

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STREET VENDORS  
ASSOCIATIONS AMONG WOMEN STREET VENDORS IN THE CENTRAL  
BUSINESS DISTRICT, NAIROBI CITY COUNTY, KENYA**

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## DECLARATION

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for any degree award in any university

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## **DEDICATION**

To my late dad, Tom Dudi. Thank you for believing in me from a young age and teaching me to love books, I celebrate you. Rest with the angels.

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## OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS AND CONCEPTS

<b>Assessment</b>	This is considered as evaluating the various aspects that influence the performance of street vendors associations on women street vendors.
<b>Effectiveness</b>	This is the capability of street vendors associations to produce desired results on women street vendors and their activities.
<b>Membership</b>	The state in which women street vendors are affiliated to a street vendor association through the payment of registration fees and subscription fees.
<b>Non-membership</b>	Women street vendors lack of affiliation to a street vendor association due to lack of lack of payment of registration fees or subscription fees.
<b>Central Business District</b>	The center of a city which contains commercial streets, major public buildings and is usually the main business center.
<b>Informal economy</b>	It refers to employment outside formal regulatory arrangements. The workers could either be self-employed as entrepreneurs, subcontracted employees or working for their family.
<b>Street</b>	A public road that is lined with buildings or part of the road between the pavements, utilised by vehicles, footways or other areas to which the public has access to without payment.

<b>Street vendor</b>	a person who sells merchandise of items along the streets or in public spaces. The term is used interchangeably with street trader, street worker.
<b>Street vendors Associations</b>	Groups run by street vendors with the aim of representing them in advocating for their right to trade. They are registered with the ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development
<b>Collective action</b>	Performance of cooperative actions by street vendors with the aim of enhancing their working conditions and achieving common interest through street vendors associations and organizations.

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<b>CBD:</b>	Central Business District
<b>CIC:</b>	Certified Insurance Counselor
<b>HSVU:</b>	Hsinchu Street Vendors Union
<b>ILO:</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>KENASVIT:</b>	Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders
<b>NASVI:</b>	National Alliance for Street Vendors in India
<b>NCC:</b>	Nairobi City County
<b>NISCOF:</b>	Nairobi Informal Sector Confederation
<b>ROSCA's:</b>	Revolving and Savings and Credit Associations
<b>SEWA:</b>	Self Employed Women's Association
<b>SEWU:</b>	Self Employed Women's Union
<b>SME:</b>	Small and Micro Enterprises
<b>WIEGO:</b>	Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing

## ABSTRACT

The search for employment opportunities in urban centers has led to the rise of the informal sector which comprises of street vendors with a large proportion being women. Women street vendors have formed or joined street vendors association to help them navigate street vending. This study was occasioned by the disparity gaps between allied associations supporting the rights of street vendors to operate in public spaces, the membership of street vendors into street vending associations and street vendors being incorporated in urban planning. The study assessed the effectiveness of street vendors associations among women street vendors in Nairobi City County basing on the following objectives; to examine factors influencing membership in street vendors associations, to assess the functions of street vendors associations, to evaluate the benefits and the challenges of street vendors associations. The study adopted descriptive survey design to collect qualitative and quantitative data using questionnaires, interviews and content analysis from published materials, journals, and magazines. Snowball sampling was used in selecting women street vendors from the streets creating a sample frame of 204 vendors for the research. Quantitative data was filtered, coded, and analyzed using the Social Sciences Statistical Package (SPSS) while qualitative data was analyzed using verbatim quotes. The standard deviation and computation averages were performed to show the rankings for benefits and challenges of women street vending associations while the Likert scale was used to determine the future of women street vendors in Nairobi Central Business District (CBD). A chi-square test was performed to show the relationship between benefits accrued from street vendor associations and membership and challenges faced in street vendors associations and membership. Findings of the computation averages showed that leadership opportunity was the highly ranked benefit (mean=0.913). while poor leadership was the most highly ranked challenge in street vendors associations (mean=1.651). The findings of the chi-square revealed that all benefits of street vendor associations influenced membership as their p-values were less than 0.05; Leadership opportunity (p=0.000), Welfare and access to credit (P=0.002), training in business (P=0.001) and networking (P=0.003). Challenges such as poor leadership (P=0.001), wrangles within street vendors association (P=0.001) and unfavorable working conditions (P=0.03) were found to influence membership in street vendor associations. Lack of childcare services (p=0.061) was the only challenge which insignificantly influenced membership The study concludes that street vendors associations among women street vendors in Nairobi city county have been very effective as a in creating synergy that is greater than individual effects of each member, they have also been a platform where members can get briefs on important issues such as new legislative rulings, and market trends. The study recommends associations leaders to acquire leadership and management skills to enable them fully carry out their mandate.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

British anthropologist, Keith Hart, came up with the term informal economy in the early 1970's. According to Hart (1973), the informal economy consists of units that produce of goods and services whose main purpose is to create employment and income, usually while operating with little capital. Nearly 2.5 billion people or half of the world's labour force work in the informal economy (Recio, Roitman & Mateo-Babiano, 2019). Estimates from the International Labour Organization revealed that informal work accounts for 63% and 58.1% of men's and women's global employment respectively. However, in Africa, 89.7% of women are in informal employment in contrast to 82.7 % of men (ILO, 2018).

It is argued that the informal economy widely includes a range of self-employed persons who work in small unregistered enterprises and therefore, unrecognized by the government (Delbiso, Deresse, Tadasse, Kidane & Calfat, 2018). Currently, it includes domestic workers, casual day laborers; street vendors and temporary or part-time workers most of whom are unskilled and lack secure benefits and social protection (Shahen, 2022). Over the years, street vending has become a major source of employment and income to many urban dwellers and consequently, street vending has become the largest sub-group of informal workforce (ILO, 2018).

Street vending is a business activity that entails the sale of goods to the public on pavements, market places and mobile street hawking without having a permanent

structure from which to sell (Monga and Dzvimbo, 2019). The number of street vendors in major cities around the world has been on a steady increase particularly in the developing countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa. Rural to urban migration of the unskilled population, limited formal employment in cities and global economic crisis are among the factors that have led to the rise in number of street vendors (Doibale, Mohite, Sawase & Pagadal, 2019). Therefore, most of the urban poor are forced into the occupation out of desperation and necessity to earn a living (Mlambo, 2021).

Street vending in Nairobi dates back to the coming of the railway in 1899 when Nairobi was founded and settlement started during the construction of the Kenya Uganda railway (Macharia, 2010). African employees opted for vending instead of wage labor in the railway corporation when they realized the gains inherent in vending. They began by the activity selling fruits, vegetables, charcoal, tea and the selling of newspapers. Their numbers kept on growing and their areas of operation were restricted (Njaya, 2015 and Robertson, 2018). According to WIEGO (2013) 63 per cent of street vendors in Kenya are women. In addition, within the Central Business District (CBD) of Nairobi city, 6,000 street vendors line the streets and alleys daily (Gatere, 2016).

In Nairobi women street vendors face significant gender related challenges in the establishment of new business and growing existing businesses. The challenges yield from cultural practices and tradition. They include lack of finances and skills needed to operate a business. Women street vendors have also reported to face more harassment from various council officials than their male counterparts (Gatere, 2016). The Kenyan government recognizes that women entrepreneurs have not been on equal footing when it

comes to their access to opportunities and assets but it has yet to effectively address barriers facing women street vendors (Athanne, 2011).

The benefits of street vending are noticeable, Sirkeci (2020) alluded that street vending employs millions of low-income people. In India, it is estimated that there are 10 million street vendors, with 1.18 million households depending on vending as the primary source of income (Jha, 2018). The local economy of developing countries also positively benefits when street vendors sell their products, accumulate profits, and increase their stocks and sales. These actions increase demand for goods and broadens the tax revenue from the suppliers for the state (Flaming, Burns & Liu, 2015).

Street vendors face a great deal of challenges as they go about their trade. Their low level of education causes them to lack business skills and access to business training, this factor greatly hinders their growth (Forkuor, Aukoko & Yeboah, 2017). In addition, majority of street vendors lack adequate capital, have no access to credit or loans from financial institutions (Sharma, 2021). Other challenges also include; lack of a proper vending space, storage places and harassment by local officers which leads to unstable businesses (Manickavagam, 2018).

Several countries including China, Singapore and India have recognized the role played by street vendors and have tried to formalize the sector through policy implementation, regulation and enforcing the use of licenses on street vendors (Bell and Sideris, 2014). All this has largely been achieved through public participation in policy creation and mobilization from street vendors associations like National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI), Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) (WIEGO, 2018). Street

vendor associations are majorly concerned with the welfare of their members, facilitating training in business management, providing access to credit, generating savings and giving recognition and protection of their members. These associations in some cases also become authoritative institutions that regulate street work activities (Rodrigues & Bialoborska, 2017; Monteith, 2016).

Street vendors associations exist in cities around the world. Vendors join their associations according to the product they sell or as per the urban space such as a street, market that they work from. On the other hand, membership in the street vendors associations could comprise of both men and women or women only (Skinner, 2009). According to a study done by WIEGO (2018) new organizational forms are emerging in response to the changing times. The membership-based organizations might take the form of self-help groups, associations or trade unions. StreetNet International for example, is a global alliance of street vendor associations which aims strengthen the voice, visibility and legitimacy of street vendors through local negotiations in various countries.

Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), a women's only association in India, addresses the concerns of women street vendors who form the majority in many cities. It comprises of 1.9 million women (WIEGO, 2018). In line with their mission, SEWA has been significant in pushing for India's Street Vendor Protection Act which is lauded for being the first enabling legislation that ensures street vendors get effective representation in decision making, creation of vending zones, ending unauthorized eviction and police harassment on street vendors in India (Kamar and Singh, 2018).

The Informal Hawkers and Vendors Association of Ghana (IHVAG) and Self-Employed Women's Union (SEWU) of South Africa are Street Net affiliates. They have been

making the voices of street vendors heard by the authorities in their respective countries through representation in urban forums. IHVAG's membership is over 6,000 street vendors with two thirds being women (WIEGO, 2018).

In Kenya, most street vendors are members of Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders (KENASVIT) a national alliance of street vendors and informal traders. KENASVIT has association members known as urban affiliates in seven urban centers; Nairobi, Migori, Mombasa, Eldoret, Kisumu, Machakos and Nakuru and is still working at growing its representation throughout Kenya. Their mission is to transform street vendors and informal traders into corporate businesses. Its vision is to empower street vendors and informal traders through financial skills training, access to credit, dialogue with local governments and other relevant organisations on appropriate by laws and policies that enable traders to improve their business (Andersen, 2015). In Nairobi, local street vendors associations are members of Nairobi Informal Sector Confederation (NISCOF) which is KENASVIT's Nairobi's urban affiliate. Registered in 2005, NISCOF has 23 member associations representing approximately 15,000 individual traders. An estimated 70 per cent of NISCOF's members are street vendors, with the remaining percent made up by newspaper vendors, rubber stamp makers, watch repairers and other service providers that operate on the street. NISCOF's member associations are primarily locational, rather than sectorial, meaning that traders join based on the geographic proximity to their trading spaces. The associations, therefore, represent diverse trades, including retail clothing and accessories and food (Morange, 2015).

Due to their affiliation, these street vendors associations share KENASVIT's mission and vision. These associations have engaged with Nairobi City County (NCC) administration through social dialogue leading to the reduction of harassment and intimidation of street vendors, availed microfinance to their members through the Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) and lobbied for training on relevant entrepreneurial skills to their members (Otieno, 2018).

In summary, street vendors in Nairobi are members of street vendor associations and self-help groups, which have attempted to make their voices heard and fight for space within the city (Brown and Lyons, 2010). These associations achieve results though the process has been slow. Women street vendors in Nairobi have strived for space and opportunity in the city. Organizations, associations and charities have had zealous concern in addressing issues affecting women (Kinyanjui, 2014). The purpose of this study was to seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of street vendors associations among female street vendors in the Central Business District, CBD, Nairobi.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Street vending has become an important informal activity in Nairobi though street vendors are not legally authorized to operate in the city. Nonetheless, street vendors associations have emerged with the purpose of giving recognition and protection to their members. This study holistically examines street vendors associations including their functions, benefits and challenges to women street vendors in the city of Nairobi.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The general objective of this study was to examine the mandate of street vendors associations and their achievement among women street vendors activities in the Central Business District, Nairobi City.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- i. To examine factors influencing membership in street vendors associations.
- ii. To assess the functions of street vendors associations.
- iii. To evaluate the benefits of street vendors associations.
- iv. To examine the challenges facing street vendors associations.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

- i. What are the factors influencing membership in street vendors associations?
- ii. What are the functions of street vendors associations?
- iii. What are the benefits of street vendors associations?
- iv. What are the challenges facing street vendors associations?

#### **1.5 Hypothesis**

**H<sub>1</sub>:** There are no benefits accrued from street vendors associations that influence membership.

**H<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant challenge facing street vendors associations influence membership.

#### **1.6 Justification of the study**

Street vending is a key contributor towards economic development in Kenya. The sector's contribution ranges from job creation and provision of essential goods and

services to urban centers. The informal sector is more gainful to women because no special skills are needed and it requires less capital to establish (Gichuki, Mulu-Mutuku & Kinuthia, 2014). However, the women street vendors need to come up with strategies for them to set up their position in public spaces and grow in the business environment.

The Bellagio declaration identified six problems faced by street vendors worldwide. These include; cost of regulation, bribery, harassment, foreclosures and evictions and lack of representatives in local governments (Manickavasagam, 2018). The Kenyan government on the other hand recognizes that women entrepreneurs have not been on equal footing when it comes to their access to opportunities and assets but it has yet to effectively address barriers facing street vendors one among them being representation (Athanne, 2011).

Street vending by women can be said to signify a viable solution to some of the problems of the poverty-stricken urban dwellers especially female-headed households. The role of the women street vendors is undisputable to the society, although they receive low income; they contribute to the national investment through a certain portion of saving from their income. They support the economy by generating self-employment, income and thus savings while serving their households (Mungai, 2021).

The study only concentrated women street vendors as they were seen to be the majority according to WIEGO (2013) who stated that the majority of street vendors are women; 63 per cent in Kenya.

