



**St. Mary's University
School of Graduate Studies**

Department of Social Work

**Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendors in
Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

By

Tsigereda Cheru Mamo

**A Thesis Submitted to St. Mary's University School of
Graduate Studies in Partial Fulfillment for the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Social Work
(MSW)**

**August 2020
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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DECLARATION

I, hereunder signed, declare that the thesis entitled "*Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendors in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*" is my original work and has not been submitted to St. Mary's University or to any other institution for the fulfillment of the requirement for any other course of study or degree or diploma. I also assert that no chapter of this manuscript in whole or in part is lifted and incorporated in this thesis from earlier work done by me or others. All sources used in this thesis are dully acknowledged.

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Mrs. Tsigereda Cheru Mamo, a student of Master of Social Work from St. Mary's University, was working under my supervision and guidance for her project work entitle: "*Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendors in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*" which she is submitting is genuine and original work.

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**ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**

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By

Tsigereda Cheru Mamo

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

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ACRONYMS

AAE	Action Aid Ethiopia
CSA	Central Statistical Agency
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DFID	Department For International Development
ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
FDRE	Federal Republic of Ethiopia
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Production
IGAs	Income Generating Activities
ILO	International Labor Organization
IWV	Informal Women Vendors
KII	Key Informant Interview
km ²	Kilometer squares
MBOs	Membership-based organizations
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OAU	Organization of African Unity
SAITF	South African Informal Trading Forum
SANTRA	South African National Retail Traders Association
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SLF	Sustainable Livelihood Framework
SPPSS	Statistical Program for Social Science
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

ABSTRACT

In developing countries, such as Ethiopia, rapid urbanization is taking place due to rural-urban migration and population growth. Addis Ababa, the capital city, has been growing in leaps and bounds. The growth of urbanization has brought both opportunities such as innovations, better access to services, and infrastructures as well as challenges for jobless, poor and informal women vendors spotting the city's streets. Hence the aim of this study was to examine the livelihood strategies of informal women vendors (IWVs) and right to access public spaces in Addis Ababa City Administration, Akaki Kaliti Sub-city. The study was underpinned by Sustainable Livelihood Framework. In order to attain the objective, the study employed a mixed research approach of both qualitative and quantitative type and collected data from various sources. This include survey of 111 informal women vendors, key informant interview with 12 experts and government officials, as well as 4 focused group discussions. A mix of purposive to select the woredas and convenience sampling technique to select the individual survey has followed due to the nature of informal women vendors. The quantitative data were entered in and analyzed using Statistical Program for Social Science (SPSS) Software Version 24 supported by Excel spreadsheet as required. The analysis was mainly descriptive statistics such as tabulation and cross-tabbing of different techniques, inferential statistics such as Chi-square test were used and comparisons were made between Woredas, and socioeconomic variables. The qualitative data were collected from FGDs and KIIs, which were recorded, transcribed, analyzed thematically, and narrated to substantiate and to triangulate quantitative findings. Moreover, the case stories were reported. The results showed that the IWVs were engaged in diversified livelihoods strategies to increase their income and minimize risks. Specifically, findings of the study revealed that the IWVs were mainly participated in food and beverage, vegetables and fruits, household utensils, and textiles and footwear. It was evidenced that vending is an essential livelihood strategy of the operators and constituted more than one-third of household income. They have poor livelihood assets, and policy supports. Moreover, they are highly vulnerable due to poor enabling environment, no protection and right to access to public services and spaces, seasonality/price fluctuations, physical and psychological attacks, sexual harassments, and robbery and theft. Thus, in order to improve the livelihood of IWVs and uplift them from poverty, informal vending must be recognized as viable business: that they must access to financial services, public space and services, and material and equipment loan; that their social networks must be strengthened through forming association; and that they must be empowered through provision of training on business skills, entrepreneurship, personal development, and life skills. Finally, authorities (Job Creation and Urban Safety-net, Micro and Small Enterprises, Police, and Trade and Industry Bureaus) should closely work with pertinent stakeholders to challenge the normalized and continues execution of the IWVs to benefit from growing urban economies.

Keywords: Informal Women Vendor; Public Space; Livelihood; Ethiopia

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Urbanization is perceived as full of opportunities, innovations, and better access to services and infrastructures. However, it also brings many challenges: social and economic marginalization, lack of equal access to opportunities, services, and infrastructures. Urbanization would yield its promised benefit if it is not coupled with practices and cultural factors entrenched in the society that negatively affect women's and girls' participation and benefit in development activities (Action Aid International, 2014). The lack of jobs in the formal sector of the economy as well as the lack of skills in a large part of the labor force, particularly for women, has resulted in the growth of a substantial informal sector in which most workers are in low-paid employment under unregulated and poor working conditions. Informal sector encompasses largely unrecognized, unrecorded and unregulated small scale activities including; small enterprises, household enterprises, self-employed sectors such as street vendors, cleaners, shoe-shiners, hawkers etc. (International Labor Organization (ILO), 2004: 2009).

The informal economy, also said informal sector are often referred to as a grey economy or shadow economy (Chen, 2012) are among the key economic sectors are in the developing countries. Chen defined the informal economy as a diversified set of economic activities, enterprises, jobs, and workers that are not regulated or protected by the state. It tends to be stigmatized as 'illegal', 'underground', 'black market', or 'grey market'. Yet, the vast majorities of people are striving to earn their living from informal sector. According to the International Labor Organizations (ILO, 2020), there are about 62% of the world's workforces - which account more than 2 billion workers - are fetching their livelihood from the informal economy. The proportion of informal employment is the largest and constitutes the vast majority of employment in Africa (85.8 per cent) (ILO, 2018). People resort to this sector to cushion some of the social problems (primarily unemployment) that seemed to derive directly from the difficulties they encountered (Coletto, 2010).

In the low-income countries such as Sub-Saharan African (SSA), such as Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo, informal economy accounts about 90% of the jobs (Galdino, Kiggundu, Jones & Sangbum, 2018). Similarly, ILO (2015) underlined that the

SSA has the highest labor force participation-70.9%- compared with the global average of 63.5% in 2014. However, the quality as well as security of these jobs is a great concern.

Despite this fact, the general lack of jobs in African cities becomes further challenging when the urbanization process has not been preceded by an overall structural transformation in the agricultural sector (Tillerman, 2012). This contributes to what has been referred to as the urbanization of poverty and the urban crisis in African cities which includes decreasing access to secure employments, the deterioration of basic services and the practical absence of state welfare provision (Tranberg-Hansen and Vaa, 2004). As a result, a high and growing number of urban dwellers pursue their livelihoods by informal and precarious means.

In Ethiopia, the informal economy is estimated at about 38.6 percent of GDP compared with an average of 38.4 percent for SSA and 38 percent for all low-income countries (International Monetary Fund (IMF), 2013). This proportion could increase as rapid urbanization is taking place across the country with particular increases in women rural-urban migration to the capital city of Addis Ababa and other major cities. Urban dwellers account for 14.3% of the entire population. Among the entire urban dwellers in Ethiopia, 22.3% are living in Addis Ababa (Central Statistical Agency (CSA), 2011). With a 3.76% annual urban growth rate, the percentage of the population living in urban areas in the country is expected to reach 37.5% by 2050 (Population Reference Bureau & Ethiopian Economic Association, 2015). Currently, women constitute 53.7% of the city's population (CSA, 2011).

Rural-urban migration also plays a key role over the last decades. Over period, the share of the Ethiopian urban population has gradually increased from 11.4 % of the population (4.54 million people) in 1984 to 12.9 % of the population in 1994 (6.92 million people) to 16.5 % of the population (12.21 million people) in 2008. Most of this migration is rural-urban migration. Rural to urban migration over the same period has risen from 1.30 million people in 1984 to 3.26 million in 1998, but the share of rural-urban migrants in total population is still small, having risen from 3.3 % in 1984 to only 4.4% in 1998. While the total number of internal migrants in Ethiopia is growing, interesting changes are taking place in their composition. First, rural out-migration is on the rise. Urban out-migration is declining, with urban-rural migration decreasing the most. Only 16.2 % (14.2 % using agglomeration index) of the 73.92 million people of the

country lived in urban centers in the year 2007 according to the 2007 Ethiopian Population and Housing Census (CSA. 2007), indicating that there is limited and low-level rural-urban migration. The level of urbanization in the three most populous regional states (Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR), which account for 80.4 % of the total population of the country, is only 11.8%, which further reveals low rural-urban migration (Dorosh, Getnet, Brauw, Mehrab, Mueller, Schmidt,E., Kibrom & Thurlow, 2011).

These women face numerous problems affecting their employment and livelihood in the city. They face different challenges such as lack of a secure and safe marketplace: robbery, theft, and homicide while moving within the city and periphery, housing costs; transportation difficulties; and theft within the marketplace. The research made by Action Aid International (AAE) (2014) reveals that perpetrators saw women vendors as “easy targets” for robbery, bribes, sexual favors, violence, and harassment. Their vulnerability and risks in urban spaces are not sufficiently addressed, and women informal vendors face specific forms of violence and insecurities. Despite several legal and policy issues put in place to protect women and girls in the country including the FDRE Constitution (1995), the Revised Criminal Code (2004), the Revised Federal Family Law (2005), the Ministry of Transport Proclamation (Proclamation No.468/2005), among others, it can be said that there is inadequate attention by the state and other development actors as well as members of their communities and their respective families in addressing the problems of women vendors. Overall, the reinforcement of policies/strategies/laws are not sufficiently implemented, which left some urban women at risk. Hence, the issue of equal opportunity, right to work as informal vendor, as well as access to various social and economic services for poor women in urban centers has a broad base, which affects their livelihoods.

Said above, with the current growth in Ethiopia has induced urban growth in leaps and bound. Yet, youth unemployment has grown from 17% in 2011 (CSA. 2011) to about 25% in 2019¹ (Alemayehu, 2019) and more than twice as high for urban women compared to urban men. Over 1 million people are employed in informal sector. Over 128,598 people have engaged in the sector in Addis Ababa alone. Women accounts for 60% (CSA, 2011). According to trade

¹ This estimation is only for youth employment. There are various forms of unemployment such as structural unemployment [under employment 45-49%, disguised unemployment 45%, working poor over 70%; among other] (Alemayehu, 2019)

industry office of Akaki-Kaliti, there are over 20109 informal vendors, of which women constitute about 9548 and about 1437 and 1408 informal women vendors in Woreda 04 and Woreda09, respectively (Akaki Kaliti Trade and Industry Office, 2020). Yet, little attentions are given either to legalize or to support the women's livelihood strategies. As to the knowledge of this study, there is a paucity of studies to understand how the IWVs are making a living in the city under such circumstance and how they tackle the challenges they face. Thus, this study examined urban livelihoods strategies of informal women vendors in the street of Addis Ababa, Akakai sub-city to understand micro-level knowledge about their livelihood strategies in study area.

1.2. Statements of the problem

Although the informal women vendors are rampant here and there, the researches regarding the informal sector as are generally bypassed. For example, a study in Tanzania among informal women vendors showed that an access to non-public space in residential areas is an essential livelihood asset. By avoiding public spaces, such as open streets and more visible areas, the women vendors are to a greater extent protected against police harassments and bribe payments (Tillerman, 2012). Similarly, in Indian Kathmandu Metropolitan City, street vending has become an opportunity of marketing space to most of the urban poor. However, issues relating to urban management and controlling over the deteriorating city environment due to increase vending activities are, of course, challenging for urban governance and social problems as its economic importance is rarely recognized either in the national poverty reduction strategies or in city governance initiatives (Timalisina, 2011). The socio-economic condition of street vendors also matters. A study found out that the male street vendors living into better condition with respect to income status compared to the female street vendors (Chakraborty and Koley, 2018). However, the reason behind are not substantiated.

In Addis Ababa, several women are engaged in informal vendor to earn their livelihood. Informal women vendor is the key aspect of urban economy and important sources of livelihoods for the poor in Addis Ababa. They are often ignored and considered as 'illegal'. The overlooking of the sector is related to concerns such as taxation, licensing, cluttering and encroaching public spaces, creating social problems as some of them engaged in substance abuse (Timalisina, 2011). They are also unregulated and attacked by robbery and policy officers. Sadly, these aspects are

either disregard and discounted by city authority or the authorities determined to exterminate them. They besieged to carry out their business on the street and public spaces, however, they are not allowed to enjoy the right to access public spaces. Policies and other authorities protect them from using this space as an illegal activity. Sometimes, they are treated as criminals despite they have the right to access the public spaces and the right to work and live as stipulated by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Constitution (FDRE, 1995).

The urban poor and newly migrants to the city are attracted to the available opportunities in urban areas in terms of infrastructure and urban amenities. Yet, they face challenges and lack of conducive environment to utilize available opportunities. This leads them further to concur with the normalization of poor women in exclusion from various livelihood strategies. It could exacerbate inequality and limit poor urban women from appropriate access to services and infrastructures. Moreover, due to rampant unemployment in Addis Ababa, several women engaged in informal vendor and their number is growing. There might be two reasons for this. The first is to escape from poverty as urban living costs are increasing from time to time. The other possible reason is the legal arrangement to engage in small business in the city is impassable. Coupled with, lack of capital and limited access to credit services (high interest rate) for the poor, particularly women, they engaged in informal vendor (Chalachew, 2018).

There are a few studies on informal women vending in Ethiopia (Action Aid International, 2014; Getahun, 2015; Chalachew, 2018; Edmealem, 2018). For instance, Getahun (2015) carried out a study on 'social capital and the urban informal economy: the case of street vendors in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia' employing 154 street vendors living in Addis Ababa. He used a multi-stage sampling procedure involving purposive and systematic random-walk techniques to draw samples. The study applies a mixed-methods research design. Accordingly to Getahun (2015), religion, ethnicity, gender, marital status, and strong family and friendship ties are important to obtain credit for informal women vendor. Another study by Edmealem (2018) found out that informal sectors are source of employment and income for the poor and act as a bridge to transit to formal sectors. The study further revealed that shortage of capital and low price for products are key challenges of the street vendors. The government is striving to control the informal vendors and is struggling to formalize them in Yeka sub-city in Addis Ababa (Elias 2015). He also explained that more than 83% of the informal sector 'participants are making a comfortable

livelihood through their activities despite some difficulties' as finding jobs in formal sector is blurred. Moreover, Chalechew (2018) used national household survey data to examine the roles and characteristics of the informal sector in urban centers of Ethiopia, in light of existing theory. He showed that informal sector is growing while employment in manufacturing, services, and trade, hotels and restaurant activities are declining but construction and related activities are looming. He also illustrated the problem that shortage of capital is the major constraint. Then he concluded that the level of income per person also varies by various informal sectors and that the role and characteristics of informal sectors need to be seen from various theories.

These studies are mainly focusing either on Ethiopian urban informal sector in general or the roles and characteristics of informal vendors. The studies so far did not come up with informal women vendors and issues of right to access public purpose regardless of the situation of women in this area. The previous studies also either based on qualitative information alone or review of secondary information. In addition, the study failed to comprehend the situation of IWVs from holistic perspective such as urban livelihood strategies- the struggle to survive. As to the knowledge of the researcher, there is scarcity of empirical evidences that came up with solid knowledge of the livelihood strategies of urban women street vendors. Particularly, there are a few efforts to scrutinize the livelihood strategies and challenges facing the informal women vendors (IWVs) in Addis Ababa City, Akaki Sub-city.

The study on the informal women vendors is crucial to empower, create opportunities, and widen the livelihood strategies of IWVs in the urban fringe areas and urban conglomerates. It also helps to reduce poverty, as semi-urban poor are becoming part of the city where urban development is fast and several people are targeted by urban safety net program. Thus, it is important to understand the reasons why women are engaged in such activities and the right to access and use public spaces for their business. Understanding the challenges they face and support the livelihood of informal vendor require, addressing the interlinked social, economic, and political problems among the urban women living in poverty.

1.3. Objective of the Study

1.3.1. General Objective

The main objective of this study is to examine the livelihood strategies of informal women vendors (I WV) and right to access public spaces in Addis Ababa City, Akaki Kaliti sub-city.

1.3.2. Specific Objective

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- 1) identify the livelihood strategies pursued by informal women vendor in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city;
- 2) analyze the driving force of women to engaged in informal vendor in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city;
- 3) assess the rights and challenges of informal women vendors' to access public spaces for their business in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city; and
- 4) to identify the possible interventions to improve the livelihoods of informal women vendor.

1.4. Research questions

- 1) How do Informal Women Vendors pursue their livelihoods in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city?
- 2) What challenges do informal women vendors face in pursuing their livelihood in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city?
- 3) What are the challenges of informal women vendors to access to public spaces in the study area?
- 4) What are the possible interventions to improve the livelihoods of informal women vendor in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city?

1.5. Significance of the study

The study could contribute to the growing knowledge domain of gender issues in mainstreaming economic activities as well as the predicaments women are experiencing to survive in urban milieus. Particularly assessing I WV livelihood strategies, the challenges they face is timely as poverty is increasing in urban areas due to spiking living costs, growing unemployment, and fast rural-urban migrations. It also broadens an understanding of the livelihood strategies of the urban

poor women. Specifically, the study will challenge the perception about IWV and argues the right to access public spaces in urban. Thus, the output of this study could benefit:

- Policy advisors to shape the government policies and strategies towards poverty reduction through including the situation of informal vending in general and women in particular as central piece of policy focus;
- Researchers through coming up with new research agenda and posing IWV as key and niche area of research in urban areas;
- City economists and sub-city administration to include IWV as a part of city's economic planning, rights of IWV as citizen that deserve attention, and their contribution to GDP city; as well as
- Urban-based donors and NGOs to design interventions and development projects and programs geared towards improving the livelihoods of IWV in the urban settings.

1.6. Scope of the study

This study focuses on women as previous studies show that women who engaged in informal vendor are more vulnerable. Therefore, this research does not aim at providing a comparative research on male and female vendors. Moreover, the extent of vending items found in urban areas is immense whereas this study is geographically limited to two woreda (04 and 09) in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, which is mainly bordered by Finfinne Special Zone of Oromia Gelan. The study area is wide where there are several industrial and manufacturing activities, agricultural livelihood bases, formal trade, but highly cluttered by informal vendors. It only take into account the place where the informal business is operated not where the respondents could live as some of them work in urban and live in rural areas due to the soaring cost of housing. The study aimed to identify the livelihood strategies, the challenges to operate their business in the urban public spaces and how they access it. This study is, thus, interested to investigate informal vendor on streets with a particular focus on the women regardless of their age and marital status. The target of the research may be engaged in various diverse activities. Thus, the scope of the study was limited to Informal Women Vendors engaged in various activities in AkakiKaliti Sub-city of Woreda 04 and 09. This study was concentrated

on a sub-city and only in two Woredas and may not be generalized for the city as a whole but at least at local scale, can instigate to think beyond a mere ‘stereotype’ that IWV is ‘illegal’.

1.7. Limitation of the Study

During data collection, the settlement and location of informal women vendors were often chased by policy from place to place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent state of emergency declared by the Federal Government of Ethiopia. They may not be concentrated to provide all required information. For the same reason, it was some limitations to conduct focused group discussions. As a result, only two focused group discussions were conducted with six participants in each group with two meters apart as per the regulation of state of emergency. This study focuses on women and unable to obtain the opinion of men informal businesses, which may be useful to see the challenges of access public access from men’s perspective. Lastly, some people may not be interested for interview unless payment was made as opportunity cost of their time for obvious reason; this may has impact on quality of dat. Under such circumstances, further attempt to get volunteer participants due to resource constraints. In sum, the process of data collection has taken more resources and time than expected. The researcher tried to resolve it to the best possible means.

1.8. Operational definition

Informal vendor: informality refers to vending without a permit, the lack of a business license for fixed premises and self-provisioning of premises. Thus, the women to be included in this study operate their enterprises informally. However, the women may be engaged in formal sectors and pay tax sometimes and operate the informal business in part-time basis. The study only focused on the informal activities without reference to the formal activities they might engage in. The study used women engaged in the informal vendor as unit of analysis not the household head or household members who have no stake in the direct engagement of operating informal business.

Livelihood strategies: are defined as occupational categories usually in long term. Livelihood strategies are organized sets of lifestyle choices, goals and values, and activities influenced by biophysical, political/legal, economic, social, cultural, and psychological components (Scoones,

1998; Ellis, 2000; Degefa; 2008).The livelihood strategies of a IWV, therefore, comprise a portfolio of short-term coping and long-term adapting strategies.

