



Assessment of socioeconomic vulnerability of street vendor's evictions and its impacts on community's livelihoods: A case of Dar es Salaam city council

Yuda Kyara*

Public Administration Leadership and General Management,
Tanzania Public Service College (TPSC), Tanzania
E-mail: judahkyara98@gmail.com

**Corresponding author*

Abstract

This research focused on assessing the socioeconomic vulnerability of street vendor's evictions and its impacts on the community's livelihoods in urban areas. The Dar es Salaam city council was selected purposefully to represent other areas facing similar problems in urban areas. The researcher used a mixed methods research approach with an explanatory sequential design to collect information from the respondents by employing questionnaires and interview methods. The researcher used probability sampling technique and limited the sample size to 260. The study revealed that street vending was the primary employment source for most urban people, both women and men. Therefore, evictions mean that the lives of the street vendors and the urban community, dependent on low-cost products and services, become vulnerable. It was also revealed that 73% of respondents aged 21 and above were the leading distributors of a variety of products and services to the city's demand. The study recommends that the government and other stakeholders formulate and implement effective legislations and policies, identify potential business zones, establish registration and licensing procedures, enable street vendors to pay taxes from the profits they generate from their vending activities and designate specific arrears for street vending.

Key words: Socioeconomic, Vulnerability, Street Vendors, Evictions, Community's Livelihoods, Dar es Salaam

Introduction

Street vending has attracted many people in the last few decades due to the rapidly growing population and unemployment rates in both formal and informal sectors. It serves as an attractive economic strategy and source of livelihood for the unskilled and illiterate newcomers to the city (Tshuma and Jari 2013 in Mazhambe, 2017). It is a fundamental component of urban economies and a distinctive part of the more significant informal sector (Dhas, 2020). Poverty and the lack of beneficial employment in rural areas and small towns drive many people to the cities for work and livelihood (Bhowmik, 2010).

In developing countries, urban public space becomes a valuable resource for the urban working poor to earn their livelihood (Steel *et al.*, 2014). Studies show that street vending is a means of earning a livelihood for the urban poor as it requires minor financial input and low skills (Muiruri, 2010). A significant portion of street vendors are those with low skills and who have migrated to the larger cities from rural areas or small towns in search of employment and other means of livelihood. Street vendors worldwide contribute to the economy in different ways, including creating employment opportunities, making goods and services easily accessible and providing affordable goods and services in urban and rural areas (Mazhambe, 2017). Experiences from the vending activities show that the vendors can provide cheap goods to their customers

as this business operates at a low cost (they do not pay rent for the business premises, business licenses or income taxes).

Despite the critical role of street vendors in the urban economy, they are viewed as a problem for urban governance (Cross, 2000). Jaishankar and Sujatha (2016) argued that street vendors are usually associated with encroachment of public spaces, cause traffic congestion, inadequate hygiene and poor waste disposal. Muiruri (2010) noted that urban authorities view street vending businesses as an irritant to urban planning. People see them as a pestilence, as they crowd pavements, spill onto busy streets, create transport bottlenecks, add to confusion and chaos, and are also a source of filth and crime, violating the sense of order (Muiruri, 2010). Being part of the unorganized sectors, they need more access to credit from the formal sector financial institutions and are vulnerable to insurance and social security issues (Malik & Yadav, 2021). The urban authorities worldwide have implemented restrictions on street vending activities due to the perceptions of urban planners and administrators regarding urban governance (Muiruri, 2010). Implementing restrictions on street vendors' operations without relevant accommodation of their needs poses significant challenges to vendors' social and economic development.

Telila (2017) noted that in almost all countries in Asia and Africa, except part of India, street vending is illegal, and sometimes they are treated as criminals. Dube and Chirisa (2012) observed that street vendors struggle at the margins of the economy because some governments worldwide fail to recognize their potential. Regardless of their contributions, street vendors have yet to receive the required attention from planners, policymakers and the public. The failure to recognize street vendors as entrepreneurs with the potential to generate income has resulted in potential revenue loss from street vending registration fees, hawking licenses and taxes since the street peddlers continue to operate without licenses (Mazhambe, 2017).

