in the urban economy in developing countries has been recognized in the development literature for some years now. The concept of dualism as applied to developing countries has been attributed various meaning by different social scientist ranging from social anthropologists to economists depending on the particular aspect or aspects they chose to study and emphasis. In the discussion below however, attention is focused on dualism in the production system in so far as it has implications for employment, development and equity (Michael P.Todaro, 2015 ).

The two sub-systems of production have been labelled different terms that are not necessarily identical capitalistic and present forms of production firm centre and bazaar economies upper and lower circuits to mention only a few. While such efforts described the two sub-system and south explain the factors that contributed to their origin and significance, another study, looking at the sectors of economic activities to Labour absorption currently taking place in many developing countries (Sethuraman, 1980).

### **2.3 Importance of Street Vending**

Street vending: Street vending is an income generating activity where individuals sell their goods and materials by moving along the streets and on the pavements to passing pedestrians. Street vending is one of the activities which are

considered part of the informal economy, the segment of a country's economy that operates outside the regulation and protection of the state.

Street vendor: A street vendor is a person who offers goods or services for sale to the public without having a permanently built structure but with a temporary open structure or mobile stall (or head-load). Street vendors could be stationed and occupied space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or could be mobile, and move from place to place carrying their goods on push carts or in cycles or baskets on their heads, or could sell their goods in moving buses (Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation, 2004).

Many people entered into street vending business because they cannot find a job in the formal economy. But surviving as a street vendor requires a certain amount of skill. Competition among vendors for space in the streets and access to customers is strong in many cities. While some people chose to be in the informal sector, many failed in the category because of unemployment. The informal sector plays a very important role in every country, as it gives opportunities to people who are not employed to earn money through their various skills and businesses. Street vendors are a large and very visible workforce in cities, yet it is difficult to accurately estimate their numbers (NASVI, 2004) . Street vendors make up 13 per cent in Dakar, Senegal; 19 per cent in Cotonou, Benin; and 24 per cent in Lomé, Togo. In some Asian and Latin American cities, street vendors form Official statistics are available for some countries, though they may underestimate the population engaged in street vending Street trade accounts for a significant proportion of informal non-agricultural employment in Africa. A large portion of the urban workforce: Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam: 11 per cent, Lima, Peru: 9 per cent.

Although the informal economy is also associated with low productivity and low-income countries, it does contribute to growth and is becoming more significant in high-income countries. But more work needs to be done to improve the concepts, measures, and methods for measuring the contribution of the informal economy. Many people enter street vending because they cannot find a job in the formal economy. But surviving as a street vendor requires a certain amount of skill. Competition among vendors for space in the streets and access to customers is strong in many cities.

## 2.4 Reviews on Previous Study

The number of street vendors in some Asian countries increased rapidly after the monetary crisis; 1996 Malaysia, 1997 Cambodia, 1998 Thailand and South-Korea. Many of the workers who lost their jobs as a result of the crisis and others who could not find jobs, took part into the street vending as a source of livelihood (Bhowmik S. K., May 28-June 10, 2005). After four or five monetary crisis they recovered, the street vending is place and growing up properly and systematically. The number of street vending in Myanmar also grows rapidly.

According to Dr. Dendukuri mentation that Bangkok Street vending is an important source of income for the urban poor. The number of street vendors in the city increased rapidly after the monetary crisis of 1998 that affected the group of countries known as the Asian tigers. Many workers who lost their jobs took to street vending as a source of livelihood. The food vendors of Bangkok are known for their cheap but nutritious food. For the local population, the food stalls are an integral part of life in Bangkok. Hundreds of people rely on them for a good meal at low costs. The municipal authorities in Bangkok have demarcated sites where street vendors can operate. The sites officially allotted for street vending are not sufficient for accommodating all street vendors. This has led to street vendors operating in unauthorized areas. The majority of street vendors in the city operate in sites that are unauthorized (Indira, A Study of Street Vending Across the Globe, September 2014).

Network of Thai indicated that since 2014, the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority has led a campaign to reduce the number of vendors under the motto “Return the footpath to pedestrians.” The city has reduced the number of licensed vendors by more than 17,000, with only a few thousand licensed vendors remaining. This Policy Brief seeks to go beyond simple slogans like “return the footpath” versus “charm of the city.” Based on recent research, it uses an urban systems perspective to consider:

- 1) The role of street vending for Bangkok’s economy and urban system, and impacts on these when it is eliminated
- 2) Lessons from vending management in cities around the world
- 3) Recommendations for innovations in Bangkok’s vending management system that can maximize benefits to pedestrians, consumers, businesses, tourists, and workers alike.



This Policy Brief was developed as a collaboration between urban specialists and economists, Labour specialists, and the Network of Thai Vendors for Sustainable Development. (WIEGO, Vending in Public Space: The Case of Bangkok, 2018)

Dr. Dendukuri also mentions about India, according to the government's pre-budget economic survey for 2004-2005, the total workforce in the formal sector is around 27 million while the small-scale industries providing employment to 28 million workers. The survey notes that employment in this sector grew from 24 million in 2000-2001 to 28 million in 2004-2005 whereas employment in the formal sector is stagnated at 27 million since 1991. A major section of the self-employed work as street vendors.

The Government of India has used the term urban vendor as inclusive of both traders and service providers, stationary as well as mobile and incorporates all other local and region. There has been mushroom growth in the number of street vendors in the major Asian cities. The reports from the Asian countries show that there was a jump in the number of street vendors after the financial crisis of 1998. Street vendors are mainly those who were unsuccessful or unable to get regular jobs. This section of the urban poor uses their meagre resources to earn their livelihood through street vending. The poorer sections are able to procure their basic necessities through street vendors, as the goods are cheap.

Street vendors in seven cities conducted by the National Alliance of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) showed that the lower income groups spend a higher proportion of their income in making purchases from street vendors mainly because their goods are affordable. (Indira, A Study of Street Vending Across the Globe, 2014)

According to National Policy of Urban Street vendors, 2004 by Govt. of India "A street vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers goods for sale to the public without having a permanent built up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (or head load)". A sustainable urban development involves balancing of the built physical environment and social equity. One of the ways of achieving this is by providing an opportunity for informal sector economic activities on streets (Pavanika T Biradar, 2016).

According to Bhowmik mentions the significant feature about Malaysia is that it is one of the few countries in Asia that has given some form of recognition to street vendors. The financial crises took place three years later and a number of

people who had lost their jobs during the time of the crises took to street vending. The number of street vendors in Kuala Lumpur has risen sharply since the Asian financial crisis. The increase of unlicensed street vendors is mainly because the DHPT has stopped issuing licenses after 1996. The regulation and control of street vendors is under the department of hawkers and petty traders (DHPT) established in 1986. The objectives of the department include the development, modernization and management of the street vendors in line with the objective of making Kuala Lumpur a clean, healthy and beautiful city for the local people and tourists. As in the case of the other south-east Asian countries, more licenses could be granted if this was done. Licensed street vendors have access to institutional credit as the government has provided funds for this. Training programmes are organized regularly for these vendors in which they are taught about health and hygiene, business skills, accounts, etc. The unlicensed street vendors do not get any of these benefits. The ethnic composition of street vendors has shown changes (Bhowmik S. K., 2005).

About Hanoi vendors Dr. Dendukuri mentation that it provide a variety of low-priced goods and generate employment for a large number of people, especially women. In the case of food vendors around 30 per cent are women. In 1989 the Vietnamese government adopted a law on protection of people's health. A survey on food samples in Hanoi showed that 47 per cent were microbiologically unsafe. Within a few years the situation changed and 23.4 per cent of food vendors had changed their unhygienic practices. This was done by regular surveillance of food vendors and by training them in hygienic practices. The government has adopted two practices for ensuring safer street food, namely, monitoring street food vendors through a licensing system and educating and training them on hygiene.