Livelihood activities: represent routine activities, which are employed in short term when they face challenges of surviving in the informal vendor- pursue their day-to-day survival in the environment. Slowly, an IWV employs a new adapting strategy composed of elements from the former adapting strategy and the coping strategy to develop a new portfolio of livelihood activities (Degefa, 2005)

The right access public space: meant the right of all city inhabitants, especially poor people, to have equitable access to all that a city has to offer and also to have the right to change their city in ways that they see fit. It entails freedom from violence and harassment on the streets; safe public spaces where women and girls can move freely; public amenities at residences and in public locations to survive; free from harassment and abuse in the workplace; and systems and structures for women and girls to enjoy social, economic, cultural and political participation (Avila and Friendly, 2015). Another definition by UNESCO (2020) stated a public space refers to an area or place that is open and accessible to all peoples, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or socioeconomic level. These are public gathering spaces such as plazas, squares, and parks. Connecting spaces, such as sidewalks and streets, are also public spaces. To this end, Ethiopia has signed several covenants and conventions such as Universal Declaration of Human Right. The rights to public space are already recognized in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia's Constitution. Some forms of implicit rights include a right to movement; some formulations capture part of the right to the city and the right to access public space.

1.9. Structure of the thesis

The thesis is organized as follow. Chapter one presents the introductory background of the study. Chapter two explains literature review on the definitions, theories, empirical literatures, and termite at conceptual framework of the study. Chapter three discusses the description of the study area and methods involved in the data collection and analysis. Chapter four deals with data analysis, presentation, and discussion of major findings. Chapter five ends up by making key conclusions and foreword recommendations to improve the livelihoods and condition of informal women vendors.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. Definitions of Basic Concepts and Terminologies

Several concepts and terminologies are involved in this thesis. Thus, they need clear definitions and delineations. *Informal Vendor* is sometimes called street vendor or informal economic sector. It is also called ‘small capitalist of the poor’, ‘community of entrepreneurs’ or ‘God of small sellers’, etc (Kumari, 2006). In India, a “street vendor” means a person engaged in vending of articles, goods, wares, food items or merchandise of everyday use or offering services to the public, in a street, lane, sidewalk, footpath, pavement, public park or any other public place or private area. It can be a temporary built up structure or by moving from place to place. It includes hawker, peddler, squatter and all other synonymous terms which may be local or region specific as per the country’s The Street Vendors Act.

Public space is usually streets but it is contested as it changes and takes various forms for many marginalized groups including women. Informal vendors occupy one of the largest and most visible occupational groups in the informal economy, which is found in the public space i.e. ‘street’ (Chakraborty & Koley, 2018).

The other concept is *livelihoods*. According to Chambers and Conway (1992, 5), any livelihood, urban or rural, comprises

... the capabilities, assets, (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term.

Based on above definitions, *livelihood strategies* are the way in which people adopt different activities for survival in different socio-economic and environmental settings. They comprise of activities that generate the means of household survival. Informal Women Vendors adopt various strategies by choosing to sell goods in various settings for their livelihood.

2.2. Theoretical perspectives

There are several theoretical literatures rooted in development theories that elaborate the informal economy in general and the livelihood strategies of IWV in particular. These literatures are rooted in classical and neoclassical economics since the 1950s. Accordingly, this thesis focused on the key theoretical landmarks that affected the thinking of IWV. These are the modernization or the dual economy (Ellis and Stephen, 2001), the neoliberal or legalist approach; the structural, dependency or neo-Marxist approach (Chalachew, 2018); and grassroots development- people centered-need based approach (Willis, 2005).

2.2.1. Modernization theory

In the modernization theory, economy is dichotomized as modern and traditional. The formal economy is considered as viable, legal and useful for the economic development while the informal sector such as street vendor are considered as traditional , rudimentary, illegal and useless. Thus, modernization theory believes that informal economy must be exterminated and replaced by formal sector. The theory affirms that activities such as informal vendor are at the early stage of development and thus gradually move to advanced- modern/formal economic activities. This is because formal sector is considered as surplus capital generator while informal sector is subsistent and barrier for the latter. This theory failed to recognize informal women vendor as urban livelihoods of the poor (Timalsina, 2011).

2.2.2. The Structural, Dependency, or Neo-Marxist theories

The Structural, Dependency, or Neo-Marxist theories contradict the modernization theory in the sense that the capitalist mode of production has created asymmetric relationship between the formal and informal economic activities. The central feature of Marx's analysis was the relationship between capital and labor (Willis, 2005). According to this stream of thought, capitalist development is premised on the exploitation of women's labor through personalized intra-household labor relations, which systematically place a lower value on the labor performed by women in an economy. Hence, IWV do and how they do it is increasingly determined by the laws of motion of these larger economies, through markets for labor and products. The state plays a central role in this process, through various direct and indirect subsidies. The result of the spreading of the increased integration of informal economies into formal market structures is

that individuals and households come increasingly to depend on the workings of the market for their survival, by selling goods or their own labor to buy food. This theory considers IWV as exploited, preyed by large capitalist whose motive is profit maximization as the formal economies drivers, and could change gradually with the changing social systems. According to this theory, unless the disparities in resource access and right to public spaces are addressed, IWV could not survive as sustainable business. Instead, it triggers unemployment and underemployment, which in turn push to informal vending.

2.2.3. Neoliberal orthodoxy

The third is the neoliberal orthodoxy, which situated the labor market within formal and informal economies to the legal, bureaucratic position of the state. The theory justifies the marginalization of certain economic activities and actors; tremendous growth of informality in an economy due to the increasing rural-urban migration (Chalachew, 2018).The neoliberal perspective poises the issue of the legal status. It is the main element distinguishing informal from formal activities. Thus, it suggests the deregulation of the market, abolition of state intervention and designing programs to address the needs of the poor with the view to alleviating poverty. Particularly, the need of the poor women and resource poor urban inhabitants are not met. Moreover, the unemployment, rural urban migrations are not regulated (Chen, 2012).

2.2.4. Grassroots Development- People Centered-Need Based Approach

The fourth perspective is a grassroots development- people centered-need based approach. The proponents of these theories advocate pro-poor development. One of such approach is the sustainable livelihood approach. It also enables to change the development philosophy from traditional—resource-focused development to vulnerability analysis. As grassroots development, this approach advocated a focus on and support for the urban informal sector. In addition, the approach needed public service provision to be expanded and developed to meet the needs of the poor (Willis, 2005).The basic need approach stresses, most advocates of ‘basic needs’ were not calling for an end to the modernization project, rather that greater attention should be paid to smaller-scale activities and poorer sectors of society such as IWV. This is the very reason that the current study adopts this approach to underpin the livelihood strategies of informal vendor in Addis Ababa as elaborated in the conceptual framework sub-section.

2.3. Empirical literature

Globally, informal vendors often came from outside of the city boundary while most of the street vendors are vegetable vendors and they try to live their life with dignity and self-respect through hard work. Some informal vendors are key sources of livelihoods while other are to supplement other activities carried out during spare time. Some only engaged in one activity other diversified several vending activities. They are providing goods in cheaper price to another section of urban poor that otherwise would be impossible to provide by the urban authorities or by the urban governance system (Timalsina, 2011). Whatever it is, it is important sources of livelihoods.

The UN Women report on the 'Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016' illustrated that women constitute a disproportionate percentage of workers as street vendors, domestic workers, and subsistence seasonal agriculture workers. For example, , in informal employment in non-agricultural jobs make up over 80 %, 74%, and 54% in South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, respectively (UN Women, 2016:71). The report further elaborated that informal, sometimes referred as 'grey economy', leaves women often without any protection of labor laws, social benefits such as pension, health insurance, or paid sick leave. They routinely work for lower wages and in unsafe conditions, including risk of sexual harassment. The lack of social protections has long-term impact on women. For example, fewer women receive pensions globally, and as a result, women that are more elderly are now living in poverty. Even in developed economies, such as in France, Germany, Greece, and Italy, women's average pension is more than 30 per cent lower than men's (UN Women, 2016:147).

The informal vending in developing countries is featured by low level of income; easy of entry, unskilled knowledge, self-employed that is why it's includes large number of people. For example, in India informal vending employed millions of people; earn money and living their livelihood by selling wide range of goods and service on the street (Chakraborty & Koley, 2018). Nevertheless, informal sector suffers from social, economic, and political biased in the city. Sometimes, informal vendor are blamed for causing great inconvenience to the pedestrians and vehicles but are not always a threat to a city. For example in a Surat city of India, Bhatt & Jariwala (2018) revealed that people are working with street vendors' organizations to formulate innovative policies, programs, and practices. The membership-based organizations of informal vending served to forge relationship with the authorities, build solidarity, and solve problems

with other vendors. Several such organizations have developed innovative ways to work with cities to keep the streets clean and safe while gaining a secure livelihood for vendors.

IWV is the organization of poor, self-employed women workers who earn a living through their own labor or small businesses. They are workers who have no fixed employee-employer relationship and depend on their own labor for survival. Around 60% of the informal sector workforce comprises of women in Surat City of India (Bhatt & Jariwala, 2018). In this area, informal vendors are organized into groups such as Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), WIEGO (Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing), etc. which able to promote economic rights; legal identity and social recognition as workers; social rights & social protection; voice and bargaining power; and organization. This shows IWV can form a group and leverage economic and legal biases against them.

When we see the socioeconomic activities of informal vendors, it includes women, men, and children of different age, marital, and localities. For example, a study in India showed that 80% of the informal vendors are with productive age of 15-59 years while 20% are 60 years and above (Chakraborty & Koley, 2018). They found out that most of them are married. About 62% of respondents were married; 18% were unmarried; 12% were separated; 8% were widow/widower.

Informal women vendors are exposed to bribery, harassment, and eviction by police and local authorities. They have asked to pay a considerable amount of money as bribes to police and local officials. Policed local officers harass them and demand money from them on the pretext of them being illegal and removing them from their place (Kumari, 2006).

In Africa, the World Bank (2008) estimated that urban informal sector accounts for 60 % of employment in Africa. In City of Johannesburg, South Africa where one million street traders and over 70% of them sold food, street traders contribute significantly to share of the workforce for both the formal and informal economies. Street vending sustains low-income households and local and international migrants who have no other economic options. The study underlined that access to this job relies on social networks. However, among many barriers the

accesses to public space and public services as a “public good” discourage informal vendors (Arias, 2019).

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 85 percent of women in total are vulnerably employed whereas 70 percent of all men engage in vulnerable employment (ILO, 2012). In the same talk, a study in Accra Ghana indicated that access to loans from microfinance institutions is viewed both as a positive to enhance their business through availability of loans, money in the system, and development projects and negative influence on vendors’ work through currency depreciation, high prices of inputs/supplies, bad economy, high interest rates, unemployment, and unavailable supplies. The study found that there are limited linkage between formal and informal business in the value chain but to some extent mutually interdependent as retailers and suppliers. It also suggested the government and other actors need to be proactive toward facilitating, rather than denying, infrastructure, support services and adequate space for informal traders (Akua and Steel, 2015).

An exploratory qualitative study of women vendors in food and beverage activities in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania illustrated women vendors mainly depend on their labor as an asset and local social capital in order to pursue their livelihoods. IWV were also engaged in multiple livelihood strategies as a means to secure their livelihoods or survival due to competition of similar businesses such as food/beverage vendors that may decrease income. The IWV is often affected by seasonal price volatility and thus use their social support to access informal loan. They also end in areas away from main roads and not openly visible for police to escape from bribe payments and police harassments, which decrease livelihood constraints (Tillerman, 2012).

Kinyanjui (2014) cited the 2011 economic survey of the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and stated that in Nairobi; about 2.7 million people are engaged in the informal economy. It explained that the marginalization of informal vendor is to a large extent attributed to gender blind and formality oriented urban planning exercises. As such women are affected by an urban planning ideology that does not include them. “The failure of African planners to plan for economic informality means that they do not plan for women, who form the majority. Lack of urban planning in cities in the global South in general and in African cities in particular is a major problem; the urban sprawl that surrounds cities in Africa has defied urban planning” (Kinyanjui, 2014:5)

Similar to the global and regional trends, the population of Street vendors occupies a significant proportion of the total employment in the informal sector in Ethiopian urban economy. The economy as a whole is dominated by the informal sector. It is reported that informal sector is declining in Ethiopia. A report produced on Labor Market Dynamics in Ethiopia between 1999 and 2010 by Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) (2013) revealed a significant drop of people engaged in informal businesses. It showed that between 1999 and 2010 labor engaged in informal economy has decreased from 72.8% to 33.3% in 2010 (MoLSA, 2013:16). The report further indicated the proportion of informal economy in Addis Ababa City administration was about 20.5% as source of livelihood or essential supplementary income, and hence the only reliable and the most important means livelihood for women and the poor.

Another study that cited CSA (1999) confirmed similar trend. It showed that 50.6% of the total national urban labor forces of the country are accommodated by informal sector. Just within a few years, it grew into to 60% (CSA, 2003). However, it was reported that gradually the CSA surveys depicted that the share of labor force in informal economy has declined into 38.5 per cent in 2005 (CSA, 2006) and to 25.8 per cent in 2012 (CSA, 2013). The sharp decline of the informal sector figure is perhaps attributed to changes in the definition of the sector by the CSA its subsequent surveys (Chalachew, 2018). Another estimate showed that informal businesses contribute 26% of urban employment in Ethiopia, with relatively low and decreasing value added per person (Fransen and van Dijk, 2008).

A study carried out on the driving factors, transition intention and constraints of urban informal economy among street vendors in Addis Ababa City Administration by Edmealem (2018) found out that informal sectors are source of employment and income for the poor and act as a bridge to transit to formal sectors. The study further revealed that shortage of capital and low price for products are key challenges of the street vendors. Similarly, Elias (2015), the government is striving to control the informal vendors and is struggling to formalize them in Yeka sub city in Addis Ababa. He also explained that more than 83% of the informal sector 'participants are making a comfortable livelihood through their activities despite some difficulties' as finding jobs in formal sector is blurred.

Employing a national household survey data, Chalachew (2018) examined the roles and characteristics of the informal sector in urban centers of Ethiopia, in light of existing theory. He

showed that informal sector is growing while employment in manufacturing, services, and trade, hotels and restaurant activities are declining but construction and related activities are looming. Then he concluded that the level of income per person also varies by various informal sectors and that the role and characteristics of informal sectors need to be seen from various theories. Chalachew (2018) also found out informal sectors are constrained by several factors. For example, the informal sector diminishes with increasing capital requirements to establish it. Moreover, he underlined that shortage of capital, lack of skills, and market problem were mentioned as problems faced during start up and operational stages.

None of studies in Africa, with exception of South Africa, has brought the challenges of access to public space to operate business among IWW. Some attempted to look at formal-informal dichotomy regardless of the issue of women in informality. Others have paid enormous attention to the contribution of informal vendors to national economy and mechanisms of formalizing the street vendor. Albeit, the studies merit to the subjects, there are limited studies that focused directly on the informal women, their livelihoods and access to space in Ethiopia in general and in Addis Ababa in particular. Therefore, this area deserves special attention and further investigations to understand the livelihood conditions as well as access to public space so that to inform city planners and practitioners to take this aspect into consideration.

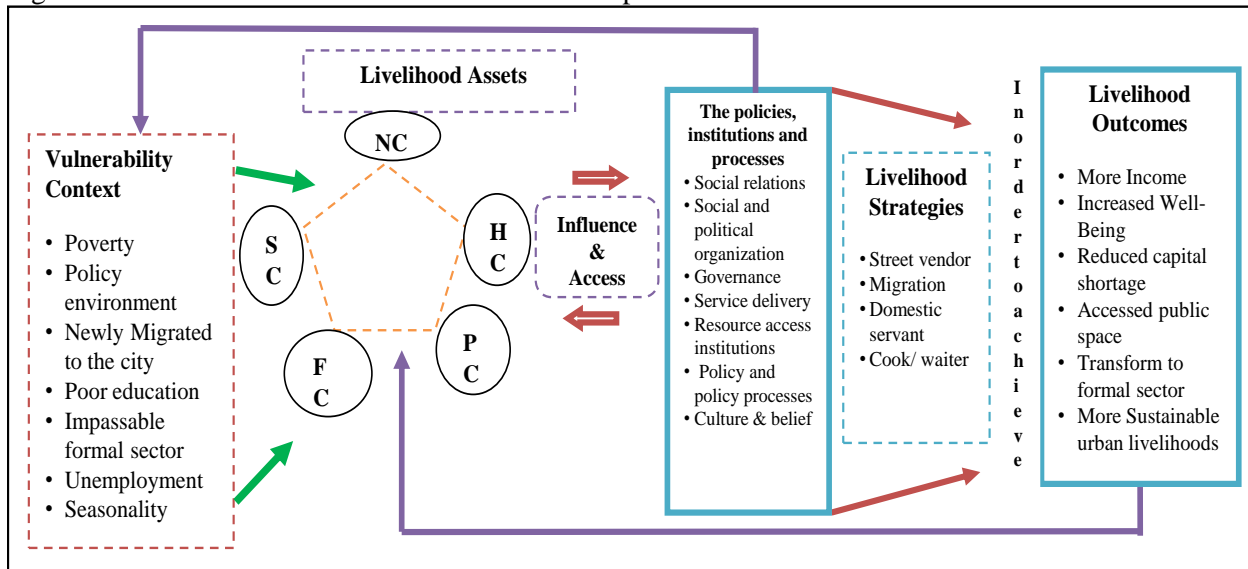
2.4. Conceptual Framework

Since 1990s, development practitioners and researchers have come up with a new approach to poverty reduction. One of such new approaches was the sustainable livelihood approach, which can be applied to urban and rural contexts. It was promoted by multilateral and bilateral organizations such as United Nations Development Program (UNDP), DFID, and many other agencies worldwide. This study will employ Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) in urban settings to underpin the livelihood strategies, access to public space and challenges facing the Informal Women Vendor in Addis Ababa.

This is mainly because SLF refers to a sustainable and dynamic system that “enables peoples to pursue robust livelihood strategies that provide, in effect, ‘layers of resilience’ to overcome ‘waves of adversity’; enabling peoples to cope with and adopt to change, and even transform adversity into opportunity” (Glavovic, et al., 2003). It is also a tool used to analyze livelihoods

and identify entry points that could potentially impact the livelihoods of the greatest number of people such as the IWV.

Figure 1: Sustainable livelihood framework to underpin informal Women vendors in Addis Ababa



FC-Financial Capital, HC-Human Capital, NC-Natural Capital, PC-Physical Capital, SC-Social Capital

Based on Scoone (2009); Degefa (2005); DFID (2001); and Ellis (2000)

The framework was adopted by several scholars in rural contexts in the context of developing countries to study food security (Degefa, 2005), natural resources management (Reta & Ali, 2012), among many. SLF has five components. These are: the vulnerability context, livelihood assets, transforming structures and processes, livelihood strategies and livelihood outcomes.

2.4.1. Context of IWV

The vulnerability contexts are related to factors affecting sustainability of Informal Women Vending in Addis Ababa. These can be poverty, policy environment, newly migrated to the city, poor education, impassable/unease of formal sector, unemployment, and seasonality. These trends and shocks expose and increase susceptibility of informal women vendors to poverty and consequently affect the potential for livelihood sustainability. Some of these contexts are circumstances, such as protection from accessing public space for their business, in which people face and over which they have limited or no control unless there are interventions that help them to develop capacity for coping and adaptation.

2.4.2. Livelihood Assets

There are six resources that can be availed to IWV to carry out their business. The presence of these resources enhances their livelihoods and the absence of them limits and hampers livelihood opportunity. These resources are often termed as assets or capitals as they are production. Namely,

- 1) **Human capital** encompasses good health, skills, knowledge, and ability to labor that together enable people to pursue different livelihood strategies and achieve their livelihood objectives.
- 2) **Natural capital** refers to land and produce, water and aquatic resources, environmental services, public spaces, city parks, green areas, forests and biodiversity.
- 3) **Social capital** refers to networks and connections that encourages trust and mutual support, leadership, collective representation, access to opportunities and participation in decision-making
- 4) **Physical capital** refers to infrastructure such as transportation, roads, buildings, market places, water supply and sanitation, tools and technology
- 5) **Financial capital** refers to savings, credit (formal and informal), pensions, remittances, and wages.