## **1.7 Significance of the study**

As the numbers of street vendors continue to rise there still is lingering presupposition that street vendors are disorganized and unregulated (Joshi, 2018). However, reliant on the particular context, a significant number of people who engage in street trading are members of street vendors associations that engage in various forms of negotiation with the authorities of urban areas (WIEGO, 2018).

Street vending creates employment opportunities; hence, supporting its growth might change the rate of unemployment in the Nairobi. Women street vendors in Nairobi strive for space and opportunity to trade in the city. These women have joined or formed street vendors associations in order to overcome gender related challenges yielding from cultural practices and to acquire proper business management skills to help them operate their businesses in the city (Kinyanjui, 2014).

Street vendors associations reveal the need to foster opportunities for women street vendors while effectively addressing the challenges these women face. There is need therefore to include of street vendors through their associations in urban planning, this will lead to inclusive development in cities and reduce social and economic gaps (Douglas, 2016). This study hopes to add knowledge on previous studies done on street vendors associations and women street vendors. It can also be used by other researchers in this field and other related fields including policy makers, urban planners and other stakeholders.

## **1.8 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study included women street vendors of all categories from those selling goods, food and newspaper vendors and registered street vendors associations comprising of men and

women as their members; the study was however limited to the CBD in Nairobi City. This area was chosen because it has a large number of street vendors and registered street vendors associations in comparison to others. There was suspicion from among the vendors on why the study was being conducted and for whose benefit, the vendors were therefore assured of confidentiality and anonymity.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a review of related literature to street trade and collective action among women street vendors.

#### **2.2. An Overview on Street Vendors**

Street vendors are business people who sell items and deliver services in public locations that are generally defined, like open-air spaces, transportation intersections, and building sites. They form the largest sub-group of the informal workforce and are more visible due to their presence in public spaces (Monga and Dzvimbo, 2019). Most of the urban poor venture into street trading in an effort to make a living while in the cities due to its ease of entry.

As the world continues to urbanize, most countries face challenges in meeting the demands of the growing urban populations be it in housing, transportation, employment, education and healthcare with the biggest challenge being in employment. Jobs in the formal sector are limited to the existing urban population (Ntuli, 2020). This has significantly increased the number of people seeking informal employment with street vendors constituting a majority of the workforce in the informal sector (Pratt, 2019). Across the globe, in Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, China and Sub-Saharan Africa, poor urban women enjoy a significant share of informal employment through street vending (Jeyapaul & Manimaran, 2021; Malasam, 2019). Women street vendors find the entry and exit barrier in this trade to be negligible, the amount of capital and skill required to be

less and the work is flexible when combined with other activities such as taking care of children (Ntuli, 2020). In addition, in their study on the economic impact of Los Angeles Street Vendors, Flaming *et al.*, (2015) reiterates that the local economy of developing countries positively benefits when street vendors sell their products, accumulate profits, and increase their stocks and sales. This increases demand for goods and broadens the tax revenue from the suppliers for the state.

Street vendors face various challenges based on public opinion and the perception of city authorities. This is supported by Lindell (2019) on re-spatialising urban informality whose findings reveal that street vendors are often accused of illegally using public spaces thereby damaging the outlook of the city. Similarly, Devlin (2019) and Joshi (2018) also pointed out that street vendors are associated with chaos and insecurity and congestion a factor which makes them undesirable to city dwellers. Finally, street vending competes with the formal trade market and is less profitable than the formal trade market mainly due to their location on the urban space they occupy and low level of education which causes them to lack business skills, thereby greatly hindering their growth (Forkuor *et al.*, 2017).

For women street vendors in Nairobi, increased vulnerability at the household level either as a result of poverty, female headed families, disability or the need to supplement their spouse's income so as to meet the basic household needs are among the factors that have driven many women to street vending (Onsumu, Mose and Munene, 2022). Street vendors in Nairobi have formed membership-based associations such as street vendors associations to enable them make their voices heard and overcome the challenges they face (Kinyanjui, 2014).

### **2.3. Motives for Membership in Street Vendors Associations.**

Women street vendors across the globe face different challenges while working on the streets when compared to their male counterparts (Jeyapaul & Manimaran, 2021). These women are physically abused, work overtime, lack access to sanitation, lack financial literacy and financial inclusion to loans and credit (Kaur, 2020). In their study on social protection and informal workers in Sub-Saharan Africa, Riisgaard (2021) reported that the main objective of collective action among street vendors is to provide services such as: access to group insurance, access to financial services, development of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) among street vendors and most importantly for the creation of a united front in the negotiation and protection of their rights. Street vendors who join or form associations desire to mitigate the challenges they face in their occupation while enjoying the benefits that come with uniting and having one voice.

Findings from various studies indicate that the majority of street vendors in urban cities are females (Jeyapaul & Manimaran, 2021). Women street vendors are therefore said to be empowered through street vending and most of them took on the task the role of bringing food on the table for their families (Chingono, 2016). These women therefore look for every opportunity to be present on the streets despite the uncertainty and ambiguity of their legal status and right to be on the urban space by joining representative associations which help them navigate through street vending (Benit-Gbaffou, 2016). An understanding of the functions of these street vendors associations is therefore necessary in relation to membership of women street vendors into their associations. The current study will address a research need by examining the various facets in the lives of women

street vendors such as age, marital status, physical vending location in influencing the membership of women in street vendors associations.

In La Paz, Bolivia, the location of a street vendor determines which association they join. Most street vendors in La Paz start working without joining street vendors associations. Some choose to work in places with few other vendors and no existing associations, while others go to established markets with existing associations (Hummel, 2017). The study on street vendors and state intervention by Hummel (2017) revealed that vendors who are not members of a street vendor association are typically a little bit younger, less experienced in the business of street vending, and have a smaller amount of assets than established street vendors. She goes on to point out that many street vendors join street vendors associations in order to get licenses. This current study will address this information gap by examining if spatial location of women street vendors in Nairobi influenced their membership in street vendors associations and the different requirements to be met so as to gain membership in an association.

In their study on SEWA, Lokeswari, Aiswariya & Ravikumar (2020) revealed that through collective action in SEWA, the women gain access to social security in the form of healthcare, childcare and shelter. SEWA's membership fee is Rupees. 5 per year and their leaders were elected to form an executive committee. However still, according to a study done by Sankrit, (2015) there were more women street vendors in the cities of India than there were associations to serve them, about only 20 per cent of street vendors joined these support networks. This current study focused on how street vendors associations in the CBD Nairobi City County recruit their members.

In Africa, collective action in the form of street vendors associations has been identified as one of the ways street vendors protect themselves against a hostile regulatory environment. Many street vendors associations in South Africa were making themselves visible through protests, publicity campaigns and the media (Jongh, 2020). One of the objectives of this study intended to address a knowledge gap by evaluating the benefits of street vendors associations.

Studies accessed in Kenya undertaken by Kinyajui (2014) reveals that women street vendors find that being part of a social network in the form of an association not only shapes their opinions but may also influence women's participation in business. Omwenga, Mukulu & Kanali (2013) on the other hand report that woman entrepreneurs in Kenya faced a shortage of peer support networks and may fail to join the existing associations due to being overwhelmed by business and family responsibilities. Their ability to obtain peer financing and information needed for survival is therefore limited. The studies however failed to look at women street vendors a part of Small and Micro Enterprise (SME) utilizing public spaces, the challenges that come with street vending and their associational life in Nairobi. These studies also did not look at how social and economic factors facing street women vendors can influence the membership of women in street vendors associations. This current study therefore seeks to address these gaps in terms of literature in the Kenyan context.

#### **2.4. Functions of Street Vendor Associations**

Street vendors associations provide a spectrum of services to their members such as improving vendors working conditions, help in collective bargaining with the local authorities and providing financial support (Traub-merz, 2021; Rodrigues & Bialoborska,

2017). In addition, according to Hummel (2017) street vendors associations in some cases also become authoritative institutions that regulate street work activities.

In their paper for the Human Development Report, Chen *et al.*, (2015) emphasized on the need for informal workers to organise into unions, cooperatives or associations whose collective action include bargaining, negotiating, advocacy, mobilization, marketing, mutual aid and self-help. The study however, did not examine the functions by street vendors associations towards women street vendors. This current study will address the information gap by examining the functions of street vendors associations in representing women street vendors in the CBD, Nairobi City County.

In terms of gender, several literatures touch on the plight of women street vendors. In her study on women and the informal economy in urban Africa, Kinyanjui (2014) reports that in an effort to find their own voice and give priority to the challenges they face, women street vendors create women only street vendors associations. In contrast however, women's only street vendors associations may also exist because of a strategic choice to ensure there is female leadership. This is because in mixed-sex associations, although women make up the majority of the membership, the majority of leadership positions are held by men (Alfers & Moussie, 2022). In such situations, there is a risk that specific issues affecting women will be underestimated and most associations will support gender inequality (Lindell, 2018). The current study will address a research need by examining the participatory leadership of women street vendors in street vendors association in addressing the challenges they face.

Historically, collective action among street vendors can be traced back to SEWA of India in the 1970's and WIEGO in 1997. Over time, SEWA set up the National Street Vendors

Alliance of India (NASVI) to support local street vendors associations in advocating for their right to trade. Together SEWA, NASVI and the local street vendors associations eventually jointly pushed for the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihoods and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill in India which was passed in 2014 (Kabeer, 2015). This bill greatly helped to improve the livelihoods and operations of street vendors in India. In their study on the critical role of street vendor organisations in relocation of street vendors into public markets, Weng and Kim (2016) reported that Hsinchu Street Vendors Union (HSVU) was established in Hsinchu city in Taiwan with the main mission of safeguarding the rights of street vendor members by creating a communication bridge between street vendors and the city government. Through their persistence HSVU was successful in negotiating with the municipal government and aiding the relocation process of street vendors to the public market when the previous attempts without the association had failed. Similarly, a study by Kim (2015) on remapping Ho Chi Minh City looked at how to spatially manage street vendors using street vendors association because street vendors usually create a sense of entitlement on the space they use to vend in the city and relocation to them is impractical since they build social networks with their customers and ways to make their business profitable on the streets. These studies focused on how to move vendors off the street into markets in an attempt to formalize public spaces for vendors. However, by evaluating both social and economic elements facing women street vendors in Nairobi's CBD, this current study aimed to eliminate the information gap.

In Africa, collective action in the form of street vendors associations has been identified as one of the ways street vendors protect themselves against a hostile regulatory

environment (Jongh, 2020). According to the lens of the social movement literature by Bénit-Gbaffou (2016) street vendors associations in Africa do not hesitate to invoke their national constitutions to make sure that the right to work was granted to their members. Street vendors associations are constantly looking for ways to be included in urban planning and city policies. However, by examining the current activities of street vendors associations among women street vendors in Nairobi CBD this study will address a research need in the Kenyan context.

On the other hand, a study by Mungai, Kihonge & Gichure (2019) on the effect of proactiveness on the growth of women street vendors in Kenya, women street vendors in Kenya outnumber male street vendors and vending is one of the biggest avenues used by poor women to support their families. This is supported by (ILO, 2003) which revealed that women street vendors join or form associations to fight for their rights, enhance their bargaining power with authorities over occupying public space, increase their economic power and eventually improve their livelihoods. This current study will address a research need by examining the aims and goals of street vendors associations.

In his study on sources of workers power in Nairobi, Andersen (2015) reveals that women street vendors in Nairobi are members of local street vendors associations under NISCOF. In addition, he goes on to point out that NISCOF is an affiliate of KENASVIT a national alliance of urban street vendors and informal trader associations in Kenya. Through their affiliation with NISCOF, the local street vendors associations in Nairobi share KENASVIT's mission to engage street vendors in collective action so as to give them access to credit, training on business management and engage with municipal

authorities in order to end harassment and discrimination through appropriate by laws and policies (Mitullah, 2010).

These studies looked at street vendors in general and at NISCOF as an umbrella body engaging in the collective action of street vendors in Nairobi. The current study intends to address a knowledge gap by focusing local street vendors associations in the CBD and on women street vendors in specific guided by the fact that the needs of women street vendors differ spatially.

## **2.5. Benefits of Street Vendors Associations.**

Various studies have revealed the benefits of street vendors associations. In his study on hawkers in India, Joshi (2018) argues that street vendor associations have over the years led to the national law in India legalizing street trade and to new possibilities for negotiating with the state at several levels. On the other hand, street vendors associations sometimes order physical spaces on behalf of their members, control access to certain resources and establish the rights and duties of their members. They therefore become authoritative institutions governing street work activities when the state fails to provide or regulate basic physical or regulatory infrastructure (Rodrigues and Bialoborsa, 2017). The current study intends to look at how street vendors associations have enabled street vendors to claim their space within the city.

Women's only street vendors associations have come up over the years due to the historical domination of street vending associations by men which in the past prevented women from being viewed as viable leadership candidates. In Lima, Peru, women represented two thirds of all street vendors yet, few of them held leadership positions in local associations. It is noteworthy that Red de Mujeres in Peru, an association of women

street vendors has armed the women with leadership skills and positions which have helped improve the perception of women street vendors (Roever and Linares, 2010). On the other hand, SEWA Bank in India, an entity of SEWA has given financial access to its members by providing them with loans which has been used by members to expand or improve their businesses (Duvendack, 2018). While these studies focused on culture and institutional factors, the current study aims at evaluating factors such as empowerment and participatory leadership on women street vendors by street vendors association in the CBD, Nairobi City County to eliminate the information gap.

Previously in a study done on street vending in Kenya and four other African countries Mitullah (2003) showed that existing street vendors associations were few with many being Rotating Savings and Credit Associations, ROSCA's. The *chama* largely addressed their welfare; the women brought in an agreed upon amount of money daily or monthly in terms of savings which is then given to one person on rotational basis to invest in the business or buy durable goods (Kinyanjui, 2014). However, a recent study by Racaud (2018) on informal street trading in Kisumu city revealed that street traders engage in collective action in the form of self-help groups and associations registered with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Development. They have monthly meetings, regular elections and offer services like capital accumulation through savings, loans and providing social aid while negotiating for protection and resources through clientelism. These studies however, did not look at street vendor associations in Nairobi and their approach on street vending issues and advocacy.

