

## A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City



Stacey Ann M. Carel<sup>1</sup>, Francine Kaye B. Maraya<sup>2</sup>, Michelle Torreros<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Undergraduate Program, Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City, 6500, Philippines

<sup>3</sup>Faculty, Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City, 6500, Philippines

**ABSTRACT:** This study investigates street vendors' lived experiences in downtown Tacloban City, Philippines, focusing on their economic contributions, challenges, and coping mechanisms in the informal sector. Street vendors play an important role in urban economies by making goods and services more accessible and affordable, as well as providing livelihood opportunities for people with few job options. Despite their economic importance, street vendors frequently face legal and social challenges, such as harassment and a lack of recognition from the government.

Using a phenomenological approach, the study seeks to fill a gap in the literature on the financial practices and capital management techniques of street vendors in Tacloban City. The study looks into the factors that influence the prevalence of street vending, its impact on vendors' livelihoods and well-being, and the strategies vendors use to overcome daily operational challenges. The findings are expected to guide policy interventions aimed at improving the quality of life and economic resilience of street vendors.

Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory, Deci and Ryan's Self-Determination Theory, and Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory all serve as foundations for the analysis. These frameworks provide a thorough understanding of the agency, motivation, and economic dynamics of street vendors. The study's findings are intended to benefit street vendors, policymakers, community initiatives, and future research by fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for urban informal economies.

**KEYWORDS:** Street Vendors, Lived Experiences, Street Vending, Informal Economy, Coping Mechanism

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Study

Street vendors play a crucial role in the urban economies globally, contributing to the vitality of retail markets and offering a wide range of affordable and accessible goods and services to city dwellers. Additionally, street vending offers a livelihood for individuals with limited employment opportunities, such as migrants and internally displaced persons (Buena et al., 2019).

Street vending has been an integral part of urban history worldwide. Despite its long-standing presence, academic studies on street vending have emerged only recently. This research has primarily developed alongside studies on the informal economy (Schoenecker, 2023). Street vendors have existed since ancient times. In all ancient and medieval civilizations, records mention travelling merchants who not only sold their goods door-to-door in towns but also traded in neighbouring countries. These civilizations were likely more tolerant of these wandering traders, which allowed them to thrive. In contrast, modern street vendors are seldom treated with the same respect and tolerance. They are often targeted by municipalities and police as illegal traders in urban areas, and the urban middle class frequently complains about the inconvenience they cause by blocking sidewalks, creating traffic problems, and engaging in anti-social activities. Ironically, many middle-class individuals still prefer to buy from street vendors because their goods are cheaper and of comparable quality to those found in expensive department stores and shopping malls (Buena et al., 2020).

In the Philippines, street vending is seen as a solution by most populations undergoing economic difficulty not only by many Filipinos belonging to the marginalized sector but also by other individuals all over the world. Street vending is part of the unorganized or informal sector of the economy. In 2016, the informal sector accounted for more than one-third of the country's GDP. The researchers observed that it is a refuge occupation for many who are not capable of investing in huge businesses. Similar to the major cities in the Philippines and nearby Southeast Asian countries, street vending is a common sight in Tacloban City (Apa et al., 2019). According to the PSA records, the unemployment rate in Eastern Visayas increases yearly. From January 2023, of 79 thousand unemployed individuals to January 2024 of 5.4%, equivalent to 106 thousand individuals.

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

According to Tacloban City's Socioeconomic Profile, Tacloban began to establish its priorities in terms of economic growth and self-sufficiency as the first Highly Urbanized City in Region 8. Street sellers are commonplace in the city and about 200,000 people live in the 138 barangays that make up the Metro Tacloban metropolitan area (Estuita, n.d.). According to the Philippine Statistics Office, Tacloban City itself has 221,174 population. At least 4,000 of those city inhabitants work as street sellers or as unofficial business owners. This suggests that street vendors make up roughly 1.81% of Tacloban City's population.

A definition of the informal economy is not settled, but a commonly used definition by the International Labor Organization describes the informal economy as economic activities that are not covered or poorly covered by formal arrangements— be it in law or in practice. This lack of protections makes informal workers vulnerable. Some vulnerabilities vendors face include a lack of licensing, no social security, and harassment and eviction by public authorities. Street vendors are one of the largest, and certainly most visible, parts of the informal economy. Most research on street vending comes from sociology, urban studies, and anthropology, while scholars in the fields of business, economics, and political science also study the topic (Schoenecker, 2023).