2.4.3. The policies, institutions and processes

Based on Cleary, et al. (2003), the policies, institutions and processes are an important aspects of livelihood access and include the following aspects. `

- 1) **Social relations:** the way in which gender, ethnicity, culture, history, religion and kinship affect the livelihoods of different groups with a community
- 2) **Social and political organization:** decision-making processes, civic bodies, social rules and norms, democracy, leadership, power and authority, rent-seeking behavior
- 3) **Governance:** the form and quality of government systems including structure, power, efficiency and effectiveness, rights and representation
- 4) **Service delivery:** the effectiveness and responsiveness of state and private sector agencies engaged in delivery of services such as education, health, water and sanitation
- 5) **Resource access institutions:** the social norms, customs and behaviors that define people's access to resources

- 6) **Policy and policy processes:** the processes by which policy and legislation is determined and implemented and their effects on people's livelihoods

2.4.4. Livelihood strategies

Livelihood strategies are activities to overcome the challenges that triggered vulnerability to engage in informal sector. It is how people combine their income generating activities; the way in which they use their assets, the assets they choose to invest in; and how people manage to preserve existing assets and income (Ellis, 2000). In context of this study, an informal vendor woman can employ the existing resources at their disposal and interventions to transform the subsistence urban life through various means. These can happen because of unplanned migration, poverty, land grabbing/ demolishing squatter, lack of capacity building or training, mis-information about urban, absence of credit, need of high startup capital, difficulty or bureaucracy of obtaining license, etc. If these aspects are improved or changed, ultimately, the poor women engaged in alternative livelihood models that the household follow could resulted in desirable or undesirable consequences. The livelihood strategies of an individual/household of IWV, therefore, comprise a portfolio of short-term coping and long-term adapting strategies (Scoone, 2009).

2.4.5. Livelihood outcomes

The final one is the livelihood outcomes include all of what people actually achieve from their livelihoods and/or aspire to achieve in the future (livelihood goals). These include more income, increased well-being, reduced capital shortage, improved food security condition, minimize livelihood insecurity, transform their business to formal sector, obtain access to appropriate right to public space to operate for their businesses, and thus achieve sustainable urban livelihood (DFID, 2001).

Overall, the framework address the problem at hand- the issues of informal vendors for several reasons. First, the approach is 'people-centered'. Under the SLF model, the making of policy is based on realistic understanding of the struggle of IWVs are making to survive. The practical advantage of the model's focus on the actual life of the IWV is that it highlights the participation of the poor themselves as indispensable for determination of priorities for practical intervention and in the institutions and processes that govern their lives. Second, it is 'holistic' in that it is

‘non-sectoral’ and it recognizes multiple influences, multiple actors, multiple strategies, and multiple outcomes facing IWV. Third, it is ‘dynamic’ because it attempts to understand change, complex cause-and-effect relationships, and ‘iterative chains of events’. Fourth, it starts with analysis of strengths rather than of needs, and seeks to build on everyone's inherent potential. Fifth, it attempts to ‘bridge the gap’ between macro and micro levels- national level policy (taxation, licensing) and local level struggle for survival and resource scarcity. Sixth, it is committed explicitly to several different dimensions of sustainability: environmental, economic, social, and institutional (Degefa, 2006; Ellis, 2000). Thus, SLF can be applied in the existing milieu of the urban informal women vendors.

2.5. Philosophical stance

The basic premise of the research approach is inspired the methodology was the theoretical perspective that links a research problem with the particular methods. It is researcher’s assumptions about the nature of existence of knowledge called *ontology*. Ontology was not concerned with the specific nature of empirical entities, but rather with more basic questions of the universal forms of existence. The issues under scrutiny would always have some connection to the investigation of natural and social phenomena. It seeks to answer the question, “What is being?” The issues under scrutiny would always have some connection to the investigation of natural and social phenomena (Given, 2008). In turn, ontological inquiry leads to a perspective philosophy on the nature of knowledge building known as *epistemology*. Epistemology, according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, is the theory or science of the method and ground of knowledge. It questions: What is the known? What is knowledge? Who can know and what can be known? Hesse-Biber (2010) argues that a ‘methodology as a theoretical bridge that connects the research problems with the research methods’.

Ontologically, this study claims existence and understanding of informal vendors and the right to access public space in the City. To this end, the study is interested to know the way informal vendor is perceived given legal and socioeconomic contexts. Epistemologically, the study collected and measured the socioeconomic data and perception of various actors using different instruments.

Based on ontological and epistemological ground, the philosophical instance adopted, the study accommodated the multiple nature of subject to be studied: that qualitative method rooted in interpretive approach and quantitative methods emanated from positivist paradigm, which is definitely inform the adoption of mixed approach (Hesse-Biber, 2010; Given, 2008). It is hence the position of this research is to use mixed methods. This kind of approach is also suggested as an appropriate method in food security and livelihood strategy studies (Reta and Ali, 2011; Degefa, 2006). Such that the data collection involved gathering both numeric information using survey as well as explanations (perception and opinions) through FGDs, KIIs, and direct observation that represents both quantitative and qualitative information.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Description of Study Area

Addis Ababa is the diplomatic capital of Africa. More than 92 embassies and consular representatives cluster in the city (Edmealem, 2018). It is where the African Union is headquartered and where its predecessor the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was based. It also hosts the headquarters of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), as well as various other continental and international organizations. Addis Ababa is, therefore, often referred to as "the political capital of Africa" for its historical, diplomatic, and political significance for the continent (UNECA, undated). In addition to the capital and largest City of Ethiopia as well as the seat of African Union and several international organizations, the City is also called Finfinne as a chartered City and is serving as a capital city of Oromia Regional State.

Addis Ababa, with estimated land area of 527 km², according to the 2007 census, the city has a population of 2,739,551 inhabitants (CSA, 2007). A more recent population projection revealed that the population of the City in 2017 is expected to be 3,434,000 persons (1,625,000 male and 1,809,000 female) (CSA, 2013). It lies at an elevation of 2,200 meters (7,200 ft) and is a grassland biome, located at 9°1'48"N 38°44'24"E. The City lies at the foot of Mount *Entoto* and forms part of the watershed for the Awash. From its lowest point, around Bole International Airport, at 2,326 meters (7,631 ft) above sea level in the southern periphery, Addis Ababa rises to over 3,000 meters (9,800 ft) in the *Entoto* Mountains to the north.

The economic activities in Addis Ababa are diverse. According to official statistics from the federal government, more 266,000 people in the city are engaged in trade and commerce. Moreover, several people are engaged in manufacturing and industry; homemakers of different variety; in civil administration; transport and communication; education, health and social services; hotel and catering services; and urban agriculture. In addition to the residents of rural parts of Addis Ababa, the city dwellers also participate in animal husbandry and cultivation of gardens. Some lands are irrigated annually, on which vegetables are cultivated. It is a relatively clean and safe city, with the most common crimes being pickpocketing, scams and minor burglary. The City has recently been in a construction boom with tall buildings rising in many

places. Various luxury services have also become available and the construction of shopping malls has recently increased (Addis Ababa City Administration, 2019).

The City Administration is subdivided into ten sub-cities and 99 Woredas. This study is interested in *Akaki Kality*, one of the 10 sub-cities of Addis Ababa. The projection of CSA (2013) showed that the sub-city has a total population of 227,182 (110,435 male and 116,747 female) in 2017. Formerly, Akaki Kality was known as Woreda 26. Many industries are found in this sub-city of Addis Ababa. The sub-city is the southernmost suburb of the city and borders with the sub-cities of Nifas Silk-Lafto and Bole. Driving further East (pass the toll highway at *Tulu Dimtu*), one enters the Oromia Special Zone Surrounding *Finfinne*. Once you leave the City of Addis Ababa borders, the first town you will come across is *Gelan*, and further East is the town of *Dukem*. Informal vendor is common among poor women in general as it is also the first uptake in cities economic activities by new migrant from rural to urban.

3.2. Research Approach

This study employed mixed research design, which accommodates both qualitative and quantitative methods. While qualitative methods are best for addressing many of the how and why questions that researchers have in mind such as how IWVs engaged in this activities and why they lack access to public services and spaces for their business, quantitative approaches are appropriate for examining who has engaged in a behavior or what has happened and figure out their socioeconomic characteristics. Qualitative approaches are typically used to explore new phenomena and to capture individuals' thoughts, feelings, or interpretations of meaning and process (Given, 2008). The types of data collected were both qualitative and quantitative. This study is, thus, a descriptive mixed cross-sectional research design.

3.3. Population of the Study

The study proposed Akakai Kaliti sub-city due to high concentration of informal women vendors. According to personal communication with Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, it has 11 Woredas in which informal women vendors are too high in 04, 08 and 09. This study selected 04 and 09 Woredas due to time and cost. The unit of analysis is individual informal women vendor.

3.4. Sampling Techniques and Procedure

The study employed a purposive sampling method called convenience sampling technique because the study was not aimed at generalizing the findings, but rather to increase the contextual understanding of livelihoods strategies of IWV and stimulate discussion among scholars, urban based practitioners, and city administrators about the precarious position of hidden and the specific group the urban dwellers. Based on the data from Woredas, the sampling frame of this study is 2845 IWVs. The sub-city was clustered by Woreda. Two Woredas were selected purposively due to high concentration of informal vending. It was also the entry and exit sit for the surrounding suburbs.

Three steps were taken to determine the sample size. First, the total numbers of informal vendors were obtained from respective Woreda Trade and Industry Offices. Second, the sample size was determined from the total representative sample for two Woredas. Third, the sample was proportionally allocated to each Woredas. Moreover, the sampling procedure was following a standard statistical procedure. The factors that were considered in the determination of sample size include: (a) the number of units in the population; (b) the level of statistical significance (the degree of confidence in the evaluation so that the difference observed would not occur by chance); (c) the variation of the population (e.g. variance in income within the population); and (d) the level of statistical power (the degree of confidence that the difference would be detected if occurred). Fourth, the cost and time may not allow employing very large sample.

3.4.1.1. Sampling frame

The numbers of informal vendor in Addis Ababa is controversial due to new entry into and drop out from the sector. The sampling frame of informal women vendors in the two Woredas were obtained from the Trade Industry Office of Akaki-Kaliti and crosschecked with Woreda data. There are over 20109 informal vendors, of which women constitute about 9548 and about 1437 and 1408 informal women vendors in Woreda 04 and Woreda 09, respectively (Akaki Kaliti Trade and Industry Office, 2020). Then, the study has first identified the spot of street vendors in the public spaces. Then, the people work in the particular public space was initially randomly approached for interview and asked to recommend other potential IWV until the required sample size was filled.

3.4.1.2. Sample size

As the sampling frame was already established, the sample size was estimated. The total estimated IWV in the two Woredas are 2845 IWVs (Woreda 04=1437; Woreda 09=1408). In order to determine the sample size, the study adopted the formula below from Kothari (2004).

$$n = \frac{z^2 \cdot p \cdot q \cdot N}{(e^2) \cdot (N - 1) + z^2 \cdot p \cdot q} \quad (1)$$

Where, n is the desired sample size; z =the upper points $\alpha/2$ of standard normal distribution at 95% confidence level ($z=1.96$); e =acceptable error at a given precision rate (assumed 5%); p =the probability of selecting an IWV (0.5 or 50%); $q=1-p$; N =the total IWV in the Woredas ($N=2845$). This assumption generated 88 individuals. Moreover, the study assumed 25% (23 individuals) as contingency due to non-response, unavailability or unwillingness of the interviewees. This was based on the assumption that the IWVs are highly mobile and difficult to trace. However, there were no such circumstances happened during the survey that all individuals (88 plus 23 equal to 111) were analyzed.

In order to allocate appropriate sample size to each Woreda, proportionate stratification of the sample size of each stratum to the population size of the stratum was used. In such a way each stratum sample sizes was determined following equation: $n_h = (N_h / N) * n$, where n_h is the sample size for stratum h , N_h is the population size for stratum h , N is total population size, and n is total sample size (<http://www.StatTrek Teach yourself statistics>). Accordingly, the sample size in Woreda 04 was 56 and that of Woreda 09 was 55 IWVs.

In order to obtain the required a convenience sampling technique to approach were used as the IWVs have no present address to visit hone to home and lists are not available at woreda level. Said above, first a volunteer IWVs was randomly contacted; the objective and purpose of the research were explained; and interview held. Then, she was asked to connect to one or more other on IWV. A such, the required respondents were obtained.

3.5. search Methods

3.5.1. Primary data

The primary data were collected from household survey, Focused Group Discussants, Key Informant Interviews, and Case Studies. Moreover, desk reviews were done from various documents relevant to the study.

a) Key Informant Interview (KIIs)

The key informant interviews were conducted to capture the views of various stakeholders and the poor women. Key informants were the people with the most knowledge of the informal businesses who have enough quality information about the activities. KIIs were started from Akaki Kaliti Sub-city and Woreda 04 and Woreda 09 Trade and Industry Offices as well as Small and Micro-enterprise (SME) Agency. These helped to understand the broader context, for example types of vending, attitude towards these activities, which enabled me to understand the activities in depth and to design formal survey. There were 12 KIIs in total: two at Sub-city Trade and Industry Office, two at SME agency, and four at each Woreda as respective Office. In order to manage the interview, a semi-structured checklist was prepared. However, only eight interviews were possible in face-to-face modality due to COVID-19 pandemic. The remaining six interviews were conducted using telephone interview following the checklist as the.

b) Focused Group Discussions (FGDs)

The Focus Group Discussions (FGD) was another qualitative method to fetch data for this study. FGDs involved primarily targeted IWVs operating on Woreda 04 and 09. There were two FGDs at each Woreda, which totaled to four. It helped to explore people's views and experiences concerning different ways, in which an informal vending has affected livelihoods. This tool was particularly effective in engaging IWV in a meaningful conversation around the challenges and experiences they faced in the informal vending businesses. Originally, a composition of 8-10 participants was planned for group discussants. However, with the emergency of COVID-19 and subsequent declaration of the state of emergency that prohibits a meeting of more than four people, the researchers designed the discussion setting in an open space with two meters physical distance and involved six discussants at each FGD. The discussions usually took about

one and half hours on average. All FGDs were guided using a semi-structured guidelines and taking into account all consents and ethics.

c) Case Studies

The other qualitative tool was case studies. At each woreda, a case study was documented based on information obtained through the desk reviews, KIIs and FGD. The case studies were drawn from the multiple sources of data to present a story that expressed what has happened in each context and why, focusing on explaining key impacts of informal vending on women's through the use of concrete evidence and examples. It provides rich details about a specific context (set of informal vending activities, impact on livelihoods, challenges faced, possible interventions, etc.), and helpful for an in-depth understanding of the interrelation informal vendor, livelihood strategies, and the right to access public space. For this purpose, a template for the case study was designed for the same.

3.5.2. Secondary Sources

The secondary data sources were also be reviewed and analyzed. The desk review enables to contextualize existing data (including quantitative data) to be taken into consideration in the research process. Therefore, the desk review include reviewing and compilation of various documents relevant to IWV (national and international), journals, books, government reports, national statistic, and previous studies in the Addis Ababa City and elsewhere were rigorously reviewed. The review was to understand the context, attitude, and experience regarding challenges of the IWVs, as well as to look into policy and legal environments and international evidences and experiences.

3.6. Data Management and Analysis

The individual survey data was managed using Statistical Program for Social Science (SPSS) Software Version IBM SPSS 24. It was supported by Excel spreadsheet as required. The analysis involves descriptive statistics such as tabulation and cross-tabbing of different techniques so as to understand the situation of IWVs as well as to examine the challenges and opportunities. The categories of livelihood strategies were tabbed against Woreda, access to credit, membership of Women Saving and Credit Association, marital status, education, and access to public services and spaces, among others. In addition, inferential statistics such as Chi-square tests were used to

identify factors affecting the livelihoods of IWV. Thus, comparisons were made between Woredas, and socioeconomic variables using Pearson's Chi² test at 95% confidence interval.

The qualitative the data collected from FGDs and KIIs were recorded, transcribed, and narrated qualitatively and substantiated in relation to quantitative finding. The qualitative information was analyzed thematically. First, the data were reduced into manageable portions for analysis (data reduction). Then, the data for regularities and patterns through coding, categorization and abstraction were checked for consistency. Moreover, the case stories were used as supplemental to the findings and were presented using cases and quotes. This useful to complement and triangulate quantitative findings.

3.7. Ethical Consideration

In conducting this study, a clear intentions and procedures to assure the privacy of respondents and the confidentiality of the information was established. To this end, a consent form was prepared and obtained from each respondent. The privacy of the subjects was assured and whatever information they provide, including the identity of individual respondents and all information that might identify a respondent with her responses were kept confidential. In addition to that, the study was clearly state pledges of confidentiality and their realistic limitations to respondents. The principal investigator was carefully administered and upheld and maintained the confidentiality of respondents' identities and the information they provided. In reporting the collected data, appropriate techniques were employed to control for potential disclosure of respondents' data. As such, the study was anonymously summarized the data collected from individual respondents and maintained the confidentiality

4. DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Demographic characteristics of the respondents

The demographic characteristics captured in this survey include marital status, household membership, household size, headship, religious affiliations, age of the respondents, and people living in the household by sex in the households. The data are presented by Woreda. The age of the household heads was not included in the survey and thus the relationship between age and other indicators are not depicted in the assessment. Understanding these demographic characteristics are important as religion, gender, marital status, and strong family and friendship ties are important to obtain credit for informal women vendor (Getahun 2015).

Table 1: The demographic characteristics of the respondents by Woredas (n=111)

Variable	Options	Woreda 04	Woreda 09	Total Woredas
Marital Status	Married	38 (34.2%)	25(22.5%)	63(56.8%)
	Single	5(4.5%)	5(4.5%)	10(9.0%)
	Widowed	4(3.6%)	4(3.6%)	8(7.2%)
	Divorced	8(7.2%)	13(11.7%)	21(18.9%)
	Separated	1(0.9%)	8(7.2%)	9(8.1%)
	Total Marital status	56(50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111(100.0%)
Sex of HH	Male	36 (32.4%)	25 (22.5%)	61 (54.9%)
	Female	20 (18.0%)	30 (27.0%)	50 (45.0%)
	Total of sex HH	56(50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111(100.0%)
Educational status	Cannot read and write	5 (4.5%)	8(7.2%)	13 (11.7%)
	Non-normal education	18(16.2%)	17(15.3%)	35 (31.5%)
	Grade 1-4	13(11.7%)	3(2.7%)	16 (14.4%)
	Grade 4-8	10(9.0%)	11(9.9%)	21 (18.9%)
	Grade 9-10	9(8.1%)	12(10.8%)	21 (18.9%)
	Grade11-12	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	1(0.9%)
	College, university, TVET	1 (0.9%)	3 (2.7%)	4 (3.6%)
	Total educational status	56(50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111(100.0%)
Religion of the respondents	Orthodox Christian	25 (22.5%)	27 (24.3%)	52(46.8%)
	Protestant Christian	12(10.8%)	13(11.7%)	25(22.5%)
	Muslim	19(17.1%)	15(13.5%)	34(30.6%)
	Total Religious affiliation	56(50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111(100.0%)

Marital status of the Respondents: Data on marital status from the survey was compiled for the respondents only and does not show the state of other household members. It was evident that about 63(56.8%) were married. The number of married respondents was higher in Woreda 04

with 38 (34.2%) compared to Woreda 09 where only 25(22.5%) were married. It was observed that divorced respondents were almost one in five 21(18.9%) with higher proportion in 09 Woreda 13(11.7% compared to 8(7.2%) Woreda 04 (**Table 1**).

The sex of the Household Head: Even though the respondent is only women, it was interesting to know who is heading the household members (Reta and Wole, 2018), as it affects resource access and control and to understand gender relationship. The survey showed that more than half 61 (54.9%) respondents were headed by male compared to 50 (45.0%) of the households led by female. The data depicted that most of these female headed households are either divorced, widowed, separated or single, which constitutes 48(43.2%) of total households surveyed. The proportion of female-headed households was higher in Woreda 09 compared to Woreda 04. **Table 1** illustrates that the detail feature of the household heads in the studied households.

Educational Status: The educational status of the respondents was relatively low with limited access to higher education that open up an opportunity for formal jobs. About 13 (11.7%) of the respondents could not read and write. While 35 (31.5%) accessed to informal education, about 63(56.8%) have completed at least attended grade 1-4. It was observed that only 1 (0.9%) and 4(3.6 %) have completed high school and higher education, respectively (**Table 1**).

Religion of the respondents: In terms of religious composition, 52(46.8%) were Orthodox Christian, about 34(30.6%) were Muslim, and about 25(22.5%) were Protestant Christian. The details by Woredas are revealed in **Table 1**.

Age of the respondents: The average age of the respondents was 40.5years old (40 and 41.1 years in Woreda 04 and Woreda 09, respectively). The minimum age of the respondents was 21 years old and maximum of 68 years old.