## **2.6. Challenges Facing Street Vendor Associations**

A number of literatures exists observing that urban policies and regulations are biased against street vending. In Mumbai and Lagos, vendors are compelled to make unofficial and illegal payments to state officials and to the police in order to maintain access to public space. This small-scale corruption creates room for interaction and negotiation between state officials and street vendors (Omoegun, Mackie, & Brown, (2019). Nonetheless, street vendors associations view this as a form of injustice when formulating their claims as it does not assure their members of protection against repression or lasting access to public space (Sales, 2018). In addition, a study done by Sharma (2021) reports that low membership in street vendors associations limits the strength and voice of street vendors. The low membership was mainly attributed to their long working hours which causes street vendors become unable to devote time to collective action in street vendors associations. He also goes on to point out that internally within most associations there exists a centralized authority despite holding elections and little transparency over financial matters. This leads to discontentment, conflicts or eventually the dissolution of the association. This study seeks to fill the gap on the challenges faced by street vendors associations in the CBD, Nairobi City County.

A study by Ngomane (2020) on the challenges faced by women street vendors in Mbobela Municipality in South Africa reveals that some members stopped affiliating to Ekukhanyeni Association for Street Vendors, an association run by women street vendors because they claimed the association was of no help to them. The women claimed that lack of storage facilities and lack of control to those trading illegally without paying an affiliation fee to the association were among their reasons to consider putting a stop to

collective action. In Cape Verde and Zambia, street vendors associations have fallen prey to the interests of political elites and occasionally become instruments of state control. This is mainly because street vendors associations have a public profile and an easily identifiable leadership which makes them potentially more vulnerable to hijacking by political elites (Jongh, 2020; Lindell, 2018). It is possible that having political connections resulted in some benefits and protection. Political alliances required compromises which weakened the association's legitimacy in the eyes of its members. This resulted in the demobilization of the members and inhibition of collective action (Rodrigues & Bialoborska, 2017). These studies looked at street the influence of the leadership of street vendors associations. This current study sought to find out whether political agencies engage with street vendor associations in Nairobi CBD and the nature of their influence in the association.

In Nairobi, urban authorities associate street vending with insecurity and congestion therefore, local by-laws are used by the city officials to legitimize repressive policies on the vendors. This leads to consistent harassment and evictions (Joshi, 2018). According to NCIDP (2018) this challenge is compounded by the limited number of open-market spaces in the city and lack of an all-inclusive licensing policy. Street vending is a legal activity under the laws applicable to the City of Nairobi; however, Racaud, Kago & Owuor (2018) in their study on contested street, informal street vending and its contradictions pointed out that inconsistencies in regulatory framework at various levels of power between the central government and the local government are being exploited to the detriment of street vendors. Two national texts namely; Urban Areas and Cities Act 2012 contradict with another local city by law, the general nuisance by law. This law

allows the city and county officials to arrest anyone they deem to be general nuisance in public places (National Council of Law Reporting, 2012). This local city by law therefore legitimizes the eviction of street vendors from the streets of Nairobi.

In his study focusing on institutional framework and how they influence street vending, Racaud (2018), reveals that the institutional framework in Kenya prevents licensing of street vendors and therefore prohibits them in fully engaging in the trade. The literature shows there are many challenges that face informal sector workers, this study however did not look at challenges facing women who belong to street vendors associations in the Kenyan context and more specifically in Nairobi.

## **2.7. Theoretical Framework**

This study is guided by two theories: The Social Exchange Theory and the Reference Group Theory.

### **2.7.1 The Social Exchange Theory**

This theory was proposed by Homans (1961) and later elaborated by scholars such as Blau and Ekah among others. The theory of social exchange centers on behavior and interdependence among people. Homans (1961) stated that interactions occur when individuals expect compensation equivalent to resources invested although not in the same form. On the other hand, Ekah (1974) asserted that humans assign meaning to what they give out and increase or decrease interaction with others on the basis of these interpretations while according to Blau (1964), social exchange is an individual action determined by the benefits one obtains from oneself and others.

Social exchanges therefore influence the relationships among group members and organisations as it focuses on the processes of social life and analyses group dynamics. The theory therefore suggests that it is valuing the benefits and costs of each relationship that determine whether or not women street vendors continue social association. Women voluntarily join organisations and participate in an exchange where costs are incurred and rewards are acquired. Costs are incurred in the form of time spent in organising and payment of membership fees while rewards include access to financial assistance, savings, improved livelihoods and freedom to carry out vending activities.

According to Gergen (1980) the theory has many other values that continue to apply over time such as; the explanatory power that gives meaning to social interactions, the ability to sensitize the exchange aspects of interactions and the value that provides opportunities for organizing social lives. Criticisms in the social exchange theory are with regards to the way rewards and costs are conceptualized. Reward values placed on things and intangible forms vary, therefore measuring them becomes a challenge. In this study the indicators of rewards and performance of the members will include economic gains referring to the money gained in relation to their investment in the group and social gains referring to the societal and individual gains from membership in the group.

The social exchange theory test consists of three parts; action initiation, stakeholder relationship and a reciprocating response (Cropanzano, Antony, Daniels & Hall, 2017). For instance, with woman street vendors and street vendors associations, a membership initiating action might involve support in collective action, the relationship between the women street vendors and the association could be one of commitment while the

reciprocating response might include representation to urban authorities and gaining leadership and financial skills.

The weakness of the social exchange theory that calls for the use of another theory in this study is; one, the assumption that people try to avoid risks and only aspire for rewards and two, the expectations of rewards vary from person to person such that what is inadequate for one may satisfy another.

### **2.7.2 The Reference Group Theory**

The term was first used by Herbert Hyman in 1942 while distinguishing between objective and subjective status in a study. His subjects were asked what groups of people they compared themselves with; whether these persons were actual or conceptual and whether they compared themselves with a group or a particular individual (Williams, 1970). The theory notes that individuals in a group are driven to maintain or gain acceptance. Therefore, these individuals hold similar attitudes to those of group members.

Hyman (1968) argues that this theory grants common probability regarding socialization through desired groups, while explaining why members are willing to settle their individual interests for larger concerns in their groups. The theory argues that members believe that their collective view of reality in decision making is the most definite solution and relevant to issues facing them (Dawson and Chatman, 2001). In this sense socialized norms leads to the formation of a cognitive view whereby a member of a reference group has confidence that the appropriate strategies employed to manage one's life are befitting and valid. Individuals also have the freedom to choose the reference groups they wish to join whereas the groups have power and influence because they have the ability to admit or deny membership (Dawson and Chatman, 2001)

Groups and networks have dynamic relationships influenced by social, political and economic variables. This study intends to look at women belonging street vendors associations as part a component of the social system supporting the women street vendors in income growth and poverty alleviation.

## **2.8. Conceptual Framework**

The study used a model that was employed by Putman (2000). The conceptual framework model adopted in this study defines all the variables both dependent and independent and describes how they relate to each other. According to Putman (2000) social networks have value and affect the productivity of individuals and groups. He points out five positive features of social networks; to begin with social networks makes collective problems easier to resolve; second, it makes business transactions easier due to the trust individuals accord one another; it widens our awareness on mutual connectivity. Fourth it helps increase and speed up the flow of information which in turn improves education and economic production. Finally, social networks improve our health and happiness through psychological and biological processes which require human contact.

As per Gergen (1980) social interactions have the ability to sensitize members, enable them exchange values and providing a way to organize their social lives. Similarly, Brown and Lyons (2010) reiterate that the empowerment of women street vendors depends on effectiveness of street vendors associations. The study used these perspectives to investigate the effectiveness of street vendors associations among women street vendors based on the assumption that street vendors help to secure the present and future right of women street vendors right to trade on the streets. The effectiveness of

street vendors associations was the independent variable for this study after integrating and modifying the theory.

The study's independent factors included the role of street vendors associations, membership of street vendors associations and the benefits and challenges of these street vendors associations. The older, married and educated women street vendors were more likely to join street vendors associations. These women street vendors associations were established to have been effective if they play their roles in benefiting the women street vendors and when they solve challenges facing street vendors. The dependent variables were the empowerment of women street vendors, whereby street vendors associations need to ensure women are engaged in leadership, have access to microfinancing, develop skills in business and ensure more women are becoming self-employed. The intervening variables included personal motivation, culture and government policies. The conceptual framework in figure 2.1 depicts the relationship between the underpinning theory and the research variable.

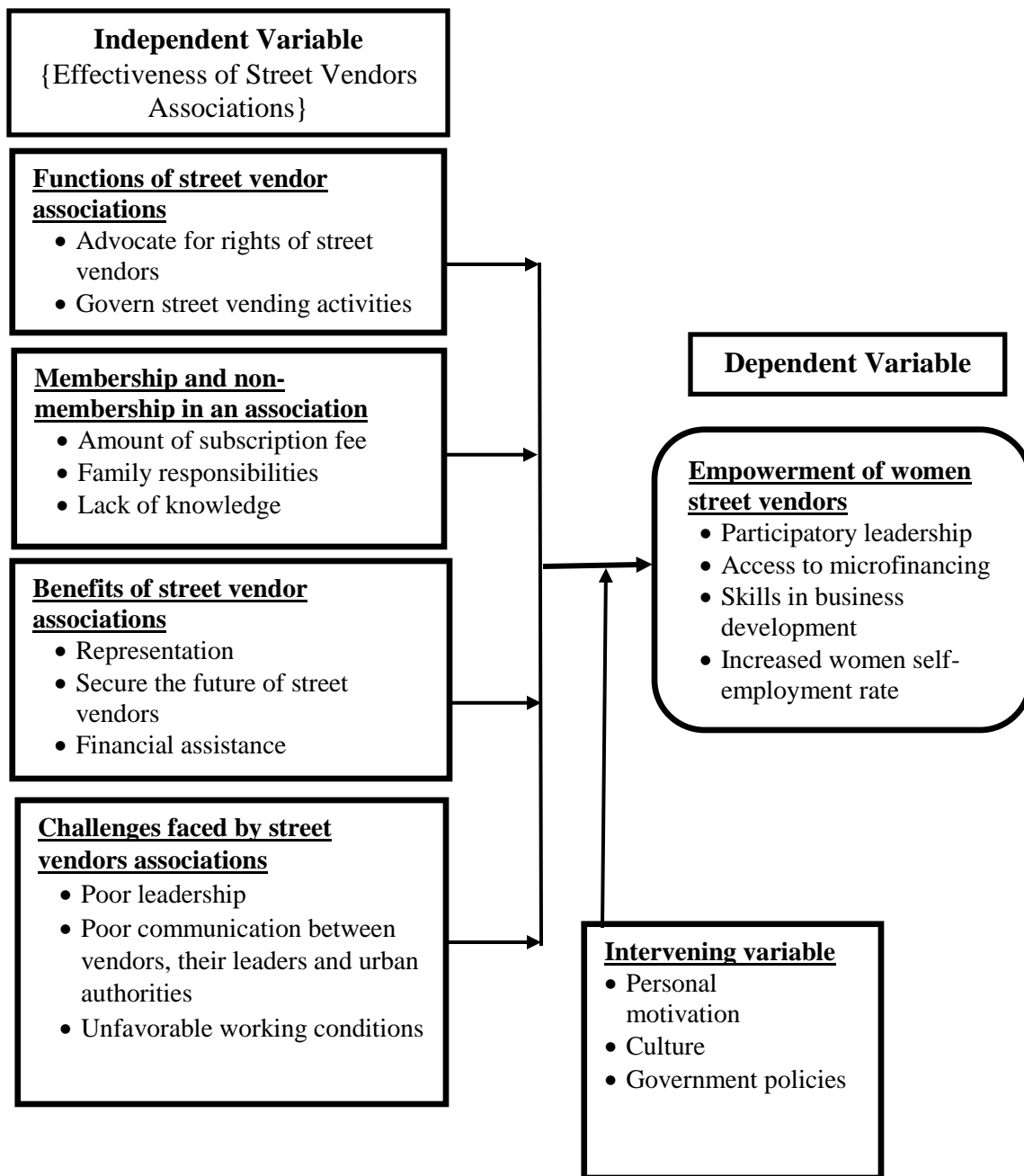


Figure 2.1: Effectiveness of street vendors associations among women street vendors.

Source: Putman (2000)

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter gives a description of the research design, research variables, study area, target population, sampling techniques and sample size, research instruments, reliability and validity of research instruments, pilot study, data collection techniques, data analysis and finally ethical considerations.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study adopted a descriptive survey research design. This design was deemed suitable as it combined both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis.

Data from the respondents was collected from their opinions and experiences so as to generalize the findings to the population that the sample intended to represent (Kasomo, 2006). This design collected a large amount of data from a large number of street vendors making a good design for the study.

#### **3.3 Site of the Study**

Nairobi City County is among the 47 counties in Kenya, it is also the capital city of Kenya. The city is located between longitudes 36<sup>0</sup>45' East, latitudes 1<sup>0</sup>18' South and lies at an altitude of 1,798 meters above sea level. The area covers a total size of 696.1km<sup>2</sup>. The county borders Machakos to the East, Kajiado to the South and Kiambu to the North West. Nairobi is further sub-divided into seventeen sub-counties also known as constituencies, they are Starehe, Kamkunji, Kasarani, Roysambu, Ruaraka, Mathare, Kibra, Westlands, Langata, Dagoretti North, Dagoretti South, Embakasi East, Embakasi

West, Embakasi North, Embakasi Central and Makadara and has a population of 4,397,073 people (KNBS, 2019).

