

## Report

# *Citizens for Self-Workers*

**Name of meeting:** CITIZENS FOR SELF-WORKER

**Date:** 01/05/2024

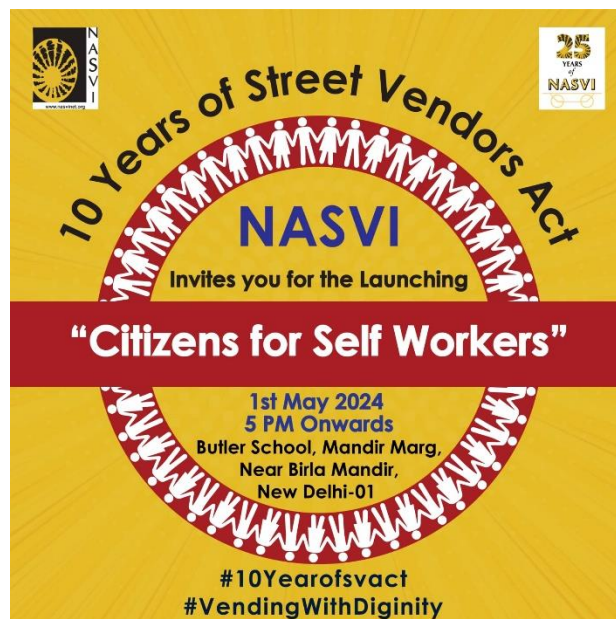
**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Venue:** Harcourt Butler School Mandir Marg Delhi.

**Present Attendees:** 200 People.

### **Agenda:**

The initiative was launched in the completion of Street Vendors Act 2014. The campaign "Citizens for Self-Workers" was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The launch of the "Citizens for Self-Workers" campaign marks a significant milestone in advocating for the rights and recognition of self-employed individuals within our society.



### **Objectives**

- 1. Recognition:** To raise awareness and promote recognition of the contributions made by self-employed Street Vendors among the citizens.
- 2. Advocacy:** To advocate for policies and regulations that support the needs and interests of self-employed workers, including awareness of the Street Vendors Act among the citizens as they are the VOICES of the city.
- 3. Community Building:** To foster a sense of community among self-employed individuals, providing a platform for networking, collaboration, and mutual support.

## Why Citizens

Citizens play a crucial role in advocating for the rights of street vendors, recognizing their importance in society. This involves addressing exploitation, ensuring fair treatment and representation, and actively supporting the implementation of legislation like the Street Vendors Act. By engaging citizens in awareness campaigns and collective action, obstacles such as bureaucratic pressure and challenges within regulatory committees can be tackled. Legal avenues are also explored to uphold vendors' rights, with citizens standing in solidarity and providing support. Ultimately, citizen involvement fosters a collaborative approach, moving towards a more inclusive and supportive environment for street vendors.



## Meeting

The meeting started with the inauguration and lamp lighting of the event by eminent personalities *Mr. Arbind Singh, National Coordinator, NASVI, Ms. Sangeeta Singh, Street Food Program-HEAD, NASVI, Mr. Indu Prakash - Senior Social Activist, Vijay Pratap - world Social Forum, Dr Neeta Senior Scientist -ICMR, Joginder Singh RWA Paharganj, Varun Singh - Senior Advocate, Rohit Nagpal Senior Advocate, Rony Banerjee, WASME, Monika Dhyan NASS, Arvind UNI – IGSSS, Neha Arora, IMT Ghaziabad Professor, Shehnaj Senior Social Worker, Firdos Khan Delhi commission for women, Anjali Bharadwaj NCPRI, Amrita Johri NCPRI, Purushottam Bhatt IPTA, Rupendra Jha, Dr. Sunil Kumar Pandey, and many others.*



**Mr. Arbind Singh**, National Coordinator, NASVI addressed the audience and stated the importance of the 10 years of the Street Vendors Act. He further introduced the campaign, CITIZENS FOR SELF-WORKERS, this one of its kind law is the first in the world for Street Vendors and is a long struggle and demand of NASVI. The Policy came out in 2004 and eventually in 2014 the law was introduced. 4400 Town Vending Committee are recorded to date and the efforts of the street vendor achieve this milestone. 29 Town Vending Committees are functioning at present in Delhi. 38 lakh Certificate of Vending are issued to the street vendors. Across India, more than 10,000 Vending Zones have been created and many are in the pipeline. Further, he highlighted the financial assistance Street Vendors are getting from PM SVANidhi Scheme. He also mentioned how NASVI plays an important role in building the capacity of Street Vendors Despite NASVI facing many challenges, we are working for the benefit and upliftment of Street Vendors in India.



**Purushottam Bhatt's** mesmerizing poetry delves into the vivid hues of life, particularly emphasizing the significance of food and livelihood. His verses explore the multifaceted aspects of existence, capturing the essence of human experience through various lenses.



**Ms. Firdoz Khan**, Delhi Commission for Women talked about the problems street vendors face, especially women. She assured that the Commission would work hard to help and protect these vendors. She suggested making special restrooms for women vendors in the vending areas. She said it's not enough to just make laws; we need to do real things like giving money, time, and space, and listening to what vendors need. The Commission wants to improve street vendors' lives, especially women, by taking action, not just talking about it.



**Professor Ronny Banerjee** discussed questions and shared data about street vendors. He mentioned that out of India's 1.5 billion people, only 3.8 million have certificates to sell on the streets, with about 1 million in Delhi NCR. He suggested changing the Street Vendor Livelihood Protection Act to the Street Vendor Entrepreneurs Protection Act to recognize their entrepreneurial role. He proposed creating a Ministry of Street Vendors and emphasized their contribution to India's GDP. He also called for a separate department like those for metals and agriculture to address their needs.



**Advocate Varun Singh** who worked tirelessly for the Street Vendors and filled many cases in the High Court has stressed the importance of changing people's mindsets and connecting laws with broader issues. He advocated for expanding the scope of the act and highlighted the inadequate implementation of the Town Vending Committee (TVC).

- Emphasized the need to change people's mindsets and connect laws with broader societal issues.
- Advocated for expanding the scope of the act related to street vendors.
- Pointed out the low representation of street vendors on TVC boards, suggesting increased NGO and public participation.
- Focused on potential future challenges facing TVCs and aimed for majority representation.
- The importance of preserving the cultural heritage of street vendors.
- Proposed guidelines for street vendors to follow during extreme weather conditions.



**Vijaya Pratab** mentioned the incredible work Nasvi has been doing. He made it clear that when it comes to street vendors, it's the people in our communities who benefit the most, and he stressed the importance of their active participation. He praised the determination of street vendors to stand up for their rights, applauding their courage in fighting for what they deserve.



### **Suggestions/ Outcomes of the meeting include:**

1. Agreement on the necessity for collective efforts to further engage citizens in advocating for the rights of street vendors.
2. Recognition of the importance of unity and solidarity among street vendors as essential for ensuring their rights.
3. Resolution to organize protests and stand up for the rights of street vendors whenever they face infringement.
4. Commitment to raise greater awareness among citizens regarding the challenges, obstacles, and suppression faced by street vendors.
5. Construction of Restrooms for Women Street Vendors
6. Creating a Ministry of Street Vendors and emphasizing their contribution to India's GDP