Household Membership and Size: The average household size was 4.8 persons with 4.9 persons per household in Woreda 04 and 4.7 persons in Woreda 09. The maximum family size was 11 persons and minimum was two persons. The total family size in Woreda 04was higher compared to Woreda09. Likewise, the total members of the households interviewed in Woreda 04 were 272 compared to 257 persons in Woreda 09. When disaggregated by gender, the average male and female family size is 2.1 and 2.0; 2.7 and 2.8, respectively. From the **Table 2**, it was evident that the average numbers of female family members are slightly higher for Woreda 04

compared to Woreda 09. The average household size of 4.8 persons is higher than the average family size of Addis Ababa City Administration, which is 4.1 persons and Akaki Kaliti sub-city (3.8 persons) (CSA, 2007). It is interesting to note that there are higher member of female than male in general, as well as higher household size among the informal women vendor compared to the average of the City and Sub-city.

Table 2: The household characteristics of the respondents by Woredas (n=111)

variables	Measure of Central Tendency	Woreda 04	Woreda 09	Total Woreda
Age of the household head	Mean	40.0	41.1	40.5
	Min	21.0	21.0	21.0
	Max	68.0	68.0	68.0
	SD	11.0	12.4	11.7
Total people living in the HH	Mean	4.9	4.7	4.8
	Min	1.0	1.0	1.0
	Max	13.0	9.0	11.0
	SD	2.2	1.8	2.0
Male Member	Sum	272.0	257.0	264.5
	Mean	2.1	2.0	2.0
	Min	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Max	6.0	6.0	6.0
	SD	1.3	1.3	1.3
Female Member	Sum	118.0	110.0	114.0
	Mean	2.8	2.7	2.7
	Min	0.0	1.0	0.5
	Max	7.0	9.0	8.0
	SD	1.4	1.5	1.5
	Sum	40.0	41.1	40.5

4.2. Livelihoods of Informal Women Vendors

4.2.1. Engagement of Household members in Informal Vendor

The result depicted that about 70 (63%) of the respondents reported at least one member of the family is working as informal vendor in addition to the respondent. However, there is significant difference between Woreda 04 and Woreda 09 respondents. While about 25 (23%) of household member engaged in informal business in Woreda 04, the figure was about 45 (41%) in Woreda 09 (**Table 3**). Pearson Chi-Square test showed that there is significant difference in terms of the engagement of other household members between the two woreda ($X^2=16.465$; $df=1$; $P\text{-value}<0.01$). It suggests that the higher proportion of household members of the respondents are

engaged in informal vending in Woreda 09 compared to Woreda 04 but their engagement is not uniformly as they vary between the woredas in the households. This is probably because Woreda 09 is very close to informal vendor site that other members of the household may tend to participate.

Table 3: Additional member of the households engaged in Informal vendor apart from the respondent

Any member of the household engaged in Informal vendor	Woreda		X ² (P-value)
	Woreda 04	Woreda 09	
Yes	25 (35.7%)	45 (64.3%)	16.465 (0.00)
No	31 (75.6%)	10 (24.4%)	
Total	56 (50.5%)	55 (49.5%)	

Regarding the engagement of other household in the informal vendor, on average at least 2.2 members of the household participated in addition to the respondents. In Woreda 04 and Woreda 09, about 1.8 and 2.6 persons, in addition family members, respectively, have participated in informal vendor either as an assistant to the respondents or carrying out their own businesses. In some cases, almost all family members were engaged in informal women vendor (**Table 4**). Among the surveyed households, about 241 persons were working as informal women vendor on street. It was found out that about 143 and 98 persons in households were in the informal businesses in Woreda 09 and Woreda 04, respectively.

Table 4: Number of household member and duration of engagement in informal business (n=111)

Variable		Woreda		Total Woreda
		Woreda 04	Woreda 09	
Member of the HH involved currently in Informal vending	Mean	1.8	2.6	2.2
	Min	0.0	1.0	0.5
	Max	7.0	9.0	8.0
	SD	1.6	1.5	1.6
	Sum	98.0	143.0	120.5
How long have you engaged in Informal Business	Mean	2.1	2.1	2.1
	Min	0.1	0.3	0.2
	Max	6.0	6.0	6.0
	SD	1.3	1.3	1.3

The informal vendors have been operating their business the last 2 years on average in both Woredas. Some of them are very few months while others have been in the business in the last 6 years on average. This is because most of the respondents consider informal vendor as a transition to other sources of livelihood and that they engage for a while. Once they get wage

paying jobs such as cleaning, factory work, paid domestic worker, construction, among others, they leave the informal vending. Sometimes, they operate on part-time after they back from their main job.

4.2.2. Wealth Status of Households

Respondents were asked to categorize themselves into four-income groups; rich, middle, poor, and the poorest by comparing with their immediate neighbourhoods. Accordingly, none of them categorized themselves as rich. While about 17 (15.3%), all in Woreda 09, assessed themselves and grouped as middle, about 59.5% and 25.2% of informal vendors have grouped themselves as poor and the poorest in their community, respectively (**Figure 2**).

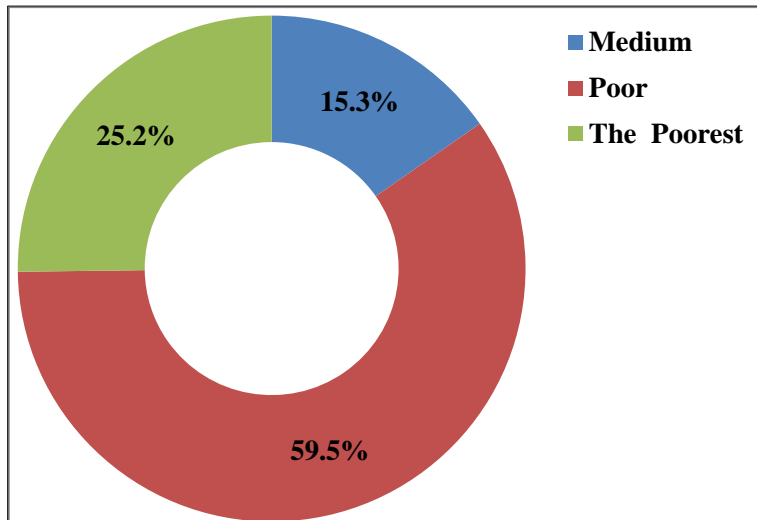


Figure 2: Self-assessed wealth ranking of the informant women vendors (n=111)

In terms of Woreda, about 17 (30.9%) of Woreda 09 respondents believe that they are in medium wealth status compared to their immediate neighbourhood. About 11 (20%) and 27 (40.1%) of the respondents in the Woreda09 assessed themselves as poor and the poorest of all in the area. In Woreda 04, there was no respondent who consider herself as medium and only one woman (1.8%) believed she is the poorest. The remaining proportion 55(98.2%) grouped themselves as poor. It was observed that there is significant difference (**Table 5**) between Woreda 04 and Woreda 09 respondents in terms of self-assessed wealth status ($X^2= 70.473$; $df=2$; $p<0.00$). It means the level of poverty among informal vendors is generally high but it is the deepest in Woreda 04. This is because most of the respondents in the Woreda 04 are recent migrants who are desperate to pay house rents and food requirements. As indicated, although, establishing the

poverty line indicator for the survey respondents was beyond the scope of this study, the self-assessment figure reported across all the categories of respondents involved in the survey reporting themselves as poor and the poorest are 84.5% and by far above the national average for poverty line, which 29% (CSA, 2012). It reflected that the impoverished status of women in general and informal women in particular in the study is, which any poverty reduction strategy or interventions must consider (Chen, 2012).

Table 5: Self-categorization of respondents' wealth ranking

How do you categorize yourself in the local wealth ranking?	Woreda		Total
	Woreda 04	Woreda 09	
Medium	0 (0.0%)	17(100.0%)	70.473(0.00)
Poor	55(83.3%)	11(16.7%)	
The poorest	1(3.6%)	27(96.4%)	
Total	56(50.5%)	55(49.5%)	

4.3. Driving force of Informal Women Vendors

4.3.1. Inadequate financial assets: access to financial services and supports

The quantity, quality, cost, and accessibility of financial services are essential in diversifying livelihood portfolios beyond increasing production and improving productivity. Smallholder needs financial services to strengthen existing livelihood options or start up new engagements, to use effectively business inputs, and capital formation.

The respondents suggested some supports, as they have no access. These supports according their importance include: about 55(49.5%) demanded financial support in the form of start-up capital or seeding fund; about 41(36.9%) asked for working space for their business; about 11(10%) needed easy loan access; and about 4(3.1%) required for capacity building training to enhance their businesses. It was observed that their significant difference in terms of priority between Woredas ($X^2=22.507$, $df=1$, $p<0.00$). The implication is that each Woreda requires different interventions and a uniform and blind prescription across the board or similar strategy is not viable. In Woreda 04, the priorities were loan access, startup capital, and working space. In Woreda 09, capacity building training is the first need followed by startup capital and loan access respectively(**Table 6**).The finding concurs with Edmealem (2018), which stated shortage of capital and low price for products are key challenges of the street vendors.

The respondents further also reported that access to business skill training as crucial but challenging to obtain. About 69(62.2%) so far did not obtain any trainings about business skills compared to 42 (37.8%) who have had at least one training in the area. The majority, about 31(73.8%), who accessed the training were in Woreda 09 compared to only about 11 (26.2%) respondents in Woreda 04. On the one hand, the difference between Woredas were also evident as Pearson chi-square test ($X^2=15.907$, $df=1$, $p<0.00$) revealed that there is significant difference in terms of accessing as Woreda 09 has more accessed to training compared to Woreda 04. i.e. the latter requires more trainings to skill based capacity building. On the other hand, loan access, sources of credit, and purpose of taking credit are not statistically significant (**Table 6**), which imply both Woredas faced the same challenges in terms of credit access and us.

Table 6: Financial accessibility or credit services of the respondents (n=111)

Variables	Options	Woreda		Total	X ² (p-value)
		Woreda 04	Woreda 09		
Support provided	Financial support (start-up capital)	36 (65.5%)	19(34.5%)	55(49.5%)	
	Accessing loan	9(81.8%)	2(18.2%)	11(10%)	22.507(0.00)
	Capacity building training	0(0.0%)	4(100.0%)	4(3.1%)	
Access to business skills training	Working space	11(26.8%)	30(73.2%)	41(36.9%)	
	Yes	11 (26.2%)	31(73.8%)	42 (37.8%)	15.907(0.00)
Loan access	No	45(65.2%)	24(34.8%)	69(62.2%)	
	Yes	31 (48.4%)	33(51.6%)	64(57.7%)	0.245 (0.621)
Sources of credit	No	25(53.2%)	22(46.8%)	47(42.3%)	
	Saving Group	12 (50.0%)	12(50.0%)	24(21.6%)	
	Individual lenders	18(52.9%)	16(47.1%)	34(30.6%)	1.481(0.687)
Purpose of taking loan	Microfinance institutions	2(28.6%)	5(71.4%)	7 (6.3%)	
	Not applicable	24(52.2%)	22(47.8%)	46 (41.4%)	
	Start new business	11 (44.0%)	14 (56.0%)	25 (22.5%)	
	Intensifying Income Generating Activities	9 (50.0%)	9 (50.0%)	18 (16.2%)	
	For buying food	6 (66.7%)	3(33.3%)	9 (8.1%)	3.391(0.64)
	For schooling	2(28.6%)	5(71.4%)	7(6.3%)	
	For medical expense	4(66.7%)	2(33.3%)	6(5.4%)	
Total	24(52.2%)	22(47.8%)	46(41.4%)		
	Total	56 (50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111(100%)	

Likewise, credit services were accessible from saving groups, individual lenders or friends, and microfinance institutions for a half of the respondents irrespective of their Woredas. The respondents who took credit have used for starting up new business (25 (22.5%)), intensifying Income Generating Activities (IGAs) (18 (16.2%)), buying food items (9 (8.1%)), paying school

fees for their children or themselves (7(6.3%)), and covering medical expense (6(5.4%)). The result is consistent with finding from Tanzania Dar Es Salaam, which indicated that IWVs used their earning for immediate expenditures such as house rent, business rent, health care and school related costs, whilst more long-term investments were generally more difficult to pursue (Tillermen, 2012).

4.3.2. Weak social assets: membership to saving group and network

The informal women groups are not properly organized even though some of them were member of local/informal revolving saving called *Iqueb*. The focused discussants explained that they could not organize themselves as they have no license and not registered to conduct business. They revealed that about 35(31.5%) were members of saving groups while the majority, about 76(68.5%), did not join at all. The reasons for about 47(42.3%) were mainly due to fear of paying back after they took their turn as the business is volatile and usually spent on food consumptions particularly in Woreda 04. The other reasons mentioned was loss of interest or do not interested to take loan, which constitutes about 16(14.4%), and about 13(11.7%) felt such saving schemes are not adequate and do not provide loan schemes to their interest. The study revealed that while those who took credit repayment in woreda 09 is high as they have permanent residents of the area and better income, the membership to community savings and loans groups, the reason for not member of saving, as well as perception on the interest rate from formal financial institutions do not vary by Woredas of the respondents and statistically insignificant (**Table 7**) because they have similar challenges in this regard.

The finding suggests that IWVs who have not organized or operate their business in scattered manner face various challenges ranging from cornification of their commodities, bribery and robbery to high interest rate by money leaders. A combined with other stresses due to the loss of stock/confiscations or loss of revenue due to the seasonality of demand, being able to access high-cost microcredit may have worked to the detriment of IWVs search for formal loan arrangement (Anyidoho and Steel, 2016). In contrast, when the IWVs are organized, they can bargain from collective action: access to better credit and saving services, advocacy, protections, etc. For example, in countries like South Africa, in the City of Johannesburg, there is established forum called the South African Informal Trading Forum (SAITF) and the South African National Retail Traders Association (SANTRA) to negotiate the terms of informal trading between private

property organizations and street trader organizations (Arias, 2019). Similarly, in Ghana, Accra StreetNet Ghana Alliance (SGA), a national affiliate of StreetNet International, is an alliance of membership-based organizations (MBOs) of vendors which has worked with market associations in central Accra (Anyidoho and Steel, 2016). In Nepal, Kathmandu Metropolitan City, there is Nepal Street Vendors Union for the same (Timalsina, 2011). Such forms of networking and organizing IWVs are instrumental to fulfill their financial needs and protections from adversities.

Table 7: Membership to saving and credit and perception on working condition (n=111)

Variables	Options	Woreda		Total	X ² (p-value)
		Woreda 04	Woreda 09		
Membership to community savings and loans groups	Yes	13 (37.1%)	22(62.9%)	35(31.5%)	3.621(.057)
	No	43(56.6%)	33(43.4%)	76(68.5%)	
Reason for not member of saving	Didn't need	8 (50.0%)	8 (50.0%)	16(14.4%)	4.957(0.175)
	Couldn't find a loan that met my needs	6(46.2%)	7(53.8%)	13(11.7%)	
	Afraid I couldn't pay back	29 (61.7%)	18(38.3%)	47(42.3%)	
	Not applicable	13(37.1%)	22 (62.9%)	35(31.5%)	
Have you repaid your loan on time?	Yes	11 (52.4%)	10(47.6%)	21(18.9%)	8.498 (0.014)
	No	2(14.3%)	12(85.7%)	14(12.6%)	
	Not applicable	43(56.6%)	33(43.4%)	76(68.5%)	
Perception on interest rate from formal finance institution	Low	1(33.3%)	2(66.7%)	3(2.7%)	6.007 (0.11)
	Medium	9(52.9%)	8(47.1%)	17(15.3%)	
	High	3(21.4%)	1(78.6%)	14(12.6%)	
	I don't know	43(55.8%)	34(44.2%)	77(69.4%)	
Total		56 (50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111(100%)	

Of the respondents who took loan, about 21(18.9%) have paid back their loan. In Woreda 04, about 11 (52.4%) and about 10(47.6%) of the respondents in Woreda 09 have paid the loan on time. However, about 14(12.6%) did not payback their credit yet. The largest proportion was in Woreda 09 with about 12(85.7%) compared to only 2 (14.3%) in Woreda04.Regarding the perception of the respondents about on interest rate from formal finance institutions such as banks, saving and credit associations, cooperatives, micro finance institutions, among others, the majority of the respondents, about 77(69.4%), do not know because they never tried to access it or sought information on loan system of these institutions. For about 14(12.6%) of the respondents, the perception about the formal credit system was positive while about 17(15.3%) perceived moderate. A few, about 3(2.7%), have had low attitude about formal financial institutions.

The study found out that about 46 (41.4 %) of the respondents did not borrow any money at all. While about 1 out of 5 (21.6%) have borrowed from informal saving groups, nearly a third (30.6%) have borrowed from informal moneylender with high interest rate of up to 100%. Only 8 (6.3 %) respondents have accessed to microfinance institutions through other arrangement. It is not to conduct informal business (**Figure 3**).

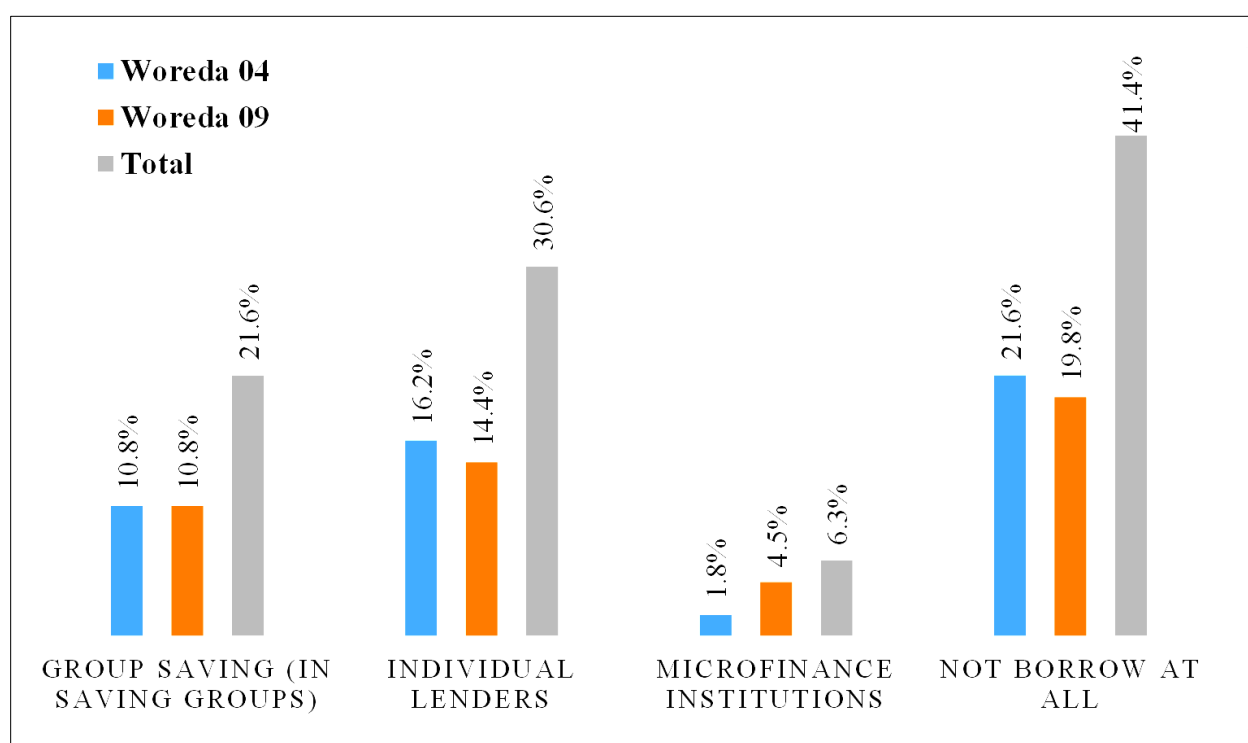


Figure 3: Sources of credit accessed by the respondents (n=111)

All respondents save from their earnings. On average each respondents save about 86.1 Birr per month. Some respondents save as high as 620 Birr per month while other save just about 8.5 Birr on average. In Woreda 09, the saving is higher (109.4 Birr per month on average) compared to Woreda 04 where the respondents have saved about 62 Birr per person per month on average (**Table 8**).