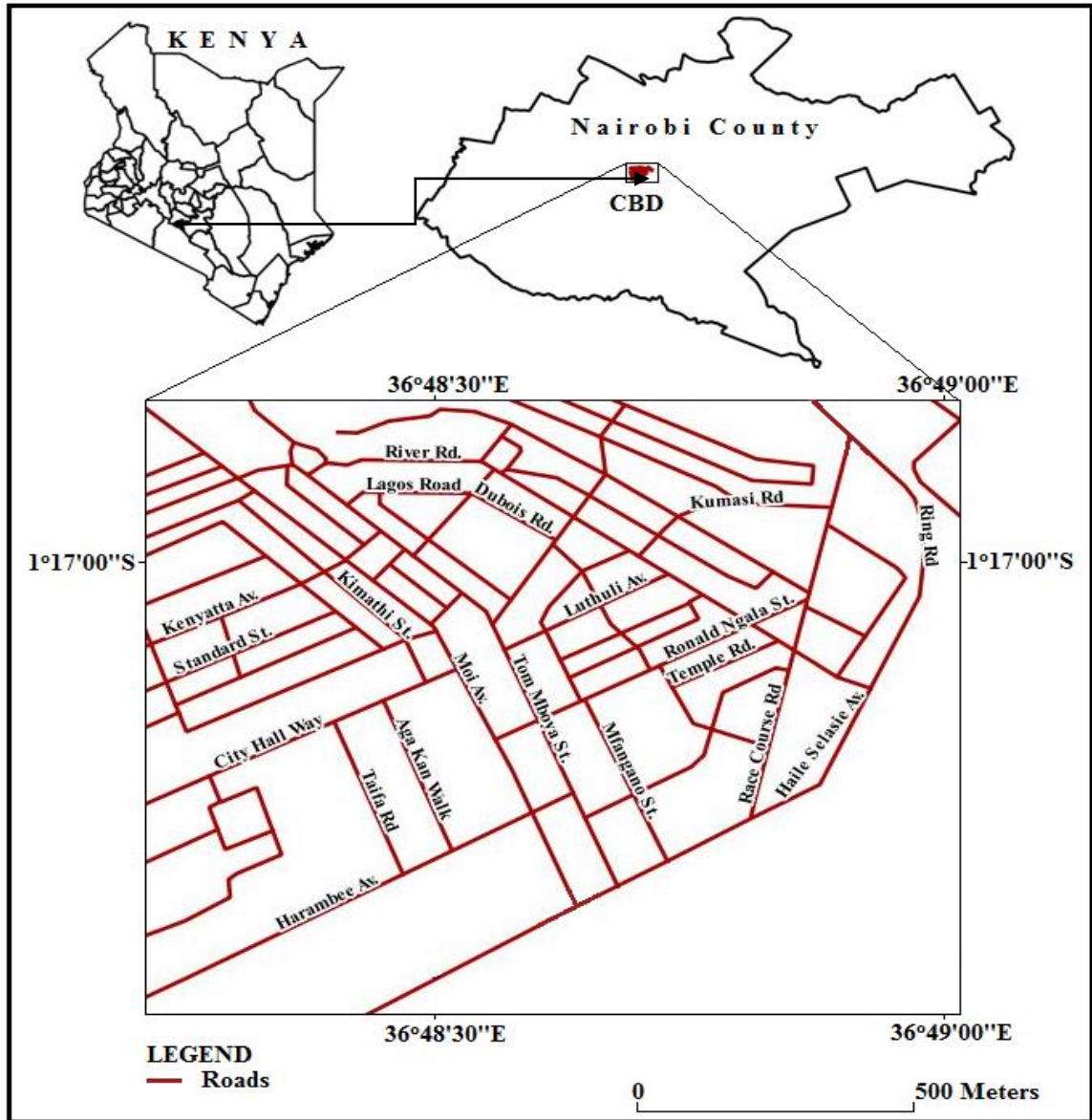


Figure 3.1: Map of the study Area in Nairobi County

Source: Google Earth Maps 2020.

### **3.3.1 Climate and soils.**

Nairobi's climate is primarily equatorial and is affected by the movement of the sun and altitude (Ndolo, 2018). Nairobi's altitude ranges from 1600m in the East to over 1800m in the West (NCIDP, 2018). It has a bi-modal rainfall pattern with the mean annual rainfall is 786.5mm. It experiences the shortest rainfall between October and December with a mean of 638mm while the long rainfall between March and May with a mean of 899 mm. Temperature ranges from 10<sup>0</sup>c in a cool season to 29<sup>0</sup>c. The main types of soil are red soils and black cotton soils dominating different parts of the county.

### **3.3.2 Land use**

The western side of Nairobi City is higher, cooler and well drained while the eastern side is lower, hot and wet. The city is traversed by the Mathare and Ngong rivers flow through the city and are mainly used for urban agriculture. In terms of flora and fauna, the natural Karura forest is located in the north of the city and 7 km south of the city center is the gateway to Nairobi National Park, the only wildlife park in the world near a capital city (NCIPD, 2018). The variety of wild animals in the park range from lions, elephants, cheetahs and giraffes among others; these greatly attract domestic, regional and international tourists. Other open spaces such as the Jevanjee gardens, Uhuru Park and City Park are utilised for recreation by the city dwellers.

### **3.3.3 Economic activities and livelihood**

The city is also the hub of business in East Africa and is an important trade and business center of the country. It serves as the regional and international headquarters for several commercial, public institutions and organizations, including multinational corporations and United Nations agencies (Ndolo, 2018). The informal sector in Nairobi absorbs a

large labor force with about 2.7 million people being employed in this sector (KNBS, 2019). The city's CBD is located in Starehe sub-county and has the highest workforce of informal workers and compared to other sub-counties. (NCIDP, 2018). Within the city, there are over 100,000 street vendors (Andersen, 2015). Street vendors in Nairobi have formed local street vendors associations which help them navigate street trade. These associations join under one umbrella NISCOF with the aim of speaking as one voice and sharing the same vision of defending street vendors. Currently, NISCOF has 23 registered member associations (Andersen, 2015). In spite of the presence of the street vendors associations, crackdowns by city officials and illegitimacy of street vendors persists and women street vendors are negatively affected in turn.

### **3.4 Population**

Nairobi County has experienced rapid population growth over the years. The city's population has grown from 0.51 to 4.397 million in the last 50 years. The present population of 4,397,073 with 2,192,452 males and 2,204,376 females (KNBS, 2019). According to Amnesty International Report (2019) about 2 million people live in the informal settlements of Nairobi's population. The present distribution of informal settlements in Nairobi. The current distribution is related to the migration of the rural people to the city and the fact that the city cannot provide enough formal jobs to the incoming population (Mutisya and Yarime, 2011). It is worth noting that the city's daytime population is higher than the residential population as from neighboring counties people commute for work and do business (Omwenga *et. al*, 2013).

### 3.4.1 Target Population

The target population were women street vendors who belong to associations in Nairobi CBD. Due to the mobile nature of street vending and lack of licensing among street vendors, it was difficult to determine the exact number of women street vendors operating on the streets in the CBD. However, according to NISCOF field records there are at least 3,900 women street vendors who were members of street vendors associations operating in the CBD.

### 3.4.2 Sample size

Sample size determination is the technique of electing the number of observations to include in a sample and is used to make inferences about the population (Signh and Masuku, 2013). In order to obtain the sample size, the Cochran (1963) formula that yields a representative sample for proportions was utilized at a precision level of 95%.

In equation one;

$$n_0 = \frac{Z^2 pq}{e^2}$$

where;  $n_0$  = sample size

$Z$  = the selected critical value of desired confidence level

$p$  = the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population

$q = 1-p$

$e$  = the desired level of precision

With the maximum variability, which is equal to 50% ( $p = 0.5$ ) and taking 95% confidence level with  $\pm 5\%$  precision, the calculation for required sample size will be as follows;  $p = 0.5$  and hence  $q = 1 - 0.5 = 0.5$ ;  $e = 0.05$ ;  $z = 1.96$

$$n_0 = \frac{(1.96)^2 (0.5)(0.5)}{(0.05)^2} = 384.16$$

$$= 384$$

Cochran (1963) pointed out that if the population is finite, then the sample size can be reduced slightly. This is due to the fact that a very large population provides proportionally more information than that of a smaller population. He proposed a correction formula to calculate the final sample size in this case which is given below

Equation two;

$$n = \frac{n_0}{1 + \frac{(n_0 - 1)}{N}}$$

Here;  $n_0$  = the sample size derived from equation one

$N$  = the population size.

Given that the target population of 3900 women street vendors operate in the CBD. From the above formula, the sample size can be computed using the second formula.

$$n = \frac{384}{1 + \frac{(384 - 1)}{3900}}$$

$$n = 349.66$$

After rounding off the sample drawn was **350** women street vendors.

### **3.5 Sampling Techniques**

Mapping was done at various trading locations based on the nature of land use and population of women street vendors in order to identify vending zones appropriate for the study. Previous studies had indicated that certain zones in the CBD experienced a steady increase in street vending activity due to the daily influx of people in those locations. The vending zones consisted of major transport areas, markets and busy intersections (Recio *et.al.*, 2019).

Cluster sampling, a form of probability sampling which entails dividing an entire population into groups or clusters then subsequently drawing random samples from those clusters for use in the final sample was used (Taherdoost, 2016). This method was ideal for this study as it takes into account large populations which are not in sampling frames (Sharma, 2017). Cluster sampling was therefore used to identify the vending zones in the CBD. Table 3.1 below shows the vending zones from which the clusters were derived from. These vending zones were Tom Mboya Street, Moi Avenue, Kenyatta Avenue, River Road, Taita Taveta Street, Landhies Road, Haile Sellasie Avenue and Temple Road.

Table 3.1: Clustered areas

<b>Clustered Area</b>	<b>Nature of land use</b>	<b>Population of women street vendors</b>
Tom Mboya street	Busy intersection, major transport area	260
Moi Avenue	Busy intersection, major transport area	230
Kenyatta Avenue	Offices, businesses and five-star hotels	102
Taita Taveta Street	Busy intersections, businesses	320
Landhies Road	Market, major transport area	560
Haile Sellasie Avenue	Offices, technical institutions.	35
River Road	Market, busy intersections, businesses	420
Temple road	Market, major transport area	550

**Source: Fieldwork, (2020)**

The study then purposively selected vending zones from the clustered areas with a high population of women street vendors. Therefore, Tom Mboya Street, Moi Avenue, Kenyatta Avenue, River Road, Taita Taveta Street, Landhies Road and Temple Road were selected for the study since they had a higher population of women street vendors operating there compared to others. Non-proportionate sampling method was used to determine the sample size for each vending zone. This involved dividing the total sample size of 350 women street vendors equally among the seven vending zones. This yielded an approximate sample size of 50 respondents from each vending zone.

Table 3.2: Sampled clustered areas

<b>Clustered area</b>	<b>Proportional sample size</b>
Tom Mboya	50
Moi Avenue	50
Kenyatta Avenue	50
River Road	50
Taita Taveta Street	50
Landhies Road	50
Temple Road	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>

**Source: Fieldwork, (2020)**

Snowball sampling techniques was then used to select 50 respondents from each vending zone. Snowball sampling is a non-probability method of sampling is often employed when no sampling frame can be constructed and is useful in developing an in-depth exploration of a central phenomenon (Kirchherr & Charles, 2018). The method was appropriate since only members of street vendors associations were reached and a recommendation from a trusted friend or acquaintance worked to grow the sample size. The process began by interviewing women street vendors on the streets in order to identify a woman street vendor who was a member of a street vendors association. Data was collected from the woman street vendors and then the individual was asked to provide the information needed to locate other members of that population. The criteria for selection included: i) to be a woman street vendor aged 18 years and above, ii) to be a member of a street vendors association, iii) to be trading in the identified vending zones, iv) accepting to participate in the study.

Purposive sampling method was used in identifying eight key informants. Purposive sampling is also known as judgmental, accidental, availability selective, per quota or subjective sampling. It is a non-probability sample that is selected based on characteristics of a population and the objective of the study (Crossman, 2020). The key informants were selected purposively from the street vendors associations, their associations were also actively involved in social, economic and welfare initiatives. The seven officials were serving as leaders in local street vendors associations (CBD Vision Street Vendors Association, Nairobi Street Vendors Empowerment Association, Muthurwa Friends Forever, Persons with Disability Street Vendors Association, Muthurwa Food Court Vendors Association, Vision Informal Traders Association, Pamoja New Ngara) and one official was from Nairobi Informal Sector Confederation (NISCOF).

### **3.6 Data Collection Tools**

Two data collection tools were used during this study. They included, questionnaire and interview schedule.

#### **3.6.1 Questionnaire**

A questionnaire (appendix B) based on the objectives of the study was used to obtain data from women street vendors. Questionnaires are deemed suitable because questions are standardized therefore easing data analysis, can be self-administered by the respondents and are anonymous (Orodho, 2005). Both closed and open-ended questions were asked allowing collection of both quantitative and qualitative data from the women street vendors.

This study used the contact information from members of street vendors associations to reach their fellow acquaintances in their associations. For this study, the questionnaires were administered face to face between 2pm to 9pm in order to capture women street vendors in their working spaces as they went about with their trade. The timing was also suitable because women street vendors avail themselves on the streets and other public spaces as it gets close to the rush hour when people begin heading back home and there was need to provide their consumers the goods and the services that they are offering.

### **3.6.2 Interview Schedule**

A key informant interview guide (Appendix C) was utilized to establish the responses from key respondents. According to Smulowitz (2017) an oral conduction of interviews provides in depth data which is not possible when using a questionnaire alone. This method allows greater flexibility as gives the interviewer an opportunity to restructure questions in a language the interviewee can adapt to, based on his/her educational level. This reduces misinterpretations. The interview schedules were used to solicit information on the process of recruiting women street vendors into street vendors associations, reasons why some women street vendors do not join street vendors associations, and the functions of street vendors. Other information collected included, benefits and challenges of street vendors associations to women street vendors.

### **3.7 Pilot Study**

A pilot study was done on twelve women street vendors who had similar characteristics to the target population and were not respondents for the main study. These women street vendors were randomly picked from Accra Road, a street on the CBD with few women street vendors. The women street vendors filled questionnaires which were used to make

adjustments by eliminating any ambiguous items and allowing for preliminary analysis. The findings from the pilot study were not included in the research. The pilot study area was later on excluded from the study.

### **3.8 Validity**

The validity of behavioral variables was determined by the method ‘Content Validity’ or ‘Expert Judgement’ proposed by Nachmias & Nachmias (2005). Before being subjected to the respondents, researcher’s supervisors and members of the department validated the appropriateness of the researcher’s questionnaire and interview schedule for the study.

### **3.9 Reliability**

Research reliability is the extent to which research instruments yield consistent results Fadli & Wijayanto (2020). One easy way of making sure that there is reliability is through the test and retest method. Reliability for this research was measured using the test and retest method. The pilot study established whether the same results are obtained when the same test is re-administered.

To enhance efficacy, due care was exercised in preparing the tools through asking the same questions in other words. This was employed to ensure reliable answers were realised. Input from supervisors also ensured right questions were asked and the questions were properly worded to avoid ambiguity.