The vending sector has provided opportunities for many, particularly the marginalized poor, without regard for their diverse backgrounds. Different cities globally observe the presence of street vendors, including various cities in developing nations like Tanzania, particularly in Dar es Salaam. Joshi et al. (2014) argues that, running businesses on the street is often considered more affordable since it does not require incurring costs such as formal entry expenses (registration and licensing) and recurrent expenses (rent, taxes, and other contributions). The street vending business is quickly adopted, using limited capital or non-financial capital to operate like obtaining goods from the wholesalers in agreement and pay back after sales. As a matter of fact, the recognition and authorization of street vendors by the Tanzania government in 2016 and later the introduction of petty traders' identity cards ("Machinga IDs") in 2018 has attracted some formal traders to directly or indirectly join street vending to avoid costs of operating formally (George & Olan'g, 2020). A study by Steiler and Nyirenda (2021) noted that street vending presents a legitimate and often the only available way of making a living in Tanzania. The most general potential advantages of street vending activities, as identified by Darrare (2007) as cited in Jaishankar and Sujatha (2016), is that street vendors create a comprehensive employment opportunity; it is a means of income generation for marginalized groups and urban poor, especially for those who migrate from the rural area. Many scholars also agree that street vending has a potential role in vendor and community wellbeing; the vending activities need more attention or full recognition from policymakers and the government in Tanzania. Telila (2017) argued that most street vendors worldwide operate their businesses with fear of eviction, jail, harassment and fines because the laws do not recognize their operations. The recent harassment and difficulties of street vending in different urban areas in Tanzania disrupted the livelihoods of both the vendors and the community.

The realization of the potential of small businesses, street vending in particular in poverty alleviation and improving community livelihood in Tanzania has drawn attention to different stakeholders in the area. Since small business (petty business) involves multiple actors ranging from formal and informal business operations in urban areas where different products and services are offered, the present study stretched to street vending only since they are primarily victims of recent and unpredictable government policies in Tanzania.

Research Objectives

The following research objectives guide this study:

1. To assess the contribution of street vending business to the economic development
2. To explore the socioeconomic, spiritual, and psychological vulnerability of street vendors' evictions in the studying area
3. To identify the action taken by the city authorities after vendor's evictions
4. To propose strategies for enhancing business operations and fostering economic development

Research questions

The following research questions guide this study:

1. What is the contribution of the street vending business to economic development?
2. What are the socioeconomic, spiritual, and psychological vulnerabilities of the vendor's evictions in the study area?
3. What is the action taken by the city authorities after the vendor's evictions?
4. What are the strategies for optimizing business operations and stimulating economic growth?

Literature Review

The Concept of Street Vendors and Livelihoods

Scholars and academicians have defined street vendors based on different perspectives and ideas. Yadav and Malik (2021) cite a definition by the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors (NPUSV) to give a broad definition of street vendors; the policy defines a street vendor as a person who sells goods to the public without having a permanently built-up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall (or headload). Muiruri (2010) defines street vendors as informal traders who sell goods or services outside any enclosed premises or covered workplace. Bhowmik (2005) and Mramba (2015) defined street vending as an informal type of business that offers for sale to the public without having a permanent built-up structure. Lyons and Msoka (2010) and Mramba (2015) define street vending as all non-criminal commercial activity dependent on access to public space, including market trade, trade from fixed locations and hawking (mobile vending). Jellinek (1991) identifies the three main classifications of street vendors in terms of location: static, semi-static and mobile. The static ones occupy a fixed market stall or kiosk where they can lock up at the close of work, and pay rent or daily fees. Semi-static traders typically occupy a particular site but dismantle or cart away their goods after hours of business; they may pay some rent or fee for the space they occupy, even for space on a sidewalk outside city markets. The mobile ones (hawkers) move from place to place to catch peak selling opportunities or ease of escape from the city authorities. Street vending has been attracting many people worldwide, specifically in developing nations, and is today one of the most important sources of income and livelihood among the marginalized poor.

Livelihood

Daily et al. (2021) argue that Chambers and Conway proposed the most widely adopted definition of livelihoods in 1992. According to their definition, livelihoods are how individuals make a living based on their capabilities, assets (including reserves, resources, claims, and entitlements), and activities. Livelihoods involve conducting essential activities over one's lifespan, such as securing water, food, education, medicine, shelter, and clothing. According to Sen's theories, "capability" is seen as a function of human beings for survival and engagement in activity. Apart from encompassing natural attributes such as nutrition and health, the term should also include one's right to choose and engage in certain activities. Chambers and Conway (1992) in Daily et al. (2021) have summarized the several expressions of livelihood capabilities as follows: the ability of individuals to deal with pressure and shocks and uncover and exploit opportunities in a given living environment. Urban authorities have been implementing various strategies

and initiatives to empower the marginalized poor, especially the youth and women, and have created awareness about urban planning, urban regulations, waste management, and environmental conservation. These initiatives have been done through different channels, including media (television, radio, newspapers, social media), public campaigns and forums. Creating citizen awareness about city and urban regulations and planning reduces the negative impact of government decisions and promotes people's livelihoods.