Street vending refers to the informal businesses operating in urban spaces primarily meant for other uses. Around the world, street vending is very common, particularly in developing countries. It gives urban unemployed individuals a significant source of income in addition to giving city dwellers access to reasonably priced goods and services (Wongtada, 2014). A street vendor sells goods or services to the public without a permanent structure. They may use a temporary static structure or a mobile stall (Rahman, 2019). Street sellers are an essential part of the urban informal economy. They make up a significant portion of the workforce in the informal sector (Chakraborty, 2019). They provide affordable and convenient goods and services to urban areas. According to *Women in Informal Employment*, the legal and regulatory frameworks that control street vending in many cities work against the growth of a robust informal economy that would allow street sellers to satisfy consumer demand for their goods.

The informal sector of the economy includes street vendors. They make use of the advantages of being informal, like less zoning, taxes, and other expenses. Simultaneously, they encounter hazards like the possibility of being demolished, inadequate legal protections, and inefficient use of capital. Street vendors in Tacloban City can use their earnings only for expanding their businesses or sustaining their livelihoods, but they also suffer infamous eviction and the danger of having their booths demolished by the local government (Estuita, n.d.).

Given that phenomenology is naturally concerned with examining the subjective and hidden aspects of human experience, it is the most appropriate approach for comprehending the lived experiences of street sellers in Downtown Tacloban City. A wide range of elements, including sociocultural dynamics, legal frameworks, and economic situations, influence the complicated phenomena of street vending. Because of its focus on revealing the substance of lived experiences, phenomenology makes it possible to thoroughly analyze the distinct viewpoints that street vendors in this particular urban setting confront.

A significant gap in the current body of study exists in the literature on street selling in Tacloban City's downtown, which is the lack of a focused examination of the financial procedures and capital management techniques utilized by street vendors. By exploring the lived experiences of street sellers and specifically looking into the factors that contributed to the prevalence of street vending in downtown Tacloban City, the phenomenological study sought to close this gap. This detailed knowledge not only closed the gap in the literature that had been identified but also served as a basis for the development of focused interventions and policies that could improve the general quality of life and economic resilience of street vendors in Tacloban City's downtown.

### **Statement of the Problem**

This study aimed to investigate the experiences that street vendors faced. This study sought to address four fundamental questions that underpinned the complexities of street vending in this active locale:

1. What are the factors contributing to the prevalence of street vending in downtown Tacloban City?
2. How do these factors impact their livelihoods and well-being?
3. What are the challenges encountered by street vendors in their daily operations?
4. How do they cope with these challenges?

### **Framework of the Study**

To better understand the dynamics of the street vendor within urban informal economies and sustainable livelihoods, this study employed a multi-dimensional framework supported by two key theories, each promoted by influential proponents.

The *Human Agency Theory*, advocated by Amartya Sen, is a foundational framework component. "Well-being, Agency, and Freedom," Sen's well-known Dewey Lecture, describes a moral approach that sees persons from two different perspectives: well-being and agency. When evaluating states and acts, people's "agency aspect" and "well-being aspect" are both relevant. Each generates a comparable concept of freedom. According to Sen, agency freedom refers to the ability of an individual to pursue their goals or values. The agency's role is crucial in evaluating a person's capabilities based on their conception of what is good. Agency is not meant to be tied to any particular aim, in contrast to well-being, which relates to the individual's state. Sen argues that individuals must be considered as those whose well-being requires attention and those whose actions should be acknowledged in moral accounting by others. Agency freedom is the freedom to achieve whatever the person, as a responsible agent, decides they should achieve.

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

Sen's viewpoint emphasizes individuals' ability to make decisions and take actions that affect their well-being. This theory illuminates street vendors' agencies in navigating the complexities of urban informal economies, making choices to sustain their livelihoods, and contributing to the broader socio-economic landscape. It focuses on people's capacity to freely choose and manage their behaviours within the informal economy, which extends to street vendors making sales on sidewalks outside shopping complexes. This theory explores how these vendors consciously manage their financial situation, deciding between merely surviving and striving for a more stable living.

The study of street vending prevalence was conducted by applying the framework of individual agencies and capabilities. A person might have decided to become a street vendor out of choice or necessity depending on several factors, including social support, educational prospects, and economic chances. Considering their freedoms and opportunities, the theory evaluated how these elements affected their capacity to live a life they valued.

Street vendors' everyday lives were explained in terms of their agency—the ability to choose and pursue their objectives. Their potential might have been restricted by obstacles such as prejudice, a lack of legal protection, or unstable economic conditions. The theory made it easier to examine how these experiences impacted their general well-being and the extent to which they could use agency to improve their circumstances.

The theory was a valuable basis for analysing and understanding the complexity of street vending, considering the individuals' agency, freedoms, and capabilities. It helped researchers understand how street vendors' decisions were influenced by the agency. Additionally, it allowed the examination of economic and broader aspects of well-being and human growth.