According to a study conducted by Urban Sector Group (USG) the main problem faced by street vendors in Vietnam is the non-recognition of the existence of the informal sector. The street vendors do not have any permanent places to sell their goods. They cannot retain regular customers. They are frequently harassed by the police and the market security officials. The USG study notes that rent-seeking is high and the only way the vendors can stay on the streets is by paying bribes to these officials. If they don't pay, their goods are confiscated or even destroyed (Indira, A Study of Street Vending Across the Globe, September 2014).

## **CHAPTER III**

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF STREET VENDING AND PROFILE OF KAMAYUT TOWNSHIP**

#### **3.1 The History of street vendor in Myanmar**

Myanmar is often perceived to be a rural country. Estimates in 2014 put the urban population as between 29 and 34% of the total population. If the 2010s trend of urbanization in Myanmar continues, the urban population will exceed the rural by the year 2040 (the world as a whole crossed this threshold in about 2005). The pace of urbanization is picking up in Myanmar in part due to the recent political and economic opening of the country, which in 2016 was leading to unprecedented levels of foreign investment as companies began to arrive to take advantage of the frontier market with cheap labour and abundant natural resources. Property values have skyrocketed in some parts of Yangon as the supply of available housing and commercial space was not adequate to meet the increased demand brought by internal migrants to the city, along with foreign businesses and their executives.

Economic disparity will likely continue to increase as the newly generated wealth will go first to local elites and foreign business partners, even as the cost of living increases for everyone in Yangon. Nonetheless, the new businesses and industries will generate much needed new jobs, which will, in turn, encourage even more people to migrate to Yangon. Given the high rate of poverty and landlessness in many rural areas, it is assured that migration to the city will increase as people seek better opportunities. One recent study shows that until about 2005, many migrants to Yangon were individuals, whereas more recently whole households are likely to migrate, presumably with intentions of more permanent relocation. But with the cost of housing and cost of living in Yangon already high and rising, most migrants to the city settle in the periphery. Informal settlement is already taking place around the sites of industrial estates that are themselves in the peri-urban areas. But for workers who need access to central Yangon or its sub-centers, settlement in peripheral townships results in long commute times which are a huge burden in terms of both time and

money, especially given the outdated bus system. According to the Seoul Institute, inner city buses move only 0.5 miles per hour faster than walking speed, on average. Some try to resolve this by squatting in the inner city, but it is clear from history that these squatters will eventually be forced to relocate to the periphery.

New patterns of internal migration are also developing in response to new developments in the country. Growth of industries, including manufacturing and construction, draw young people from the rural areas to urban areas. Young women also move to work in domestic work. There is also considerable rural to rural movement especially for seasonal agricultural work and mining.

Internal migrants, far from home and often experiencing a different culture and language, can be vulnerable to exploitation in the migration process and in the workplace. Finding suitable accommodation at an affordable price is also a major challenge. The risks for internal migrants are increased if they don't have full citizenship documents and if they have to pay brokers to migrate. Their risks of being in situations of forced Labour increase in work sectors which have few Labour protections especially domestic work, fishing, mining and construction ( ILO in Myanmar).

Yangon, the informal sector is a source of employment income for a large number of population; especially the middle and low-income earners. At the same time it should be seen that street vending earning money not only because of selling goods but also because of the service it provides to the urban population. For the urban poor, street vendors provide goods, including food, at low price. It means one section of the urban poor, namely, street vendors support the existence of the other sections of the urban poor by providing them cheap goods and services. The YCDC handles inner-city squatters in the future, as forced relocation may be more difficult for the government to carry out under the new democratic system.

### **3.2 Street Vendors in Yangon**

The vendors are usually found selling seasonal fruits, snacks, cheap clothing and other items, second-hand electronics, books and newspapers (Zin Thu Tun, 2016). But they feel worry from day to day. Because of the unstable municipal law and regulation. Many people migrate to Yangon to sell food products because of the scarcity of employment in other parts of the country. The vending in Yangon are mostly can be seen in ever where in the busy area. In total are four districts Eastern,

Western, southern, Northern data in 2013 is 46224 vendors and data in 2018 is decrease to 33931 vendors.

Table 3.1: Data of street Vendor in Yangon

Districts	Number of vendors in 2013	Number of vendors in 2018
Eastern	12928	9539
Western	10373	5592
Southern	8579	6082
Northern	14344	12718
Total	46224	33931

Source: YCDC

YCDC mentioned street vendors and stalls are causing disruptions to pass pedestrians, contributing to traffic jams and irresponsible waste disposals, which in turn deteriorates hygiene in the surrounding area and blocks the sewage system. “YCDC are planning to arrange a space for vendors to sell in the downtown area. Municipal will clear them from the streets for the convenience of pedestrians,” said a senior official from the YCDC markets division. The ban has been planned with good intentions; however, it will hurt their livelihoods and income, street vendors said. It is not easy to allocate selling spaces to all the street vendors in Yangon. If selling on the streets is completely banned, it will definitely struggle to make ends meet, one of the vendor who runs a stall on Anawrahta road, said. However, downtown residents say there are both advantages and disadvantages to having vendors on the street. Currently, there are over 70,000 street vendors, with over 300,000 dependent family members, making a living on the streets of Yangon, according to surveys. The high number of street vendors is partially attributed to the lack of job opportunities available, leaving the poor with few options but to choose convenient roadside selling of goods and foods as employment. (Htun Htun Minn, 2014).

The difficulties of street vendors are they need to watch out for municipal workers while selling. They need to run when they see municipal staff. If they get a hold of a shop, there is no way to get it back,” Ko Myo Win, a seasonal fruit vendor at the corner of Pansodan road and Mahabandoola road, said. These vendors cannot claim reparations for their losses because they are doing business without approval

from the proper departments. They have been suffering daily from being intimidated by the respective departments beyond the legal authority. According to the vendors, they could do business without disturbance after 3pm but before that time they are not allowed to sell things along the road (Zin Thu Tun, 2016).

### **3.3 YCDC Night Market Projects**

The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) stated that it has cleared out sellers on the sides of the road in six downtown townships by force during April 2016. The townships of Pabedan, Kyauktada, Lanmadaw, Lathar, Botataung and Dagon are full of vendors who have been taking spaces and competing with each other in selling their products. YCDC has been clearing out these shops on the roadside and on the main road because of the inconvenience to passenger buses and cars and to relieve traffic congestions. The committee says the vendors also litter the surrounding areas and it pollutes the city. These vendors have already been notified. If they break the rules, we will catch them and take their products and materials and never give back, Khin Hlaing, a city-level executive member of the committee from the western district, said. If the displays of the shop pass the pavement area, the shop would be taken onto the vehicle without question. The authorities have been talking about implementing night markets to take care of the problem for over two years, but no progress has been made (Zin Thu Tun, 2016).

The best efforts of local authorities to clean up Yangon's streets, vendors say they are unwilling or unable to move into new purpose-built markets being built by Yangon City Development Committee. Business is booming along main roads and outside bazaars and supermarkets. (Myat Noe Oo, 2015) The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) has announced that beginning in September street vendors will be banned in 33 townships that make up YCDC's territory (Htun Htun Minn, 2014).