Table 8: Average amount of saving per month by Woreda for the respondents (Birr)

Woreda	Average saving per month by the respondents (Birr)				
	Mean	Count	Max	Min	St. Error
Woreda 04	61.9	56	400	5	8.2
Woreda 09	109.4	55	840	12	23.9
Total	86.46	111	620	8.5	12.6

When the saving modalities were seen, the largest proportion saved with close friends or relatives (41.4%) followed by one-third (33.3%), who saved at their home. A few respondents (3.6%) in Woreda 09 saved with microfinance institutions or formal saving and credit cooperatives/ association, and a handful 20 (18%) saved their earning with bank (**Figure 4**).

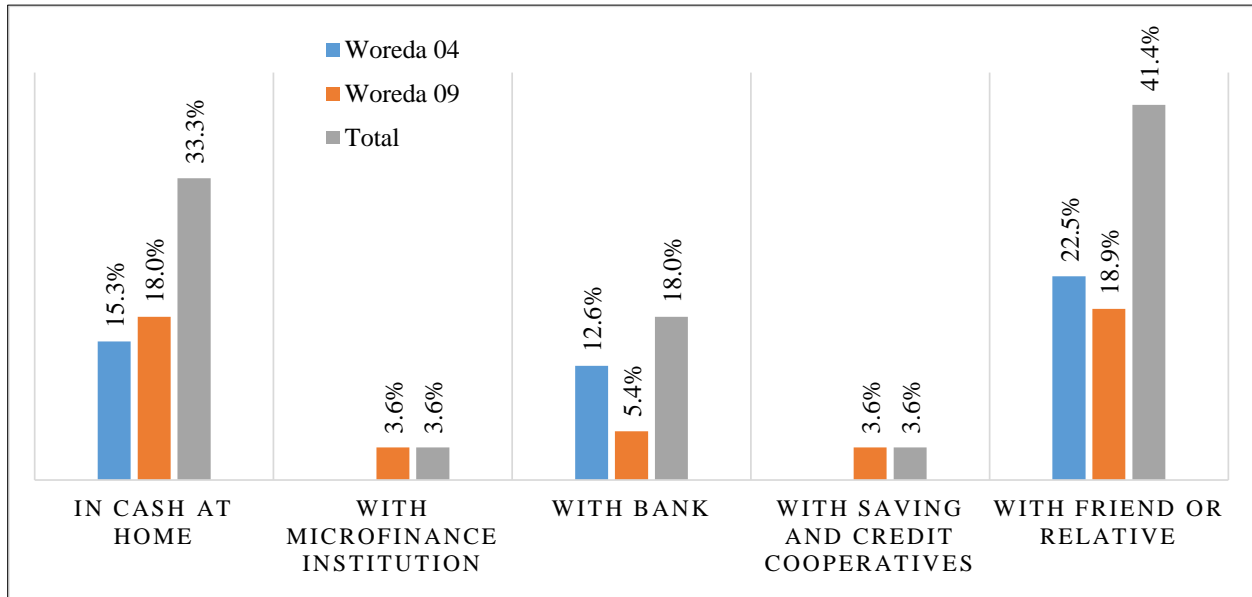


Figure 4: The modalities of saving from their earning by the by the respondents (n=111)

Pearson Chi-Square test showed that there are difference between Woreda 04 and Woreda 09 in using the saving options ($X^2=11.783$, $df=4$, $p < 0.019$) (**Table 9**). It implies the Woredas follow different modalities to save the income they earn may be due to the variation in accessing and trusting saving options at their disposal. This would be not surprising in country like Ethiopia where saving is as low as 10-20% of GDP (Alemayehu, 2019).

Table 9: Chi-Square Tests for the modalities of saving from their earning by the respondents

Test	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	11.783	4	.019
Likelihood Ratio	14.964	4	.005
N of Valid Cases	111		

Nevertheless, during the focused group discussions, the informal women vendors underlined that the condition and regularities of business activities are also very useful to save in the bank or to save at home. When a business is regular and no loss, they have realized that they are saving in

revolving scheme with others in the form of *Iqueb*². A key informants [3 women: 27, 31, 19 years old from woreda 09] noted the importance of saving and meeting household needs as follow:

Our business is volatile and seasonal. The nature of the business we engaged in affected a lot due to restriction of mobility and supply chain constraints. We buy and sell commodity as immediately as possible even at cheaper price. If we could not manage to sell; we could not have money. It means we cannot buy food and commodities for market. Sometimes, our products such as vegetable and fruits are perishable and we must sell with little margin or without profit. It is also important to save cash from our earnings. We must pay for children's schooling, clothing, pay house rent, buy food/water, healthcare, meet social obligations such as wedding/death, etc. Anyway, we have to save money every day as we need some days; when we go home with nothing in our purse. For example, due to COVID-19 pandemic our businesses are affected; policies are hunting after us; buyers are suspicious. That day we would be starved, our children chased out of school, and we may be knocked out of the house we are living in. Thus, saving in any form would be necessary as our businesses are unreliable and we do not have daily or monthly based wage.

The participants also felt that, despite their income and saving is low, the activity liberalized them from dependence on their husbands or other people for cash. They knew that saving starts from what they have and should not require high earnings. They valued their business as it changed their attitude, skills, and opportunities available to them. They perceived that there is significant change in their attitude. They also developed self-confidence in their business, feeling of responsibility as member of community and understood the importance of saving to operate informal business for unemployed women in the sub-city.

Furthermore, a case study from Woreda 04 semi-permanent informal women vendors, locally called *Gulit*³, evidenced the importance of informal vendors as a means of survival and livelihood activities.

² *Iqueb* is a local saving group in which the savers paid back what exactly they paid before. The purpose of such saving is to obtain accumulated cash for some purposes. It is usually held among like-minded people.

³ *Gulit* is an informal marketing place often on the street during early evening. Informal Women vendor are the key participants in *Gulit* as a seller.

Case-1: A semi-permanent women street vendors (*Gulit*)

The site was established on April, 2015 with the initiation for the Woreda 04 people as a part of election campaign during Ethiopian 2015 election. The *Gulit* was without shade and with about 50 women vendors mainly engaged in vegetables and consumable commodities, who are living close to or living around *Gelan* old condominium site. The women involved in such businesses were unemployed women. The *Gulit* has gradually grown in number and diversities of commodities they are selling. It is now more than 300 IWVs with estimated average sales volume of 300 to 800 birr per day per operator. They pay house rent, transportation, schooling, water and electricity services, buy food, clothing, etc. The commodities are diversified- ranging from textiles and footwear to household utensils and equipment to cosmetics. They have weekly group saving called *Iqueb*.



Figure 5: Gelan Old condominium area *Gulit* market
Source filed work (2020)

The informal women vendors are happy because they are earning income. They have a plan to diversify their commodities and capitals. They are connected a major market of Akaki 08, where they buy and retail in this *Gulit*. However, as they are changing the shade with plastic and latter with corrugated iron sheet, the Woreda administration has warned them and the *Gulit* could be demolished because the government is considering it as squatter. Moreover, the IWVs have no sufficient loan to diversify and increase the volume of the commodities they are selling.

4.3.3. Poverty: Lack physical assets to join formal businesses

The respondents possess ranges of physical assets but not adequate enough to participate in the formal business arrangements. The resources are also often shared with the household members. It is interesting to know the asset at the disposal of the respondents as it enables to understand whether the respondents are accumulating their assets in the form of materials that drive to engage in formal business or not. In case of shortage of capital or crisis, they liquidate to meet their needs. The study depicted that the households own radio, tape-recorder, TV and satellite sets, mobile phone, charcoal or electric stove, *mitad* to bake *injera*, sofa set, bed, jewelry made of gold/silver/bronze, tables, chairs, as well as solar lamps in case there is no electricity. Accordingly, the majority (72%) own radio, about one third (32%) own tape recorder, about 17 % own TV and satellite set, all respondents have either electric or charcoal stoves, only 9% have *mitad*, and all of them have a jewelry made of either gold, silver or bronze at the time of the survey (Figure 6).

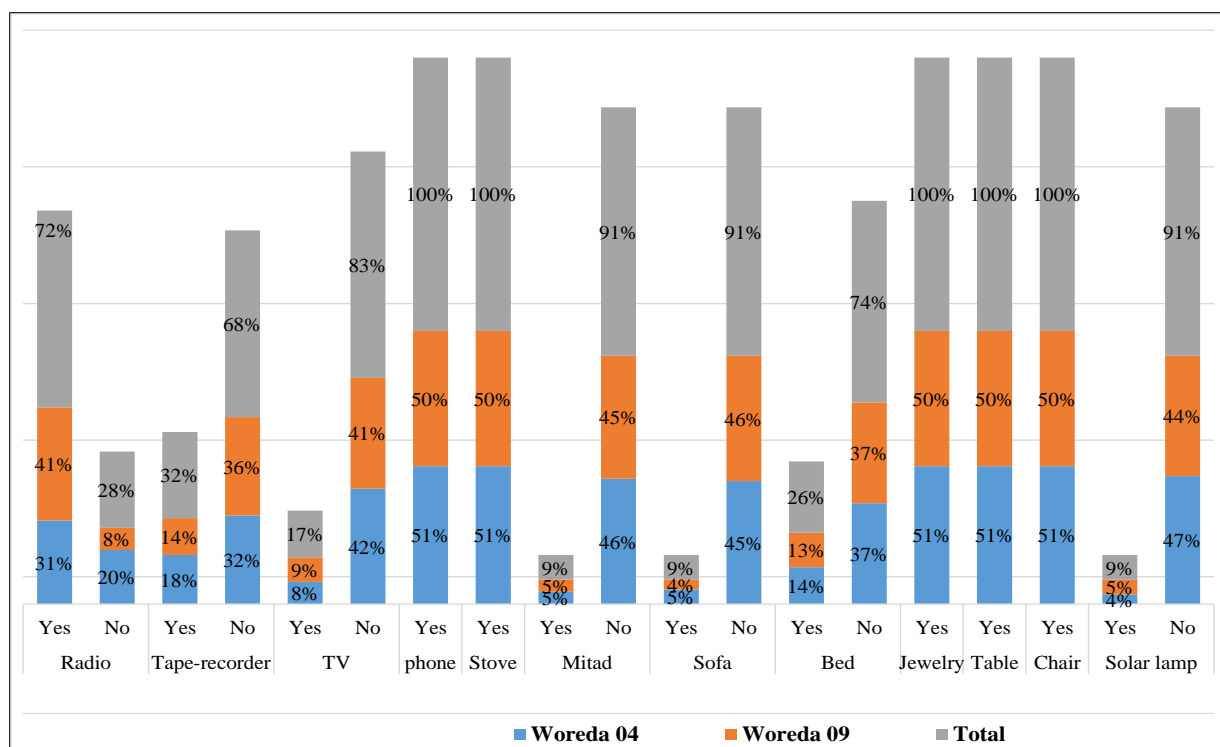


Figure 6: The physical livelihood assets owned by the respondents in the household (n=111)

In order to understand the gender relationship in the household, the survey has assessed the rights of women to sell assets by their own without the assistance or consultation of men counterparts. It was found out that the majority (86.5%) of the women could sell their asset by their own without consulting men regardless of marital status. When the marital status is taken into account, 91.9% of the married women can have right to sell their property, detail shown in **Table 10**. Pearson Correlation was also run to see the relationship between the rights to sell household assets and marital status. Thus, it did not find out any significant correlation between marital status and rights to sell household assets at 1%, 5% or 10% CIs ($X^2=0.453$, $df=1$, $p=0.621$). It means the respondents can have control over their resources irrespective of their marital status.

Table 10: Rights to sell their household assets by marital status

Rights to sell household asset	Marital Status					Total	X^2 (p-value)
	Married	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Separated		
Yes	91.9	70.0	71.4	90.9	70.0	86.5	0.453
No	8.1	30.0	28.6	9.1	30.0	13.5	(0.621)
Total	55.9	9.0	6.3	19.8	9.0	100.0	

The values of the assets owned by respondents were also captured using the respondents' estimation at the current market value if they wanted to sell. It is estimated that on average the assets could be valued at 6165.2 Birr. In both Woredas the value is closer. In Woreda 04, they estimated it at 6245.8 Birr while Woreda 09 valued at 6084.6 Birr (**Table 11**).

Table 11 further depicted the standard deviation is high among the respondents because the majority do not have it. For example, the standard deviations for 'TV', 'mitad'[pan used to bake bread or Enjera], 'sofa', 'Bed' and 'solar lamp' are higher than the mean as only a few of the respondents own these assets as shown in the **Figure 6**. Only a few have permanent assets and business equipment that can be used as collateral or potential to liquidate when they want. It means the IWVs have very narrow window of opportunity to join formal business that they are pushed to engage in informal vending as a job and employment.

Table 11: The types and value of physical assets owned by the respondents in Birr ((n=111))

Value of assets in Birr		Woreda 04	Woreda 09	Total
Radio	Mean	432.1	589.1	510.6
	SD	371.8	294.8	333.3
Tape-recorder	Mean	530.4	410.9	470.7
	SD	727.3	690.6	709.0
Television and Satellite set	Mean	1125.0	1118.2	1121.6
	SD	2464.8	2432.4	2448.6
Mobile (cell phone) in Birr	Mean	709.1	685.1	697.1
	SD	251.2	239.3	245.2
Improved charcoal/wood stove	Mean	149.6	145.6	147.6
	SD	39.1	41.2	40.1
Kerosene stove	Mean	52.2	36.7	44.5
	SD	101.4	90.6	96.0
Electric mitad	Mean	198.2	191.8	195.0
	SD	644.3	615.8	630.0
Sofa	Mean	875.0	754.6	814.8
	SD	2573.0	2418.8	2495.9
Bed	Mean	688.9	618.2	653.6
	SD	1167.8	1045.8	1106.8
Jewelry	Mean	588.3	610.7	599.5
	SD	241.0	272.3	256.7
Table	Mean	442.3	461.9	452.1
	SD	258.3	269.9	264.1
Chair	Mean	187.3	177.9	182.6
	SD	103.4	107.7	105.5
Solar lamp	Mean	32.1	37.8	34.9
	SD	119.6	117.4	118.5
Business equipment	Mean	235.1	246.2	240.7
	SD	92.1	97.9	95.0
Total		6245.8	6084.6	6165.2

4.3.4. Poverty: high costs of sheltering

Housing is one of the basic human necessities but very changing to secure in Ethiopia and people have to work hard to pay for it. It is worthy to figure out how the IWVs are sheltered and obliged to operate their business as street vendor. We have seen in section 4.4.2 that the income of the IWVs is too low and post women are living in abject realm of poverty, even including the family earnings. As a result, the study found that no one has her house. Some of them are living with their parents 12 (10.8%), particularly in Woreda 09. A few of them are hosted in squatter to look after the house and live their 8 (7.2%). The majority 80 (72.1%) are living in rented house during the survey and have to pay it every month. There is also an arrangement called roommate for about 11(9.9%) where more than one IWVs rent house and live together. There are variations in terms of accessing shelter between Woredas as indicated by Pearson Chi-Square test ($X^2=38.577$; $df=1$; $p<0.00$) (**Table 12**). The study infers that the housing conditions are different for IWVs between the woredas as some IWVs from Woreda 09 who are from the city are hosted by their parents while those from Woreda 04 are coming from outside the city (migrants) and must to rent house.

Table 12: Housing condition of the respondents (n=111)

Housing condition of the respondent	Woreda		Total	X ² (p-value)
	Woreda 04	Woreda 09		
Live with parents	1 (0.9%)	11(9.9%)	12(10.8%)	
Squatter	0(0.0%)	8(7.2%)	8(7.2 %)	38.577 (0.00)
Rented	55(49.5%)	25(22.5%)	80(72.1)	
Roommate	0(0.0%)	11(9.9%)	11(9.9%)	
Total	56(50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111(100.%)	

When we compare by marital status, the majority, 80(72.1%), are living in rented house. In other words, marital status does not make difference in terms of housing poverty of IWVs. As evidenced in table 13, there is no significant difference at 1%, 5% or 10% CI in terms of housing conditions and marital status .i.e $X^2=16.799$, $df=4$, $P=0.157$). It is to mean that poverty is pervasive among the IWVs and trigger the IWVs to engage in informal sector to earn additional income, even when formal arrangement is available but not adequate as a supplement business.

Table 13: The housing condition of the respondents by marital status

Housing condition	Marital status of the respondents					Total	X ² (P-value)
	Married	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Separated		
Live with parents	5 (4.5%)	1(0.9%)	0(0.0%)	3(2.7%)	3(2.7%)	12(10.8%)	16.799 (0.157)
Squatter	4(3.6%)	1(0.9%)	2(1.8%)	1(0.9%)	0 (0.0%)	8(7.2%)	
Rented	50(45.0%)	7(6.3%)	6(5.4%)	13(11.7%)	4(3.6%)	80(72.1%)	
Roommate	4(3.6%)	1(0.9%)	0(0.0%)	4(3.6%)	2(1.8%)	11(9.9%)	
Total	63(56.8%)	10(9.0%)	8(7.2%)	21(18.9%)	9(8.1%)	111(100%)	

4.3.5. Unfavorable Policy for Informal Businesses

The finding from KIIs in the two Woredas administration offices claimed that informal business are illegal because they are not paying tax, encroach legal traders, sell low quality or low standard community, suffocate the pedestrian and main roads that contribute to traffic accident. They further added the IWVs need to legalize their business by organizing in groups. The Woredas could not support them do to their status. They felt that supporting IWVs at current status means promoting illegal trade and against the principle of business. The key informant at the sub-city and Woreda level also consistently alleged that the informal sectors is not viable and anti-development as they clutter the public spaces, not pay tax, as well as discourage the tax paying formal traders. They also believe that informal sector is incubation for crime (theft, robbery, sexual abuses) and they sell smuggled and low quality and poor standard commodities.

Another key informant at Akaki Kalitu Sub-city Micro and Small Enterprise Development Office, male and 36 years, argued as follows

informal business do not care for the environment. They drop residues, plastic bags, papers, trashes, etc on the public spaces. They are contributing to environmental pollutions. The sub-city is always paying to clean and wipe the trashes and garbage. They are not taking responsibility for public space management they are using for personal purposes. As a result, the government is trying to formalize them through organizing in groups and providing specific market place [semi-permanent] for them.

The views of the experts and officials of the sub-city administration concede with the modernization theory (Chalachew, 2018; Timalsina 2011; Ellis and Stephen, 2001), which considers IWVs as backward and useless and assumed such kind of businesses must be modernized through formalization, licensing and registration. Besides, the emphasis of the sub-city and Woreda Administrations is not need-based and promote grassroots development (Willis,

2005) to support and enable the IWV through facilitating credit schemes or permit public space for their business. Instead, they follow and enforce top-down designed development policy.

It is also worth to note that doing formal business in Ethiopia is the discouraging for the poor like IWVs. According to ‘The Doing Business Database’ compiled by the World Bank, that contains figures for various indicators representing the ease of starting up a business, hiring and firing workers, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, enforcing contracts, licensing requirements and closing business ranked Ethiopia 159th in the world with 48.0 points out of 190 countries compared (World Bank, 2019). It means that Ethiopia is the most difficult country to make business even in formal sector leaving aside the informal vendors. Specifically, it would be harder for women operating on streets with various challenges. Overall, the existing policy is very difficult and not informal women- friendly to operate business and that affect the livelihood of IWV.

4.3.6. Difficulty to access basic services

In addition to limitations related to basic resources and biased policy against IWV, accesses to basic services are an important driver to engage in informal vendor. These services are provided by public or private sectors. The services include water, energy, transportation, communication (internet and telephone), credit, as well as capacity building services such as training and awareness creation. The participants of FGDs in both Woredas purported that access to basic services is quite important in order to subsist and carry out informal vendor for them. The survey data also revealed that all respondents access to electricity at their home but not in business place, transportation services, and have mobile telephone. Interestingly, none of the respondents access to internet services. It means that they are either no knowledge or skill [training and capacity development] to use it or no interest despite the provision of services is available via smart phones or local services providers. Moreover, about 57.6% of the respondents borrowed from informal groups or friends/relatives. The majority of the IWVs (62.1%) did not obtain capacity building such as training on business planning or entrepreneurship skills (**Figure 7**).

