

# ***CHAPTER - III***

***SOCIO ECONOMIC BACKGROUND  
OF TEA STALL VENDORS***

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### SOCIO ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF TEA STALL VENDORS

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## CHAPTER - III

### SOCIO ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF TEA STALL VENDORS

#### INTRODUCTION :

The Tea Stall Vendors are to be business units working in informal sector. Tea Stall Vendors are unorganised class of businessmen. It is observed that they come from various religions and castes from socio-economic background. Tea Stall Vendors as a group is found to be heterogeneous. Majority of the families of the Tea Stall Vendors are socially backward. Before they undertook the activity of selling tea, they were found to be very poor. They are either illiterate or less educated. They have certain special features of their business, which need due attention of the researcher. In this kind of purpose, socio-economic background of Tea Stall Vendors be investigated and described here in this chapter with the help of variables, such as age, religion, residence, education, working hours etc.

#### 3.1 AGE GROUP :

The working efficiency and capacity of the vendors mostly depends upon the age. It is a predominant factor in the working capacity of Tea Stall Vendors.

**TABLE NO. 3.1**  
**AGE PROFILE OF TEA STALL VENDORS**

No.	AGE GROUPS (YEARS)	No.OF VENDORS	PERCENTAGE
1.	20 to 30	13	26
2.	30 to 40	15	30
3.	40 to 50	10	20
4.	50 to 60	10	20
5.	60 Above	02	04
	TOTAL ..	50	100

The total respondents are classified under five age groups as shown above.

A close look at table 3.1 reveals the following :

1. Out of total number of 50 respondents only 13 belongs to the age group 20 to 30 years. The percentage works out to be 26.
2. The number of vendors in the age group of 30 to 40 years is 15 and the percentage is 30.
3. Vendors belonging to the age group of 40 to 50 are 10 in number and their percentage is 20.
4. The number of vendors in the age group of 50 to 60 year is 10 and the percentage is 20.
5. Number of vendors in the age group of above 60 years is

2 and their percentage to the total is 4%.

It is interesting to note that even though the tea stall vendors work in informal sector, young people below 20 years are not found to be in the business. The number of old age workers is also very small. Almost all the tea stall vendors are prime age workers. The adult workers in age group of 30 to 40 years are found to be maximum. The job of tea stall vendors involves hard work for long hours every day, therefore it is obvious that the tea stall vendors necessarily prime age workers.

### 3.2 RELIGION AND CASTE :

A business of tea stall vendors is considered as having low social status. It is therefore considered desirable to understand the religion and the castes of the tea stall vendors. Table No. 3.2 shows distribution of tea stall vendors according to their religion and the castes.

TABLE NO. 3.2

## CASTE STRUCTURE OF THE RESPONDENTS

No.	CASTE	No.OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1.	Maratha	31	62
2.	Lingayat	06	12
3.	Muslim	03	06
4.	Sali	02	04
5.	Khatik	01	02
6.	Harijan	02	04
7.	Chambhar	03	06
8.	Dhor	01	02
9.	Matang	01	02
TOTAL ..		50	100

1. Table 3.2 demonstrates that majority of sample respondents i.e. about 62% belong to Maratha Caste.

out of total number of 50 respondents 31 belong to the caste of Maratha.

2. The number of Lingayat vendors is 6 rank next and their percentage is 12.

3. Muslim, Chambhar are also equal with 3 each and their percentage to the total is 06 each.

4. Sali, Harijans are equal with 2 each and their percentage to the total is 04 each.
5. Dhor and Matang are also equal with 1 each and the percentage is 02 each.

It is clear from table no. 3.2 that 74% of the respondents belong to the upper class, 6 percent belong to the middle caste and remaining 20% of the respondents belong to the lower castes.

The number of tea stall vendors seem to be proportionate to the size of population of various castes. The notion of low status business seem to have over taken by economic needs of the people, even though belonging to the upper caste majority of the tea stall vendors have taken up this activity. It is a fair combination of people of the various castes. This business is an example of secular community group as representing all the castes in the town.

### 3.3 RESIDENCIAL HOUSES :

Housing is closely related with the health of the Vendors. It creates health, efficiency and welfare of the vendors. The aspects touched are the ownership, number of rooms, facilities, etc.