Yet this thriving trade is blocking traffic and leading to litter problems, according to YCDC. To address the issue, the local authority has commissioned a number of new markets in the hope of moving vendors off the streets. Sellers will each be offered a 4 square-foot space to sell their food or products in two-storey markets across the city, said a senior officer from YCDC's markets department. Once they have finished selling for the day, vendors will then be responsible for cleaning their space, and storing equipment including stalls, chairs and other products, said the

senior officer. The markets are around 80 percent finished, he said, and spaces have already been reserved for those who sell within 300 square feet of each new market. YCDC has no plans to collect fees, he said. Once the markets are complete, if YCDC tries to move sellers, this way of life will change, he said. The local authority is building six new markets and renovating 10 old markets in Ahlone, Kyeemyindaing, Hlaing, Thaketa, Insein, Mingalardon, Hlaing Tharyar, Mayangone, Shwe Pyi Thar, Seikgyi Kanaungto and East Dagon Townships. YCDC plans to spend K10 billion on the entire project, said the markets department official (Myat Noe Oo, 2015).

A Night Market project on Strand Road: From 2016 November 23 onward, street vendors in Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha and Lanmadaw Township must move to a night market on Strand Road, according to a senior official from Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC). According to YCDC data, there are 6,041 vendors and currently, as the first batch, around 1,600 vendors are going to move to night market. Food and fruit vendors will be prioritized. Starting from July, YCDC have collected data for registration on vendors. In late September, YCDC started recording vendors' names and locations. Before moving to night market, vendors already have got the identity cards which included name and picture of seller and the name of the product they sell. To avoid the fake identity card and reselling the place, there is a security system and regular audit checks in place. The area of night market is designated from Aungyadanar Street to Pansoedan Road along the Strand Road between Maharbandula and Strand Road. The YCDC has spent nearly 2 billion Kyats (US\$1.5 million) on the project and the site will also include public toilets, a system to recycle used water and CCTVs. The night market is open daily from 3 pm to 11 pm. Maung Maung Zaw, head of YCDC's administration department, said "he also mentation that Waste disposal block the drain, unhygienic food harm the consumers. Now, those vendors can sell safely and freely in this new night market. That is better for both the street vendors and the people" (Htun Htun Minn, 2014).

The challenges on Strand road project: The Latha vendors also have another advantage: they had more customers. Apple vendor U Aung Than replied that the Latha area of the night market attracted the customers because it was close to Chinatown and Nyaungpinlay Market in Lanmadaw. "Street vendors in other townships along Strand Road suffer from a lack of customers. There are a lot of people only in downtown area. Still, most of the vendors said he was not totally satisfied with the night market, adding that it would attract more customers if it was better organized.

Dividing it into sections that offered similar products, such as fruit or food, would be more convenient for the customers, he said. One visitor to the night market in early January was Ko Aung Myint Oo who previously sold seasonal fruit on Sint Oh Dan Street in Latha. When they had been shifted to the night market, they faced 50,000 MMK loss in three days, so they closed their shop and rented his place to another vendor. He said he was considering selling something else at the night market because fresh fruit was not popular. “Many fruit sellers are getting into debt with their wholesalers, Aung Myint Oo said night market might be a better venue for selling cooked food although he understood why the regional government had created the night market, it had created hardship for many vendors. If the authorities had required vendors to move gradually to the night market it would have made their lives easier than having more than 1,000 move simultaneously. Despite the criticisms from vendors, authorities were quick to defend the move.

The deputy head of the YCDC’s administration department, said that some complaints were inevitable because you cannot please all of the street vendors. “But it is obvious because no longer are in the streets in downtown being blocked by the street vendors,” he said. Daw Mya Hnin, who lives in Kyimyindaing Township and also previously sold fruits on Sint Oh Dan Street, said she had changed to selling vegetables at the night market because of having better demand. Business was not good, many vendors have stopped stocking their stalls because of slow sales, They either rent the space to someone else or show up just so they don’t lose their place (Su Myant Mon , 2017).

### **3.4 Street Vendor in Kamayut**

Background of Kamayut: the heart of Kamayut and close to Hlaing is the Hledan intersection, Hledan Centre shopping mall and Hledan market. It is a very popular low cost housing area, not only for shopping, but also for its proximity to Inya Lake and Yangon University. A little further south west is the developing area around the Junction Square Shopping Mall, which looks like it will turn into one of the most modern places in Yangon with up-and-coming serviced apartments, offices and even more retail. Hledan is where the youth in Yangon “hang out” and the intersection can become extremely congested during the day. Moving north up Insein Road into Haling Township there are a growing number of restaurants and shops to see (Myanmar Home Search). The vendors in Hledan night market Kamayut are



usually found selling cooked food, fast food, seasonal fruits, snacks, cheap clothing and other items, second hand electronics, books and newspapers.

### 3.5 Social and Economic Condition in Kamayut Township

The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of Kamayut Township in Yangon Region. The information included the situation of 2014 March 29, Census night. Township level information is very important.

Table 3.2: Demographic and Characteristics Condition in Kamayut Township

<b>Male and Female</b>	<b>Number of Population</b>
Males	36,958
Females	47,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,569</b>
Sex ratio	78 males per 100 females
Percentage of urban population	100.0%

Source: The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, Kamayut Township Report, October 2017 .Includes both household population and institution population.

In Kamayut Township, there are more females than males with 78 males per 100 females. The entire populations in the Township live in urban areas. The population density of Kamayut Township is 13,605 persons per square kilometer. There are 4.5 persons living in each household in Kamayut Township.

Table 3.3: Population by broad age groups, Kamayut Township

<b>Years</b>	<b>Number of population</b>	<b>Percent</b>
0-14	11,999	14.2%
5-64	66775	79%
65 and over	5759	6.8%
Total	84,533	100.00%

Source: The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, Kamayut Township Report, October 2017.

Table 3.4: Population by (20 to 60) age groups, Kamayut Township

Age groups	Total	Males	Females	Sex Ratio
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,930</b>	<b>24,432</b>	<b>33,498</b>	<b>72.94</b>
20-24	12,670	5,117	7,553	67.74
25-29	9,611	3,927	5,684	69.08
30-34	7,187	3,125	4,062	76.93
35-39	5,964	2,621	3,343	78.40
40-44	5,705	2,410	3,295	73.14
45-49	5,445	2,404	3,041	79.05
50-54	4,630	1,998	2,632	75.91
55-59	3,802	1,604	2,198	72.97
60-64	2,916	1,226	1,690	73.80

Source: The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, Kamayut Township Report, October 2017.

According to the 2014 census reported the proportion of productive working population in sex ratio between 20 to 64 years of age in Kamayut Township is 72.94 per cent. The most significant is 79.05 percent of the age group in 45 to 49. The second large is 78.40 percent in the age group 35 to 39.

Table 3.5: Population by 20-60 age group Labour force participation rate and unemployment rate.

Age groups	Labour force participation Rate			Unemployment rate		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
15-19	34.7	38.7	31.2	7.6	9.3	5.7
20-24	68.9	72.3	66.6	13.4	14.6	12.5
25-29	80.6	87.6	75.8	7.7	8.6	6.9
30-34	76.8	90.9	65.9	4.4	5.7	3.1
35-39	73.2	91.4	58.9	2.7	3.4	1.9
40-44	70.5	91.3	55.3	1.5	1.9	1.0
45-49	67.7	90.1	50.0	0.9	1.3	0.2
50-54	60.7	85.5	41.9	0.7	1.1	0.3
55-59	53.9	78.0	36.3	0.6	0.7	0.4
60-64	29.9	47.5	17.2	0.2	0.2	0.3

Source: The 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, Kamayut Township Report, October 2017.

According to the 2014 census about Labour force participation rate for the population aged 15-64 in Kamayut Township is 64.2 per cent of the total. The labor force participation rate of females is 54.9 per cent and is much lower than that of their male counterparts which is 76.6 percent. In Kamayut Township. The unemployment rate for those aged 15-64 in Kamayut Township is 5.8 per cent. There is not much difference between the unemployment rate for males (6.1%) and for females (5.5%).The unemployment rate for young females aged 15-24 is 11.0 percent from the total.

