

Working Conditions of Informal Street Vendors in Urban Aizawl, Mizoram

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Abstract

Street vending is a crucial source of livelihood for many urban poor, especially in regions like Aizawl, Mizoram, where formal employment opportunities are limited. This study investigates the socio-demographic profile, working conditions, income stability, and institutional support available to street vendors in Aizawl City. Based on quantitative data from 62 vendors across major vending locations, the findings reveal that the sector is predominantly occupied by women, with most vendors facing long working hours, poor infrastructure, and limited access to health and financial services. Despite challenges such as exposure to weather, lack of shelter, and minimal legal protection, vendors demonstrate resilience and adaptability. The study highlights the urgent need for inclusive urban policies to enhance vendors' welfare, ensure safer work environments, and provide formal recognition to secure their livelihoods.

Keywords: Street vending, informal economy, working conditions, urban livelihoods, Aizawl, Mizoram, socio-economic status, policy support

1. Introduction

Street vending is a crucial part of the global informal economy, particularly in urban areas where formal employment is scarce. Vendors operate without legal contracts or protections, selling goods such as food, clothes, and household items in public spaces (Martínez, Short, & Estrada, 2017; Widjajanti & Wahyono, 2018). While street vendors fulfill vital needs and support city life, they often face marginalization, legal insecurity, and exclusion from city planning processes (Roever & Skinner, 2016).

In India, street vending is widespread and integral to the urban economy. Vendors provide essential, low-cost goods to urban populations, particularly the economically disadvantaged. However, they often operate under precarious conditions, lacking legal recognition, secure vending zones, access to credit, and basic amenities (Bhat & Nengroo, 2013; Bhatt & Jariwala, 2018; McKay et al., 2016; Doibale et al., 2019; Bhowmik & Saha, 2011).

In Northeast India, especially in Mizoram, street vending exists within a unique socio-cultural context. Cities like Aizawl are characterized by smaller markets and limited employment opportunities. Many women, often from low-income families, enter vending due to economic necessity (Kumar Dey, 2021). Studies show that these women face multiple vulnerabilities, including lack of financial access, exposure to informal debt cycles, and absence of social protection (Lalchhanhimi, 2016).

Despite these challenges, street vendors in Mizoram show strong entrepreneurial traits. They adapt to changing market conditions, diversify products, and persist despite instability (Lalremruati, 2013;

Thangluah & Saitluanga, 2021). However, lack of access to formal banking and institutional credit hinders their ability to invest and grow (Bhowmik & Saha, 2011).

Vendors also operate under insecure and unsanitary conditions without proper infrastructure, increasing health risks and reducing business sustainability (Lalremruati, 2013; Thangluah & Saitluanga, 2021). They face competition, shrinking margins, and negative public perceptions as “illegal” actors (Bhatt & Jariwala, 2018; Kumar Dey, 2021; Roever & Skinner, 2016).

2. Statement of Problem

Street vendors in Aizawl City contribute significantly to the local economy by providing affordable goods and services. However, they often operate in precarious conditions marked by legal invisibility, financial exclusion, lack of infrastructure, and social marginalization. Despite government initiatives like the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, many vendors in Aizawl remain outside formal protection mechanisms. There is limited research on their lived experiences, gender-specific challenges, and the effectiveness of existing policy measures in Mizoram’s context.

3. Objectives of the Study

1. To understand the socio-demographic and family background of street vendors in Aizawl.
2. To examine their occupational features and working conditions.
3. To assess their income patterns, economic stability, and health challenges.
4. To explore access to institutional support and identify areas for policy intervention.

5. Literature Review

Street vending is a key part of the informal economy across many developing countries. Globally, it serves as a livelihood option for marginalized groups lacking access to formal employment (Martínez et al., 2017; Widjajanti & Wahyono, 2018). In India, Bhowmik and Saha (2011) emphasize the economic significance of street vendors while noting their exclusion from legal and financial systems. Roever and Skinner (2016) further highlight the precariousness of street vendors’ work due to limited legal recognition and lack of basic infrastructure.

Studies in various Indian cities provide further insight into these issues. McKay et al. (2016) describe poor hygiene conditions and infrastructure in Patna, while Bhatt and Jariwala (2018) observe competitive pressure and regulatory challenges in Surat. In Kashmir, Bhat and Nengroo (2013) reveal how street vendors operate without licenses and face frequent evictions.