Theoretical Framework

Sustainable livelihood and socioeconomic vulnerability approaches guided this study purposefully to explain the relationship between the Intention (such as the government's decision to evacuate the street vendors from the informal areas) and the potential impacts on the government, vendors, and community livelihood. However, rational decisions or actions taken by the government or other actors may have both positive and negative consequences for the people. These theories give a clear picture of how the street vendors and the community were affected following the forceful evictions.

Sustainable livelihoods

Sustainable livelihood is the ability of individuals or groups to cope with and recover from stress and shocks caused by life's uncertainties and difficulties. "Sustainable livelihoods" can be divided into environmental sustainability livelihoods and social sustainability. Environmental sustainability refers to the ability to maintain and enhance the local and global capital on which one survives and generates net income for livelihoods; social sustainability means that one can deal with pressure and shocks and recover from them to support future generations. Chamber and Conway have further broken down the composition of household livelihoods into people, activities, capital and output. Morse and McNamara (2013) state that, the sustainable livelihood approach is devised from what we called an intentional approach to development. Development has many meanings, as Cowen and Shenton (1998) have made an interesting case for two primary forms: firstly, immanent development or what people are doing; these denote a broad process of advancement in human societies driven by a multitude factors, including advances of science, medicine, the art, communication, governance few to mention. The process of globalization, marked by international integration, enables the dissemination of novel ideas and technologies. Secondly is international (or interventionist) development: this is the focused and directed process whereby government and non-government organizations implement development projects and programmes (typically a set of related projects) to help people experiencing poverty. Both of these forms can and do occur in parallel, with 'immanent' development providing a broad background of change in societies while 'intentional' development takes place as planned intervention (Morse & McNamara, 2013, p. 15).

The government can use these two forms to explain the forces behind evacuating street vendors in informal areas. The evacuation is considered as the government's interventional approach to control and manage the urban area to ensure proper planning, which can accelerate the area's development. The evacuated street vendors in the informal areas, who rely on street vending for their livelihood, are socioeconomically vulnerable, and their livelihood is the primary source of the community's livelihood. Morse and McNamara (2013) state that a livelihood requires capabilities, assets (including materials and social resources) and activities for a living. Linking these with sustainability can elaborate them. Morse and McNamara (2013) observed that a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assert itself both now and in the future while not undermining the natural resources base.

Social Economic Vulnerability Approach

Biswas and Nautiyal (2023) give a detailed overview of the concept of vulnerability; the study by Gutter et al. (2003) cited in Biswas and Nautiyal (2023) found that places vulnerable to hazards are not socially vulnerable. These means that the construct of social vulnerability does not necessarily depend on its geographical location but primarily on its socioeconomic structure. According to Biswas and Nautiyal (2023), vulnerability might rise due to institutional failure or lack of social security. Social vulnerability

has emerged from sociology and critical geography, identifying the inherent socioeconomic structure as the root cause of vulnerability (Biswas & Nautiyal, 2023). Researchers and scholars divide vulnerability into biophysical (or natural) vulnerability and social (socio-economic vulnerability (Lundgren & Jonsson, 2012). The characteristics of the natural system determine biological vulnerability.

In contrast, the social system's economic resources, power relationships, institutions, or cultural aspects affect socioeconomic vulnerability (Ibid.). Differences in socioeconomic vulnerability can often be attributed to differences in socioeconomic status, where low status generally results in higher vulnerability (Lundgren & Jonsson, 2012). Vulnerability depends on the low capability to anticipate, cope with, and recover from a disaster, and society's distribution of vulnerability is unequal. Vulnerability refers to a consequence rather than a cause, implies adverse consequences, and is a relative term differentiating between the socioeconomic groups or regions that are absolute measures of deprivation (Biswas and Nautiyal, 2023). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines vulnerability regarding exposure, susceptibility, and adaptive capacity. "Vulnerability defines the extent to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes (Biswas & Nautiyal, 2023). McLaughlin et al.(2002) state that politics can change socioeconomic scenarios and thus affect vulnerability. Regarding this topic, the vulnerability can be seen in how the street vendors' evictions affect the vendors negatively and make them fail to cope with the losses caused by forceful evictions.

The theories assume that street vending is one of the only alternatives for socioeconomic livelihood. Globalization, as well as urbanization, which took place around the world, has been seen as the influencing factors toward the growth of this business. The business creates essential ways of life and offers employment opportunities to many educated and non-educated people. On the other hand, some theories have clearly shown the negative consequences of street vending evictions to the community and vendors' livelihood. The vendors depend on vending activities for their livelihood; therefore, evictions mean that the lives of the street vendors and the urban community, who highly depend on low-cost products and services, become vulnerable.