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **ANALYSIS ON SURVEY DATA**

#### **4.1 Survey Profile**

Kamayut Township is famous as a crowded area. There are Hledan market, two shopping centres and various training centres are located around and in the area. According to the population and housing census of Kamayut data, males are 36,958 and Females are 47,611 living in area. Kamayut Hledan night market is one of the famous night markets in Yangon. In this research, the data were collected by interviewing the shop owners in the selected area widely known as Hledan Night Market, existing on Hledan Road and Inn Sein Road which passed through Ward 1, Ward 3 and Ward 8 of Kamayut Township, Yangon Region. The survey focused only the stalls which sold with hand carts and provided a space to sit and eat or stalls with tables and stools/ benches. There are around 190 existing stalls according to YCDC data.

#### **4.2 Survey Design**

The survey was conducted from the 26<sup>th</sup> of April to 31<sup>st</sup> of May, 2019. According to YCDC data there are 192 stalls registered as Night Market Street Vendors in the study area. So 33% of the street vendors were interviewed and considered as sample size. Respondents were selected by the random sampling method. The researcher prepared a questionnaire composed of five components to conduct the quantitative survey for collecting social and economic data of the Night Market street vendors. The sample determination are 50% for cooked food, fast food and 25 % non-food and another 25% is fruit and vegetable. Both quantitative and qualitative data were used in the research. In the research design it also involved semi-structure interviews, observation and informal conversation with street vendors in order to cross-check the data reliability.

The first component of the questionnaire was to collect the information of the demographic data of the respondents such as age, sex, education, current address,

migration history, livelihood history, marital status and family profile, housing situation, etc.

The second part covered general operation of the street vending business, such as main items or goods sold, number of years active in the business and the reasons why they chose the Hledan Night Market, other income sources, manpower consumption, investment and return and logistic information.

The third part focused on their daily incomes from the stalls, monthly expenditure and business situation comparison to the last two years.

The focus of the fourth part of the questionnaire was their challenges such as limited operation hours, rules and restriction, water and sanitation problems, safety and security of doing the business on the road side.

The last part was about their satisfaction of being in the business, future plan that whether to continue street vending business or not and their suggestions to change the negative impact of street vending business to that of positive impact.

Before the preparation of the questionnaire, the researcher reviewed other questionnaires used in similar studies which were conducted in SEA Region in order to compare the situations among SEA countries and to understand the concept of the street vending business trend and its impact on the national and regional economy. Based on the objectives of the study and research concept, the questionnaire was developed with the five components which were social and demographic data, general operation, income and expenditure, difficulty and challenges and future expectation.

As of qualitative data collection, two Officers of Market Department of YCDC: Executive Officer from township YCDC office and Director from YCDC head office were requested for interview in order to get insight of the Regional Government's development plan and updated policy and as well as detail recorded information of the street vendors in Hledan Night Market.

### **4.3 Survey Data Analysis**

Data analysis is mainly based on the five components of the questionnaire data namely social and demographic, operation of street vending business, income from and expenditure of the business, difficulties and challenges and future expectation about the street vending business. Data are analysed from the perspective of looking into:

The social background of the people such as family situation and migration history, driven factors of being in the street vending business;

How people are operating the business: labour force requirement and intensity, rules and regulations from the regional government, in that case it is YCDC. Investment and income: how much people invested initially and daily/weekly and how much they gained.

Challenges and difficulties being in the business and what to improve. What do people expect for the future: whether to stay or leave at some point and what the systematic development of the street vending business look likes for them.

#### 4.3.1 Social and Demographic Profile of the Street Vendors

In this section analysis of the street vendors' social profile and migration history will be focused.

Table 4.1: Demographic of the respondents

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Number of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
20 to 35	24	37.00
36-60	39	60.00
61 and above	2	3.00
TOTAL	65	100.00
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Number of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	40	62.00
Female	23	35.00
Other	2	3
TOTAL	65	100.00
<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Number of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Single	14	22.00
Married	45	69.00
Widow/Widower	6	9.00
TOTAL	65	100.00
<b>Educational status</b>	<b>Number of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>

Primary School	9	14.00
Secondary school	20	31.00
High School	21	32.00
University Graduate	10	15.00
Can read, can write	4	6.00
No answer	1	2.00
TOTAL	65	100.00
<b>Number of Dependents</b>	<b>Number of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
0	23	35.38
1-3	39	60.00
4 and 5	3	4.60
TOTAL	65	100.00

Source: Survey Data, 2019

The age groups were divided into 3 groups based on Myanmar working age cluster. The official working age in Myanmar starts from age 18 and the work life ends at age 60 which is retired age for the government employees whereas it differs for the non-government employment at which there is no age limit for retirement. Hence age group of 60 and above was also included in the data analysis. The data analysis showed that dominant age groups of respondents were age group between 20-35 and between 36-60 with the percentages of 37 and 60. In terms of sex it was found out that 40 respondents or 62% were males out of total 64 respondents. Numbers of female respondents was 23 or 35% of total. Out of 65 respondents, 45 were married and 14 were single and 6 were widows and widowers. When it looked at the numbers of dependents having by each respondents, it showed that 65% of respondents were having dependents and 35% had none. From those data, it can be said that majority of respondents or street vendors were involving in the street vending business not for side income, but for the main income to support their families.

To analysis the educational status of the respondents, the highest was university graduated with 15%, high school level was 32%, and secondary level and primary level were 31% and 14% respectively. Numbers of respondents who can only read and write were 4 which made 6%. It is not surprising that the education level of the majority of the street vendors were low. But seeing the percentage of graduated

people in total 15% in the street vending business showed the situation of the current job market and unemployment rate of Myanmar.

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Table 4.2 Native Town of Respondents

<b>Native migration history</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Magwe	10	24.00
Ayawaddy	8	19.00
Shan State	5	12.00
Mandalay	5	12.00
Bago	5	12.00
Rakhine	4	10.00
Sagine	2	5.00
Yangon (Kawmu)	2	5.00
Yangon native	24	35.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Survey Data, 2019

When looking into the migration data, 65% of total respondents was out of Yangon City and 35% was native to the City. Out of total 65 respondents, only 21 had own accommodation and 44 were living in rented apartments and houses. More than half of the respondents which made 65%, were living in Kamayut Township where the Night Market is located. The 2014 census found that over 500,000 persons in Yangon had migrated from Ayarwaddy, making it the city's largest region of origin



for internal migrants. According to a research conducted by CHIME in 2018 showed that 65% of Yangon population are migrants, mainly from Ayarwaddy Region. (publications, 2018) Inside Yangon city, Kamayut is one of the popular townships for people coming from outside Yangon. Although the reasons of moving to Yangon were different, 33 answers out of 46 were to start a business. Regarding their education level and lack of professional skill, street vending seems the easiest way of starting a business.

### 4.3.2 Operating the Street Vending Business

It is found out that most of the items sold in Hledan Market were food such as cooked food, fast food, fruits and vegetables.

Table 4.3: Selling items and business profile of respondents

Type of goods sold	Number of shop	Percentage
Cooked food and fast food	37	57.00
Non- food	13	20.00
Fruit and vegetable	15	23.00
TOTAL	65	100.00

Source: Survey Data, 2019

Out of 65 respondents, 37 were selling food items, which made 57%. As Hledan Night Market is located at the junction of Hledan Road and Insein Road which is the area with full of training centres for young people, two big shopping malls and bus stops for transit between northern part and downtown of the city, selling food in the night market seems a good business. According to the survey data, 61.5% of total respondents answered that the reason they chose the area for making business was due to high demand. And 30% answered that they chose the place because it was close to where they lived.