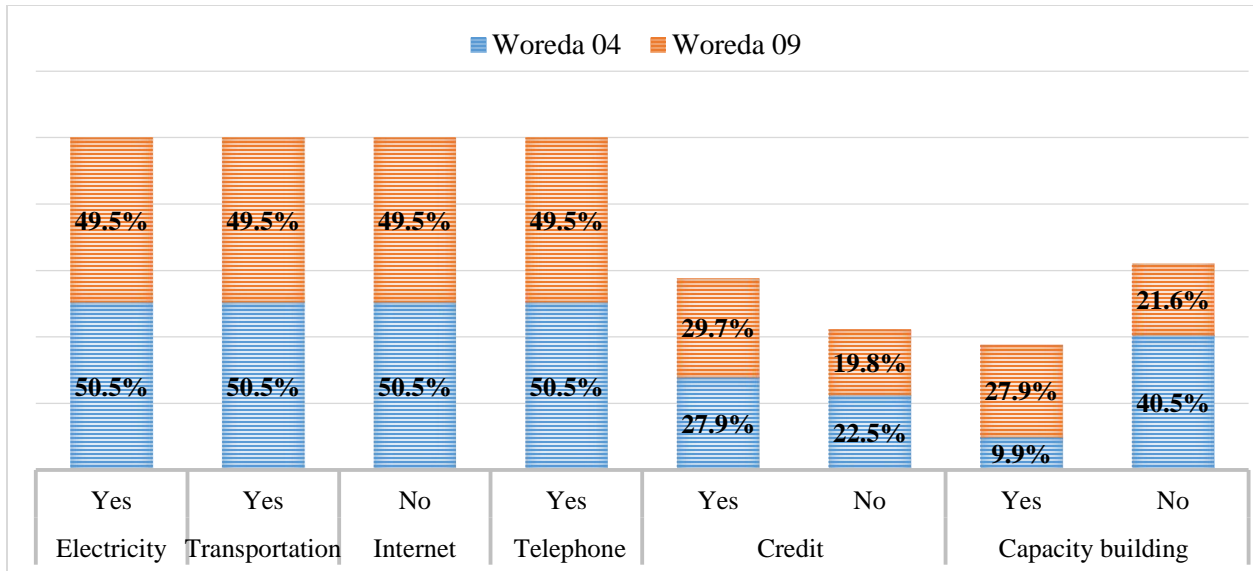


Figure 7: Respondents' access to basic services (n=111)

4.4. Livelihood strategies of Informal Women Vendors

4.4.1. Livelihood Portfolios of the Informal Women Vendors

The livelihood strategies employed by IWVs are diverse and complex. This is because of the seasonality of the business itself and ease of transiting from one portfolio to the other. For example, this study observed that between April and May a woman may engaging in corn vending businesses (boiling and roasting) on street. In June, she may shift to vegetable and retailing of other commodity. This is mainly attributed to seasonality, demand for the commodity, availability, as well as profitability (Anyidoho and Steel, 2016; Tillerman, 2012).



Figure 8: an IWV selling roasted corn on the street of Woreda 04

Source filed work (2020)

This study identified ranges of livelihoods portfolios carried out by informal women vendors on street and systematically categorized as:

- (1) food and beverages- includes *sambusa*⁴, chips, biscuits, cookies, boiled potatoes and sweet potatoes, eggs, oils, sugar, cereals, cooked and roasted corn, *ambesh*⁵, *enjera*⁶, homemade bread (*difodabo*), beverages and drinks such as *shameta*⁷, *tella*⁸, tea, coffee, water, soft drinks, etc.;
- (2) vegetables and fruits such as cabbage, carrot, kale, spinach, salad, green pepper, potato, tomato, onion, garlic, beetroot, ginger, eggplant, beans and peas, lattice, ‘costa’, avocado, lemon, zucchini, basil, banana, papaya, mango, pineapple, water melon, among others;



Figure 9: IWVs selling various fruits and vegetables on the street near old Gelan Condominium

(Source: Fieldwork, 2020)

⁴ *Sambusa* is a kind of snack made of wheat flour and lentil or rice. After rubbed with lentil or rice, oil is used to roast it.

⁵ *Ambesha* is homemade bread from wheat flour. It is made as thick pan cake and cut into circle or triangle.

⁶ *Enjera* is commonly made of *teff* but sometimes other cereals are added. It is like pan cake with its own fermentation processes.

⁷ *Shameta* is locally made barley juice. The mild roasted, milled and processed barley flour is sold. It is alcohol free and as thick as juice.

⁸ *Tella* is also locally brewed beer. It is has alcohol contents.

- (3) house utensils and cleaning materials such dishes, caps, glasses of various kinds, bottles, knives, forks, spoons, kettles, trays, bowls, and several plastic materials, etc, pottery and clay products such as *Jeben*⁹, wipers, mops, trash cans, etc.;
- (4) Textiles and footwear used and new for both adults and children, and toys, etc.;
- (5) Mobile accessories and electronics such as mobile covers, memory cards, flush disc, mobile charger, solar lamps, torches, radio, mini-music players, mirror stickers, remote controls, sockets, dividers, among many;
- (6) Anti-rodents/ insects and cosmetics such as ant-cockroaches, anti-rats, deodorants, perfume, splash, window cleaners, nail polish, various soaps, fragrances, shampoo, conditioners, lotions,etc.;
- (7) Various spices and incenses such as pepper, sesame, cumin, rosemary, turmeric, hell, frankincense, fragrance stick, etc.;
- (8) Service provisions such as toilers, shoe shiners, weight measuring, repair and maintenance of household materials, etc.; and
- (9) Others such as fire wood, charcoal, kerosene, grasses, etc.

The survey showed that the top livelihood strategy for the IWVs was engagement in vegetable and fruit retailing (46 %) followed by selling food (sometimes raw) and beverages (37%), about 29% on marketing of household utensils, about one-fifth (20%) engaged in textiles and footwear products, about one-ten (11%) participated in street services such as tailoring, brokers, weight measuring, etc., about 6% involved in various species and incenses, and a few (5%) took part in anti-rodent and cosmetics, as well as mobile accessories and electronics.

⁹ *Jebena* is made of clay and used to make local coffee.



Figure 10: Women street vendors operating vegetables (left) and house utensils and textiles (Right) in Woreda 04 (Source: Fieldwork, 2020)

When it is disaggregated by Woredas, in Woreda 04, about 36%, 29%, 27%, and 23% of the informal vendors have participated in food and beverage, vegetables and fruits, household utensils and textiles and footwear, respectively in Woreda 04. In the same token, in Woreda 09, about 38%, 64%, 31%, and 16% of the informal vendors have participated in food and beverage, vegetables and fruits, household utensils and textiles and footwear, respectively. The remaining have engaged in street-based services, mobile accessories and electronics, various spices and incenses (**Figure 11**). The IWVs are diversifying their livelihood strategies. It means a woman can pursue in various livelihood strategies that the portfolios are not mutually exclusive.

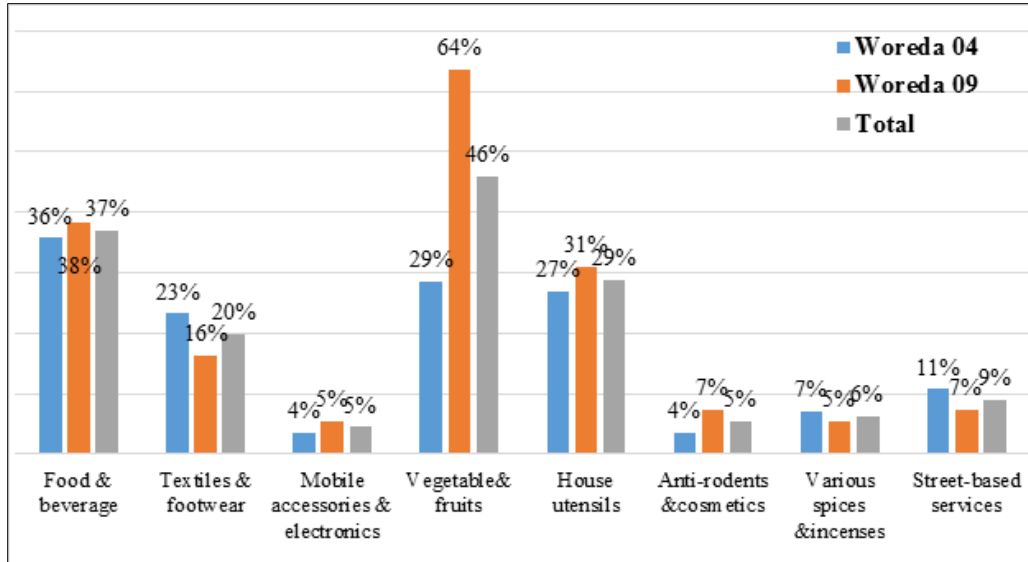


Figure 11: The livelihood strategies of IWV by Woredas (n=111)

The participation in various livelihood activities did not vary by educational status of the respondents. They engage in various livelihood strategies ranging from food and beverage to street based services as shown in the **Table 14**. The differences were also found insignificant. This is mainly because the IWVs engaged in these activities regardless of their educational status. It does not matter to engage in informal vending because there is limited job for unskilled and semi-skilled women in the city. Most of them couldn't find jobs within formal sector even if they have some education.

Table 14: The livelihood strategies of IWVs by educational status (Multiple response are possible)

Participation in livelihood activities	Cannot read & write	Non- Informal education	Grade 1-4	Grade 4-8	Grade 9-10	Grade 11-12	Tertiary education	X2 P-value df=6	
Food & beverage	Yes	6(5.4%)	11(9.9%)	4(3.6%)	8(7.2%)	8(7.2%)	1(0.9%)	3(2.7%)	6.128 (0.409)
	No	7(6.3%)	24(21.6%)	12(10.8%)	13(11.7%)	13(11.7%)	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	
Mobile accessories & electronics	Yes	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	1(0.9%)	1(0.9%)	2(1.8%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	2.416 (0.878)
	No	13(11.7%)	34(30.6%)	15(13.5%)	20(18.0%)	19(17.1%)	1(0.9%)	4(3.6%)	
Vegetable & fruits	Yes	5(4.5%)	14(12.6%)	5(4.5%)	9(8.1%)	14(12.6%)	1(0.9%)	3(2.7%)	8.430 (0.208)
	No	8(7.2%)	21(18.9%)	11(9.9%)	12(10.8%)	7(6.3%)	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	
House utensils	Yes	3(2.7%)	9(8.1%)	3(2.7%)	8(7.2%)	7(6.3%)	0(0.0%)	2(1.8%)	3.533 (0.740)
	No	10(9.0%)	26(23.4%)	13(11.7%)	13(11.7%)	14(12.6%)	1(0.9%)	2(1.8%)	
Anti-rodents & cosmetics	Yes	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	1(0.9%)	12(1.8%)	2(1.8%)	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	4.984 (0.546)
	No	13(11.7%)	34(30.6%)	15(13.5%)	20(18.0%)	19(17.1%)	1(0.9%)	3(2.7%)	
Various spices & incenses	Yes	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	1(0.9%)	2(1.8%)	3(2.7%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	4.547 (0.603)
	No	13(11.7%)	34(30.6%)	15(13.5%)	19(17.1%)	18(16.2%)	1(0.9%)	4(3.6%)	
Street-based services	Yes	0(0.0%)	2(1.8%)	1(0.9%)	3(2.7%)	3(2.7%)	0(0.0%)	1(0.9%)	4.673 (0.586)
	No	13(11.7%)	33(29.7%)	15(13.5%)	18(16.2%)	18(16.2%)	1(0.9%)	3(2.7%)	

4.4.2. Household income and expenditure

The study have assessed the income and expenditure (both food-related and non-food) of the households. It was observed that the households are earning their livelihood from various sources of income. These include casual laborer (wage), salaried employment, selling sale other assets, renting of land/vehicle/housing, self-employment: handicrafts/waving, petty trade: informal vending, formal trade, transport such as taxi/motorbike/bajaj, village kiosks such as meal service/ tea/coffee stall, pensions/remittance, gifts/inheritance, and urban safety net transfer. The households were asked to recall and report their income over the last 12 months. The households earning from informal vendor constitutes about 34% of the total income, which is slightly higher in Woreda 04 (38.3%) compared to Woreda 09 (30%). It means informal women vendor is the sources of livelihood for one-third of the households studied. Informal vendor is more important in Woreda 04 compared to Woreda 09 (**Figure 12**).

The per capita income of the household was calculated by dividing the average income from all portfolios to the average household size of the respondents. Accordingly, the average per capita income of the households is about 14824.4 (about 436 USD). It was higher in Woreda 09 (16471 Birr) compared to 13316 Birr in Woreda 04 (**Table 15**).

Table 15: The income and expenditure of the households in the last 12 months in Birr

Estimated expenses of HHs over the last year		Woreda 04	Woreda 09	Total
Estimated Expenditure in the last year (Birr)				
Annual food related expenditure	Mean	41501.0	43462.0	42481.5
	SD	7740.0	8487.0	8113.5
Annual non-food expenditure	Mean	23399	23664	23706
	SD	2635.2	2675.7	2655.4
Total expenditure	Mean	64900	67126	66187.5
	SD	5187.6	5581.3	5384.5
Estimated Income in the last 12 months (Birr)				
Total income	SD	3900.0	3616.7	3758.3
	Mean	65249.0	77414	71156.9
Per capita income	SD	6455.6	10133.0	8294.3
	HH size	4.9	4.7	4.8
	Mean	13316.1	16471	14824.4

Similarly, households were asked to report their expenditure categories on food, and non-food related expenses. Accordingly, the highest mean expenditure, about Birr 42481.5, was for food related i.e Birr 41501 in Woreda 05 and Birr 43462 for Woreda 09 (**Table 15**). The non-food related expenditure in both Woreda of respondents is very low as compared to food-related expenditures. Food related expenditure comprised of 64.2% of the total expenditure and about

60% of the total income. This is also the indicator of poverty of IWVs. The higher the poverty level means the lowest level of saving and economically disadvantageous the IWVs would be.

Figure 12 further portrayed that the largest proportions of household income have been spent and little saving behavior. In total, about 93% spent their income they earned in the last 12 months. The proportion of income spent in Woreda 04 is about 99.5% compared to about 86.7% in Woreda 09. It means that the livelihoods of the majority of the households are subsistence based. This could imply that the poor have very limited chance to invest on other economic activities, which in turn suggests that they need alternative activities to diversify their income sources.

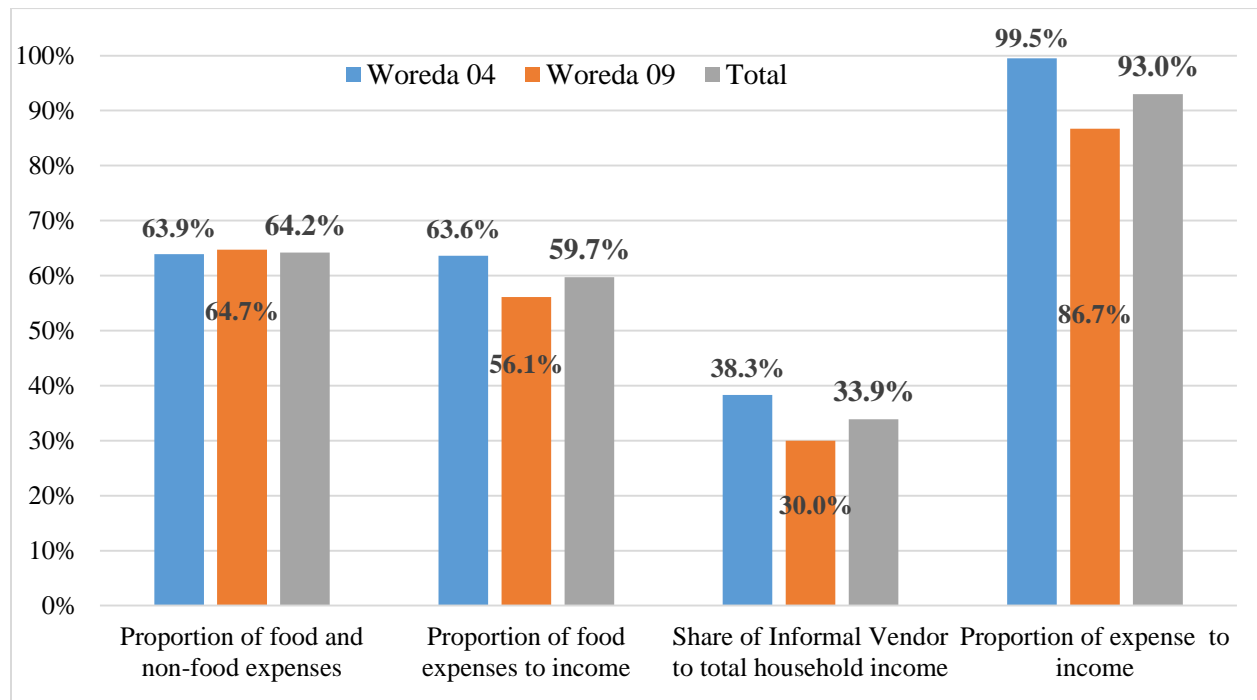


Figure 12: Proportion of food and non-food expenses, share of informal vendor income, and expense to total income of the household

The current finding is consistent with Tillerman (2012) find from Der Es Saalam in Tanzania, which IWVs faced problem of saving. Fransen and van Dijk (2008:10), who studied Ethiopian informal economy reported that the typical informal business has the following characteristics: she works alone (82%), earns US\$ 11 per month, invested less than 250 birr as start capital (75%), is funded with informal credit (56%) or savings/inherited funds (42%), keeps no book of account (99%), operates purely on a cash base (99%), works from home (54%) or in an open

space (26%) and is not formally supported financially (98%) or through business development services(59%).

When the trends of income generated from the informal vendor compared to last year seen, more than half 62(55.9%) reported their income have increased slightly while 26(23.4%) said the income they are earning are the same. Yet, about 9(8.1%) reported their income have decreased compared to last year. In terms of Woredas, Woreda 09, the highest proportion, about 43(78.2%), reported their income from informal vending has slightly increased, about 8(14.5%) reported the same, and only (5.5%) said their income have increased significantly. In Woreda 04, about one-third-19(33.9%) believed that their income have slightly increased, about 18 (32.1%) said their income remain the same, and about 11 (19.6%) showed their income increased significantly in current year compared to the last year (**Table 16**). Pearson Chi-Square showed that the trend in income between the two Woredas significantly vary ($X^2=23.145$, $df=3$, $p<0.01$) due to the location and available of more spaces in Woreda 04 compared to Woreda 09. The former is close to condominium residence areas where the buyers may be higher.

Table 16: Trends of income from informal vending compared to last year as reported by the respondents

Woreda	Trends of income from IWV compared to last year				Total	X2 (p-value)
	Increased significantly	Increased slightly	Decreased	Same		
Woreda 04	11(19.6%)	19(33.9%)	8(14.3%)	18(32.1%)	56(100 %)	23.145
Woreda 09	3(5.5%)	43(78.2%)	1(1.8%)	8(14.5%)	55(100 %)	(0.00)
Total	14(12.6%)	62(55.9%)	9(8.1%)	26(23.4%)	111(100 %)	

4.5. Right to public Space: Enabling environments and challenges

Ethiopia’s Constitution (FDRE, 1995, Article 41) under *Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* has guaranteed citizen to access public space for economic activities. Specifically, Article 41-sub Article 1-3 reads as every Ethiopian has the right to engage freely in economic activity and to pursue a livelihood of his choice anywhere within the national territory; every Ethiopian has the right to choose his or her means of livelihood, occupation and profession; and every Ethiopian national has the right to equal access to publicly funded social services. Moreover, the constitutions stipulated that the State shall pursue policies which aim to expand job opportunities for the unemployed and the poor and shall accordingly undertake programs and public works

projects as well as the state shall undertake all measures necessary to increase opportunities for citizens to find gainful employment. This is also consistent with the international agreements Ethiopia has signed including Universal Declaration of Human Rights depend. Practically, on having public spaces in which to exercise them, including the right to work (whether traveling to work, setting up shop on the sidewalk, lining up as a day laborer, or advertising one's services).

This study has assessed how the IWVs, as a disadvantaged segment of the citizen, are accessing public space and run their livelihoods as vending is their sources of livelihoods. IWVs also demand protection from the state in addition to access spaces for business. Public space found to be full of opportunities and challenges as we discuss shortly. In this study, access to public space includes public services and spaces such as transportation, sidewalks, and non-traffic roadsides, market places such as Sunday markets, gultit, etc, as well as the right to access protection during carrying out their livelihood activities an those places.