Empirical Review

The study by Ramasimu et al. (2023), focusing on the contributions and challenges of informal traders in local economic development in Thulamela Municipality, revealed that informal traders face challenges such as lack of financial assistance, managerial skills and marketing skills. However, the informal sectors play a significant role in creating job opportunities, serving as an income source and reducing poverty. The study recommended that government and other stakeholders should strive towards formalizing their business to access support offered by government and private sectors. It will help minimize the negative impacts of envisioning on the individual and community.

The study by Hidalgo et al. (2022), focusing on street vendors' livelihood vulnerability to typhoons in Naga City in the Philippines assessed the livelihood vulnerability after typhoons by modifying the Hahn livelihood vulnerability model and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) formula to construct a composite index for exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity. The principal component analysis revealed ten latent variables related to livelihood vulnerability including business networks, business experience, human capital, financial capital, livelihood utilities, physical wellbeing, business risk management, physical damages, business losses and shelter type. The study found the overall vulnerability of the street food vendor sector to be moderate. However, the study highlighted the importance of social ties and daily interactions with clients as a significant strength of a sector, which can contribute to reducing livelihood vulnerability.

A study by Damanik et al. (2022), focusing on street food vending in Mahikeng local municipality in South Africa, revealed that, street food vending creates jobs for both individuals involved in the trade and those who would otherwise be unemployed for example retrenched individuals. It contributes to reducing poverty incidence among traders in the areas. The street food distribution serves as a means for vendors to generate income and supplement family income, leading to an improved standard of living. Some vendors

acquired assets, such as livestock and landed property, from the profits made from their food businesses. They further contribute to reducing poverty among traders. The study concludes that street food vending has contributed to job creation and reduced poverty incidence. However, the industry faces challenges such as a need for cash and credit location-based business restrictions. Steps must be taken to minimize these difficulties so that the industry can be influential.

The study by Tumaini and Munishi (2023), focusing on eviction-related threats and coping mechanisms among women street food vendors in Dar es Salaam revealed that, the eviction-related threats faced by women street food vendors include a decrease in number of customers, lack of specific location for food vending activities, increase in cost of doing business and congestion of street vendors in one location. The study identified the coping mechanisms employed by women street vendors including maintaining the price but reducing the share of food, measuring food according to the client's financial ability, practising good customer service, borrowing money from financial institutions, striving to expand the customer base, preparing enough food for the day and explaining to customer why food prices have risen. Additionally, the study revealed that the eviction of street vendors in Dar es Salaam is often carried out without clear procedures for vendors to reclaim their belongings.

Methodology

Research Design

This study employed a mixed methods research approach under an explanatory sequential design. An explanatory sequential mixed methods design consists of collecting quantitative data and analysis, then collecting qualitative data and analysis and then interpretation (Creswell, 2009). The reason for using this research design is to use qualitative results to assist in explaining and interpreting the findings of quantitative data. The study purposefully chose the Dar es Salaam region because the city frequently experienced evictions, heavily disrupting the vendors' source of income and livelihood. The area under the study was Dar es Salaam city council; a total of 260 research participants, including the key informants (ward and city officials), were selected at random from the locations where they do their vending activities.

Methods and Instruments for Data Collection

The researcher collected primary data through interviews, questionnaires, and surveys. Researcher used a semi-structured interview schedule to gather views and opinions from street vendors, government officials, community members, and other stakeholders in urban areas regarding the implications of evictions on community wellbeing. Additionally, the researcher prepared a schedule of semi-structured questions to guide the discussion on how the community was affected by street vendors' evictions. The researcher supplemented these methods with observation and questionnaire techniques to collect qualitative and quantitative data. The observation checklist focused on availability, competency, and efficacy issues. Also researcher used a self-administered questionnaire to collect demographic data. In addition, the researcher collected secondary data through a documentary review. A checklist of documents related to the delivery of financial assistance to the community and minimal and medium enterprises in urban areas was also prepared.

Data analysis

Statistical Packages of Social Science (SPSS) quantitative data, while content analysis on emerging themes was used to analyze qualitative data for ease of interpretation of the study findings.

Results

Analysis of Demographic Variables

Table 1.