Table 4.4: Initial Investment of the respondents

Initial investment (MMK)	Number of respondent	Percentage
≤ 50,000	6	9.23
50,000- 100,000	6	9.23
100,000- 500,000	25	38.46
>500,000	23	35.38
No answer	5	7.69
TOTAL	65	100.00

Source: Survey Data, 2019

The amount of initial investment varied from 50,000 MMK to 500,000 MMK and above. 38.5 % of respondents initially invested between 100,000 to 500,000 MMK and 34% invested more than 500,000 MMK. If we compare with the market price of the rental fee in the area which is 4,000,000 to 1,000,000 MMK/ 625 sq.ft/month, (Real Estate ) it can be easily seen that the initial amounts invested are very small. And they do not need to pay for getting a place at the night market according to the respondents. Those information indicate that starting and making a business in the market is an easy entry with lower risk due to small amount of initial investment. Some of street vendors, around 50% of total respondents, have been selling in the night market for more than 5 years. Compared to the past, YCDC data showed that the number of street vendors in the night market is increasing regularly and noticeably.

Regarding opening time, 06:00 pm is official time to set up the stalls according to YCDC. From the data it was found out that the majority of the respondents did not follow and the stall was open at their convenience. Only 8 respondents answered that they opened between 6:00 and 07:00 pm with around 4 hours business running time whereas 17 respondents opened the stalls more than 8 hours per day, starting from morning hours and the remaining respondents had between 4 to 8 hours operation time. In terms of preparation time, around half of the respondents needed more than 2 hours. Looking into the labour intensity of the operation, it was found out that around half of the stalls were running with the family

members and only 20% of the stall owners hired extra workers at monthly base, which varied from 50,000 MMK to 80,000 MMK. Some hired daily labour at the rate of 10,000 MMK per day. About taking holiday, it is surprisingly found out that 15% of the respondents took day-off once a week. Some 5% took day-off twice a month and 9% took day-off once a month. On the other hand, around 29% took day-off only occasionally and 32% never took day-off.

In general, according to the survey data, daily routine of the street vending business included preparation especially for the food stalls, procuring the required goods and raw materials, transporting the products to the night market and opening and closing the stalls. 57% of respondents procured the goods and raw materials on daily base and the other 28% procured on weekly base. For procuring the goods and raw materials, most of the street vendors, around 80%, paid cash down and 20% procured with credit. Although the expense of additional operation cost varies, it was found out that around 75% of the respondents spent less than or equal to 100,000 MMK whereas around 20% spent more than 100,000 MMK. In respect to the figures of initial investment, it seems quite reasonable and can be assumed that the business is going well.

Table 4.5: Business situation of respondents

<b>Business situation in compare last 2 years</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Business situation has Increased	20	31.00
Business situation has Decreased	22	34.00
Business situation are stable	14	22.00
Don't know	6	9.00
No answer	3	5.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Survey Data, 2019

According to 73% of total respondents, dry season is the time of good business and 51% think rainy season is bad business season. In contrast some 12% think rainy

season is a good business season. Hence it can be assumed that street vending business in Hledan Night Market is running well for the whole year round.

### 4.3.3 Financial Profile

In this part the information about the income and expense of the respondents will be presented and discussed in order to find out how the people manage their financial resources and how much is being spent in what category.

Table 4.6: Income from street vending of respondents

Daily income (MMK)	Number of respondent	Percentage
≤ 20,000	9	14.00
21,000-50,000	18	28.00
51,000-100,000	22	34.00
110,000-300,000	13	20.00
500,000 and above	1	2.00
no answer	2	3.00
Total	65	100

Source: Survey Data, 2019

As per the data collected, 14% of total respondents earned less than 20,000 MMK daily whereas 5% of the respondents earned more than 300,000 MMK. The majority earned between those two margins i.e. 28% earned between 20,000 – 50,000 MMK, 34% earned 50,000 – 100,000 MMK and 20% earned 100,000 – 300,000 MMK respectively. In terms of wellbeing of the business, there was no clear indication about increase and decrease of the income compared to last two years because 31% answered for “increase” and 34% answered for “decrease” and 22% answered that it was the same. And 9% of the respondents did not know and 5% did not answer. It seems that along with the increment of the numbers of street vendors and competition among them, demand is also increasing. And it was found out that 91% of the respondents did not have other alternative incomes. But half of the respondents answered that there was contribution from their family members and

other half answered that the income from street vending business was the only income resource.

Table 4.7 Household expenditure from street vending of respondents

<b>Household Expenditure (MMK)</b>	<b>Number of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
≤ 100 thousand	1	2.00
100- 300 thousand	16	25.00
300-500 thousand	25	38.00
500 thousand above	18	28.00
no answer	5	8.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Survey Data, 2019

The expenses were categorized as food, accommodation/rent, and education for children, transportation, health, social activities and others. It was found out that the biggest amount spent was for food, around 50% and more of total income was spent by 60% of the total respondents. The second biggest expense was for accommodation: 20% of the respondents who did not own a place to live, spent around half of their total earning and other 28% spent around 20% of their total earning. Other prominent finding was about the expenditure for health care. Around 40% of respondents answered that the spending of health care was less than 20% and another 40% of respondents answered that there was no expense on health care. The remaining 20% of respondents did not answer the question. In Myanmar having personal or family health insurance is not common and it is also untypical to do regular medical check-up. Those are the reasons of spending small amount or no expense for health care.

#### **4.3.4 Challenges and Difficulties**

Street vending business is part of informal sector and its development and stability should be viewed as important as other formal sector business because it is

part of informal sector which has a big impact on national economy. If we look into Myanmar's neighbouring countries such as Thailand, India, Hanoi, etc., those countries had successfully reformed the street vending business from informal to formal (Bhowmik S. K., 2005). Yangon Region Government had already established a formal night market as pilot on the Strand Road in downtown area in 2016. Each stall was provided 8 feet length outside road area. The vendors were relocated from five townships in order to solve the traffic jam problem. At the beginning, due to that the YCDC staff members were monitoring, people sold their goods in the night market. But YCDC did not have sufficient human resource and it did not take long and people went back to their old selling places. Because the location of the night market was not a good place to make business compared to their old places. As a result Strand Road pilot project was not successful.

Challenges and difficulties in terms of YCDC rules and regulations, 75% of the respondents (49 street vendors) thought that limited operation hours had impact on their business, such as earning less due to shorter operation time by 27 vendors, missed peak sale hours by 13 vendors and late closing time by 9 vendors. There were also some respondents, 20% of total, who answered that those rules and regulations did not have impact on their business. Other additional rules set by YCDC was that to dispose the waste at the dump sites or to dispose at garbage collecting truck after operation hours.

The majority of respondents, around 72%, answered that they disposed their waste at the disposal sites nearby. Other 12% just left their waste on the road side near the stalls and the garbage collecting truck collected later and a few numbers of respondents paid the waste collector for disposing. In terms of available sanitation facility, only a few people, 6% of total respondents, did open defecation. The remaining used the facilities from nearby shopping centres and neighbouring shops opened in the buildings. Since there is no water supply facility for the vending area, water availability seemed limited. The respondents brought from home, bought from water sellers and fetched from neighbouring houses. It would be a problem about proper hygiene for the food stalls with serving tables and seats for eating and which needed water for washing dishes and utensils.

About the safety and security issues, most of the respondents, 78%, answered that there was no problem whereas other 20% answered that they worried about road accidents due to heavy traffic. Since safety and security did not seem as a big issue,

82 % of the respondents did not know where to seek help for in case of something. Only a few people answered that police, Ward Administrator and YCDC township office might be the places to seek for help.

In terms of satisfaction more than 57% of respondents satisfied on their life and business due to low risk, no control and for being self-employed. On the other hand 40% of total respondents wanted to extend their business such as opening an own proper shop and buying a car for transporting their merchandises.