In the context of Northeast India, Kumar Dey (2021) underscores the predominance of women vendors in Kokrajhar, reflecting similar gendered trends in Mizoram. Lalchhanhimi (2016) and Lalremruati (2013) show that women vendors in Aizawl often come from low-income backgrounds and struggle with limited education and financial access. Thangluah and Saitluanga (2021) report unsafe, unsanitary vending environments in Aizawl and highlight issues such as weather exposure and lack of secure workspaces. Moreover, the entrepreneurial traits of vendors—like adaptability, proactiveness, and innovation—are discussed by Lumpkin and Dess (1996) and supported in local studies showing vendors’ ability to survive amidst market uncertainties. Yet, the lack of policy support, health access, and organized representation leaves vendors in a cycle of vulnerability.

Together, these studies establish the broader context in which Aizawl’s street vendors operate, underscoring the urgent need for inclusive urban policy, legal safeguards, and infrastructural development

to improve their working conditions.

6. Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive research design using a quantitative approach to investigate the working conditions and socio-economic status of urban informal street vendors in Aizawl City, Mizoram. The research was conducted among 62 street vendors selected from three key vending locations: Bazar, Durtlang, and Thakthing. A multi-stage sampling method was employed—first selecting the areas with high vendor concentration, followed by random selection of individual vendors from each site.

Data were collected through a structured interview schedule, covering demographic details, occupational features, income, work environment, health, and institutional engagement. The tool was designed based on existing literature and tailored to the local context.

Quantitative data were processed using Microsoft Excel and SPSS, with analysis performed through simple statistical techniques such as frequencies and percentages. Ethical considerations, including informed consent, confidentiality, and voluntary participation, were strictly maintained throughout the research process.

7. Results

7.1. Profile of The Respondents

The profile outlines key background characteristics—such as age, gender, religion, tribe, and education—of street vendors in Aizawl City, providing context for understanding how socio-cultural factors may shape their entrepreneurial orientation and livelihood strategies.

Table 1: Profile of The Respondents

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Frequency (N=62)	Percentage (%)
1	Age Group		
	18–25 years	4	6.50%
	26–35 years	6	9.70%
	36–45 years	25	40.30%
	46 years and above	27	43.50%
2	Gender		
	Female	54	87.10%
	Male	8	12.90%
3	Denomination		
	Presbyterian Church of India	45	72.60%
	Baptist Church of Mizoram	7	11.30%
	UPC (NE)	5	8.10%
	The Salvation Army	3	4.80%
	UPC (M)	2	3.20%
4	Tribe		

	Mizo	61	98.40%
	Non-Mizo	1	1.60%
5	Educational Qualification		
	Primary	4	6.50%
	Middle	27	43.50%
	High School	20	32.30%
	Higher Secondary	8	12.90%
	Graduate	3	4.80%

Source: Computed

Table 1 presents the demographic profile of street vendors in Aizawl City, highlighting significant trends across age, gender, religion, ethnicity, and educational background. A large portion of the vendors are middle-aged or older, with 43.5% aged above 46 years and 40.3% between 36–45 years, indicating the sector's reliance on older individuals for livelihood. The data also reveal a strong gender imbalance, with 87.1% of vendors being women, suggesting that vending is a critical income source for women, possibly due to limited alternative employment opportunities.

In terms of religion, a majority (72.6%) of the respondents belong to the Presbyterian Church of India, reflecting the dominant denomination in the region, while the vast majority (98.4%) identify as Mizo, pointing to the local ethnic composition of the street vending population. Educational attainment among vendors is generally low—43.5% have completed middle school and 32.3% high school, while only 12.9% and 4.8% have reached higher secondary and graduate levels, respectively. This suggests that limited formal education may be a contributing factor pushing individuals into informal street vending as a viable livelihood option.

7.2. Family Details of Street Vendors

This section examines the family background of street vendors in Aizawl, detailing family type and size, structure, economic status, and household headship, to better understand their social and economic household dynamics.