4.5.1. Access to public services and spaces

In order to run their business smoothly access to public space is very important for informal vendors. space It was observed that about 42 (37.8%) of the respondents access to public space for marketing their products. The respondents reported that about 31 (73.8%) in Woreda 09 and only 11 (26.2%) in Woreda 04 have accessed public. Statistical test using Pearson Chi-square also confirmed (**Table 17**) that there is significant difference ($X^2=15.907$; $df= 1$, $P<0.00$) between Woreda 04 and Woreda 09 in terms of access to public space for selling their products because the business operators in the Woreda 09 are semi-stationed (**Figure 13**).The focused group discussants (FGDs) pointed out that one of the major challenges to run informal business is market place to sell their products and is still persisting as per the respondents.

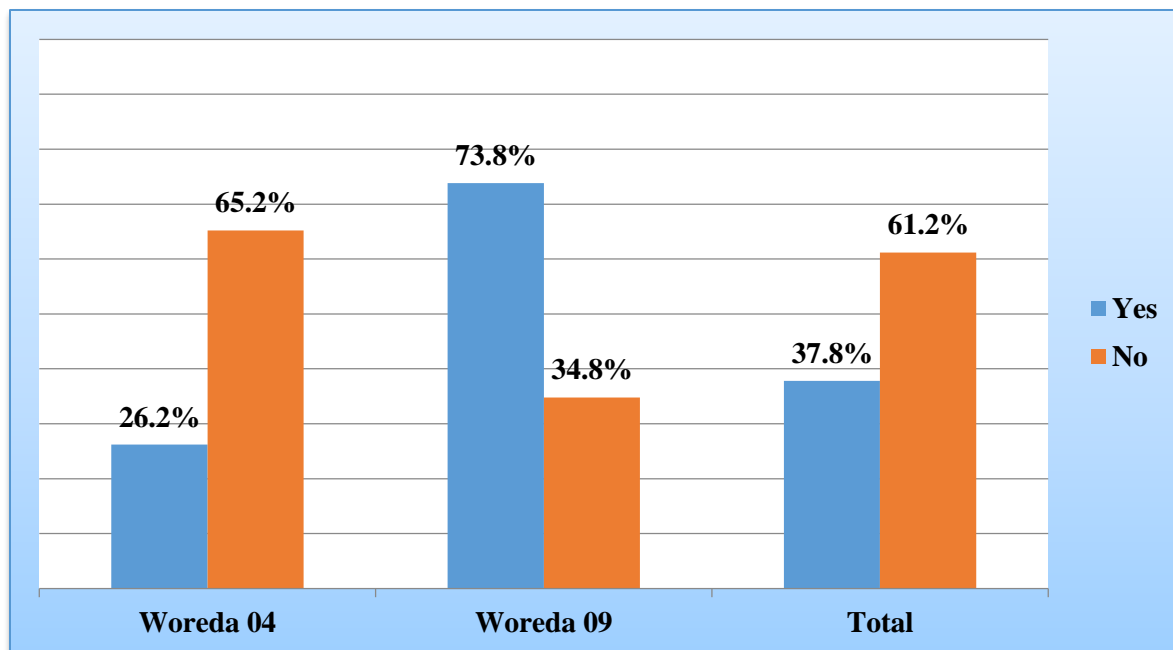


Figure 13: Access to public spaces for various activities

Table 17: Test of significance in terms of access to public spaces for various activities by Woreda

Test	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	15.907	1	.000		
Continuity Correction	14.384	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	16.406	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	111				

4.5.2. Access to marketplace

Lack of working space for starting-up or expansion of business activities likely constrained IWVs in both Woredas though a greater proportions of Woreda 09 respondents said that they do have working space around their home or temporary rented plot, which are not public space. Most respondents have no access to market place to carry out their business. They usually operate in roadsides and in front of their residence. The survey revealed that about 70 (63.1%) has no access to market place for their products. The proportion of the respondents who have no access to marketplace for informal business are higher in Woreda 04 with about 46(82.1%) compared to 24 (56.4%) in Woreda 09 (**Figure 14**). Statistical test using Pearson Chi-Square also showed that there is significant difference ($X^2=17.663$, $df=1$, $p<0.01$) between two Woredas in term of access to market place (**Table 18**). This is attributed to the business modality of the

informal women vendors. While informal women vendors in Woreda 09 often operate around their residence under small shed, in Woreda 04 they move and change where they operate to catch the buyers. Sometimes, the police officers chase them that they have mobility oriented business techniques. The respondents felt that the public spaces they can access are good for 47.7% and poor for 37.8%. Still, a few (6.3%) believed that the public spaces are conducive for day-to-day activities.

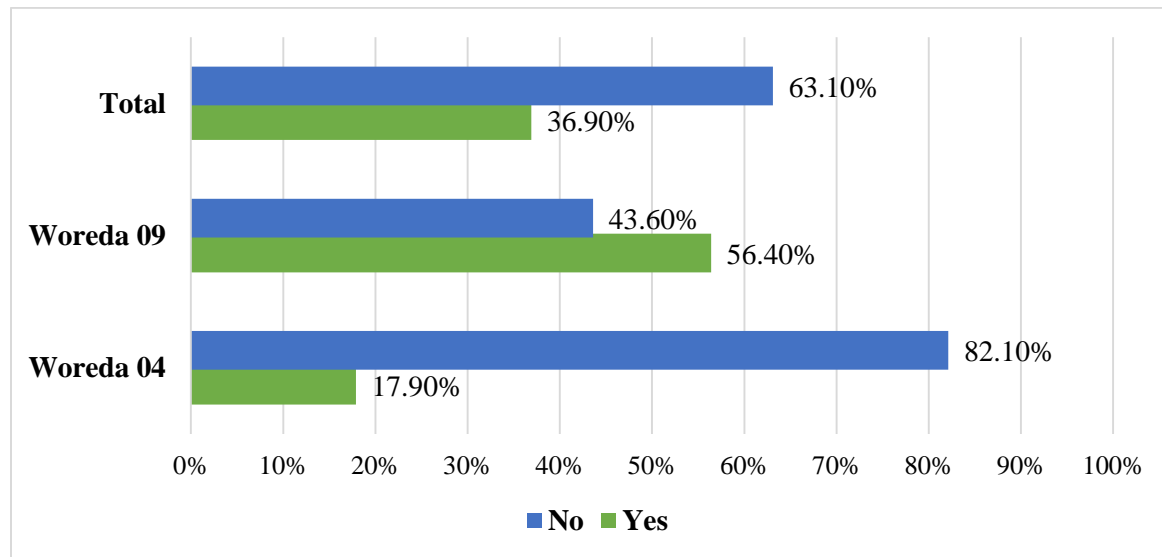


Figure 14: Access to market place for informal business by Woreda

Table 18: Test of significance to access to market place for informal business by Woreda

Test	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	17.663	1	.000		
Continuity Correction	16.048	1	.000		
Likelihood Ratio	18.308	1	.000		
Fisher's Exact Test				.000	.000
N of Valid Cases	111				

The majority 82 (73.9%) of the respondents are carrying out their businesses on roadsides as they could not access to places. About 26.1% of the respondents have some sorts of designated place (they call it *medab* or plot) for their business even though it is not permanent (**Figure 15**). While informal women vendors operating their business on roadsides are often move along roads and where people pass or mobility is high, those who have designated places conduct their business in that specific place. Still, mobility is even possible for the latter.

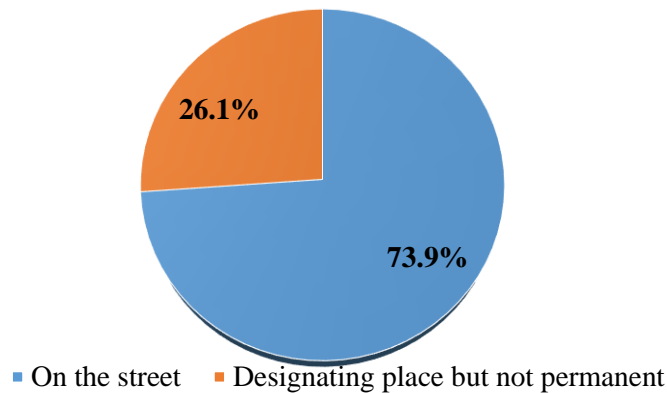


Figure 15: Place where the respondents operate their business (n=111)

All of the respondents have suggested further improvement of public spaces as day-to-day activities as well as the working space for their businesses as depicted in **Figure 16**.

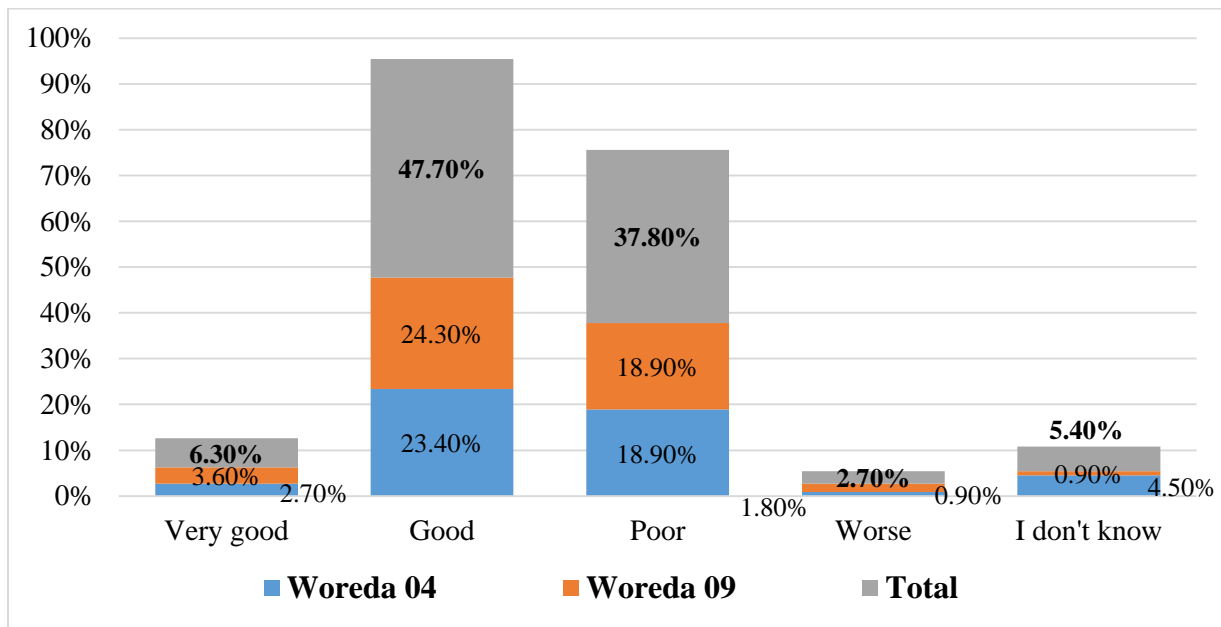


Figure 16: The perception of the respondents about the working place in the public space (n=111)

One of the major challenges includes lack of skills and knowledge to run business. The informal women vendor believed that business and entrepreneurship skills trainings could positively contributed to their business operation, which in turn supported household economy. Furthermore, discussion with IWVs outlined that accessing marketplaces, public spaces, housing, lack credit services, public services such as transportation, inadequate of protection from robbery and sexual harassments, among the disabling environments. To quote the opinion of the focused group discussants from Woreda 04, 6 in number and all female, as follow:

We have no adequate awareness on how to operate our businesses in the safe environments. We demand business skills, as these are essential. The outlooks of other people toward us are also negative. The service providers such as taxi operators, governments, hotel, and shop owners are not willing to cooperate or to assist us in the public spaces to operate our business. They are asking us higher price for transport goods. Sometimes, when we sell close to a formal business such as coffee near hotel, they call us and chase us away. They prohibit us to sell our products in public spaces. The owners and polices are not cooperative. Moreover, public spaces have no electricity and police services that we cannot operate during the night. As a result, we are vulnerable to robbery and sexual assaults.

This finding is also consistent with other studies (Edmealem, 2018; Chalachew, 2018) in urban areas of Ethiopia who found out lack of capital and limited access to credit services (high interest rate) for the poor, particularly women. Likewise, Fransen and van Dijk, (2008) observed that limited capacity of informal women vendors are the major predicament to stay and earn living in this sector.

4.5.3. Access to protection and safety

The condition of safety on the street is risky both during the day and the night. In both Woredas, operating informal business on the street is unsecure during the night due to robbery, sexuality oriented attacks, and lack of protection by police. It was reported that IWVs have faced some forms of gender-based violence (GBV) while working during the night in the last two years. Moreover, there is no streetlight on the street. Yet, the respondents are going out during nighttime to operate their businesses. During, the day about 40(36.0%) feel safe while about 71(64.0%) do not feel save at all. This is because the city police officers expropriate their commodity and/or prohibit running the business on a street. The study observed substantial difference between the two studied Woredas and statistically significant ($X^2=16.204$, $df=1$, $P>0.00$) (**Table 19**) as Woreda 09 semi-stationery near their home and Woreda 04 IWV follow continues mobility on streets to sell their products. The former Woreda has some street light as they operate in immediate neighborhood and people know each other, and hence less vulnerable compared to the latter.

Table 19: The feeling of safety to operate informal business in public spaces (n=111)

Feeling of safety		Woreda		Total	X ² (p-value)
		Woreda 04	Woreda 09		
Safety of doing business on street during the day	Yes	10 (9.0%)	30(27.0%)	40(36.0%)	16.204(0.00)
	No	46(41.4%)	25(22.5%)	71(64.0%)	
Safety of doing business on street during the night	Yes	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	
	No	56 (50.5%)	55(49.5%)	111 (100%)	

The majority of the respondents (90%) felt that public spaces are unsafe while one in ten (9.9%) perceived they are highly unsafe operating business in public spaces. Only about 8 % believe that the level of safety is moderately safe. Relatively, IWV in Woreda 04 felt safer than Woreda 09 as the latter has no straight light during the night.

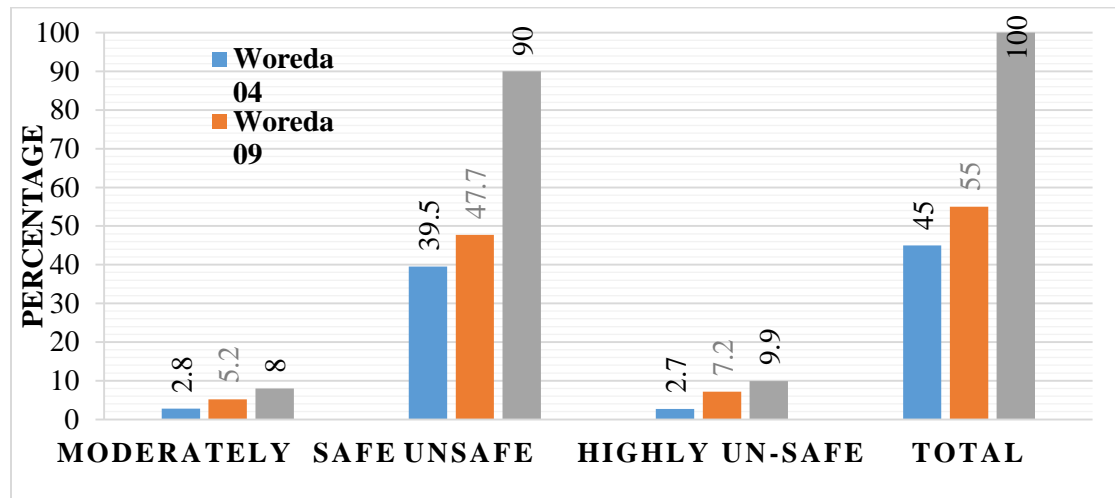


Figure 17: Level of safety of the respondents in doing different activities on a street (n=111)

The focused group discussants in both Woredas have also confirmed the precarious condition of safety in using the public spaces for business. According to discussants with Woreda 09, they have no self-reliance and confidence to work out after 7:00 PM. They said that they need protection of their rights in the public spaces at any time and place. They stress that police officers and the city administration should stand with us and provide support to fight violence and crime. They added *“the polices should not fight us, we are poor and limited opportunity in formal sector, and thus must aware of challenges we have at hand until we would move to formal business.”*

In the same token, the FGDs at Woreda 04 confirmed the finding that many people have still not exercising their rights to carry out safely any activities in public spaces. The area is a cross-country bus station, Kaliti, where different kinds of people come from different areas and large number of women engages in informal street vending. These women and girls could face robbery, rape, drudgery, trafficking, and other forms of violence. In case of insecurity, they report to police and Woreda people who have been listening to them more as group than as individuals. Moreover, they exchange information among the group and report to the police

when any violence occurs. Overall, most of them felt highly unsafe in doing businesses activities in the public spaces during the day and night. This is also consistent with previous study on IWVs by AAE (2014), which showed that perpetrators saw women vendors as “easy targets” for robbery, bribes, sexual favors, violence, and harassment, which concurs with the current study.

The study revealed that about 84 (75.7%) has experienced some form of GBV in the last 2 years while operating their business. The following forms of Gender based violence (GBV) were assessed and identified among those who faced it. The GBV that the IWVs often faced include rape, rape attempt, beating, teasing, insult, and abduction as elaborated in the different public spaces on **Table 20**.The majority reported that they felt harassment and mistreatment on the street 84 (73.9%). About 14.5% reported different forms of GBV occurred on the public transport services. Marketplaces were another space where GBV can happen (4.3%).

Table 20: Types of GBV according to their occurrence in public spaces in % (n=84)

Forms of GBV	Spaces that women and girls feel threatened and harassed				Total
	On street	Public toilets	Public transport	Market place	
Rape	1.8	0.0	2.4	3.1	7.3
Rape attempt	3.6	0.0	1.2	0.0	4.8
Beating	31.7	1.2	1.2	1.2	37.3
Teasing	28.0	0.0	4.9	0.0	32.9
Insult	11.0	1.2	3.6	0.0	16.4
Abduction	0.0	0.0	1.2	0.0	1.2
Total	76.1	2.4	14.5	4.3	99.9

The respondents manage violence through reporting to police; confront personally, report to other government body for prosecution, and through informal negotiation. Some also tell to their parents or relatives. Of the total 41(36.9%) who manage conflicts, 51.2% are married. More than a third (36.6%) of the victims is reporting to police. About 29.3% confront personal followed by 14.6 % who resolve through negotiations. A case study below also illustrated the situation of GBV in the public space for informal business as follows.

Case-2: A street vendor girl experienced GBV in Woreda 09

My name is Bekelech Abebe (Pseudonymous). I am 21 years old. I completed grade ten in 2017 and not successful to pass national exam to join high school. I couldn't manage to join TVET or private colleges as I have no money. I decided to start my own business and earn money.

I completed grade 10 and I could not pass the national exam because of the condition of my parents. Then, I started to make and sell *Enjera* with my mom to night market called *Gulit*. No one comes and buys from home even at lower price. As a result, the best alternative to sell products is to go around street market. In October 2017, I started informal businesses on street selling vegetable and fruits. Since then, I also tried to sell *enjera*, breads/*ambesha*, biscuits, potato chips, cooked/roasted corn, etc depending on season, supply, and demand of people. There is no a distinct marketplace neither any permission to use public space to sell my products. Doing business on street is unsafe. If I access safe marketplace, I can sell produces and thus minimize exposure to risky business areas. The area is very unsafe to sell food items on the street. It is dusty, nasty, dirty, and where sewerage passes.



Figure 18: Bekelech Abebe, 21, selling vegetables on street near Woreda 09 (Source: Fieldwork, 2020)

Even after new prime minister came to power in 2018, the situation is not changing in the public spaces. The business is as usual. On the one hand, police and security forces have confiscated my belonging four times within two years and asked me to pay bribe to get my stuffs back. On the other hand, every one tease, insult, beat, and attempt rape. Insults, teasing, and beating are the harassment I am facing almost every day from the city polices. I have had also an attempt of rape while back to home at about 8:30 PM by two men who were drunk and asked me to enter their car. I say no. A person gets out of the car and garbed my armies. I dropped my stuffs, struggled, and shouted. They left me and went as other people are coming towards us.

These remain big challenges to undertake business activities as safely as possible. Particularly, street vendor business is unsafe for women compared to men. The men sometimes confront physically. The nighttime is more unsafe than day but I must work to survive given all problems. In short, informal women vendors, like me, are not freely go anywhere and anytime to operate small businesses in public spaces. It is common to see sexual harassments as well as robbery against women and girls.

In future, I will keep working and save money for education. I dream to complete my college education.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Conclusions

This study was conducted in Addis Ababa City Administration, Akakai Kaliti Sub-city in the selected two Woredas (04 and 09). It was undertaken in one of the ignored areas but important economic activities- the informal women vendors on street and public spaces. The IWVs were found to be varied in terms of their demographic, socioeconomic characteristics, access to resources and the major livelihood strategies and the right to access public spaces in the two Woredas. In order to achieve the objective, mixed approaches of both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies were employed.