**TABLE NO. 3.3**  
**TABLE SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSES ACCORDING TO**  
**OWNERSHIP TYPE, NUMBER OF ROOMS**

NO.OF ROOMS	NO.OF HOUSE HOLD	OWN				RENT			
		KACHA	PAKKA	R.C.C.	TOTAL	KACHA	PAKKA	R.C.C.	TOTAL
Singl	09	07	01	--	08	--	01	--	01
Doubl	19	06	09	--	15	--	03	01	04
Three	11	--	09	02	11	--	--	--	00
Four/ More	11	--	04	07	11	--	--	--	00
Total	50	13	23	09	45	--	04	01	05
% age	(100)	(26)	(46)	(18)	(90)	(0)	(08)	(02)	(10)

The above table shows that the total households 90% having their own house (45 respondents) and only 10% (5 respondents) households has rented house.

For the survey the houses are classified in to three types i.e. Kacha, Pakka and R.C.C. Table No. 3.3. shows that of the total households 26% (13 numbers) house hold having Kacha house, 54% (27 number) household having Pakka house and 20% having R.C.C.house.

The data regarding the room wise analysis mentioned in the table No. 3.3. shows that,



1. In single room category of the total 7 households 77.78 having Kacha house while 22.22% having Pakka house.
2. In two room category 6 household 31.58% having kacha house while 68.16% having pakka house and 5.26 having R.C.C. house.
3. In three room category of the 9 households 81.82% having pakka house and 18.18% having R.C.C. house.

And in the four room category of the total 4 household 36.36 having pakka house while 63.64 having R.C.C. houses.

From the above analysis it is seen that most of the Tea Stall Vendors have their own houses and are having in Pakka and R.C.C. house. This is due to the fact that many of the Tea Stall Vendors originally hail from the city. Only few members are living in rented houses because they have newly come from outside places.

TABLE NO. 3.4

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSE ACCORDING TO FACILITIES

No.	ITEMS	YES	NO	PERCENTAGE	
				YES	NO
01.	Electric Light	45	05	90	10
02.	Tap Water	32	18	64	36
03.	Latrine/Toilet	28	22	56	44

1. The above table No. 3.4 shows that out of the total 50 households 90% have lighting as against 10% of household who have no lights.
2. It is observed from the above table that in 64% of the respondents house tap water facility is available and 36% of the respondents house it is not available. Public tap is the source of water for such respondents.
3. The facilities like Latrine and Toilet etc. are available with the households of 56% of the tea stall vendors and the remaining 44% were found to be without such facility.

It is very discouraging to note that basic amenities like electricity water, latrine, toilet etc. have not yet reached up to the tea stall vendors. 10% of the vendors do not get electric light because the places of their houses are an unauthorised site; therefore the connections cannot be obtained under such conditions. The situation of water facilities is also not good. In fact tea stall vendors need adequate and clean water to do their business. The condition of latrine and toilets is the worst. All this adversely affect on their health, hygiene. As they serve other people, if their health and hygiene is not good it has social impact.

### 3.4 LEVEL OF EDUCATION :

Education is one of the most important indicator of social development. It is one of the factor which affects demographic behaviour by deciding on marriage, fertility, mortality etc.

Education received determines the over all well being and contributions to the family and to the society.

TABLE NO. 3.5

#### EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF VENDORS

LEVEL OF EDUCATION	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1. Illiterate	04	08
2. Primary	23	46
3. Secondary	11	22
4. Higher Secondary	09	18
5. Graduate & Post Graduate	03	06
TOTAL	50	100

A close look at table no. 3.5 reveals the following :

1. Out of total number of 50 respondents (8%) are illiterate.
2. 23 respondents (46%) have completed primary education.

3. (22%) respondents have completed secondary education and 9 (18%) respondents have completed Higher Secondary education.
4. There are only 3 (6%) respondents who have completed Graduate and Post Graduate education.

The percentage of illiteracy is 8. These illiterate tea stall vendors could not get the education because of economic problems on one hand the lack of educational facilities on other hand.

It is surprising that only 8% vendors are illiterate, and 92% are literate. It is also surprising to note that even though we have large number of educated unemployed youth nobody has entered in to this business. As a matter of fact if educated employed people take up this business activity the condition of the business will improve and young people would get themselves engaged in self employment.

### 3.5 ADULT EDUCATION :

Almost all the tea stall vendors are adult people. It is also observed that most of them are either illiterate or not properly educated. This affects the quality of their service as well as their occupational skill. It is considered desirable that the scheme of adult education can be suitably

applied to educated tea stall vendors Table No. 3.6 shows the extent of awareness and participation of tea stall vendors in adult education programme.