Table 2: Family Details of Street Vendors

Sl. No.	Family Characteristics	Frequency (N=62)	Percentage (%)
1	Type of Family		
	Nuclear	28	45.20%
	Extended	34	54.80%
2	Size of Family		
	Below 5	40	64.50%
	6–10	19	30.60%
	11 and above	3	4.80%
3	Form of Family		
	Stable	36	58.10%
	Reconstituted	16	25.80%

	Divorced	10	16.10%
4	Economic Category		
	Very Poor (AAY)	28	45.20%
	Poor (PHH)	28	45.20%
	Non-NSFA	6	9.70%
5	Head of the Family		
	Father	40	64.50%
	Mother	20	32.30%
	Grandparents	2	3.20%

Source: Computed

Table 2 provides an overview of the family background of street vendors in Aizawl, reflecting their household structure, economic status, and headship. The majority of vendors (54.8%) come from extended families, while 45.2% belong to nuclear families, indicating that joint family systems remain prevalent in the city. Most households (64.5%) have fewer than five members, suggesting a trend toward smaller family units, though 30.6% have six to ten members and a few (4.8%) exceed ten.

Regarding the form of family, 58.1% reported living in stable family settings, whereas 25.8% are from reconstituted families (likely involving remarriage or blended structures), and 16.1% from divorced or separated households. The economic profile shows that a large portion of vendors are economically disadvantaged, with 45.2% classified as Very Poor (AAY) and another 45.2% as Poor (PHH); only 9.7% do not fall under any government-supported food assistance scheme. In terms of household leadership, the father is the head in 64.5% of families, followed by the mother in 32.3%, and grandparents in a small fraction (3.2%). These findings highlight the social vulnerabilities and financial limitations within the households of street vendors, which likely influence their dependence on informal economic activities.

7.3.Occupational Characteristics of Street Vendors

The occupational profile of street vendors in Aizawl covers their vending locations, years of experience, and types of goods sold, offering insights into the stability and structure of their informal economic activities.

Table 3: Occupational Characteristics of Street Vendors

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Frequency (N=62)	Percentage (%)
1	Place of Vending		
	Bazar	22	35.50%
	Durtlang	20	32.30%
	Thakthing	20	32.30%
2	Years in Street Vending		
	Less than 1 year	7	11.30%
	1–3 years	9	14.50%
	4–6 years	16	25.80%
	7–10 years	8	12.90%
	More than 10 years	22	35.50%

3	Type of Goods and Services Provided		
	Fruits and Vegetables	53	85.50%
	Cooked Food / Snacks	9	14.50%

Source: Computed

Table 3 presents the occupational characteristics of street vendors in Aizawl. The vendors are almost equally spread across three main vending areas: Bazar (35.5%), Durtlang (32.3%), and Thakthing (32.3%), indicating a balanced concentration of street vending activity throughout the city. This distribution suggests that informal vending plays an integral role across different urban zones in Aizawl.

In terms of experience, 35.5% of the vendors have been engaged in street vending for more than ten years, which reflects the long-term reliance on vending as a livelihood. 25.8% have been vending for 4–6 years, while smaller segments report experience of 1–3 years (14.5%), 7–10 years (12.9%), and less than one year (11.3%). This shows a mix of seasoned and relatively new vendors within the informal economy.

Regarding the type of goods and services offered, the majority (85.5%) are involved in selling fruits and vegetables, while a smaller group (14.5%) provides cooked food or snacks. This trend points to a high dependence on produce vending, likely driven by steady demand and lower investment requirements compared to cooked food. Collectively, these figures highlight the diversity, longevity, and product orientation of street vendors operating in Aizawl's informal economy.

7.4. Working Hours and Environment

The working conditions of street vendors in Aizawl City were examined to understand the physical and environmental challenges they face in their daily economic activities. This section highlights key aspects such as working hours, timing, vending location, physical challenges, and their satisfaction with the work environment.

Table 4: Working Hours and Environment

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Response Category	Frequency (N=62)	Percentage (%)
1	Average Working Hours per Day	9–12 Hours	26	41.9
		More than 12 Hours	25	40.3
		2–4 Hours	10	16.1
		Less than 4 Hours	1	1.6
2	Usual Time of Work	Morning	59	95.2
		Afternoon	3	4.8
3	Place of Stall/Work Area	Sidewalk or Street Corner	39	62.9
		Market Area	20	32.3
		Residential Areas	3	4.8
4	Physical Challenges in Work Environment	Exposure to Weather	42	67.7