Demographic Variables (N = 260)

Demographic variable		Responses	Percent (%)
Gender	Female	120	46.1.
	Male	140	53.8
Age (yrs)	10-20	60	23.0
	21-30	120	46.0
	31-40	40	15.0
	41-50	20	08.0
	Above 51	20	08.0
Educational level	No formal education	10	04.0
	Primary education	38	15.0
	Secondary education	54	21.0
	Certificate and diploma	48	18.0
	Above degree	110	42.0
Marital status	Marriage	187	71.9
	Single	73	28.1
Parents' or guardians' occupations	Self-employed	65	25.0
	Farmers	84	32.0
	Public civil servants	23	09.0
	Traders	34	13.0
	Technicians	12	05.0
	Labourers	42	16.0

Table 1 indicates that one hundred and twenty 120 out of 260 were female, constituting 46.1% of the total population, while 140 respondents were male, accounting 53.8 % of the total population. The table above shows that the majority of the respondents, representing 180 (69%), were aged between 10-30 years, 40 (15%) were between 31-40 years, 20 (8%) were between 41-50 years and 20 (8%) were 51 years and above. The study managed to include respondents from different age groups to ensure validity and reliability and make the sample representative. Furthermore, the study indicates the majority of respondents attained post-secondary school education: 48 (18%) and 110(42%), respectively, had certificates, diplomas, degrees or above. 38(15) had attained primary education, 54 (21) had a secondary school education, and 10(4%) had not attained any formal education. The data above clearly shows that many individuals who engage in street vending activities are graduates of the formal system. These graduates are the victims of unemployment as they missed opportunity to get employed in the formal sector because of interview failure or limited chances of employment. Moreover, the studies revealed that most respondents were married. Their total was 187(71.9%), while 73 (28.1%) were single with family dependents. In terms of parental or guardian occupations, 84(32%) of respondents said that their parents or guardians were farmers, 65(25%) were self-employed, 42 (16) of respondents said their parents or guardians were manual labourers. Also 34(13%) of respondents said that their parents or guardians were the small trades, 23(9%) of respondents their parent or guardian were public civil servants while 12(5%) were technicians.

Economic Value and Contribution of Street Vending to the Economy

The study aimed to state the economic street vending in the Tanzania context. The results are presented in the table below:

Table 2.*Economic value and contribution of street vending to the economy*

The economic value of street vending in the economy	Frequency	Percentage%
Yes	176	68
No	84	32
Total	260	100%

Source: Field Data, 2023

The table above shows that most respondents 176(68%), said that street vending activities have potential economic value to Tanzania's economic prosperity. In comparison, 84(32%) respondents need to see the economic value of street vending business in Tanzania. The development of street vending business in urban areas leads to improvements of infrastructure such as roads and railways in urban areas. It also facilitates the development of health facilities, education, shopping centres, and other public and private services.

The study also assessed the contribution of street vending businesses to economic development in Dar es Salaam city. The study considered the following factors for assessment: increases in city revenues, poverty reduction, increases in income, and improvement of community livelihood. The researcher used a five-point Likert scale, which included strongly agree, agree, neutral, disagree, and strongly disagree.

Table 3.*The Contribution of Street Vending Business to the Economic Development*

Contribution of street vendors to the economy	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Increases city revenues	98(38%)	50(19.2%)	60(23%)	40(15.3)	12(4.6%)
Poverty reduction	167(64%)	70(27%)	12(5%)	11(4.2%)	-
Increase family income	208(80%)	30(11.5%)	12(4.6%)	5(1.9%)	5(1.9%)

Source: Field Data, 2023

The findings above indicate that 98(38%) of respondents strongly agreed that street vending increases the city revenues, 50(19.2%) agreed that street vending increases the city revenues, 60(23%) were neutral, 40(15.3) disagreed while 12(4.6%) strongly disagreed that the street vending increases the city revenues. The findings also show that the majority of respondents, 167(64%), strongly agreed that the street vending business contributed to poverty eradication in urban areas, 70(27%) agreed, and 12(5%) were neutral. In comparison, 11(4.2%) disagreed that the vending business can help eradicate poverty. In addition, the findings also show that the majority of respondents, 208(80%), strongly agreed that street vending activities increase income and community livelihood, 30(11.5%) respondents agreed, 12(4.6%) respondents were neutral while 5(1.9%) of respondents disagreed and 5(1.9%) strongly disagreed.

The Socioeconomic Spiritual and Psychological Vulnerability of Street Vendor Evictions in the Studying Area

The study investigated the socioeconomic, spiritual and psychological vulnerability of street vendor's evictions in the studying area. The results are presented in the table below;

Table 4.