For the future expectation, half of the respondents wanted to have stable rules and regulations of YCDC in terms of operation hours and restriction on locations. Other 43% wanted YCDC to develop a demarcation area as a night market and they were willing to pay tax or charges for the place. Some 2% thought to widen the road might be a solution to make their business better.

Table 4.8: Reasons of the Respondent for Engaging in Vending

<b>Reasons</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
The poor	13	20.00
Lack of Employment Opportunities	10	15.38
Self-Dependency	20	30.76
It easy to manage and to operate	22	33.84
Total	65	100

Source: Survey Data, 2019

Table 4.8 presented the reasons of the respondent for engaging in vending business. It was relative the primary reason why they are in such kind of business due to it easy to manage and operate and self-decency. This suggest that vendor engaged to this kind of business in order to survive their life and covered their basic needs. They engage in this business due to no advance education level and difficult to find a decent job. As a result vendors have no choose but to continue to their work because they have no other income sources and the most important, the government also can't create the job for them. 13 respondents are due to poverty they are engage in this vending bossiness.

Poverty is not having enough material possessions or income for a person's needs. Poverty may include social, economic, and political elements. Absolute poverty is the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs,

such as food, clothing and shelter. The threshold at which absolute poverty is defined is always about the same, independent of the person's permanent location or era. On the other hand, relative poverty occurs when a person cannot meet a minimum level of living standards, compared to others in the same time and place. Therefore, the threshold at which relative poverty is defined varies from one country to another, or from one society to another. For example, a person who cannot afford housing better than a small tent in an open field would be said to live in relative poverty if almost everyone else in that area lives in modern brick homes, but not if everyone else also lives in small tents in open fields (Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/proverty>). In 2010, more than 1.2 billion people lived on less than \$1.25 per day at 2005 U.S. purchasing power parity (2013 World Bank estimate). Some 2.4 billion more than one-third of the world's population lived on less than \$2 a day (Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, 2015).

Unemployment is the macroeconomic problem that affects people most directly and severely. For most people, the loss of a job means a reduced living standard and psychological distress. It is no surprise that unemployment is a frequent topic of political debate and that politicians often claim that their proposed policies would help create jobs. While the issue is perennial, it rose to particular prominence in the aftermath of the financial crisis and recession of 2008-2009, when the unemployment rate lingered around 9 percent for several years. Economists study unemployment to identify its causes and to help improve the public policies that affect the unemployed. Some of these policies, such as job-training programs, help people find employment. Others, such as unemployment insurance, alleviate some of the hardships that the unemployed face. Still other policies affect the prevalence of unemployment inadvertently. Laws mandating a high minimum wage, for instance, are widely thought to raise unemployment among the least skilled and experienced members of the labour force. The discussions of the labour market so far have ignored unemployment. In particular, the model of national income was built with the assumption that the economy is always at full employment. In reality, not everyone in the labour force has a job all the time: in all free-market economies, at any moment, some people are unemployed (Mankiw, 2012).

Self-dependency the bulk of new entrants to the urban Labour force seemed to create their own employment or to work for small-scale family-owned enterprises.



The self-employed were engaged in a remarkable array of activities, ranging (Michael P. Todaro and Stephen C. Smith, 2015).

Easy to manage and operate according to the characterized of the informal sector that is by a large number of small-scale production and service activities that are individually or family-owned and use simple, Labour-intensive technology. They tend to operate like monopolistically competitive firms with ease of entry, excess capacity, and competition driving profits (incomes) down to the average supply price of Labour of potential new entrants. The usually self-employed workers in this sector have less formal education, are generally unskilled, and lack access to financial capital (Todaro and C Smith , 2015).

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **5.1 Findings**

Informal economy is the part of an economy that is neither taxed nor monitoring by government. The informal sector is free to entry for new enterprises and exists, family own business, small scale of labour intensive and self-employed were engaged. Street vending were remarkable. This study focused on social and economic condition of street vendors, driven factors of increasing numbers of street vendors and potential development of street vending business in the area. The main findings of the social condition are that most of the people involving in the street vending business were from outside of the Yangon City, migrated from different regions of the countries, mainly Ayeyarwaddy Region, Shan State, Magway Region and Rakhine State. The majority of the street vendors are married and having families and children and the involvement of household heads was noticeable. Due to these findings, it can be concluded that street vending is not a side job but the main income source depending by many families. By looking into their education status, it was also found out that the majority of the street vendors were at middle school and high school level and a few people were university graduated. Since the job market of Myanmar nowadays cannot offer a decent job for non-graduated the people without professional skill, street vending seems a good business to support the family. More than half of those street vendors do not own an accommodation and living in rent apartments.

By looking at the economic situation of street vendors and selling items, cooked food and fast food are very common in the area including Myanmar traditional snacks, non-foods and other shops such as cosmetics, clothes and shops in the area. According to cheap price and convenience, cooked food is high demand. On the other hand, selling cooked food and fast food are more profitable than non-food items however it took too long to prepare for selling cooked food. Normally, the street vendors used to carry their goods with hand carts, bicycles, trishaws, taxis and a few

used own cars. The warehouse facility of goods varies from storing at homes and at the nearest operation area. The street vendors dispose their waste in the disposal site nearby, on the roadside near the stall, waiting for municipal to be collected and pay the waste collector. The reason respondents choose the area for business is due to high demand and their relatives are living in the area. The majority of the respondents are engaging in street vending business for more than 12 hours a day which had been established 5 to 10 years ago with no other sources of income, with the minimum capital of vending 20,000 MMK and the maximum capital of vending 100,000 MMK per day. Return on daily income are from 50,000 MMK to over 300,000 MMK. The business in the area is going well in the whole year. As vending is already their way of life, especially in term of their needs. Among the expenditure, food is the biggest amount spent and the second biggest is the rent and third is sending their children to complete their school found from the findings.

Street vending is regarded as the easiest and best available source of income especially among the poor. Not all street vendors are poor compared to other low-income households. Some vendors can earn higher incomes than other comparable jobs, for those who are unemployed and have no advanced labour skill, street vending provides a reasonable source of livelihood (Myo Myint Aung, 2017).

The study also examined the causes of driving factor of street vending that were easy for entry and exit, being family-owned business and low risky, not needing to pay for tax, not needing for special skills, low investment and gaining more profit and not needing to pay for space. Instead of renting a shop for opening it, they decide to choose vendor life as it costs huge amount of money.

On the other hand, it is rare job opportunity, decreasing yield of farm products due to climate changes, rapid growth of industries, high young migration rate from rural to urban and lack of advanced educational level leads difficulties to get a decent job. The results show that before starting street vending business, they worked for both formal and informal sectors, such as civil employee, company employees, factory worker, taxi driver and casual labours. They changed their livelihood as they no longer want to stay under others' supervision and want to make their own decisions and start small own business.

According to the survey finding on Labour Migration in Yangon every year, most people are from Ayarwaddy region. The reasons they moved to Yangon were that agricultural product yield has been decreasing and the climate change. It was also

addressed in IPCC assessment report 2007 which can be concluded that the developing world, particularly the poorest countries, can expect major consequences from global warming, involving larger and more severe heat waves and higher average temperatures, hurricanes, floods from heavy rains, prolonged droughts, losses of valuable species, and crop and fishing losses (Todaro and C Smith , 2015).

The difficulties and challenges encountered in every street vending were found out that municipal rule and regulation (especially operation hours) is the biggest challenge with late and less operation hours. The challenges from municipal are the gaps between National and Regional municipal laws, lack of creating a marketplace for street vending, and no public space and budget limitation. Besides, municipal staff would have to rub up if they received complaint letter from drivers or passers-by. The result from the interview with township municipal officer, it was stated that Hledan has 5 junctions and it caused a lot of traffic jam, received more complaint letters from the passers-by and drivers (occupied parking, pavement and bus stops) so the rule in Hledan is different from other townships. The municipal rule for operation time should be the same, in additional night market is legally, its mention in the YCDC rule and regulation hand book (YCDC).