5		Lack of Storage for Goods	14	22.6
		Limited Shelter or Shade	5	8.1
		Noise and Air Pollution	1	1.6
	Satisfaction with Physical Work Environment	Satisfied	45	72.6
		Neutral	14	22.6
		Dissatisfied	2	3.2
		Very Satisfied	1	1.6

Source: Computed

Table 4 presents the working conditions of street vendors in Aizawl city, highlighting their daily routines and physical work environments. A majority of the respondents (41.9%) reported working 9 to 12 hours per day, followed closely by those working more than 12 hours (40.3%), indicating long and demanding work schedules. A smaller proportion work 2 to 4 hours (16.1%), while very few (1.6%) reported working less than 4 hours, suggesting that part-time vending is rare and that vendors rely heavily on extended work hours to sustain their livelihood. Regarding time of vending, nearly all respondents (95.2%) operate during the morning, with only 4.8% working in the afternoon.

In terms of place of vending, most street vendors (62.9%) conduct business on sidewalks or street corners, while 32.3% operate in designated market areas, and a minimal 4.8% are found in residential areas, reflecting either zoning constraints or low foot traffic in those areas. Concerning physical challenges, the most frequently reported issue is exposure to weather conditions (67.7%), followed by lack of storage space (22.6%), limited shelter or shade (8.1%), and noise and air pollution (1.6%). Despite these adversities, a significant portion of the respondents (72.6%) expressed satisfaction with their physical work environment, while 22.6% were neutral, and a small number were either dissatisfied (3.2%) or very dissatisfied (1.6%). These findings point to a resilient workforce that, despite tough conditions, largely adapts and maintains a positive perception of their workspace.

7.5. Earnings and Economic Stability

This section explores the financial aspects of street vending, focusing on the vendors' daily income, income stability throughout the year, and the frequency of financial challenges due to market fluctuations. Understanding these factors provides insight into the economic resilience and vulnerabilities experienced by street vendors in Aizawl.

Table 5: Earnings and Economic Stability

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Response Category	Frequency (N= 62)	Percent age (%)
1	Daily Income from Vending	More than ₹1000	39	62.9
		₹500–₹1000	20	32.3
		₹200–₹500	3	4.8
2	Income Stability Throughout the Year	Somewhat Stable	57	91.9

		Unstable During Certain Months	4	6.5
		Very Stable	1	1.6
3	Frequency of Financial Challenges Due to Low Sales/Market Fluctuation	Rarely	54	87.1
		Monthly	6	9.7
		Weekly	2	3.2

Source: Computed

Table 5 highlights the earnings and economic conditions of street vendors in Aizawl. A little more than three-fifths of the respondents (62.9%) reported earning more than ₹1000 per day, suggesting relatively moderate income levels for most vendors. Additionally, over one-third (32.3%) earned between ₹500–₹1000 daily, while only a small fraction (4.8%) reported earning less than ₹500 per day. In terms of income stability, the majority of respondents (91.9%) indicated that their income was somewhat stable throughout the year, though 6.5% experienced seasonal fluctuations, especially during specific months, and only 1.6% reported their income as very stable. This implies that while many vendors manage to maintain a steady income, it is not without some vulnerability to external factors such as seasonal demand or weather conditions. When asked about the frequency of financial challenges resulting from low sales or market fluctuations, a vast majority (87.1%) stated that such challenges were rare, indicating relative economic resilience. However, 9.7% reported experiencing these challenges on a monthly basis, and 3.2% dealt with them weekly, highlighting a minority that faces ongoing financial uncertainty. These findings suggest that while the sector appears to provide a basic level of economic stability for most vendors, a significant few remain at risk due to fluctuating market conditions and limited financial buffers.

7.6. Workplace Safety and Health Conditions

This section highlights the safety and health-related challenges encountered by street vendors in their daily work environment. It examines their sense of workplace safety, common safety concerns, accessibility to health services, and the types of health problems linked to their working conditions.