The Socioeconomic Spiritual and Psychological Vulnerability of Street Vendor's Evictions in the Studying Area

The socioeconomic vulnerability of evictions	Frequency	Percentage%
Social vulnerability	32	12.3
Economic vulnerability	178	68.5
Spiritual vulnerability	29	11.2
Psychological vulnerability	21	8.1
Total	260	100%

Source: Field Data, 2023

The findings above indicate that most respondents, 178(68.5%), perceive street vendors as economically vulnerable, while 32(12.3) consider them socially vulnerable post-evictions. Additionally, 29(11.2%) respondents identified spiritual vulnerability, and 21(8.1%) highlighted psychological vulnerability resulting from forced evictions.

The Action Taken the City Authorities after Vendor's Evictions

The main interest of the study was to investigate whether the evictions by city authorities or urban planners have come up with alternative approaches to accommodate the negative pressures and negative consequences facing street vendors after evictions. The results are presented in the table below:

Table 5.

The Action Taken After Vendor's Evictions

Action taken after evictions	Frequency	Percentage%
Relocation	42	16.2
Promises for relocations	180	69.2
No relocations	38	14.6
Total	260	100%

Source: Field Data, 2023

The table above shows that the majority of respondents, 180(69.2%), argued that the urban authority promised to relocate them to the new market, which is under construction and new premises inside the current market in the city, forty-two (16.2%) of respondents said they were relocated to the city markets including Karume, Magomeni and Kisutu, while thirty-eight (14.6) said no information from the urban authority was given about where to conduct their business.

The Strategies for Enhancing Business Operations and Fostering Economic Development

The study explored the strategies for enhancing business operations and fostering economic development in urban areas. The table below presents the results:

Table 6.

The Strategies for Enhancing Business Operations and Fostering Economic Development

Measures to improve business operations	Frequency	Percentage%
Training and education for street vendors	64	25
Provision of low-interest loans	92	35

Formalization of street vendors' business	40	15
Proper use of open space	38	14
Issuing the identity cards	30	11
Total	260	100%

Source: Field Data, 2023

The table above shows that 64(25%) of the respondents said that training and education for street vendors would be appropriate to reduce unnecessary loss of livelihood. In comparison, 92 respondents (35%) suggested that the government should give low-interest loans to street vendors to help them operate formally. Additionally, 40 respondents (15%) said they needed to formalize their business. In comparison, 38 respondents (14%) recommended effectively utilizing urban open spaces by building temporary structures to accommodate street vendors. Furthermore, 30 respondents (11%) proposed that the government should issue identity cards to all street vendors to enable them to be recognized by city authorities.

Discussion

The result of the study indicated that street vending activities contributed in one way or another to the economy by offering employment opportunities to a more significant number of people as well as making the products and services available in a supply chain and enabling the government to collect revenues through Value Added Tax (VAT). The findings align with the study by Malik and Yadav (2021), which suggests that street vending is a source of self-employment and provides affordable and convenient services to most of the urban population. Street vending allows many people in urban areas to earn income and sustain themselves amidst daily challenges. Additionally, street vending activities improve people's living standards by fostering competition, which leads to lower prices of goods and services. Lyons and Msoka (2008a) emphasize the importance of the micro-trade sector (street trade) in the economy, as it employs many less educated people and acts as a 'shock absorber' in the livelihood and earnings of people with low incomes.

Furthermore, some respondents who argued against the questions were asked to provide reasons why they believe street vending does not contribute to the economy. One respondent in Ilala pointed out that *"The street vendors operate informally without formal recognition by city authorities, leading to lack of tax payment. Consequently, the informal nature of street vending implies that it does not contribute significantly to the formal economy of Tanzania"* Street vendors often operate informally without formal recognition from the city authorities or urban planners, leading to a lack of regulation and taxation. Due to their informal status, many street vendors may not pay taxes, contributing to tax evasion and revenue loss for urban development. The contribution of street vending businesses to the economy could be more manageable. The government has lost much revenue from all from the Machinga to do business anywhere, "said Walter Nguma, a Dar es Salaam-based economist and analyst. *"They pay no tax, so the government does not profit from them"*. In addition, the street vendors have been accused of congesting roads, contributing to the city's notorious gridlocks, and repeatedly resisting evictions (Aljazeera report April 6, 2022).

Generally, vending activities contribute directly and indirectly to the economy by providing employment opportunities and generating VAT from the goods and services sold. Some researchers have claimed that entrepreneurial activities have economic effects that enhance growth, poverty reduction, and overall social development (Zahra *et al.*, 2008).