TABLE NO. 3.6

TABLE SHOWING THE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO AWARENESS OF ADULT EDUCATION

No.	RESPONSE	TOTAL NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1.	YES	32	64
2.	NO	18	36
	TOTAL	50	100

Table No. 3.6 shows that 32 out of 50 respondents constituting 64% of the total are aware of the Adult education programme.

As against only 18 with 36% who are not aware of the programme.

It is very discouraging to note that 32 vendors out of 50 aware of adult education programme and the remaining 18 tea stall vendors are not aware adult education programmes.

The co-ordinaters of the adult education programme are expected to approach the tea stall vendors and ask them to get the education under the scheme of adult education. It is also pointed out that tea stall vendors do not get any

time for taking adult education. If we consider the value of education, tea stall vendors should spare appropriate time for education through the programmes of adult education.

But in survey it is observed that total of the 50 respondents, none has participated in adult education. They have no time to learn new skill. But they should participate in this scheme.

### 3.6 MARITAL STATUS :

Marital status is an important social economic variable. An inquiry is made about the marital status of the tea stall vendors and the picture is shown in table No. 3.7

TABLE NO. 3.7

#### MARITAL STATUS

STATUS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Unmarried	05	10
Married	41	82
Widow	02	04
Divorcee	02	04
Total	50	100

Table No. 3.7 demonstrates that out of the total respondents 50, five (5) tea stall vendors with 10% are unmarried. 40 vendors with 80% are married.

There are 5 female tea stall vendors out of which one is married, two are widows and the other two are divorcees.

In the sample 4 were found widows and Divorcee who have to earn their own bread not only for themselves but also for their children. These female vendors generally are found to be hard working.

### 3.7 TYPE AND SIZE OF THE FAMILY :

Family is the basic unit of society. Generally the family is identified where atleast 2 persons are living together and have some kind of blood relation. The family provides comprehensive protection and assistance to its members for their mental, physical and psychological growth. A child from a stable and supportive family background has better chance to develop into a healthy and happy human being. The size of family measured in terms of number of members is shown in Table No. 3.8.

**TABLE NO. 3.8**  
**FAMILY MEMBERS OF VENDORS**

MEMBERS IN FAMILY	NO.OF FAMILY (HOUSEHOLD)	PERCENTAGE
2 TO 3	08	16
4 TO 7	29	48
8 TO 13	11	22
13 & Above	02	04
TOTAL	50	100

Families are classified under Four class viz. 2 to 3 members 3 to 7 members, 8 to 13 members and 14 members and above. Table reveals the following.

1. Out of a total households (50) only 8 (16%) households belong to class of 2 to 3.
2. Details show that 48% of households have 4 to 7 members
3. There are 11 households belong to 8 to 13 class.
4. Only 2 household belong to the household size of above 14.

It is generally assumed that poor families with ignorance and lack of planning tend to be larger in size. However due to exposure to city life majority of tea stall vendors haves are small and medium sized family.



**TYPE OF FAMILY :**

The joint family system is being replaced by divided family system. The position regarding family system of tea stall vendors is shown in table No. 3.9.

**TABLE NO. 3.9**

**TYPE OF FAMILY**

NO.		NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1.	Joint Family	17	34
2.	Nuclear Family	33	66
	TOTAL	50	100

Table No. 3.9 demonstrates that out of 50 households, 17 families (34%) are joint families.

And remained 33 about 66% are nuclear family.

From the above table, it is clear that some families are joint families, there is co-operation and understanding between family members.

This indicates that the tea stall vendors come from both types of families. But the dominant number of vendors come from nuclear family background.

### 3.8 OCCUPATION :

#### 3.8 (A) PREVIOUS OCCUPATION :

The previous occupation of tea stall vendors is shown in table No. 3.10.

TABLE NO. 3.10  
PREVIOUS OCCUPATION

NAME OF THE JOB	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Hotel Worker	19	38
Unemployed	09	18
Other	22	44
TOTAL ..	50	100

The above table shows that

1. Out of 50 respondents 19 (38%) respondents were Hotel Workers.
2. 9 respondents (18%) were unemployed.
3. 22 (44%) doing other jobs, such as daily wages in wholesale shop, service in private company, stationery shop, stores etc.

It can be observed from all of the comments above that before taking up this occupation all the respondent vendors were in unhappy conditions. The occupation has certainly provided a good opportunity to improve their economic condition. They could get themselves self employed on regular basis.