The study found out that informal women vendors have employed diversified livelihoods due to various driving forces such as inadequate credit access and financial supports to start business in formal sector, poverty that diminished physical resources they would access, high living costs such as paying for housing, unfavourable policy environments that discourage small businesses, and difficulty to accesses basic services.

The livelihood strategies of IWVs were diverse and complex to increase their income and minimize risks. They participated in food and beverage, vegetables and fruits, household utensils and textiles and footwear, street-based services, mobile accessories and electronics, various spices and incenses. These livelihood strategies are major source of livelihood for the respondents' and constituted more than one-third of household income, which suggests very important in both Woredas.

In addition to the IWVs, the household members earn income from casual laborer (wage), salaried employment, sale other assets, renting of land/vehicle/housing, self-employment (handicrafts/waving, petty trade) formal trade, transport such as taxi/motorbike/bajaj, village kiosks such as meal service/ tea/coffee stall, pensions/remittance, gifts/inheritance, and urban safety net transfer. The households spent two-third of their income on food-related expenditures. As such, the majority of informal women vendors have grouped themselves as poor or the poorest relative to their neighbourhood and community.

Moreover, all IWVs are saving as they well-understood the importance of saving for overcoming emerging shocks and stresses. Their saving modalities are often either at home or with relatives and friends. The amount of saving is also too small to uplift them from poverty. IWVs spent the majority of their earning on food and non-food items. It means that the livelihoods of the IWVs are subsistence based and the level of poverty is deep-rooted. This could imply that the poor have very limited chance to invest on other economic activities, which in turn suggests that they need alternative activities and/or supports that enables them to diversify their income sources and survive, if not get out, of extreme poverty condition.

The IWVs are little access to livelihood assets such as credit services from formal loans from microfinance institutions, saving and credit groups or banks. This is due to their 'illegal' status and lack of informal women friendly financial institutions and policies. Moreover, there are weak social networks among IWVs to enter and stay in the business. The social capital of the IWVs found to be too weak because they are not organized and fragmented.

Moreover, there are several challenges the IWVs face and head of them These include lack of formal credit services, limited employment in formal sectors, low social networks, lack of recognition and marginalization by Sub-city administrations, as well as absence of enabling environment to support and facilitate easiness of businesses. Moreover, IWVs are at precarious condition with little protection and right to access to public services and spaces. They are highly vulnerable to the regulations of the city administrations, inaccessibility to public services and spaces, problem related to shelter, seasonality/price fluctuations, physical and psychological attacks, sexual harassments.and robbery and theft.

Finally, given all constraints and challenges, the city administration has negative attitude towards IWVs as illegitimate business operators, not paying tax, cluttering public spaces, and polluting environment. Hitherto, despite large proportion of women are engaged in informal vendors, in Ethiopia in general and Addis Ababa City Administration in particular has no viable policy to accommodate services and supports for informal businesses. The authorities are urging to formalize and control them and the IWVs have no awareness or knowledge of formalization processes.

5.2. Recommendations

Based on the above findings and conclusions, the following recommendations are made to improve the livelihood of IWVs, to overcome the challenges, as well as lifting disabling environment. Accordingly, the following key areas of recommendations are area made for:

Social Work Policy:

- 1) The roles of informal vending both as income sources of individual operator and household economic should recognized. The IWVs as key sources of livelihoods strategies should get policy concern and supported in the social policy system.
- 2) IWVs are citizens living in extreme poverty. Thus, social work policy should provide policy support to uplift them from poverty. There has to be social policy such as safety net program to empowerment IWVs economically.
- 3) As access to assets such as credit, material and equipment loan, and social organization is necessarily attached to legal status of the IWVs, the city administration need to formulate a policy for organizing a network of IWVs form an association like Indian, Ghana or South Africa, which was strong institution to bargain, advocate and leverage the interest of IWV and bargain towards decisions affecting their life in the urban planning and development exercise.
- 4) The urban administrations and policy makers should shift in strategy from marginalization to accommodation to create conducive environments such as electricity, women friendly technologies to advance their businesses, and provision of quality gender responsive public services in all public spaces. Formalization of the IWVs should consider the real problems and act more facilitative than controlling.

Social Work Practices:

The IWVs are highly vulnerable as they operate during the night and at the night time the city is unsafe that they face a phenomenon of violence and harassment in the public space, which demands the attention of community, police, social workers, NGOs, and legal bodies.

- 1) IWVs need protection from policies and legal bodies.

- 2) IWVs should obtain counselling from social work practitioners as there may be trauma and frustration after attack.
- 3) In some cases, mediation may be required between the IWVs and service providers so that they obtain workplaces and spaces for street vendor businesses that can be facilitated by social workers.
- 4) The immediate need of women living in poverty is economic issue and they have be empowered economically. Thus, NGOs and the City government should provide training on business skills, entrepreneurship, personal development, and life skills that could be facilitated by social workers.
- 5) The NGOs and City administration should assist and advocate for the IWVs to access to financial services from formal credit system. The Woreda Small and Medium Enterprise Development of should support and connect them to the formal credit system. Hand-in-hand, saving in formal financial institutions should be encouraged via credit and saving associations.
- 6) Social work practitioners should raise awareness among the IWVs to keep streets clean and safe while they are operating their business as this is a burden for sub-city authorities to clean the street.

Social Work Research

As this study only limited to specific places and issues, further comprehensive researches should be carried out to inform and influence policy arena regarding informal vendors in urban settings. The following areas worth further studies:

- 1) The extent and coverage of sexual harassment among IWVs;
- 2) The possible means of IWVs' empowerment through education, social and economic issues; and
- 3) The level of unemployment, poverty, and IWVs.

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ANNEXES

Annex-1: Individual Survey Schedule

St.Mary's University
Department of Social Work
Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendor
in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

SURVEYED BY	ENTERED IN THE COMPUTER
NAME _____	BY
SIGNATURE _____	NAME _____
DATE _____	SIGNATURE _____
	DATE _____

Hello. My name is TsigeredaCheruMamo, and I am a student at St.Mary's University at the department of Social Work I am gathering information on Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendor in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather information on The main objective of this study is to examine the livelihood strategies of informal women vendors (IWW) and right to access public spaces in Addis Ababa City, Akaki Kaliti sub-city. Therefore, the response that you give for the questions are very vital for the research. I can assure you that your responses are utilized for the academic research work only. You are being asked to participate in this survey because of you live in this sub city. I will ask you a series of questions that would take about 60 minutes. It is your choice whether or not to take part in this interview and if you choose to participate, you have the right not to answer any question or to stop the interview at any time. If you do not choose to participate, it will in no way affect you in any way. Information you will provide me will be kept confidential and your name will not be identified by any means. Before we begin, do you want to ask me any questions about the survey? Shall I continue in asking you each question? If "Yes" Continue...

Interviewer's Name: Signature: _____

CODE	[][] Eg. [0][6]	Questionnaire ID. Use only four digits. Get cluster number from the provided list.	[][][][] ↑Cluster No ↑↑HH No ↑
City: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Sub-city: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Woreda: <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	
Interview date: [dd/mm/yyyy] [/ /]		Start time: [:]	Finish time: [:]

Section 1. Household Questionnaire - Demographics		
S.N↓	QUESTION	DESCRIPTION
1.1	What is the <u>household heads</u> marital status?	1= Married 2= Single 3= Widowed 4= Divorced 5= Separated
1.2	Age of the <u>household head</u>	
1.3	How many people live in your HH in TOTAL ? (people eating form the same cooking pot)	
1.4	How many MALES live in this HH in total?	
1.5	How many FEMALES live in this HH in total?	
1.6	Is the head of this HH male or female?	1 = Male) 2 = Female)
1.7	Educational status	1=Cannot read and write 2= Non-normal education 3=Grade 1-4 4= Grade 4-8 5=Grade 9-10) 5=Grade 11-12 7= College, university, TVET graduate
1.8	Religious affiliation of the household	1= Orthodox 2= Protestant 3= Catholic 4= Muslim 5= Other (specify)

S/N↓	Section 2. Livelihood related Questions (To be asked to Female respondent engaged on Informal Business)	
2.1	Do any member of the HH engaged in Informal vendor ?	1 = Yes 2 = No
2.2	Why do you engaged in Informal vendor ?	_____ _____ _____
2.3	How many member of the HH are involved currently in Informal vending ?	-----
2.4	How long have you engaged in Informal Business?	Years/ months _____
2.5	If 'yes' for Q.2.1 does your household income changed because of your engagement in Informal Vending?	1= Yes, increased significantly 2= Yes, the amount of income has increased slightly 2 = Yes, amount of income has decreased 3 = No, stayed the same
2.6	Do you have market place for your business?	1= Yes 2=No
2.7	If 'yes' for Q.2.6., where is your market place	1=At home 2=On the street 3=Designating shop for business by government 4=Rented shop 5=Other Specify) _____
2.8	Can you use public spaces to sell your product?	1= Yes 2= No
2.9	What support do you have to start your business?	1=Financial support (start-up capital) 2=Accessing loan 3=Capacity building training 4= working space 5=Other (Specify) _____
2.10	Have you attended business skills training?	1 = Yes 2 = No,

2.11	Have you accessed to any form of loan currently?	1 = Yes 2 = No
2.12	If 'yes' for Q 2.11, please mention source . (Multiple response is possible)	1=Group saving (in saving groups) 2= Individual lenders 3= Microfinance institutions 4=Urban Saving and Credit Cooperatives (USACOs) 5= Bank 6= NGOs, Faith based organizations 7= Pawn brokers(ArataAbedari) 8= Other, specify _____
2.13	For what purpose you have taken the loan? (Multiple response is possible)	1= Start new business 3= For buying food 2= Intensifying Income Generating Activities (IGA) 4= For schooling 5= For medical expense 6= For fulfilling miscellaneous HH needs 7=Other, please specify
2.14	Did you save from your earning?	1= Yes 2= No 3=I don't know
2.15	If 'yes' Q.2.14, how much do you save per month on average?	_____Birr
2.16	Where the saving is held?	1= In cash at home 2= With Microfinance institution 3= With Bank 4= With Savings group (Self-help groups) 5= With Saving and credit Cooperatives 6= With Local institutions (Idir/Iqub) 7= With Friend or relative 8= Other (Specify)
2.17	Are you a member of community savings and loans groups?	1= Yes 2= No
2.18	If Yes to Q.2.17, indicate when you became a member	DD/MM/YEAR_____
2.19	If No to Q.2.17, why not?	1= Didn't need 2= Couldn't find a loan that met my needs 3= Afraid I couldn't pay back 4= No loan providers in my area 5= Other (specify)
2.20	Have you repaid your loan on time?	1= Yes 2= No
2.21	How do you evaluate the interest rate of the formal finance institution you are borrowing?	1= There is no interest at all 2= Low 3= Medium 4= High
2.22	What is the annual food related expenditure of the household over the last year?	(_____ Birr)
2.23	What is the annual non-food expenditure of the household over the last year?	(_____ Birr)
2.24	In your view, how do you categorize yourself in the local wealth ranking?	1= Rich 2= Medium 3= Poor 4= the poorest 5= I don't know
2.25	What is your housing condition?	1=Own house 2=Live with parents 3=Squatter 4=Rented 5=Roommate 6=Live on street 7=Hosted by other person 8=other _____

3. Livelihood strategies			
S/N↓	Have you/any HH member earned income from the following in the last 12 months?	Response	Estimated annual income (Birr)
3.1	Casual laborer (Wage)	1= Yes 2=No	

3.2	Salaried employment	1= Yes 2=No	
3.3	Sale other non-livestock assets	1= Yes 2=No	
3.4	Renting/hire of land/vehicle/housing	1= Yes 2=No	
3.5	Self-employment: handicrafts, waving, garage	1= Yes 2=No	
3.6	Petty trade: informal purchase and re-sale of goods on small scale	1= Yes 2=No	
3.7	Trade: formal purchase and re-sale of goods on large scale	1= Yes 2=No	
3.8	Transport: taxi, motorbike, Bajaj	1= Yes 2=No	
3.9	Small business: village kiosks, milling, tea/coffee stall, agro-processing	1= Yes 2=No	
3.10	Sales of relief commodities (foods, materials)	1= Yes 2=No	
3.12	Pensions/Remittance	1= Yes 2=No	
3.13	Gifts/inheritance	1= Yes 2=No	
3.14	Urban Safety net transfer	1= Yes 2=No	
3.15	Other (Specify) _____	1= Yes 2=No	
3.16	Other (Specify) _____	1= Yes 2=No	
3.17	What are the activities you are engaged in as street vendor?		Remarks
	1) Food and beverage	1= Yes 2=No	
	2) Textiles and footwear	1= Yes 2=No	
	3) Mobile accessories and electronics	1= Yes 2=No	
	4) Vegetable and fruits	1= Yes 2=No	
	5) House utensils	1= Yes 2=No	
	6) Anti-rodents and cosmetics	1= Yes 2=No	
	7) Various spices and incenses	1= Yes 2=No	
	8) Street-based services	1= Yes 2=No	
	9) Others (specify)	1= Yes 2=No	

S/N↓	4. Livelihood Assets		Estimated value (Birr)
	Asset type owned in the HH	Response	
4.1.	Radio	1= Yes 2= No	
4.2.	Tape-recorder	1= Yes 2= No	
4.3.	Television and Satellite set	1= Yes 2= No	
4.4.	Computer	1= Yes 2= No	
4.5.	Mobile (cell phone)	1= Yes 2= No	
4.6.	Improved charcoal/wood stove	1= Yes 2= No	
4.7.	Kerosene stove	1= Yes 2= No	
4.8.	Electric mitad	1= Yes 2= No	
4.9.	Sofa	1= Yes 2= No	
4.10.	Bed	1= Yes 2= No	
4.11.	Jewelry	1= Yes 2= No	
4.12.	Table	1= Yes 2= No	
4.13.	Chair	1= Yes 2= No	
4.14.	Solar lamp	1= Yes 2= No	
4.15.	Modern beehive	1= Yes 2= No	
4.16.	Hammer	1= Yes 2= No	
4.17.	Axe (Fas)	1= Yes 2= No	
4.18.	Saw (megaz)	1= Yes 2= No	
4.19.	Cart	1= Yes 2= No	
4.20.	Generator	1= Yes 2= No	
4.21.	Business equipment	1= Yes 2= No	
4.22.	House (and other structures)	1= Yes 2= No	
4.23.	Bicycle, motorcycle, baggage	1= Yes 2= No	
4.24.	Other specify	1= Yes 2= No	
4.25.	Other specify	1= Yes 2= No	

S/N↓	5. Enabling environments and challenges			
	Questions		Response	
5.1.	Do you feel safe doing business on street during the day?		1=Yes	2=No
5.2.	Do you feel safe doing business on street during the night?		1=Yes	2=No
5.3.	Have you ever faced any form of violence/while doing your business?		1=Yes	2=No
5.4.	Do you access water supply?		1=Yes	2=No
5.5.	Do you access to Electricity Service?		1=Yes	2=No
5.6.	Do you access to transportation services?		1=Yes	2=No
5.7.	Do you access to internet service?		1=Yes	2=No
5.8.	Do you have telephone service?		1=Yes	2=No
5.9.	If you have plan to borrow, Do you access credit services?		1=Yes	2=No
5.10.	Have you ever access to capacity building/training services?		1=Yes	2=No
5.11.	Other services (specify)		1=Yes	2=No
5.12.	Have you faced any form of Gender Based Violence (GBV)?			
5.13.	If your response is 'yes' for Q.5.12, please tick (✓) table below?			
	Forms of GBV	When it happens		
		On street	Public toilets	Public transport
	Rape			
	Rape attempt			
	Beating			
	Teasing			
	Insult			
	Abduction			
	Total			

6. What are the opportunities available as informal vendor?

7. What are the challenges you face as women working as street vendor/informal business?

8. What need to be done to overcome the challenges and optimize the opportunities?

9. Is there anything you want to tell me that related to the subject under inquiry, please?

Thank you for your time and cooperation!

Annex-2: Checklist for Focused Group Discussions

Checklists to conduct FGDs

St.Mary’s University Department of Social Work Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendor in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.		
Interviewer:	Interviewee Name: 1) 2) 3) 4) 5) 6) Date:	Role/Position: Location:
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome participants as they arrive • Please inform them that we will do the focus group/ interview in language they feel convenient with. • My name is Tsigereda Cheru Mamo and I am a student at St.Mary’s University at the department of Social Work. • I am undertaking a study and gathering detail information on Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendor in Akaki Kaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. • The purpose of this interview/discussion is to gather information from you on the livelihood strategies of informal women vendors (IWV) and right to access public spaces in Addis Ababa City, Akaki Kaliti sub-city. • I am would like to ask you about your livelihood strategies, challenges and opportunities, the right to access public space for your business. • The purpose of this study is to provide detail information for future planning of IWV activities. • The information you will provide helps to crosscheck, triangulate, and supplement household survey collected. • It is also identifying how informal vendors can obtain the right to public space or possibility to integrate to the formal business system in your area. • Everything is confidential • This focus group/interview does not aim to collect personal information, just to understand the general situation in this area. I am going to ask questions about what typically happens, rather than what has happened to you. • I will make notes and/or use a recorder. This is to help me remember what you have said. I will not use people’s names and if I report what people say, it will be anonymous. • People can leave at any time. I would like all participants to feel free to express their ideas. • The focus group will take about 1 hour. There will be no payment. • Verbal Consent: Ask them verbally if they consent (if they do not consent, explore the reasons why) _____ _____ 	
Focused Group Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please tell me the situation of the informal vender in your area? • What specific activities did you participate in? • Why do you think that people are engaged in the the informal vendor? • What are the opportunities available as informal vendor? 	

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the challenges you face as women working as street vendor/informal business? How has the challenges affected the way you think?• Can you access to public spaces for your business? If yes, where? How have government, service providers, IWVs cooperatives and NGO are working to support Informal Women Venders?• How have you ever participated or organized mechanisms (e.g. petition, litigation, demonstration) to ask various stakeholder to respond to your need?• How these activities have have affected the social and economic aspects of women?• What need to be done to overcome the challenges and optimize the opportunities?• Is there anything you want to tell me that related to the subject under inquiry, please?• Do have anything else important I should know that did not note during discussions? |
|--|--|

Thank you for your time and cooperation!!

End!

Annex-3: Checklist for Key Informant Interviews

**St.Mary’s University
Department of Social Work**

Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendor in AkakiKaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

<p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome participants as they arrive • Please inform them that we will do the focus group/ interview in language they feel convenient with. • My name is TsigeredaCheruMamo and I am a student at St.Mary’s University at the department of Social Work. • I am undertaking a study and gathering detail information on Livelihood Strategies of Informal Women Vendor in AkakiKaliti Sub-city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. • The purpose of this interview/discussion is to gather information from you on the livelihood strategies of informal women vendors (IWV) and right to access public spaces in Addis Ababa City, AkakiKaliti sub-city. • I am would like to ask you about your livelihood strategies, challenges and opportunities, the right to access public space for your business. • The purpose of this study is to provide detail information for future planning of IWV activities. • The information you will provide helps to crosscheck, triangulate, and supplement household survey collected. • It is also identifying how informal vendors can obtain the right to public space or possibility to integrate to the formal business system in your area. • Everything is confidential • This focus group/interview does not aim to collect personal information, just to understand the general situation in this area. I am going to ask questions about what typically happens, rather than what has happened to you. • I will make notes and/or use a recorder. This is to help me remember what you have said. I will not use people’s names and if I report what people say, it will be anonymous. • People can leave at any time. I would like all participants to feel free to express their ideas. • The focus group will take about 1 hour. There will be no payment. • Verbal Consent: Ask them verbally if they consent (if they do not consent, explore the reasons why)_____
<p>Key Informant Interviews</p> <p>[Woreda and sub city Trader and Industry Offices; Small and Microenterprise Office; Social Affairs Office]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you tell me about your experience with Informal vendor in general and Informal Women Vendor? • Please tell me some key activities the women are engaged in? • In your opinion, are the Informal Vendors Increased, decreased or the same? Why you think so? • How do you think the legality of IWVs? Do you agree that they should obtain public space or any designated place for their business? • What are the problems related to informal women vendor and how can be tackled to resolve the root of the problem? • Do you think that informal Women Vendor deserves attention from other actors? Who are these actors? What should the actors should do? • Is there anything else that you think it is important for this study?
	<p>Thank you!</p>