Studies in various urban settings have consistently highlighted the adverse impacts of frequent evictions by local authorities on the lives of thousands of vending traders. These impacts include loss of their properties and products, loss of operating capital through paying fines and stock confiscations, loss of

customers because of frequent relocations and even incarceration (Kara & Tonya, 2021). One of the respondents at Karume Market supported this, holding that *“The eviction resulted in the loss of all goods and assets, causing extreme misery. Failure to repay loans taken from the community SACCOS led to the confiscating of furniture, leaving the house empty”*. A high percentage of respondents identified economic vulnerability among street vendors after forceful evictions, indicating the significant impact of eviction on their livelihoods. Street vending often represents a primary or alternative source of income for individuals and their families, making them particularly susceptible to economic shocks after evictions. The findings is in agreement with the study by Schwartz et al. (2024) who noted that, evictions not only affect individual vendors but also disrupt community cohesion and health, leading to broader social and economic repercussions.

The constant forceful evictions disrupt the street vendors' livelihoods. A clear framework to support the vending business is necessary to protect the vendors from the frequent decisions of city authorities. Sharma (2021) emphasized that all these mean that a substantive income from street vending is spent on greasing the palms of unscrupulous authorities or private money lenders; in most cases, street vendors have to survive in a hostile environment through their service providers.

The study also identified social vulnerability, spiritual vulnerability and psychological vulnerability resulting from evictions. Social vulnerability includes loss of social support networks, marginalization, discrimination, or difficulty reintegrating into communities following eviction. The evictions disrupt established social connections and networks within street vendors' communities, exacerbating feelings of isolation and alienation. Spiritual vulnerability may pertain to loss, displacement or disconnection from cultural or religious practices and beliefs. Evictions disrupt spiritual routines and rituals that give individuals a sense of meaning, belonging and identity. The study also identified a psychological vulnerability that reflects the emotional and mental toll of eviction on street vendors. Evictions produce feelings of stress, anxiety, depression, trauma and loss of control over one's circumstances. Psychological vulnerability may manifest in various forms, including increased susceptibility to mental health disorders, emotional distress and decreased resilience in coping with adversity.

Addressing street vendors' challenges requires multifaceted efforts from the government and other stakeholders. The vendors need to be empowered by creating a conducive environment that includes effective policies, legislation, and the allocation of business premises. Determining the business's legal structure is essential since street vendors need to secure permits and licenses and follow the required formal procedures.

The study findings posit that governmental bodies and relevant stakeholders ought to provide educational awareness to street vendors regarding the significance of engaging in formal operations to mitigate the risk of evictions, which consequently exacerbates the vulnerability of the community. It accentuates the necessity for the government to formulate and execute effective policies that would govern street vending enterprises in both urban and rural contexts. Such policies would serve to enhance the vendors' financial assistance, educational awareness and legal standing while simultaneously facilitating their involvement in decision-making processes.

Effective urban planning demands considerable attention, including clear communication, community involvement, logistical arrangements and stakeholder engagements. Failures, ineffective responses, and reallocation of affected street vendors indicate poor planning processes, exacerbating poverty and economic hardship in urban settings. The study also reveals disparities in the relocation process, raising questions of equity and social justice within the urban context. Although city authorities consistently promise the vendors to be allocated in the appropriate premises after evictions, the discrepancy between promises made and actual outcomes experienced by street vendors poses the question of transparency and accountability in urban governance. Vendors encounter substantial obstacles in securing licenses and permits, a situation exacerbated by ineffective urban governance and political dynamics (Munishi & Kirumirah, 2020). Erratic licensing procedures adversely affect the livelihoods of vendors, highlighting the urgent need for the enhancement of policy development and execution (Ibid.). Addressing these challenges through improved

urban planning, transparent governance, and equitable policy implementation is essential for fostering sustainable economic growth and alleviating poverty among street vendors in urban areas.

Respondents agreed that the formalization process could be an appropriate method to address the challenges facing the street vending business in urban areas. Street vendors, frequently operating without formal authorization, are subject to the threat of eviction, which interrupts their economic endeavors and disrupts their social networks (Putri *et al.*, 2023). Formalization will help to identify the street vendors in their area of operation, making it easier for the government and other stakeholders to assist them. The formalization will help the city authorities collect revenues and address the frequent harassment facing the street vending business in Tanzania. Recent findings by George *et al.* (2023) noted that the identification and formalization of street vending positively impact the country's domestic revenue collection. Cook *et al.* (2024) argued that, traditional food markets function as essential economic and social centers, underscoring the imperative for policy initiatives that promote their formalization and infrastructure enhancement.