The majority of respondents requested for the municipal to create the market place and collecting taxes will be more convinced. Currently, they face too late operation hours which decreases income so vendors just observed the municipal staff situation. If they didn't see any one of the municipal staff, they would just open their stall quite early and if they saw them, they would need to run away.

During the interview with YCDC officer, it was mentioned that they are planning about the infrastructure such as shopping centres given to PPP and relocating the stall owners with more capital investment into the shopping centres and upgrading markets for poor vendors to be sustainably developed and adding more food courts in the shopping mall. By doing so, it will be less crowded on the streets and the neighbourhood will be cleaner and tidier.

## **5.2 Suggestions**

In social factors, there is no advanced education so it is rare to get a decent job. Even for the graduated people, it is difficult to find a decent job in Yangon nowadays. It will be too ambitious to completely ban the street vending business in

the city's crowded areas and to relocate the street vendors against their wills. Instead it should be looked into some holistic solution and approach to tackle the issues.

**Firstly**, about the lesson learnt from pilot project on Strand road in 2016; the result and effectiveness were not promising due to lack of feasible assessment for the location and market demand. It is recommended for future similar projects in Kamayut to conduct market survey of the designated areas and environmental impact i.e. traffic, water and sanitation.

**Secondly**, YCDC should have stable rules and regulations on markets' operation and management in order to avoid unnecessary conflicts upon uncontrollable booming of street vendors in Kamayut.

**Lastly**, National Economic Policy of the Government should be focused and decentralization policy should be encouraged in terms of economics, education and health.

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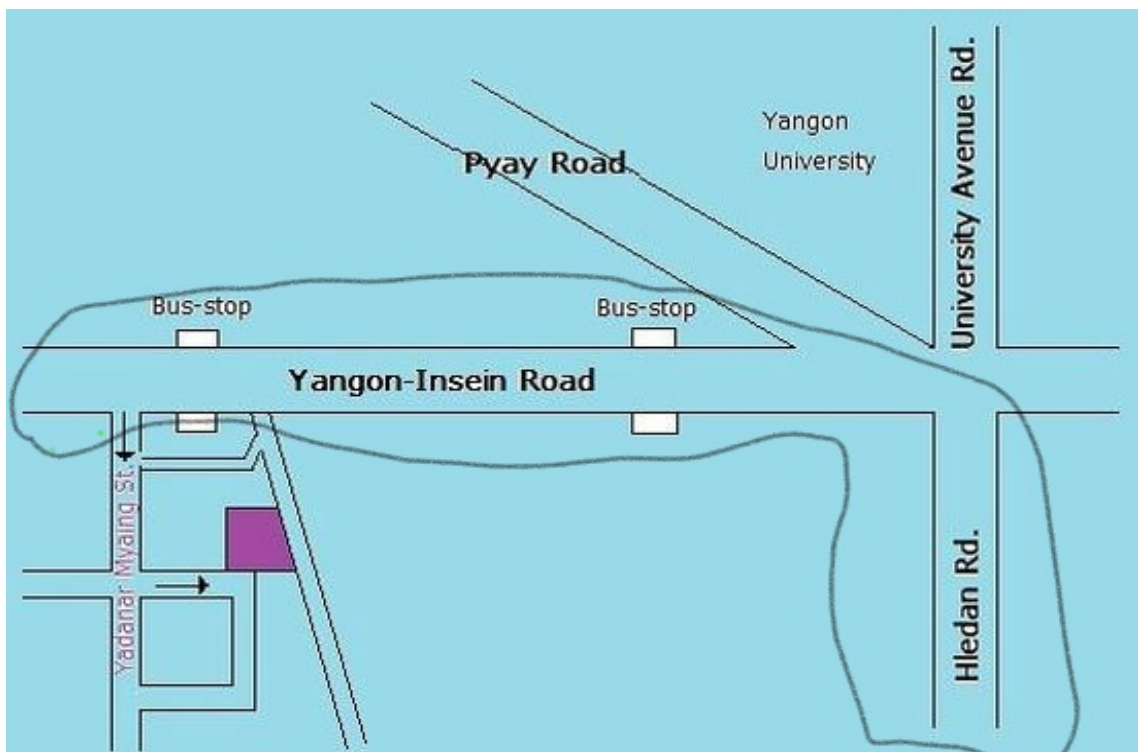
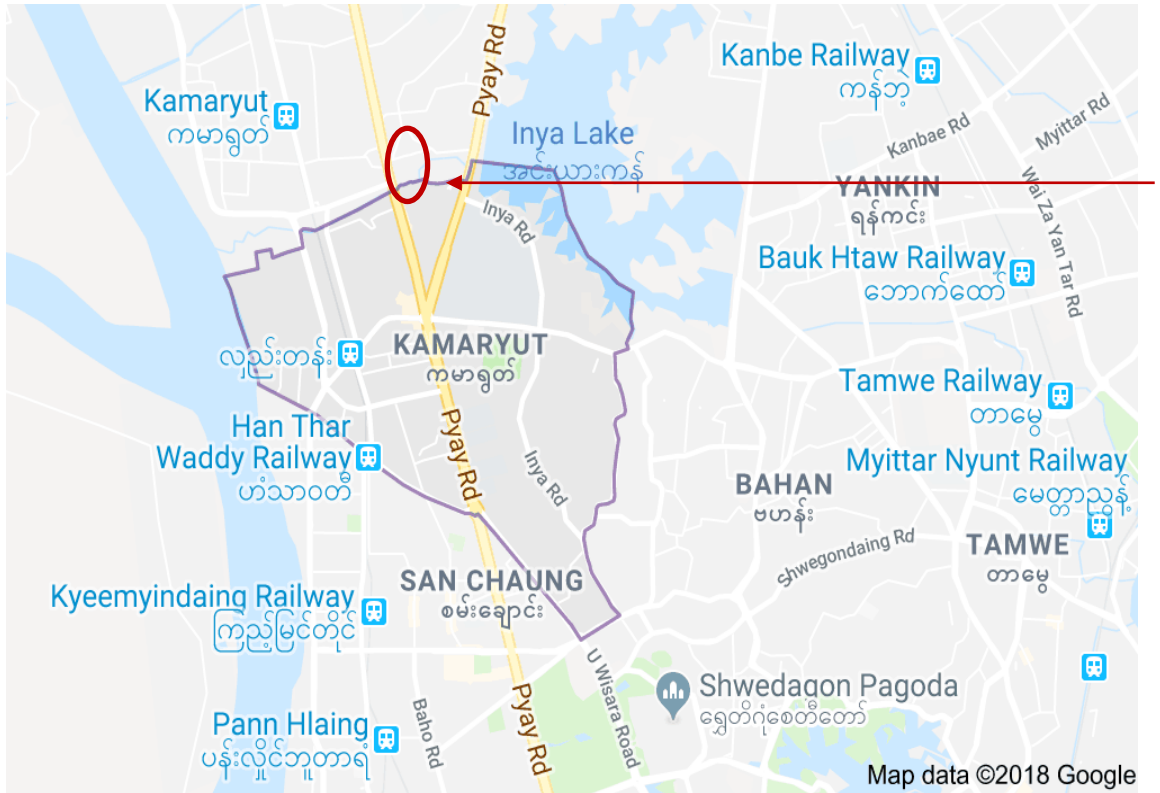
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## Appendix

### Appendix (1): Map of the study area



**Appendix (2): Questionnaires**

**Thesis questionnaire for Master of Development study,  
Yangon University of Economic  
Survey on social and economic of street vending business at  
Hledan night market, Kamayut Township, Yangon**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Interviewer:</b>
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**1. SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