Table 6: Workplace Safety and Health Conditions

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Response Category	Frequency (N= 62)	Percentage (%)
1	Perception of Workplace Safety	Somehow Safe	42	67.7
		Neutral	12	19.4
		Very Safe	5	8.1
		Very Unsafe	2	3.2
		Somewhat Unsafe	1	1.6
2	Safety Concerns While Working	None	39	62.9
		Theft	18	29
		Confiscation of Goods by Authorities	3	4.8
		Physical Risk	2	3.2

3	Access to Health or Emergency Services	No Access to Any Services	52	83.9
		Yes, Regularly Available	5	8.1
		Yes, but Not Consistently	5	8.1
4	Experience of Health Issues Due to Work Conditions	Yes, occasionally	28	45.2
		No Health Issue	27	43.5
		Rarely	6	9.7
		Yes, frequently	1	1.6
5	Type of Health Issues Faced (Only among those affected)	Musculoskeletal	19	65.5
		Stress	6	20.7
		Respiratory	4	13.8

Source: Computed

Table 6 illustrates the workplace safety and health experiences of street vendors in Aizawl. A majority (67.7%) of respondents perceived their workplace as somewhat safe, while 19.4% remained neutral, and a small proportion felt it was either very safe (8.1%), very unsafe (3.2%), or somewhat unsafe (1.6%). When asked about safety concerns, nearly two-thirds (62.9%) reported no significant concerns, whereas 29% had experienced theft, and a small percentage faced confiscation of goods by authorities (4.8%)—likely due to a lack of vending licenses—and physical risks (3.2%). Notably, a significant majority (83.9%) stated that they had no access to health or emergency services at their vending sites, indicating a serious gap in public health infrastructure. Only 8.1% had regular access and another 8.1% had inconsistent access to such services.

Regarding occupational health issues, 45.2% of respondents occasionally experienced health problems, while 43.5% reported no issues, 9.7% faced them rarely, and 1.6% experienced them frequently. Among the 29 vendors who reported health problems, the most prevalent were musculoskeletal issues (65.5%) such as back pain, joint stiffness, and muscle fatigue—conditions commonly associated with long hours of standing or carrying loads. Additionally, 20.7% reported stress-related problems, and 13.8% suffered from respiratory issues, most likely due to prolonged exposure to air pollution and traffic emissions. These findings highlight the physical toll that street vending takes on informal workers and the urgent need for occupational safety measures and accessible healthcare.

7.7.Licensing, Association, and Institutional Support

This section explores the institutional engagement of street vendors, focusing on their access to legal licenses, participation in vendor associations, interactions with local authorities, and the kind of support they seek to improve their work conditions.

Table 7: Licensing, Association, and Institutional Support

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Response Category	Frequency (N=62)	Percentage (%)
1	Possession of License or Permit	Yes	42	67.7

	for Business	No	20	32.3
2	Membership in Street Vendor Association or Group	No	48	77.4
		Yes	14	22.6
3	Perception of Support from Local Authorities	Neutral	54	87.1
		Supportive	5	8.1
		Unsupportive	3	4.8
4	Desired Assistance from Authorities or Community	Access to Health Services	24	38.7
		None	16	25.8
		Better Workplace or Infrastructure	12	19.4
		Safety and Security	8	12.9
		Legal and Licensing Support	2	3.2

Source: Computed

Table 7 explores the extent of institutional engagement among street vendors, particularly focusing on licensing status, association membership, relationships with local authorities, and the kind of support vendors seek to improve their working conditions. A little more than two-thirds of respondents (67.7%) reported possessing a valid business license or permit, while 32.3% operated without any formal authorization. In terms of association membership, a significant majority (77.4%) were not affiliated with any street vendor association or collective, and only 22.6% reported being members. This low level of collective organization suggests that most vendors operate independently, possibly due to limited awareness about the benefits of association or lack of formalized structures.

When assessing interactions with local authorities, 87.1% of vendors described their relationship as neutral, suggesting minimal engagement or support. Only 8.1% of respondents found local authorities supportive, while a small minority (4.8%) experienced them as unsupportive. This indicates a general absence of institutional backing rather than active interference. Regarding the type of assistance vendors wish to receive, the largest proportion (38.7%) expressed a desire for better access to health services, followed by 25.8% who reported no need for assistance. Additionally, 19.4% requested improved workplace infrastructure, 12.9% sought enhanced safety and security, and only 3.2% desired legal or licensing support. These findings highlight a gap in institutional outreach and support, with clear areas identified for policy intervention—particularly in improving healthcare access and physical working conditions for urban informal vendors.

Discussion

This section presents a thematic analysis of the working conditions of urban informal street vendors in Aizawl, Mizoram. It interprets key findings related to their daily challenges, occupational risks, and socio-economic status, with a focus on health, safety, infrastructure, and legal support. By linking the results to existing literature, the discussion highlights both the vulnerability and resilience of vendors—especially women—who play a vital role in the informal economy. The aim is to provide insights that can support

more inclusive and supportive urban policies.