3.8. (B) NO. OF YEAR IN PRESENT OCCUPATION :

The number of years in present occupation of the vendors is an important bearing on the efficiency of vendors. Long period gives them much experience which is beneficial to them.

TABLE NO. 3.11

NO. OF YEARS IN PRESENT OCCUPATION

NO.	RESPONSE	NO.OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1.	Below 5	06	12
2.	5 to 10	17	34
3.	10 to 15	14	28
4.	15 to 20	07	14
5.	Above 20	06	12
TOTAL ..		50	100

The data disclose the following facts.

1. 12% of the respondent have been doing business for less than 5 years i.e. they are new entrants who have been taken up this job only recently.
2. When 34% (17) of them have been doing business 5 to 10 years.
3. Out of the total respondents 14 (28%) have been doing business for 10 to 15 years.

4. 14% have been doing the job for 15 to 20 years.
5. Those who have been doing this job for more than 20 years amount to 12%.

It is very clear from the above table total experience of the vendors in this business for more than 10 years. This reveals the stability of business of the vendors.

### 3.8. (C) CHANGE IN PLACE OF BUSINESS :

TABLE NO. 3.12

#### CHANGE IN PLACE OF BUSINESS

RESPONSE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
YES	13	26
NO	37	74
TOTAL ..	50	100

The data of above table shows the change in place of business. It is seen that 13 (26%) vendors have changed the place of working while 37 (74%) at the same place of business. Normally change of place taken place in the initial years of working of tea stall. Once they get appropriate place they settle their business activity in that place only. They are not interested to change the place.

### 3.8. (D) ATTENDANCE AT FAIRS :

It is a practice to attend the fairs on the part of tea stall vendors. This provides them the opportunity to do good business on the days at fairs. The responses of tea stall vendors shows the following position in this regard.

TABLE NO. 3.13

#### ATTENDANCE AT FAIRS

RESPONSE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
YES	04	08
NO	46	92
TOTAL ..	50	100

Only 4 (8%) tea stall vendors have attended fairs and festivals. However majority 46 (92%) of the tea stall vendors do not favour attending fairs of festivals.

### 3.9 WORKING HOURS AND METHODS :

#### WORKING HOURS :

TABLE NO. 3.14

#### WORKING HOURS PER DAY

HOURS OF WORKING	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
10 TO 12	30	60
14 TO 16	20	40
TOTAL ..	50	100

Table No. 3.14 shows the hours of working per day.

1. 60% of the respondents have been working 10 to 12 hours per days.
2. Out of the total 50 respondents only 20 (40%) have been working hours of their business 14 to 16.

It can be seen that long working hours are minimum of 10 hours to maximum 16 is a particular feature of this occupation. The vendors working in this range of working hours are certainly get exhausted at the end of every working day. If such kind of long hours of working is continued daily they are likely to face the problem of health. The daily work beyond 8 hours can hardly be permitted from the health point of view.

**WORKING MONTHS :**

**TABLE NO. 3.15  
WORKING MONTHS**

MONTHS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
12	48	96
09	02	04
TOTAL ..	50	100

The above table 3.15 demonstrates that :

1. Out of 50 respondents 48% respondents they have been doing work 12 months.

2. And only 2 respondents (4%) respondents they have been doing work 9 months because such stall are established at college.

If we consider the number of months during which tea stall vendors carry on their activities, it can be said that their business is regularly carried on throughout the year. Most of the tea stall vendors carry on the business for all the 12 months of the year. There are two tea stall vendors who carry on their business activities near the college. As there is a vacation of 3 months for the college in year, tea stall vendors also keep their stalls closed during the vacation period.

### 3.10 ASSISTANCE IN BUSINESS :

TABLE NO. 3.16

#### ASSISTANCE IN BUSINESS

NO.	ASSISTANCE	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1.	Employee	09	18
2.	Family Members	15	30
3.	Employee & Family Members	07	14
4.	No Assistance	19	38
TOTAL		50	100

Out of a total i.e 50 tea stall vendors only 9 (18%) have taken the assistance from employees.

Details shows that 30% of respondents have taken the assistance of family members.

Only 7 (14%) vendors have taken the assistance from employee and family members.

And there are 19 respondents who have no assistance from anybody and carry on their business individually.