According to the study, urban authorities should provide vendors with formal training and education to avoid unnecessary confrontations. Rakodi & Lloyd-Jones (2002) suggests that training should equip vendors with the skills to identify and grasp existing and future work opportunities. Asset enhancement should be evaluated based on increased income, flexibility, reduced crisis vulnerability, and better access to economic support networks. The effectiveness of education and training initiatives should be measured based on how much they enhance participants' human and social capital. Appropriate open space in urban areas can help street vendors accumulate wealth and livelihood. Therefore, urban authorities must ensure that open space generates revenue for essential projects such as security and waste management of infrastructure. Steel *et al.* (2014) suggest that urban public space is a critical physical asset in the livelihood strategies of the urban poor, which is consistent with this argument. Cooperation in urban public space requires social organizations, networks, and mutual trust.

The study also highlights the importance of effectively using urban space and bus stations. The respondents recommended that the government devise effective ways of using urban space and bus stations. The study also found that urban space and bus stations can potentially develop small and medium enterprises in Tanzania. Steel *et al.* (2014) emphasizes the importance of urban public space in the livelihood strategies of the urban poor, which supports this conclusion.

Conclusions

Generally, the street vending business plays crucial roles in the economy by providing goods and services, creating jobs, fostering social acceptance and driving innovation. Street vending businesses contribute significantly to society by supporting communities and promoting social, political, cultural, and economic development in urban and rural areas. The street vending business is essential as it provides opportunities for many people by creating meaningful jobs, providing greater job satisfaction, fostering economic development, and supporting economic growth.

Implications

Based on the findings and the discussion, the evictions of street vendors are not fair. All administrative authorities are aware of the contribution that street vendor offer to the national economy as well as supply of necessary goods and services required by the community. There is a need for administrative authority to see the ground for existence of street vendors for the benefit of themselves as well as of the public at large. This could also imply that the evacuation of street vendor, to some extent imply the deprivation of communities rights to get required services and goods supplied by street vendors. Recent legislative advancements pertaining to street vendors in Tanzania exemplify a complex landscape characterized by legal recognition alongside operational challenges. Despite the fifth administration's efforts to reshape public perceptions by designating street vending as a permissible activity, it remains categorized as technically unlawful (Kayunze *et al.*, 2023). The lack of a unified national strategy hampers the development of sustainable livelihoods for vendors; thereby demanding concentrated policy interventions (Steiler & Nyirenda, 2021). Furthermore, Chisanza & Hamza (2024) emphasized that the absence of formal

legal recognition engenders ongoing conflicts with local authorities, thereby underscoring the imperative for a comprehensive legal framework.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the study, the following are the recommendations.

The formalization process emerges as a crucial step in identifying street vendors, facilitating government assistance, and enhancing revenue collection. This formalization not only assists city authorities in revenue collection but also addresses issues of harassment faced by street vendors. Registration and licensing enable street vendors to pay taxes from their vending activities' profits. Training and education initiatives are essential to equip street vendors with the necessary skills to operate their businesses formally and navigate potential confrontations with urban authorities.

Furthermore, the findings of this research suggest that all individuals involved in policy implementation, urban planning, cities/municipal law enforcement, and local governmental authorities tasked with urban development must receive comprehensive education regarding optimal strategies for managing urban small business operations. The academic institutions assigned with the responsibility of facilitating short-term training sessions and public workshops should devise pertinent curricula aimed at equipping participants with the essential competencies to execute their responsibilities without inflicting detriment upon impacted individuals during policy implementation. This educational initiative will empower them to confront the obstacles encountered by street vendors instead of overlooking them, thereby allowing these enterprises to contribute positively to the national economy, which in turn aids the government in generating revenue from their operations.

Moreover, studies suggest that initiatives should enhance human and social capital to improve income, flexibility and access to economic support networks. The effective utilization of urban open spaces, such as bus stations, and the demarcation of specific street vending areas are essential for urban development. Providing spatial accommodation for street vendors can also create significant opportunities for revenue generation while contributing to the city's overall growth. Proper management of these spaces can support the livelihood strategies of the urban poor and address challenges hindering unemployment in urban areas. The street vending businesses play vital roles in the economy by providing goods, services and job opportunities. Recognizing their contributions and implementing supportive policies can promote economic development, job creation and overall societal wellbeing.

Limitations of the study

The study used a small sample size, confined to only 260 samples chosen at Dar es Salaam city, and was not statistically representative. The tools used to collect information were surveys, interviews and questionnaires. Thus, the findings should be taken only as educative to the policymakers and other stakeholders rather than necessarily generalizable to other areas where the forceful evictions occurred. The city authorities and people engaging in the street vending business can use the potential effects of evictions as a lesson. We need to conduct further studies involving a large sample and other cities that the study needs to cover.

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