### **3.10 Data Processing and Analysis Procedure**

Questionnaires were edited, checked for consistency after which they were coded and entered using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Descriptive analysis involving calculation of percentages, means, and frequencies was done to determine

socio-economic attributes of women street vendors such as age, level of education, marital status and how long they have done street vending business. Qualitative analysis was used to analyse qualitative data through analyzing themes that emerged from qualitative data.

Two hypotheses were tested in this study;

**H<sub>1</sub>**: Benefits accrued from street vendors associations influence membership.

**H<sub>2</sub>**: There is no significant challenge faced in street vendors associations that influences membership.

Chi-square test was utilised to test the hypotheses.

The formula for chi-square test is;

$$x^2 = \frac{\sum(O - E)^2}{E}$$

Where;  $x^2$  is the value of the chi-square

O is the observed frequency

E is the expected frequency

**H<sub>1</sub>** and **H<sub>2</sub>** were tested for significance at a level of 0.05 as explained in section 3.5

### **3.11 Ethical Considerations**

Ethical issues were considered during the study process. The respondents were assured of confidentiality on the information they provided. Participation was voluntary and any member who chose to withdraw was allowed.

Authorization was also sought from NISCOF and a research permit from National Commission for Science and Technology NACOSTI (Appendix F) was obtained. Data sources used in the study were also acknowledged.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the data analysis and findings of the study. The findings on the response rate are first presented followed by the demographic information and finally findings based on the objectives of this study.

#### 4.2 Response Rate

The study targeted 350 respondents to participate in the study. However, 156 respondents were not available and remained unreachable even after requesting for more time to be able participate in the study. The study was conducted right after the COVID lockdown making it difficult to reach all the respondents. Thus, the response rate of the respondents was 55.6% which was adequate for analysis and reporting of results. According to Sekaran (2011), the average minimum threshold response rate is 50%. Therefore, the response rate for this study was considered satisfactory for statistical analysis as it was above 50%. Table 4.1 below shows the response rate of the respondents.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

	Number of informants	Percent
Response	194	55.4
Non- Response	156	44.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work, (2020)

### 4.3 Socio-economic Characteristics of the Respondents

This study investigated the age of the respondents, number of children, marital status of the respondents and the years spent in the street vending business. These factors were noted to have influenced the decision of one taking up street vending and joining a street vendors association.

#### 4.3.1 Age of the Respondents

The respondents were asked to indicate their age bracket. The findings for the age distribution of the respondents were as shown in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Age of the Respondents

<b>Age group</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18-35 years	130	67.3
36-65 years	58	30.3
Over 65 years	6	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field Work, (2020)

Based on the results in table 4.2, the proportional distribution on age line among street vendors was highest between ages 18 to 35 years as illustrated by 67.3%. Of the respondents, age group 36 to 65 years and above 65 years recorded 30.3% and 2.5% respectively.

The findings reveal that the number of youthful street vendors was high compared to the rest of the cohorts. This is explained by the fact that women street vendors migrate to Nairobi city with the hope of securing a job. They join street vending after failing to secure one. The presence of a small number of aging women street vendors implied that

they were more experienced in the trade. The findings of this study validate NCIDP (2018) and Masele (2019) which revealed that street vending activities are dominated by the youth. This was also similar to the findings from Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (2016) which revealed that street vending is one of the largest contributors to employment of women in Kenya. Women street vendors found street vendors associations helpful to them in navigating street trade and improving their livelihoods through the income they earn.

#### 4.3.2 Marital Status

The respondents were asked to indicate their marital status. The findings are illustrated below in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Marital Status

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Single	85	43.8
Married	73	37.6
Divorced/Separated	36	18.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work, 2020

According to the findings, 43.8% of the women street vendors were single, 37.6% were married and 18.6% were divorced/separated. Therefore, it was evident that most of the street vendors had engaged in street vending because it was their main primary occupation and a means to fend for themselves and their families.

43.8% of the respondents were single. This was explained by the fact that respondents had personal and family responsibilities which drove them to engage in street trade. The findings support the study by Daudi and Mugweni (2018) on mothers' street vending on

children’s socio-educational and language development in Rusape which revealed that most street vending mothers are single and are the heads of their households. Of the respondents, 37.6% of female street vendors were married and used vending to supplement the income of their spouses in their respective families. Impliedly, street vending attracts all women irrespective of their marital status. The high membership among single and married women street vendors is further explained by the economic challenges urban women face that drive them into street vending and the need to secure their trade. The findings were also congruent to that of Malachi (2017) on women’s participation in the market, which revealed that single mother street vendors families are low-income families and face a lot of economic hardships. This forced poor urban women into street vending and eventually into joining street vendor associations in order to counter the challenges the challenges they face in the trade.

### 4.3.3 Number of Children

The respondents were asked to indicate the number of their children. The findings are illustrated below in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Number of Children in a household

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
None	39	20.1
1-3 children	118	60.8
More than 4 children	37	19.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work, 2020

The results demonstrate that 20.1% of the respondents had no children, 60.8% had 1-3 children while 19.1% had more than four children. All respondents revealed that they had

other dependents who included their parents, orphans, relatives and friends. This data indicates that street vendors have a high number of dependents relying on them for a livelihood.

These findings are in line with that of Onsumu *et al.*, (2022) on enhancing inclusivity by empowering persons with disabilities which revealed that street vendors with children are prone to increased vulnerability at household level due to poverty and the need to supplement their spouse’s income. As a result, women turned to street vending to help meet the basic needs of their families. During the interviews, it was reported that women street vendors with children were pushed in street vending as a result of their desire to educate their children. The women believed that though education their children will get better opportunities in life and possibly white-collar jobs.

#### **4.3.4 Years in Street Vending**

The respondents were asked to indicate the number of years they had been involved in street vending. The results are presented below in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5: Years in Street Vending

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Less than 5 years	40	20.6
5-10 years	92	47.4
More than 10 years	62	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work, 2020

Based on the findings, 20.6% of respondents reported to have started selling on the street less than 5 years ago, 47.4% had been vending on the streets for a period of 5 to 10 years, while 32% had been selling on the streets for more than 10 years. Cumulatively, 79.4% of

women street vendors had been in street vending for 5 years and above. This trend was attributed to motivating factors such as low costs of starting and running the business, high profitability of street vending and favorable social support. One respondent revealed;

*“I have been in this business for four years. It was easy to establish, has low running costs and is profitable. Sometimes, it collapses but because it requires little capital, I end up borrowing some cash from friends or my street vendors association, inject it into the business and repay back the money after sometime”*

The statement above illustrates that street vending business is an easy to start and run enterprise. This further explains why a majority of the respondent had been in street trade for more than 5 years. However, the respondents also revealed that a proper social support system is necessary for the women street vendors to keep going in the trade.

These findings are congruent with that of Adama (2020) whose study on street vending and the politics of public space reported that the length of time that women street vendors in Abuja engaged in street vending varied from one to over ten years. Those who had been vending for longer periods were found vending as a viable economic activity. This implied that women street vendors in Nairobi acknowledged that they were earning a reasonable amount to sustain their livelihoods and desired to continue trading.

#### 4.3.5 Areas of residence

The study also assessed areas of residence for the street vendors. The results are presented in Table 4.6.

Table 4.6: Residence

<b>Residence</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Slums	149	76.8
Estates	45	23.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work, 2020

From the findings it was revealed that 76.8% lived in the slums. Slums are also known as informal settlements. They are defined by UN-Habitat as deprived and overcrowded areas lacking access to safe water, acceptable sanitation, durable housing and land tenure security (UN-Habitat, 2004). The urban poor lived in slums. These included areas such as Huruma, Mathare, Kibra and Shauri Moyo. Of the respondents, 23.1% lived in estates. An estate is a group of homes and other buildings built together as a single development, most middle-income families resided here. (Sendra & Fitzpatrick, 2020). These were Embakasi, Imara Daima, Roysambu and Kasarani.

These findings are similar to that of Bhatt and Jariwala, (2018) on street vending activities in the South East zone of Surat which revealed that due to the high presence of slum areas in South East Zone, slum dwellers mostly started vending in the CBD as a source of livelihood because it required less skill, low investment and the chance to join peer support networks such as street vendors associations in their working location (Bhatt and Jariwala, 2018). Based on table 4.6 above, it can be deduced that 76.8% of the respondents lived in slums and worked in the CBD as street vendors. The respondents

confessed to walking to the city center in order to set up their trade. This was mainly because their areas of residence were less than 9 km from the city center and the need to channel the transport money towards other responsibilities. The women street vendors also revealed that they had more customers and social networks in the form of street vendors associations in the CBD when compared to their areas of residences.

The study by Bhatt and Jariwala, (2018) on street vending activities in the South East zone of Surat revealed that the urban poor represent an essential element of the urban labor force. The high composition of women street vendors in the CBD from informal settlements was explained by high poverty levels experienced in slums that pushed them into street trade in order to earn a living. This implied that most women street vendors move to the CBD to sell their products to the readily available consumers there and to get social protection as members of street vendors associations and continue with the trade.

#### **4.4 Motives for membership in street vendors association.**

Factors influencing membership such as; process of recruitment, type of street vendors association and duration since joining a street vendors association were analysed. The findings and discussions are as presented below.

##### **4.4.1 Recruitment process of members to street vendors associations**

This study sought to find out the recruitment process of members into street vendors associations. It was determined that women street vendors became members to street vendors associations after meeting the associations membership criteria. The findings are as shown below.

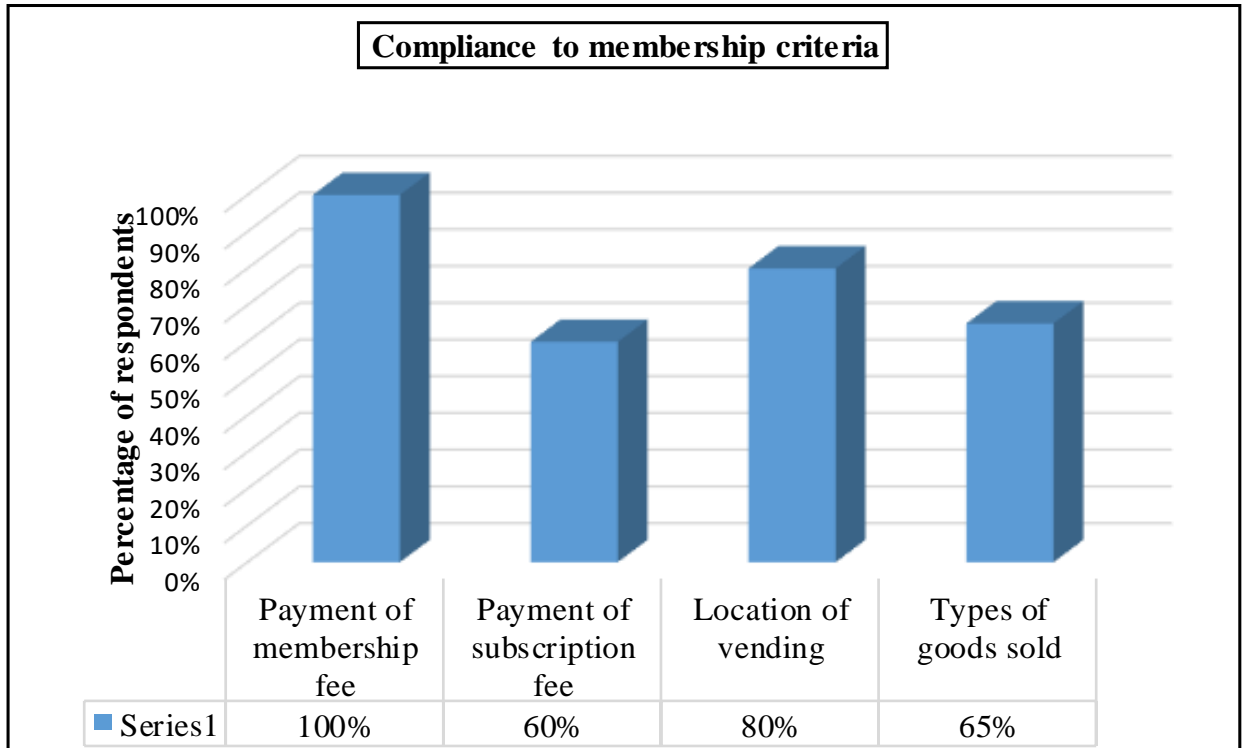


Figure 4.1: Compliance to membership criteria

**Source: Field Work, (2020)**

Based on the findings, 100% of the respondents agreed to paying the membership fee, 60% paid the required monthly subscription fee, 80% were vending from the same location or street while 65% sold similar types of goods in order to join a particular association.

From the findings, it was revealed that payment of the registration fee and monthly subscription fee differed across each street vendors association. In most associations, the respondents reported that the payments for the membership fee was to be paid in full. Respondents also reported that the payment was 500 Kenya Shillings. On the other hand, it was revealed that monthly subscription fee varied between the associations, some paid

Kshs 100 while others paid Kshs 50 on a monthly basis. Upon further investigation on the payment of the monthly fee the key informants revealed that the monthly subscription payment was not promptly paid by all the members in different associations. One key informant revealed the following;

*“Sometimes women street vendors face challenges at home and in their business such that they are not able to raise the required monthly subscription fee, my association C.B.D Vision Street Vendors Association allows them some time to recover and pay later while still maintaining their membership”.*

The difference in the registration fee and monthly fee across the street vendors associations indicate that street vendor association officials acknowledge their members financial strength based on their income. This also explains the low payments made. This was found to be important in encouraging women street vendors to join street vendors associations.

The findings of the study revealed that women street vendors joined an association of their choice based on their preference and ability to meet the membership criteria. The respondents revealed that they came to know about the associations from their peers. The respondents also revealed that membership in street vendors associations varied based on the location or street they sell from or the type of goods sold. Interviews with key informants further revealed that spatial dispersion and constant movement led to lack of coordination between the women street vendors and their associations since a number of the women constantly moved from one street to the next, hence, did not vend from a fixed location. These findings concur with that of Lindell (2018) whose study on street work dynamics and trajectories of collective organizing reveals that spatial dispersion is

challenge in guaranteeing participation of members of street vendors associations. This implied that there was a chance that more women street vendors could engage in collective action if their mobility in search of vending spaces reduced.