From the above comments it can be informed that the tea stall vendors get the help from the family members. Some of the vendors seem to have appointed employees, and they get the assistance from such employees as well. It is also observed that 19 respondents (38%) carry on their business activities without assistance from any other source. It may be observed that though vendors who carry on their activities on a smaller case do not need assistance from the family members and they cannot also think of appointing employees to assist them.

### **3.11 EXPECTATION ABOUT SECOND GENERATION OCCUPATION :**

The position of vendors was seen as being crucial to the position of young children. Because they are the ones who work necessarily to know the expectation of tea stall vendors about their children second generation occupation.



**TABLE NO. 3.17**  
**EXPECTATION ABOUT SECOND GENERATION OCCUPATION**

NO. RESPONSE TO BE IN THE SAME OCCUPATION		NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1.	YES	29	58
2.	NO	17	34
3.	NO RESPONSE	04	08
TOTAL ..		50	100

1. Out of the total 50 respondents 29 (58%) are satisfied with this business agree to accept same occupation by their children 17 respondents (34%) do not agree in this respect.
2. Only 4 respondents have no response, as they are unmarried.

General observation reveals that some of vendors want their children to study and take up jobs other than this business, such as Government Service, which gives both an assured income and a better status in the society. While other vendors want their children not to accept other job and continue the traditional business.

The majority of the tea stall vendors want their children to accept the same business because it is more profitable business agency than other business.

### 3.12 MALES AND FEMALES :

TABLE NO. 3.18  
MALES AND FEMALES

NO.	SEX	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	FEMALE	05	10
2	MALES	45	90
TOTAL	..	50	100

Table No. 3.18 shows that :

1. Out of 50 vendors constituting only 10% of the total are female tea stall vendors.
2. As against majority 45 with 90% who are male tea stall vendors.

The male and female classification of vendors clearly shows in table No. 3.18. This occupation is mainly male dominated occupation. Of course some women have certainly taken bold step to enter into this occupation. It is also observed that female tea stall vendors are widows and divorced women. They have entered in this occupation as a compelling need. This occupation for the them is only source of livelihood.

### 3.13 REASONS TO ENTER IN THIS BUSINESS :

The important reasons which is motivating the vendors to work outside family are economic necessity, traditional and profitable business, economic independence, creative work, satisfying needs etc.

TABLE NO. 3.19

#### REASONS TO ENTER IN THIS BUSINESS

NO.	REASON	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	Traditional	11	22
2	Profitable Business	14	28
3.	Economic Neassity	25	50
TOTAL	..	50	100

A close look at table No. 3.19 reveals the following :

1. Out of the total 50 respondents 11 (22%) enter in this business, as their traditional business.
2. 14 respondents (28%) accept the business because of the profitable business agency.
3. And 25 respondents (50%) enter in this because of the economic necessity.

Our survey has pointed out that tea stall vendors used to enter in this business mainly because of the economic necessity.

28% respondents accept this business because it is a profitable business. Such respondents were hotel workers before they enter in this business, so they know that, this business would give sufficient income to meet the basic requirements of their families.

### 3.14 TYPES OF TEA STALL VENDORS (ITEMWISE) :

TABLE NO. 3.20

#### TYPES OF TEA STALL VENDORS (ITEMWISE) :

NO.	GROUPS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
1	A	23	46
2	B	10	20
3.	C	17	34
TOTAL	..	50	100

Meaning of Group as explained below :

- 'A' = Tea Stall Vendors who prepare and sell tea and other eatables.
- 'B' = Tea Stall Vendors who prepare and sell tea along with other eatables purchase for outside.
- 'C' = Tea Stall Vendors who are selling tea only.

As shown in the above table No. 3.20 there are three types of tea stall vendors. In the sample of the study following observations are important.

1. There are 23 (46%) tea stall vendors who prepare both tea and other eatable items and sell.

2. There are 10 (20%) tea stall vendors who sell both tea and other eatables. However they prepare only tea and eatable items are purchased from outside. There are minimum number of vendors in this group.
3. There are 17 tea stall vendors who prepare and sell tea only. The size of this group is also considerably big.

From the above observation it can be said that first group is the group of well established tea stall vendors. Second group is relatively the group of vendors who have been this business for few years. Third group is the group of new entrants. The size of the second group is smallest which implies that the tea stall vendors start with tea only, after some time they add some eating items in their selling but such items are purchased from outside sources. In due course of time as they become stable, they themselves prepare both tea and other eatables and become the number of the first group.