



URBAN RESPONSES TO STREET TRADING: INDIA

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Total number of Street Vendors in India: 10 Million

- ∞ 2.5% of the urban population engaged in street vending
- ∞ No laws regulating this trade
- ∞ Viewed as illegal activity
- ∞ Vendors pay 10% to 20% as rents to authorities



SUPREME COURT RULING

Sudhan Singh vs. NDMC, 1989

“If properly regulated according to the exigency of the circumstances, the small traders on the sidewalks can considerably add to the comfort and convenience of the general public, by making available ordinary articles of everyday use for a comparatively lesser price”



Ruling further states:

“The right to carry on trade or business mentioned in Article 19(1)g of the Constitution, on street pavements, if properly regulated cannot be denied on the ground that streets are meant exclusively for passing and repassing and no other use”



BELLAGIO DECLARATION ON STREET VENDING 1998

- ∞ Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) initiated formation of national organisation.
- ∞ National Alliance of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) formed in September 1998.
- ∞ April 1999, NASVI conducted a survey on Street Vending in 7 cities.



TOWARDS A NATIONAL POLICY

- Ω May 2001: National Workshop at New Delhi on Street Vendors organised jointly by SEWA and Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India.
- Ω Minister declares formation of National Task Force on Street Vendors headed by Minister of State for drafting a National Policy.



NATIONAL POLICY

- ∞ Street Vending viewed as initiative for urban poverty alleviation
- ∞ Designation of areas through a participatory process. Stress on self-regulation.
- ∞ Ward Committees in each Municipal Ward to decide on modalities
- ∞ Street Vendors to have 40% representation. One-third women vendors.



Legalising Street Vending

- ∞ State Govts. Asked to modify Police Act
- ∞ Include Vendors' Representatives in urban planning
- ∞ Licenses to street vendors scrapped
- ∞ Street Vendors to be given Identity Cards instead.
- ∞ Emphasis on unions.



Follow-up Action

- ∞ Majority of States accept policy
- ∞ Awaits Cabinet approval
- ∞ NASVI converted to a trade union federation with 350 affiliates in 22 states.
- ∞ Mobilising street vendors for implementation of policy.
- ∞ Gujarat has framed rules- SEWA's initiative.