Plate 1 and 2 below were taken to show the different types of goods sold by women street vendors at the same location.



Plate 1: Women street vendors selling fruits at a busy bus terminal and intersection

Source: Fieldwork (2022)



Plate 2: Woman street vendor selling clothes and accessories near an intersection

**Source: Fieldwork, (2022)**

Plate 1 and 2 revealed that women street vendors were mostly located in the evening hours at busy intersections near various businesses such as shops and the bus terminus. This was strategic because the high number of customers to the formal businesses and passengers heading home from work after 5pm were also potential clients to the street vendors. Additionally, law enforcement officers typically finish their duties after 5pm which made city's enforcements efforts much less efficient at this time. The frequency of women street vendors in these locations and the type of goods they sold made it convenient for them to join a preferred street vendors association in the area.

#### **4.4.2 Type of street vendors association to whom members belong**

This study sought to find out which street vendor association the members belonged to. There are two types of street vendors associations; mixed-sex street vendors associations and women's only street vendors associations. The findings are tabulated in table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Type of Street Vendors Association

<b>Street Vendors Associations</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
C.B.D Vision Steet Vendors Association	Men and Women	28	14.4
Nairobi Street Vendors Empowerment Association	Men and Women	23	11.9
Muthurwa Friends Forever	Women	37	19.1
Persons With Disability Street Vendors Association	Men and Women	23	11.9
Muthurwa Food Court Vendor Association	Men and Women	31	15.9
Vision Informal Traders Association	Men and Women	26	13.4
Pamoja New Ngara	Women	26	13.4
<b>Total</b>		<b>194</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Field Work, (2020)

Based on the results on table 4.5 above, 19.1% and 13.4% of the respondents were from women's only associations while 14.4%, 11.9%, 11.9%, 15.9% and 13.4% were from mixed-sex associations. These findings reveal that there are more mixed-sex association than there are women's only associations since they have been in existence longer than the women's only associations. This finding is similar to that Mitullah (2004) and Skinner (2009) of which revealed that economic difficulties, suspicion and the partriachal culture in South Africa hindered women from joining or forming street vendors association and participation in leadership at all levels within the association compared to their male counterparts. From the interview schedule, one key informant responded with this statement;

*“There are two main street vendors associations along Temple Road, Muthurwa Food Court Vendors Association and Muthurwa Friends Forever. I joined Muthurwa Friends Forever five years ago with the desire to lead other women street vendors since I felt unheard and could not get the opportunity to lead in another association. This is a women’s only street vendors association. Where members sell different items ranging from clothes, shoes and accessories. Muthurwa Food Court Vendors Association members however sell food stuff along Temple Road, their membership comprises of both men and women street vendors”.*

The statement above implies that women street vendors formed women’s only street vendors associations in order to create leadership opportunities for themselves and to articulate female gender specific challenges facing women street vendors in street trade.

These findings on the collective action of women street vendors in women’s only associations conform to that of Alferts & Moussie (2022) on informal workers and the struggle for a new social contract which revealed that female street vendors felt that their desire to prioritise maternity and childcare was not being listened to or taken seriously by the male members of the mixed street vendors associations.

#### **4.4.3 Duration as a member of a street vendors association**

This study determined how long women street vendors had been members of their associations. The findings are tabulated in table 4.8.

Table 4.8: Duration since joining street vendors association

<b>Duration since joining street vendors association</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
6 months – 1 year	16	8.2%
1 year – 2 years	15	7.7%
2 years – 3 years	22	11.3%
3 years – 4 years	31	15.9%
4 years – 5 years	46	23.7%
Over 5 years	64	32.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Work, (2020)

According to the findings, 8.2% respondents had the shortest duration of membership in their street vendors association of between six months to one year. On the other hand, 23.7% and 32.9% had the longest membership of between 4-5 years and over 5 years respectively. This implied that the respondents maintained their membership in street vendors associations with the additional increase in years in street vending as depicted by majority of the respondents having been members of a street vendors association for over five years at 32.9%. This also meant that a longer duration of membership is maintained by street vendors associations to establish a broad agenda with benefits for the women street vendors. These findings concur with that of Kinyajui (2014) on women and the informal economy in urban Africa which revealed that being part of an association helped shape the opinions of the women and influenced their participation in business. One of the key informants reported,

*“Members of different associations are prioritised by NCC and street vendors associations during the distribution of stalls in markets if they would like to relocate to the established markets. The longest serving members get the first consideration”.*

The statement above reveals that over the years, members enjoy various benefits such as being allocated trading spaces in markets by NCC as a result of the influence of their associations in negotiating with the NCC. These findings are similar to that of ILO (2016) and Doibale *et al.*, (2019) which revealed that street vendors who are members of a street vendor association are typically a little bit older in age and have benefitted from their membership in the associations. These findings reveal that age and the number of years in street vending plays a key role in determining whether a woman street vendor joins a street vendors association.

#### **4.5 Functions of street vendor associations**

The study sought to determine the functions of street vendors associations within the CBD in Nairobi City County. Some of the factors investigated included; aims and goals of street vendors associations, leadership and internal structure of street vendors associations and other activities run by street vendors associations.

##### **4.5.1 Leadership and Internal Structure of street vendors association**

The key respondents were asked to identify the leaders in street vendors associations, the findings are presented in figure 4.2.

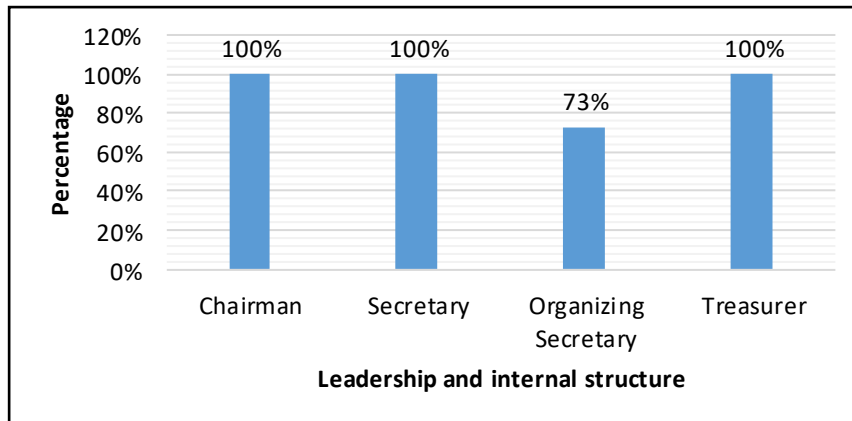


Figure 4.2: Leadership and internal structure

Source: Field Work, (2020)

The key respondents revealed that street vendors associations had a chairperson 100%, secretary 100%, organizing secretary 73% and treasurer 100%. They reported that officials formed an executive committee in charge of the operations of the association. The leaders were elected through voting by the members of the associations. These seeking leadership positions were required to have been members of the association for at least two years and have paid the membership fee and monthly subscription fee in full. In most associations elections were held bi-annually to pick new officials during an Annual General Meeting (AGM) while in others it was done after a five-year term. These findings were similar to a study by Lokeswari *et al.*, (2020) on new media and women empowerment which revealed that leaders in SEWA were elected by the members of the association to form an executive committee which was in charge of all the operations of the association.

However, an interview with one key informant revealed that the street vendors associations were associational members to NISCOF and therefore they mostly carried out their activities from NISCOF offices, the chairperson’s or the secretary’s house. It

was also revealed that in cases when meetings required a large attendance, the officials rented a space. Upon further investigation, the key informants revealed that the secretary and chairperson of the associations were involved in negotiating with the city officials on behalf of the vendors and forwarding their grievances of the vendors with the aim of improving the vendors working conditions.

*“We represent our members and dialogue with city officials on their behalf especially when they face challenges in their work environment. We also vend on the streets alongside our members and are therefore constantly recruiting more women to join the association”.*

The sentiments above implied that communication between members of the street vendors association and their leaders was therefore an important factor in building the confidence and trust of the members. From the interview, the key informants revealed that communication within the association was done by the secretary via text messages, phone calls or occasionally hand delivered letters. Emails, websites and WhatsApp groups were not used as a mode of communication since most women street vendors were illiterate and lacked smart phones.

The key informants revealed that the leaders of the associations believed in democracy and took pride in the democratic elections used to choose the leadership of the associations. This was in contrast to the past where many street vendors associations did not use elections to choose their leaders (Kamunyori, 2007). Plate 3 was taken to show members of Vision Informal Traders Association at a past AGM. During this meeting

they elected their association officials. One of the key informants from NISCOF revealed that he was the chairperson of Vision Informal Traders Association.



Plate 3: Members of Vision Informal Traders Association at a past AGM

Source: Fieldwork (2022)

#### 4.5.2. Aims and Goals of Street Vendors Associations

This study sought to find out the aims and goals of women street vendor associations as one of the functions of street vendor associations. The findings are as tabulated in table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Aims and Goals of Street Vendors Association.

<b>Aims and Goals</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Defend the rights of street vendors	103	53%
Provide access to soft credit	45	23.2%
Improve street vendors working conditions	46	23.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: Field Work, (2020)

Based on the findings, 53% of the respondents revealed that street vendors associations defended their right to trade on the streets with the authorities while 23.2% agreed that street vendors associations provided access to soft credit. Of the respondents, 23.8% mentioned that street vendors associations improved their working conditions.

Of the respondents, 53% reported that their right to trade was defended by street vendors associations. One of the key informants revealed that they stepped in when street vendors face harassment and eviction by city officials or members of the public. The findings are similar to those of Rodrigues and Bialobroska, (2017) and Hummel, (2017) which revealed that street vendors associations give main priority to the recognition and protection of street vendors while trading in public spaces. However, the findings also contradict that of Mitullah (2003) on urban slum reports which revealed that most street vendors associations have no bargaining power and cannot advocate for their right to trade on the streets.

Further interviews with respondents revealed that street vendors associations in the CBD through collective bargaining have helped improve the perception of street vendors to the city officials and city dwellers through placemaking. This was supported by the following statement by one of the key informants:

*“Street vendors now have weekend markets at the law courts and evening vending at various parking lots in the CBD. Were it not for our advocacy, this would not have happened”.*

This implies that street vendors associations had lobbied for more opportunities for street vendors to trade in the CBD.

The study further depicted that 23.2% of the respondents agreed to receiving soft credit from their associations. This finding was similar to studies done by Otieno (2018) and Racaud (2018) which reported that street vendors associations ensured access to loans and soft credit to their members after negotiating with various formal banking institutions. The women street vendors used this money to purchase a larger stock of goods and so as to get bigger profits. The findings however, contradicted that of Kaur (2020) which revealed that women street vendors lacked access to loans and credit.

In addition, 23.8% of the respondents reported that street vendors associations helped improve their working conditions. The respondents reported that harassment in the form of crackdowns by city officials were not as violent as they were in the past. One of the key informants reported that creation of Ngara and Muthurwa markets and relocation of street vendors to the markets with the help of street vendors associations was a positive move to decongest vendors from the CBD. These findings were similar to that of Weng and Kim (2016) on the critical role of street vendors organisations in relocating street vendors into public markets which reported that HSVU was successful in negotiating with the municipal government of Taiwan and aiding the relocation process of street vendors to the public market when the previous attempts without the associations had failed.

#### **4.5.3. Other Activities of Street Vendors Associations**

The respondents were asked to indicate any other activities of street vendors associations. Their findings are tabulated below.

Table 4.10: Activities of street vendors associations.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Provide social insurance to members	64	32.9%
Impel women street vendors with disability to continue with street trade	42	21.6%
Formation of ROSCA's	88	45.4%
<b>Total</b>	194	100%

Source: Field Work, (2020)

Based on the findings, 32.9% respondents got social insurance from their street vendors associations while 21.6% reported that street vendors associations encouraged women street vendors with disability to continue with the trade. 45.4% however, indicated that street vendors associations had formed ROSCA's among the members to enable them save some money.

Social insurance refers to various types of compensation systems related to work disability due to disease, illness or injury (Christian, Elin, Jan, Gunnel, Sandra, Emilie & Ellen, 2021). Just like other informal sector workers, street vendors are not covered by the government's social protection act. However, street vendors associations have formed contributory schemes where members make regular payments of between Kshs. 300-500 which help them to cover life course events such as sickness, injury, death or maternity benefit. These payments are made to the associations treasurer to cover such events when they occur among the members. One of the key respondents revealed that single mothers face major setbacks in their business or the lives of their children when they experience tragedy. This social insurance cushions them and allows them a chance to bounce back and continue with their street trade. The findings are similar to that of Alfery & Moussie (2022) and WIEGO/ILO (2020) which acknowledge that access to social insurance can

reduce the time spent away from work due to ill health and childcare services, this allows more time to women street vendors to focus on their paid work.

The respondents also reported to be part of ROSCA's formed in their associations. ROSCA's are a membership-based financial initiative that comprise of members of a group who regularly meet and contribute an equal amount of savings towards a common fund, with one member rotationally taking the whole sum (Kabuya, 2015). The key informants revealed that these women agreed upon a certain amount of money, ranging mostly between Kshs. 500-1000 which was saved either daily or monthly and later given to one person on rotational basis to invest in the business or buy durable goods. This finding supports the studies done by Kinyanjui (2014) and Mitullah (2003) which reveals that most women street vendors were part of ROSCA's for opportunities to save and access credit.

From the interviews, one key informant reported that they are impelled to secure vending spots for persons living with disability especially women and encourage them to continue with the trade. According to KNBS (2019), 19.8% of women with disabilities are employed in the informal sector in Kenya. Their disabilities range from hearing impairment, physical disability or speech and language impairment. In support, one interviewee said,

*“Women with disabilities also have the burden of providing for their families and need to gain economic independence. We want to make vending easier for them by possibly getting suitable designated locations for them”.*

These findings are similar to that of Onsomu *et al.*, (2022) on enhancing inclusivity by empowering persons with disabilities which revealed that women with disability are at a

greater risk of poverty. These women are empowered through business and entrepreneurship. They also need help in coping with the problems they face while vending on the streets. Plate 4 below reveals a woman street vendor with a physical disability vending near a bus terminus.