1. Precarious Work Environment

The working conditions of street vendors in Aizawl are marked by precarity and instability. Most vendors (82.2%) work over 9 hours per day, with some exceeding 12 hours, often without access to basic amenities such as toilets, storage, or clean water. A majority operate on sidewalks and street corners (62.9%), which exposes them to harsh weather conditions (67.7%) and lacks formal shelter or stalls. These findings are consistent with McKay et al. (2016), who observed similar patterns among vendors in Patna, where poor infrastructure and exposure to the elements compromised both health and productivity.

2. Health and Safety Risks

Health risks are a major concern. More than 45% of vendors reported experiencing health issues, especially musculoskeletal problems (65.5%) caused by long hours of standing, lifting goods, and inadequate rest facilities. Additionally, respiratory issues and stress-related ailments were reported due to continuous exposure to polluted urban environments and social pressure. These results align with Doibale et al. (2019), who found that vendors in Aurangabad faced similar occupational hazards due to lack of physical safeguards.

Despite these challenges, a significant number of vendors (72.6%) expressed satisfaction with their work environment. This apparent contradiction may reflect their resilience and lack of alternatives rather than actual contentment—a phenomenon also observed by Bhowmik and Saha (2011), who argued that vendors often normalize exploitative conditions due to limited employment opportunities.

3. Inadequate Access to Services

A glaring gap exists in access to health and emergency services, with 83.9% of vendors reporting no access at all. This lack of institutional support highlights a broader policy failure in urban planning. Vendors work in high-risk, high-contact public spaces without first aid, protection from environmental hazards, or emergency protocols. Roever and Skinner (2016) emphasized that such conditions are symptomatic of structural exclusion, where informal workers are neglected in urban governance frameworks.

4. Physical and Legal Vulnerability

Security and legality are persistent challenges. Around 29% reported theft as a recurring safety concern, and 4.8% had faced confiscation of goods by authorities—largely due to vending without formal permits. Despite 67.7% holding licenses, fear of eviction or punitive action persists. This tension mirrors Roever and Skinner's (2016) global findings that legal ambiguity and inconsistent enforcement create daily stress for street vendors, reducing their sense of control over their livelihoods.

5. Workplace Infrastructure and Satisfaction

The lack of proper infrastructure—shelters, storage, or dedicated vending zones—was a recurring issue. Only a fraction of vendors (8.1%) mentioned having any consistent shelter or protection. Yet, despite poor physical infrastructure, some expressed “satisfaction” due to social interaction, self-employment benefits, and community familiarity. This mixed sentiment is similar to that found in Lalremruati (2013), who noted that vendors in Aizawl take pride in self-reliance, even while facing daily hardship.

The working conditions of street vendors in Aizawl reflect a paradox of resilience amid neglect. Vendors, especially women, persist in challenging environments—working long hours in unsafe, unsanitary, and unsupported settings. Health issues, lack of basic services, legal insecurity, and poor infrastructure all point to the urgent need for policy interventions that recognize and protect the rights of informal urban workers. These findings echo the broader literature across India and the Global South (Bhat & Nengroo, 2013; Bhatt & Jariwala, 2018; Roever & Skinner, 2016), calling for inclusive urban planning that

integrates street vendors into the legal and developmental framework of cities like Aizawl.

Conclusion

Street vendors in Aizawl City form an essential part of the urban informal economy, especially among women from low-income and marginalized households. The study highlights the multiple challenges they face—ranging from insecure workspaces, poor sanitation, long working hours, health risks, and limited access to financial and institutional support. Despite these barriers, vendors exhibit strong entrepreneurial orientation and resilience. To ensure their livelihood security and dignity, targeted policy interventions are crucial. These include proper implementation of the Street Vendors Act, development of designated and well-equipped vending zones, improved access to health services, social protection schemes, and affordable credit through formal financial channels. In addition, capacity-building programs in business skills and financial literacy, along with stronger representation of vendors in urban governance through active Town Vending Committees, are necessary. Holistic and inclusive support systems will not only enhance the quality of life for street vendors but also contribute to more equitable and sustainable urban development in Mizoram.

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