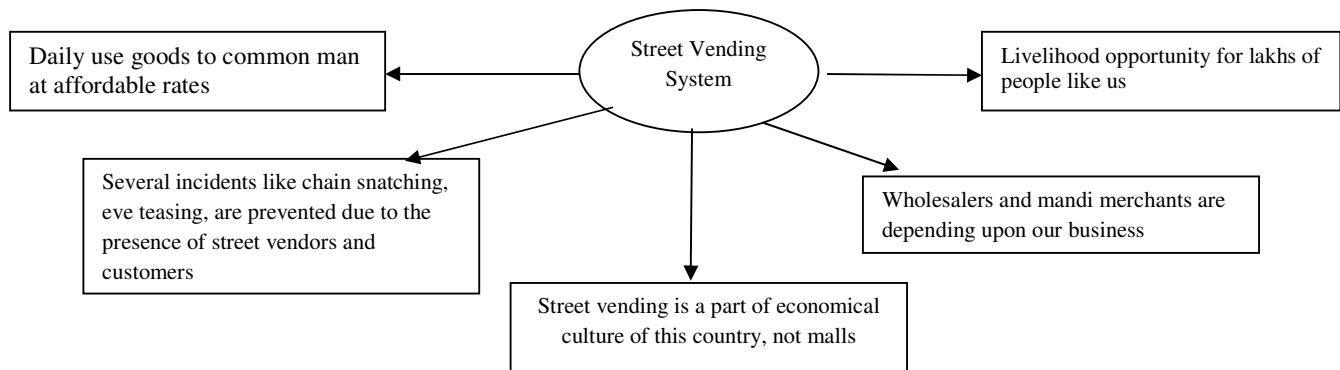




Street Vendors, unite!!! Get ready for the struggle!

- **Provide justice to the street vendors who are evicted from Kaverinagar, Shivajinagar, Koramangala areas!**
- **Allocate funds for street vendors too in Bengaluru budget!**

10th March, 10 am, BBMP Head Office



Malls and big show-rooms have cropped up like mushrooms in Bengaluru in the last several years. Despite this, lakhs of Bengalureans purchase daily use goods for their families, from street vendors. As mentioned above, street vending has several benefits. But the government is not allowing these street vendors, who are eking out their lives with dignity, by undertaking self-employment.

In the month of December, 2015, BBMP officials and police evicted around 50 street vendors from pipeline road in Kaverinagar. Likewise, in the month of May, 2015 traffic police started harassing more than 250 street vendors in Shivajinagar and are stopping them from doing business. In Koramangala, BBMP officials are troubling the street vendors in the name of constructing pedestrian walk/footpath. But, they have not yet commenced construction work at all. Street vendors in Jayanagar 9th block are being troubled by the surrounding residents. A few residents are troubling them by parking their cars on footpath and they are harassing hawkers by pushing away their carts. What type of justice is this?!

In order to prevent such injustice against street vendors, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in *Maharashtra Ekta Hawkers Union and Another v/s Municipal Corporation, Greater Mumbai and others* case, in citizens appeal No. 4156/4157/2002, on 9th September, 2013, has issued orders protecting our rights. In the year 2014, even the Government of India has enforced the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. According to Sec. 3(3) of the Street Vendors Act; BBMP cannot evict street vendors until it conducts a survey. Even the Hon'ble High Court has issued orders to follow this, on September 22, 2014. Hence, it is illegal to evict us. The Police Commissioner has also issued a circular in this regard! Despite this, BBMP, police and a few local people are grabbing our rights. If senior officers who are aware about law violate rules, where should we go? We want answer to our question!

Facilities in markets

We are also facing other challenges. There are no clean and well maintained toilets in many areas. It is causing lot of problems for women street vendors. There are toilets only in a few areas, but the women have to pay Rs.5/- to use it once. If they use it 3-4 times they have to pay Rs.20! Another major problem that we are facing is we don't have place to store the stock during night hours.

Hence, we are forced to pay expensive rent for private parties or we have to carry it to our houses with great difficulty or we have to carry out business near our houses itself – we cannot go far. If we use tarpaulins to protect ourselves during summer and rain, the officials will remove it! It is possible only for the BBMP to solve such many problems. BBMP will present thousands of crores worth budget every year. But, they won't allocate even a single paisa for street vendors in the budget. Hence, we urge BBMP to allocate 1% for the welfare of street vendors and make arrangements to provide free public amenities in our markets, out of that money. Also, godown to store goods, drinking water, toilets, solar lights, protection from rain/sun, crèche, garbage disposal system should be provided. We also urge to prevent using money for several works like road widening, construction of over bridges, tender sure paths, etc., and instead spend more money for BBMP health centers and schools and please plant more trees on roadsides. We will also get shade from this.

Implement plastic ban effectively

We welcome the Government's move to prohibit plastic. This will reduce the amount of garbage which goes to Mavallipura, Bingipura, Manduru and other villages for disposal. But, we need the help of the government to make it successful. Firstly, our customers still ask for plastic glasses/cups/sheets, etc. Hence, there is need to create more awareness among them against usage of plastic. Secondly, rates of plantain leaves and arecanut leaves will be very expensive during festival season. Hence, the government should make arrangements to supply them to us at cheaper rates. Thirdly, measures should be taken to provide us public water taps and place to wash our clothes, plates, glasses and other utensils.

Our overall demands –

- 1) A joint meeting should be convened with the Hon'ble Mayor, Commissioner and respective coporators, comprising Kaverinagar, Koramangala, Shivajinagar and Jayanagar 9th Block street vendors.
- 2) 1% funds should be allocated in the forthcoming BBMP budget and free public amenities (like godown for street vendors' stock, drinking water, toilet, solar lights, protection from rain/sun, crèche, garbage disposal system) should be provided in our markets out of the allocated funds.
- 3) Awareness should be created among all the street vendors and officials, about the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. Hence, the government should take measures to organize awareness camps immediately. It should also issue orders to the BBMP officials and police officers not to violate street vendors act.
- 4) No street vendor should be evicted before conducting survey, as per Sec. 3(3) of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
- 5) The officers should behave properly with the street vendors.
- 6) BBMP should spend more on its Health Centers and schools.
- 7) BBMP should allocate Rs.150 crores in its budget for BMTTC, online with the Bruhan Mumbai Municipal Corporation's Public Transport system.
- 8) It should help us in making plastic prohibition law successful.
- 9) 1 lakh saplings should be planted on Bengaluru city's road sides, within the next 1 year.
- 10) In order to address our grievances, temporary 'grievance redressal cell' should be established under BBMP, as directed in the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.

Bruhat Bengaluru Street Vendors Associations Federation



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