Plates 4: Woman street vendor on a wheel chair selling her wares.  
Source: Field Work (2022)

Plate 4 revealed that Persons with Disability Street Vendors Association had lobbied for a specific street along Moi Avenue, City Hall Way, to be designated for persons with disability. This made it easier for the women with disability to trade in the CBD.

#### **4.6 Benefits of Street Vendors Associations.**

The third objective sought to evaluate the benefits of street vendors associations among women street vendors in Nairobi City County, the analysis is presented below.

The women street vendors were asked to identify the benefits that they gain as members of street vendors associations. The study presumed that training in business, networking and credit access and leadership opportunities were direct benefits of street vendors

associations. In order to obtain adequate information about the benefits, respondents reacted to a set of statements designed to identify their views measured on a scale of 1-7, whereby 1 was most positive impact while 7 was least positive impact. The computation averages and standard deviations based on their rankings are presented in the Table 4.9 to show the general trend in ranking by the respondents. A small mean implied that the benefit on average is most significant. A larger mean i.e. close to 2 on the other hand implied that the benefit is least significant. The results showed that respondents benefited much in terms of leadership opportunities (Mean=0.913, n=194, S=0.676). This was followed by access to credit, training in business and networking which recorded (Mean=1.173, n=194, S=0.651), (Mean=1.354, n=194, S=0.491) and (Mean=1.617, n=194, S=0.668) respectively.

Table 4.11: Benefits of Street Vendors Associations

<b>Benefits</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Leadership opportunities	194	0.913	0.676
Access to credit	194	1.173	0.651
Training in business	194	1.354	0.491
Networking	194	1.617	0.668

Source: Field Work, (2020)

Based on the findings presented on table 4.11, leadership opportunities (Mean=0.913, n=194, S=0.676) was the greatest benefit of street vendors associations to its members. Most of the respondents revealed that more women street vendors got the chance to lead in same sex-associations when compared to mixed sex-associations whose leadership was male dominated. This finding was similar to the study by Roever and Linares (2010) on

street vendors organizing which reported that the rise of Women's Network of Street Vendors (Red de Mujeres) an association of women street vendors in Lima, Peru, armed women street vendors with leadership skills; a position which has helped improve the perception of women within the sector. This therefore implied that women leaders were able to empathise with the challenges faced by their colleagues and therefore took the initiative to address the same accordingly. Their leadership leaning towards the needs of women street vendors enabled them to defend their rights accordingly and eventually improve their working conditions.

The second benefit was access to credit (Mean=1.173, n=194, S=0.651). One of the key informants revealed that when women street vendors have credit, they can obtain a large stock of merchandise which in turn helps them achieve bigger profits. Individually, women street vendors find it hard to access credit since they are not recognized by formal financial institutions. However, through the help of their associations this is made possible by giving the women access to soft loans. These findings were similar to that of NCIDP (2018) and Otieno (2018) which revealed that most street vendors associations in Nairobi have linked their members to CIC insurance and other government devolved funds such as women enterprise fund in order to get access to credit. This implied that for one to gain access to a micro loan, it was necessary for her to be a member street vendor association.

In addition, most of the respondents appreciated various training activities carried out in their respective associations (Mean=1.354, n=194, S=0.491). The training activities included training of the members on business operations, negotiation skills and savings. One key informant revealed;

*“I joined Muthurwa Friends Forever a women’s only street vendors association and I have greatly benefitted from the business training I received on customer relations and savings.”*

The findings were supported by the study done by Doibale *et al.*, (2019) on the socio-demographic profile and causes of street vending in urban areas which revealed that exposure to training street vendors enhanced the workers’ network as well as awareness in business management. This gave positive impetus to collective action. Similarly, studies done by Kirumirah, (2018) and Munishi and Casmir, (2019) revealed that skills such as business management, communication and marketing skills makes it easier for vendors to excel. This implied that training in business skills helped members to run their enterprises better. However, the findings contradict with studies done by Ntuli (2020) and Omwenga *et al.*, (2013) which revealed that many women lack the requisite level of education and training in business, technical skills and entrepreneurship.

Finally, the respondents reported that collective action creates a bond between members while sharing their triumphs and challenges with one another (Mean=1.617, n=194, S=0.668). Some respondents further revealed that members got briefs on important issues such as new legislative rulings through the associations. One of the key informants reported;

*“Associations also allow street vendors to have a sense of trust, belonging and security by giving us an opportunity to connect with our peers and share business ideas on how to improve our sales”.*

This finding are similar to that of Kinyanjui (2014) on women and the informal economy in urban Africa which reported that the women empower each other in street vendors associations. They are able to bring in new ideas that assist them in their trade and lift each other through life's difficult moments.

#### **4.6.1 The relationship between membership and benefits accrued from street vendor associations.**

In order to establish the relationship between membership and the benefits accrued from street vendors association, a Chi-Square test was performed on (leadership opportunities, access to credit, training in business and networking) and membership in street vendor associations. The findings are summarized in Table 4.10.

Table 4.12: The relationship between membership and benefits accrued from street vendor association.

<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>Asymp. Sig.(2sided)</b>
Leadership opportunities	321.234 <sup>a</sup>	118	0.000
Access to credit	281.268 <sup>a</sup>	118	0.002
Training in business	187.119 <sup>a</sup>	107	0.001
Networking	101.3476 <sup>a</sup>	98	0.003
No. of valid cases	441		

Source: Field data, (2021)

The study found that all the benefits of street vendor associations investigated had significantly influenced membership. Specifically, leadership opportunities  $\chi^2 = 321.234^a$  ( $p < 0.000$ ), access to credit  $\chi^2 = 281.268^a$  ( $p < 0.002$ ), training in business  $\chi^2 = 187.119^a$  ( $p < .001$ ) and networking  $\chi^2 = 101.3476^a$  ( $p < .001$ ) had statistically significant influence

on members. This therefore shows that benefits accrued from street vendor associations greatly influence their members.

#### **4.7 Challenges facing Street Vendors Associations.**

The fourth objective sought to evaluate the challenges facing street vendors associations in Nairobi City County, the analysis was presented below.

##### **4.7.1 Challenges facing street vendors associations**

The women street vendors were asked to rank different challenges that were facing street vendors associations on a scale of 1-7, whereby 1 was most negative effect and 7 was least negative effect. From the findings the respondents, Poor leadership was ranked as the biggest challenge (Mean= 1.651, n=194, d=0.801), it was followed by wrangles within street vendors associations (Mean=1.915, n=194, d=0.902), lack of childcare services for members (Mean=3.137, n=194, d=0.976) and unfavorable working conditions for members (Mean=4.567, n=194, d=1.004). The computations averages and standard deviations based on their rankings are presented in the Table 4.13.

Table 4.13: Rating Challenges facing Street Vendors Associations

<b>Challenge</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Poor leadership	194	1.651	0.801
Wrangles within street vendors association	194	1.915	0.902
Lack of childcare services	194	3.137	0.976
Unfavorable working conditions	194	4.567	1.004

Source: Field Work, 2020

Based on the findings on table 4.13 above, poor leadership was the most highly ranked challenge faced by members of street vendors associations (Mean= 1.651, n=194, d=0.801). Most of the respondents attributed this to lack of transparency over financial matters and male patriarchy in the leadership of the associations. These factors led to reduced cooperation among the members, dissolution of some associations, the adoption of a democratic style of leadership or the setting up of women's only associations.

Some women street vendors opted to join women's only street vendors associations when they felt that their issues were better heard and handled by the leaders in women's only associations. The findings were similar to studies done by Lindell (2008) and NASVI (2014) which revealed that in most associations there is centralized authority despite holding elections and little transparency over financial matters. This led to discontentment, conflicts or eventually the dissolution of the association. This implied that failed leadership within the association had the ability to push women street vendors away from collective action thereby leading to lack of membership of women street vendors within the associations.

The second challenge was wrangles within street vendors associations (Mean=1.915, n=194, d=902). One of the key informants revealed,

*“Wrangles increased when the leaders were used by politicians during campaigns in order to bring in the numbers of the street vendors to a particular political side.”*

He further explained that through their leaders, politicians also made empty promises on giving them access to credit, business permits, licenses, funding to run their activities or

even appropriate tax reliefs. These findings are supported by studies done by Rodrigues & Bialoborska (2017) and Jonhgh (2020) which revealed that political connections generated some short-term gains and protection to street vendors but it however also required compromises which weakened the association's legitimacy in the eyes of its members. This resulted in the demobilization of the members and inhibition of collective action. This implied that politicians indirectly influenced the associational life of street vendors especially when the promises that they make to members during campaigns do not come to fruition.

The third ranked challenge was lack of childcare services to members (Mean=3.137, n=194, d=0.976). In Nairobi's CBD vendors displayed their wares on gunny bags so that a potential customer can show interest and easily pick the desired item on sale. Some vendors sat on gunny bags or on a stool next to their goods while women who were vending with their children would have the kids sit or sleep right next to them on the gunny bags.

One key informant reported,

*“Women street vendors would like to have someone watch their children while they work instead of exposing the children to the dangers on the streets, we are looking into the possibility of giving them such assistance”.*

The statement above was supported by plate 5 which shows a woman street vendor selling at a bus terminal while holding her baby. The respondents also revealed that it was an uphill task to trade with their children on the streets due to the challenges they face

such as crackdowns, sun burns, and disappearance of children or children being hit by moving cars.



Plate 5: Woman street vendor with her child at a bus terminal.

Source: Fieldwork, (2022)

The findings of this study also revealed that street vendors associations in the CBD do not provide childcare services. This finding contradicts that of WIEGO/ILO (2020) on the provision of childcare services by SEWA in India, which revealed that women street vendors who joined street vendors associations got childcare services. These women were then able to work under less stressful conditions without their young ones and their income was impacted positively.

Finally, the respondents reported that an unfavorable working condition of members (Mean=4.567, n=194, d=1.004) was a challenge. The respondents revealed that this was in the form of crackdowns which led to loss and damage of goods, congestion, insecurity, lack of licenses and strict urban policies towards street vending activities. Conflicts with

formal traders were also reported to be common. The findings of this study conform to studies done by Mitullah (2003); Kirumirah and Munishi (2021) which revealed that the common challenges facing vendors include lack of legal status and right to vend, lack of space or poor location, restriction on licensing, cost of regulation, harassment, bribes, confiscation and evictions, lack of services and infrastructure. This implied that women street vendors looked up to their street vendors associations to find ways to make their working conditions more bearable.

#### **4.7.2 Relationship between challenges facing street vendor associations and membership.**

In order to establish the relationship between challenges facing street vendor associations and membership, a Chi-Square test was run between each of the indicator of the challenges (Poor leadership, wrangles within street vendor associations, lack of childcare services and unfavorable working conditions) and membership. The findings are summarized in Table 4.14.

Table 4.14: Chi-square output for challenges facing street vendor associations and membership.

<b>Challenge</b>	<b>Chi-square</b>	<b>Df</b>	<b>Asymp. Sig.(2sided)</b>
Poor leadership	69.327 <sup>a</sup>	118	0.001
Lack of childcare services	46.391 <sup>a</sup>	98	0.061
Wrangles within the association	59.017 <sup>a</sup>	103	0.001
Unfavorable working conditions	51.217 <sup>a</sup>	107	0.003
No. of valid cases	426		

Source: Field Data, (2021)

The study found that Poor leadership  $\chi^2 = 69.327^a$  ( $p < 0.001$ ), wrangles within the association  $\chi^2 = 59.017^a$  ( $p < 0.001$ ) and unfavorable working environment  $\chi^2 = 51.217^a$  ( $p < 0.003$ ) had statistically significant difference with street vendor associations in Nairobi CBD as  $p < 0.05$ . However, lack of childcare services  $\chi^2 = 46.391^a$  ( $p = 0.061$ ) was statistically insignificant on street vendor associations. This shows that of the four challenges investigated, only lack of childcare services insignificantly influenced membership. This could be because lack of childcare services is challenge that cannot be controlled.

#### 4.8 Future of Street Vending and Street Vending Associations

The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with various statements regarding the future of street vending on a 1 to 5 Likert scale where 1 is strongly disagree (SD), 2 is disagree (D), 3 is neutral (N), 4 is agree (A) and 5 is strongly agree (SA). The findings are shown in Table 4.15.

Table 4.15: Future of Street Vending and Street Vending Associations

Variables	SD	D	N	A	SA	Total (%)
Increase in women street vendors	2%	2.3%	4.6%	63%	28.1%	100
Increase in street vendor associations	2.6%	5%	4%	55.8%	32.7%	100
Legalization of street vending	0.7%	3%	3.3%	65.3%	27.7%	100
Completion of projects	1.7%	4%	64.5%	28.1%	1.7%	100
Introduction of childcare services	2.3%	5%	58.7%	22%	12%	100

Source: Field Work, (2020)

Based on the findings from table 4.15 above, majority of the respondents agreed that the future of street vendors and street vending is characterized by increase in women street vendors (63%), increase in street vendor associations (55.8%) and legalization of street vending (65.3%). However, majority of the respondents were neutral that the future of street vendors and street vending is characterized by completion of projects (64.5%) and introduction of childcare services 58.7%.

Majority of the respondents (63%) agreed that the number of street vendors is likely to continue to increase in future due to limited job opportunities in the formal sector, natural population increase in the city and increased rural to urban migration. The numbers of street vendors especially women street vendors are projected to rise in Nairobi City County. The findings are similar to that of NCIDP (2018) that the female unemployment rate in Nairobi is 18.99% while that of males stands at 11.55%. This reveals that more women than men are unemployed in Nairobi and are likely to resort to street vending for employment.

Based on the findings, (55.8%) agreed that street vendors will need to engage in collective action in street vendors associations in order to tackle the challenges they may face in the trade. This may lead to an increase in the number of street vendors associations that will provide representation of the street vendors to the authorities. The findings conform to that of Sankrit (2015) on SEWA and street vendors in Delhi, which revealed that there are more women street vendors in cities in India than there are associations to serve them, thus the need for more of such support networks to assist the street vendors.