<b>1.1 Name:</b>	<b>1.2 Age:</b>	<b>1.3 Sex:</b>	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
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**1.4 Education:**

- Graduate       High School       Middle School   
Primary School       Monastery Education   
Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**1.5 Current Address** (township, ward): \_\_\_\_\_

**1.6 Native to:**

- Yangon  (Go to Q-1.10)  
Others  (Name of the place) \_\_\_\_\_

**1.7 When did you move to Yangon? :** (Year) \_\_\_\_\_

**1.8 The reason why you moved to Yangon**

- For better job opportunity ,      For better education (of the children)   
There are relatives in Yangon ,      To start a business   
Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**1.9 Previous work (in your native town):**

- Civil servant       Company employee       Factory worker   
Mason/ carpenter       Daily waged labor       Sale person         
Dependent  
Other  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**1.10 Marital status**

- Single       Married       Divorced       Widowed   
Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**1.11 Are you head of the household?**

- Yes       No

**1.12 Including you how many people are there in your household?**

(Number) \_\_\_\_\_

**1.13 Do you have children?**

- Yes       How many? \_\_\_\_\_  
No       (Go to Q-1.16)

**1.14 Are your children living with you in Yangon?**

- Yes   
No       Where do they live? (Place)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1.15 What is your children education level?**

- a) Pre-school  (Number)  
b) Primary school  (Number)  
c) Middle school  (Number)  
d) High school  (Number)  
e) Undergraduate  (Number)  
f) Graduate  (Number)  
g) Other  (Number) (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**1.16 Are there any dependent/dependents in your household?**

- No   
Yes       Where do they live? (Place)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**1.17 Is there any disable person in your family?**

Yes  (how many?) \_\_\_\_\_, please describe  
\_\_\_\_\_

No

**1.18 Your House  / Apartment  / Accommodation  is**

- a) Owned
- b) Rented
- c) Shared with other
- d) other  \_\_\_\_\_

**2. GENERAL OPERATION**

**2.1 Main product sold**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.2 How long have you been selling in this place? (Duration) -----year and -----  
---month**

**2.3 Why did you choose Hledan night market to open the shop/stall?**

High demand  , There are Relatives or friends opening a shop/stall  ,

Close to where I live  , Other

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.4 Is street vending business your first job being in Yangon?**

Yes  (Go to Q-2.6)

No

**2.5 What was then your previous job/ business before starting street vending business?**

Civil servant       Company employee       Factory worker

Mason/ carpenter       Daily waged labor       Sale person      

Dependent

Other  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**2.6 Do you need to pay for the space/ place?**

Yes  (How much?) \_\_\_\_\_ To Whom? \_\_\_\_\_

No

**2.7 When do you open the shop regularly? (Time)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**2.8 Is the operation time decided by you?**

Yes

No  (then who? please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**2.9 How long do you need to prepare and open the shop? (Duration)**

\_\_\_\_\_ hours.

**2.10 How many people are working with you?**

Just myself  (Got to Q- 2.11) \_\_\_\_\_ number (Go to Q-2.10.1)

**2.10.1 They are**

Myself , Family members  \_\_\_\_\_ numbers,

Workers \_\_\_\_\_ numbers, they are/ he or she is from: (place)  
\_\_\_\_\_ and how much do they/ does he or she earn per month?

≤50 thousand  50-80 thousand  80-100 thousand  >100   
thousand

Other  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**2.11 How much was the initial investment?**

- a) ≤50 thousand
- b) 50-100 thousand
- c) 100-500 thousand
- d) >500 thousand

**2.12 How often do you buy goods or raw materials for your business?**

Daily  Weekly  Biweekly  Monthly

Other  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Value: \_\_\_\_\_

**2.13 From where do you buy the good or raw materials? (place or type of supplier???)**

Direct distributor , Wholesaler , Retailer ,

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

**2.14 How do you pay for goods or raw material?**

- a) Cash down
- b) On credit  why? Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Other  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**2.15 Where do you store your merchandise?**

Somewhere (nearby)  (Go to Q-2.16)

At home  (Go to Q-2.17)

Other  \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Q-2.16)

**2.16 How much do you pay for the storage? \_\_\_\_\_ per month.**

**2.17 How do you transport your merchandise?**

By rented car  By taxi  By bus  By hand cart

Other  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**2.18 Are there any seasons making good business?**

a) Yes  (please describe) -----

b) No

**2.19 Are there any seasons making bad business?**

a) Yes  (please describe) -----

b) No

**2.20 How many holidays do you regularly take?**

Once a week  Twice a month  Once a month  Occasionally

Never

Other  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

**3.1 How much is your daily income in average from the shop/stall?**

≤ 20,000 ks  , 20,000-50,000 ks  , 50,000-100,000 ks  ,

100,000-300,000 ks  , 300,000-500,000 ks  , > 500,000 ks

**3.2 Compared to the last 2 years, does your average daily income from the shop/stall increase?**

Yes  Why? (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

No  Why? (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**3.3 Apart from street vending business, do you have any other income sources?**

No

Yes  (Please describe and choose a range) \_\_\_\_\_

≤ 100 thousand       100-300 thousand

300-500 thousand       > 500 thousand

### 3.4 Is there any income contributed by other family members?

No       Yes  (how many people) \_\_\_\_\_ numbers, and  
what kind of job?

Civil servant     Company employee     Factory worker       sale person

Mason/carpenter     Daily waged labor

Other  (please describe)

\_\_\_\_\_  and choose  range: ≤ 100

thousand    100-300 thousand

300-500 thousand     > 500 thousand   

### 3.5 What is your average monthly expense?

Value (please choose a range)	
≤ 100 thousand <input type="checkbox"/> ,    100- 300 thousand <input type="checkbox"/> ,    300-500 thousand <input type="checkbox"/>	
> 500 thousand <input type="checkbox"/>	
Food (% of total expense)	
Rent (accommodation) (% of total expense)	
Education (% of total expense)	
Transportation (% of total expense)	
Health (% of total expense)	
Social activities (% of total expense)	
Others (% of total expense)	

## 4. DIFFICULTY AND CHALLENGES

### 4.1 Is there any problem or challenge regarding limited operation hours set by YCDC?

No  (Go to Q- 4.2)

Yes  (what?)

Shorter operation hours and it decreases earning  Missed peak sale hours

Late closing time , Other

---

### 4.2 Are there any other additional rules and restriction from YCDC?

a) No

b) Yes (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

### 4.3 Where do you usually dispose your waste from your shop?

Disposal site nearby , On the road side where there is the shop/stall ,

Someone collects and I pay the fee , YCDC collects

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

### 4.4 Where do you go to ease yourself?

Go to other shop nearby , Shopping center nearby , Dark spot on the road side

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

### 4.5 Where do you get water? I :

Bring from home , Buy it , Fetch from the neighbouring house ,

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

### 4.6 Are there any safety and security issues during operation hours?

No  (Go to Section 5)

Yes  (Please explain)

Road side accident , Gang violence , Theft and robbery ,

Conflict with others such as neighbouring vendors, car drivers, etc. ,

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

### 4.7 Where do you seek for help?

Ward administrator , YCDC township office/ Staff , Police ,

Other  \_\_\_\_\_



## 5. FUTURE EXPECTATION

### 5.1 Do you satisfy the current situation of street vending business?

Yes  (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

No  (please explain) \_\_\_\_\_

### 5.2 Do you have a plan to change to other business in the next five years?

Yes  (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

No  (why?) \_\_\_\_\_

### 5.3 What kind of improvement do you think of about street vending business in order not to make negative impact to the neighborhood and environment, and your profit?

Rules and regulations of YCDC  , Demarcation and providing an area

Widen the road

Developing parking places (building) in order to create more space

Other  \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Any other additional information?

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