Moreover, 65.3% of the respondents revealed that some street vendors associations were cited to be advocating for legalization of street trade through negotiating with the state at several levels. This statement was supported by one of the key informants who reported;

*“Members of Parliament as legislators should table bills in parliament that are favorable to the informal sector more particularly the street vendors who are the majority. The legislators should also provide to the vendors more access to funding such as the Women Enterprise Fund and Youth Fund to enable them run their businesses.” (Interviewed on 21/6/2022)*

In addition, 64.5% of the respondents were neutral on the completion of proposed projects as priority issues in the CBD. According to NCIDP (2018) the projects include; purchase of garbage collection vehicles in order to ensure proper waste management, construction of public toilets, repairing, construction and extension of Wakulima market to make room for more traders and finally putting up of more floodlights within the CBD. These projects will go a long way in enhancing security and provide a suitable working environment for street vendors. This implies that street vendors desire a suitable working environment in which they can operate from.

Finally, 58.7% were neutral on the introduction of childcare services by street vendors associations in the future. One of the respondents revealed;

*“When my children come with me to vend on the streets, I encourage them to beg for money from passersby or for them to assist me in selling the goods to the customers, I will be at peace if they were safer elsewhere other than on the streets”.*

Female street vendors often have the sole responsibility of looking after children. The statement above reveals that vending with children deprived the young ones of their childhood by denying them a chance to play or even go to school like their peers while exposing them to the dangers of street life. It also negatively impacted the work of their mothers who had to juggle between trading on the streets and watching their kids. These findings conform to that of WIEGO/ILO (2020) which revealed that women's care responsibilities were intensified when they have young children. The provision of childcare services by SEWA revealed that women street vendors joined these associations to get childcare services. These women worked under less stressful conditions without their young ones and their income was impacted positively. Childcare services are therefore necessary.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The study was carried out in NCC to assess the effectiveness of street vendors associations among women street vendors based of the following objectives; to examine factors influencing membership in street vendors associations, to assess the functions of street vendors associations, to evaluate the benefits of street vendors associations and to examine the challenges facing street vendors associations. The data was collected using questionnaires and interviews. Questionnaires were administered to 204 women street who were members of different street vendors associations in the CBD.

This chapter presents summary of the data findings, conclusion drawn from the findings highlighted and recommendations made. The conclusions and recommendations drawn are focused on addressing the objectives of the study.

#### **5.2 Summary of the Findings**

This study sought to examine the effectiveness of street vendors associations among women street vendors. The socio-economic factors investigated were; age, marital status, number of children, years in street vending and areas of residence. Based on age, it was found that 67.3% and 30.3% of women street vendors age 18-35 and 36-65 were members of street vendors associations. 43.8% and 37.6% represented single and married women respectively. On the other hand, 60.8% had between 1-3 children, while 47.4% had between 5-10 years in street vending. Finally, 76.8% of the women street vendors lived in slums as their areas of residence.

Factors influencing membership in street vendors associations were also examined. The study identified various street vendor associations in the CBD. There were 5 mixed-sex associations and 2 women's only associations. The women street vendors came to be aware of them through their colleagues. 32.9% had been members in their association for over 5 years. They attributed the benefits of accessing credit, business skills and trading spots in markets as motives for joining street vendors associations. 60% reported that the biggest constraint they faced in membership was lack of money to pay the required subscription fees.

The study also sought to examine the benefits of street vendors associations to women street vendors. The most significant benefit was the women getting leadership opportunities (Mean=0.913, n=194, S=0.676). Street vendors associations also helped to improve their members access to soft credit for their businesses and acquire training in business management (Mean=1.173, n=194, S=0.651) and (Mean=1.354, n=194, S=0.491) respectively. Women street vendors benefited through networking with their peers while sharing their triumphs and challenges with one another (Mean=1.617, n=194, S=0.668); Pamoja New Ngara association prided itself in negotiating for the creation of Ngara market thereby reducing the constant push and harassment from the NCC officers with the street vendors. These associations therefore acted as a platform where members can share business ideas on how to improve their business sales and customer relationships. The avenues used by street vendors associations to engage with the government and address challenges associated with their trade was in the form of negotiation for vendors to use public space.

The study sought to examine the challenges facing street vendors associations. In the study 43.8% of the respondents were single, 37.6% were married and 60.8% had between 1-3 children. This revealed that women street vendors had the burden of providing for their families and were unable to fully engage themselves in the activities of their associations. Other challenges included; poor leadership within the association, lack of coordination between the members and their leaders, lack of child-care services and unfavorable working conditions which included insecurity and lack of licenses due to the lack of recognition of street vending activities by the government. The respondents also indicated that spatial dispersion and constant movement is a major challenge in maintaining their devotion to their street vendor associations and guaranteeing their participation as members.

The collective action of women street vendors in street vendors associations aims to; advocate for legalization of street trade, increasing access to public space to women street vendors, coming up with new possibilities of negotiating with the state at several levels and finally increasing their access to credit and training in business skills.

Chi-square test was used to measure the relationship between the benefits and challenges in street vendors association and membership. It established that there is a significant relationship between benefits accrued from street vendors associations and membership ( $p=0.000<0.05$ ). Being part of an association provided avenues for the women street vendors to learn business skills such as the importance of saving and reinvesting, form a community to navigate life with, provide a channel to address their grievances and more importantly to fight for their right to trade in public spaces which is difficult to fight for individually. From the findings, 23.7% and 32.9% had been members between the

duration of 4-5 years and over 5 years respectively. This means that the women who have actively been involved in these groups have reaped the benefits from these associations both in their personal lives at home and in their businesses thereby enabling them to keep their associational lives active.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

In conclusion, the findings of this study revealed that street vending among women and the existence of street vendors associations has emerged and grown out of necessity. There is need among women street vendors to be part of social support systems in the form of street vendors associations to help them navigate street trade. The study indicates that street vendors associations enable women street vendors to articulate the challenges they face and benefit from collective efforts through the street vendors association to secure their right to trade in comparison to their individual efforts. The Chi-square test revealed that there is a significant relationship between benefits accrued from street vendors associations and membership ( $p=0.000<0.05$ ). It can therefore be concluded that street vendors associations should not be underestimated as they contribute to the well-being of the women street vendors socially and economically in NCC.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

The study makes the following recommendations:

1. The city of Nairobi and the department of Urban Development and Housing should work with street vendor association to assess street vendor policies and regulations such as issuing of business permits and licenses with a view of

creating a favorable environment for street vendors. This will greatly help improve the performance of these businesses.

2. The study recommends that street vendor associations should coordinate with formal financial institutions to create frameworks in which female street vendors can gain credibility this will curb their exploitation by shylocks. Street vendors association in collaboration with financial institutions should provide training to women street vendors, with the aim of equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to run their businesses.
3. The study also recommends that street vendor associations strive to develop leadership and management skills among the leaders within the association. This can be done by organising training and mentorship programs. It is highly likely that when there is proper leadership, the associations will be more effective in carrying out their mandate.

### **5.5 Areas for Further Study**

The following suggestion for further research was made:

1. This study suggests that a study should be conducted on the experiences of street vendors with special needs in Nairobi.
2. This study suggests that a study on non-members of street vendors associations should be conducted.

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## **APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX A: INTRODUCTION LETTER**

Dear Respondent

My name is Mercy Dudi, a student at Kenyatta University taking Master of Arts in urban planning and regional development is carrying out research on street vendors associations in Nairobi City County.

I will appreciate if you spared some of your time to provide information relating to the questions provided below. The information you give will be used for the purpose of this research only and treated with confidentiality

Kindly please respond to all questions, tick [] in the brackets where applicable.

Thanks in advance.

Yours Faithfully,

Mercy Dudi.

**APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN STREET VENDORS**

**INTRODUCTION**

Kindly participate in this research by filling in this questionnaire. Be assured that the information given is only for research purposes on the assessment of the effectiveness of street vendors associations among its members in street trade in Nairobi City County.

Please do not write your name. Fill in the spaces or indicate the appropriate option by a tick (√)

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

1. a) Please tick your age?

[A] 18-35 Years      [B]36-65 Years      [C] Over 65

b) Why did you resort to vending on the streets?.....

2. a) Number of children?

[A] None      [B] 1-3      [C]More than 4

b) List any other dependents you may have

.....

3. Marital status?

Marital status	Tick Appropriately
Married	
Single	
Divorced/Widowed	

4.a) How many years have you been the street vending business

Years in street vending      Tick appropriately

Less than 5 years

5-10 years

More than 10 years

b) Why have you been vending for that given period?.....

5.a) Which is your area of residence in Nairobi

Tick appropriately and name it

- Slum            [ ]            .....
- Estate         [ ]            .....
- Others         [ ]            .....

b)How far is your area of residence from the CBD?.....

c)How do you get to the CBD?.....

d)Why do you prefer to trade in the cbd instead of your home residence?.....

**a)Membership and Non-Membership In Street Vendors Associations**

1.Which is your physical vending location or street?.....

2. a.What is the procedure of becoming a member of this street vendors association

[A] Requested to join            [B] Meet the membership criteria

[C] Other ways, specify below

.....

b. List the required membership criteria in your street vendors association

.....

c. What amount is the registration fee and subscription fee? .....

d. Are you able to pay the required membership and subscription fee? .....

e. Indicate the number of years you have been part of the street vendors association

Duration when vendor joined street vendors association	Tick appropriately
6 months to 1 year	
1 year to 2 years	
2 years to 3 years	
3 years to 4 years	
4 years to 5 years	
Over 5 years	

3.a. What is the name of your street vendors association?.....

b. Please indicate which type it is

[A] Mixed sex association

[B] Women’s only association

c. How did you know about the street vendors association?.....

**B) Functions of Street Vendors Associations**

5. What are the main aims/ goals of a street vendors association?

AIMS/GOALS	TICK APPROPRIATELY
Defend the right of street vendors	
Provide members with access to soft credit	
Train members with business skills	
Not aware	

6.a. Who are the main types of officials in street vendors association?  
.....

b. Are they elected by members?

[A] Yes

[B] No

c. If Yes, when are the elections carried out?.....

d. If No, how do you pick the leaders?.....

e. When and where do you interact with your leaders?.....

f. What is the channel of communication within the association?.....

7. List any other activities carried out by street vendors associations  
.....

**C)Benefits of Street Vendors Associations**

8.a.What are the benefits of the street vendors association to women street vendors associations?.....  
.....  
.....

b. As a member of a street vendor organization, rank the benefits below on a scale of 1-7 in order of the impact. 1- most positive impact, 7-least positive impact

Networking [ ]

Access to credit [ ]

Leadership opportunities [ ]

Training in business [ ]

c.Explain any of the benefits listed above that you have experienced

.....

#### **D) Challenges Faced in Street Vendors Associations**

9. Mention any challenges you have faced as a member of a street vendors association

.....

10. a. As a member of a street vendors association, rank the challenges below on a scale of 1-7 whereby 1-most negative impact and 7-least negative impact

Competition among street vendors associations [ ]

Poor leadership [ ]

Unfavorable working conditions [ ]

Lack of childcare services [ ]

b. Briefly explain any of the challenges above that you have experienced

.....

11.a. Using the Likert scale 1-5, rate the statements below regarding the future of street vending whereby 1 is Strongly Disagree, 2 is Disagree, 3 is Neutral, 4 is Agree and 5 is Strongly Agree.

Increase in women street vendors [ ]

Increase in women street vendors association [ ]

Completion of projects by the government within the CBD [ ]

Legalisation of street vending. [ ]

Introduction of childcare services [ ]

b. Briefly explain any of the statements above that you would like to see realized in the future.....

.....

## **APPENDIX C: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

Briefly describe your association under the following sub-headings

### **A) Membership of Women Street Vendors in Street Vendors Associations.**

- 1.a. Which type of street vendors association do women street vendors join and why?
- b. Process of recruiting members into street vendors association

### **B) Functions of Street Vendors Associations**

- 2.a. Aims and goals of the street vendors association
- b. Leadership and internal structure of the street vendors association
- c. Other activities run by street vendors associations

### **C) Benefits of Street Vendors Associations to Women Street Vendors**

3. What are the benefits of street vendors associations members.

### **D) Challenges Faced in Street Vendors Associations**

4. What are the challenges faced by members of street vendors associations?
5. In your opinion, are the street vendors associations competitive amongst themselves or do they speak in one voice?
6. What is the future of street vending and street vending associations?

## APPENDIX D: RESEARCH APPROVAL



### KENYATTA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

E-mail: [dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke](mailto:dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke)

P.O. Box 43844, 00100

Website: [www.ku.ac.ke](http://www.ku.ac.ke)

NAIROBI, KENYA  
Tel. 020-8704150

#### Internal Memo

**FROM:** Dean, Graduate School

**DATE:** 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

**TO:** Ms. Mercy Dudi  
C/o Department of Geography

**REF:** C50/CE/28136/2015

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

=====

We acknowledge receipt of your Research Proposal after fulfilling recommendations raised by the Graduate School Board of 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

You may now proceed with your Data collection, subject to clearance with the Director General, National Commission for Science, Technology & Innovation.

As you embark on your data collection, please note that you will be required to submit to Graduate School completed Supervision Tracking and Progress Report Forms per semester. The Forms are available at the University's Website under Graduate School webpage downloads.

Thank you.

**JULIA GITU**  
**FOR: DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL**

CC. Chairman, Department of Geography

**Supervisors:**

1. Dr. Philomena Muiruri  
C/o Department of Geography  
Kenyatta University
2. Dr. Thomas N. Kibutu  
C/o Department of Geography  
Kenyatta University

JG/eww

## APPENDIX E: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION



**KENYATTA UNIVERSITY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL**

E-mail: [dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke](mailto:dean-graduate@ku.ac.ke)

Website: [www.ku.ac.ke](http://www.ku.ac.ke)

P.O. Box 43844, 00100  
NAIROBI, KENYA  
Tel. 020-8704150

Our Ref: C50/CE/28136/2015

DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

Director General,  
National Commission for Science, Technology  
and Innovation  
P.O. Box 30623-00100  
**NAIROBI**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION FOR MS. MERCY DUDI – REG. NO. C50/CE/28136/15**

I write to introduce Ms. Mercy Dudi who is a Postgraduate Student of this University. She is registered for M.A. degree programme in the **Department of Geography**.

Ms. Dudi intends to conduct research for a M.A. thesis Proposal entitled, **“An Assessment of the Effectiveness of Street Vendors’ Organisations among Women Street Vendors in Nairobi City County, Kenya.”**

Any assistance given will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

  
**PROF. ELISHIBA KIMANI**  
**DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL**