*Self-Determination Theory* (SDT) of Edward L. Deci and Richard M. Ryan serves as an extensive framework for examining human motivation and personality. SDT provides a meta-theory for organizing motivational studies, outlines a formal theory that identifies intrinsic and various extrinsic sources of motivation, and explains the roles of both intrinsic and extrinsic motivations in cognitive and social development and individual differences. Importantly, SDT also emphasizes how social and cultural factors can either enhance or hinder individuals' sense of volition and initiative, as well as their well-being and performance quality. The theory argues that conditions that support autonomy, competence, and relatedness foster the most voluntary and high-quality forms of motivation and engagement in activities, leading to improved performance, persistence, and creativity. Furthermore, SDT suggests that when any of these three psychological needs are not supported or are obstructed within a social context, it will significantly negatively impact well-being in that environment.

Street vendors' experiences were analysed through SDT, particularly focusing on how their work met these psychological needs and influenced their satisfaction and motivation. Street vendors often enjoyed high autonomy by controlling their work hours, location, and the products they sold, which led to high job satisfaction as they felt they had control over their lives and work environment. They also developed various skills, such as sales techniques and business management, which contributed to a sense of competence and boosted their job satisfaction. Additionally, street vending involves significant social interaction with customers and other vendors, fostering a sense of community and fulfilling the need for relatedness.

Applying SDT to street vendors in Tacloban City provided valuable insights into their motivations and satisfaction. Exploring how street vending met their psychological needs revealed the factors influencing their well-being and resilience.

Policymakers leveraged these insights to create supportive environments that enhanced vendors' autonomy by simplifying licensing processes and reducing bureaucratic obstacles, built their competence through training programs, and fostered relatedness by encouraging community-building initiatives and support networks. SDT offered a robust framework not only for understanding the job satisfaction and motivations of street vendors but also for informing targeted policies and interventions to improve their livelihoods and overall well-being.

The *Informal Economy Theory* of Hernando de Soto, as it is presented in works such as "The Other Path," essentially examines the economic dynamics of activities that take place outside of official regulatory systems. According to De Soto, the informal economy is a large and frequently underestimated sector, especially in developing countries. He argues that people participate in informal economic activities, like street selling goods, in response to obstacles that keep them from entering the formal sector, rather than because they choose to. According to De Soto, a significant portion of the population depends heavily on the informal economy for their means of subsistence; it fosters economic expansion and acts as a safety net when formal work options are few.

According to De Soto's argument, people who participate in small-scale economic activities are resourceful and have a drive to succeed, which is evident in the informal sector. He draws attention to the difficulties faced by those working in the informal economy, such as their lack of property rights, limited recognition by the law, and susceptibility to outside pressures. According to the concept, societies may fully utilize the potential of the informal economy, promoting economic growth and enhancing the welfare of individuals engaged, by officially recognizing and protecting those involved.

De Soto's theory of the informal economy is particularly applicable to the planned study on street vending in Tacloban City's downtown area. The informal economy includes street vending by nature, and De Soto's findings might provide light on the activities' economic relevance. Through this theory, the research investigated how Tacloban City's street vendors navigated the informal economy, analysing the difficulties posed by their lack of official recognition and investigating the possible advantages of incorporating street vending into established economic frameworks. The idea offered a framework for comprehending the reasons

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

behind street selling foods, the financial benefits it offered to the community, and the ways that official acknowledgement could improve street vendors' quality of life.

Furthermore, De Soto's theory of the informal sector might have offered insightful information for policy decisions. Comprehending the informal aspect of street vending in Tacloban City facilitated the formulation of regulations that acknowledged and boosted the economic endeavours of these vendors. Recognizing the importance of street vending in the informal economy and tackling the obstacles brought about by its informal nature would have helped policymakers create an atmosphere that supported street vendors' financial security while also advancing the city's overall economic growth. As a result, De Soto's theory of the informal economy not only provided an analytical framework for comprehending street selling but also acted as an outline for possible legislative initiatives that could have improved the living conditions of those involved in this type of trade.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study employed qualitative research with a descriptive phenomenological study design. Descriptive phenomenology explores how phenomena are consciously perceived (Giorgi, 2006). It aimed to understand the meaning of experiences rather than quantify them. Edmund Husserl's phenomenology was based on the lived human experience. He aimed to reinstate the human world as a foundation for science, bringing justice to everyday life and allowing people to connect with the things around them (Christensen, et al., 2017).

The descriptive phenomenological study design facilitated a thorough investigation of the complexities associated with street vending within urban settings. The researchers investigated and understood the everyday lives of street vendors in urban areas, focusing on the factors that contributed to the prevalence of street vending, the impact of these factors on their livelihoods and well-being, the daily operational experiences encountered, and the challenges that they faced in meeting their basic needs.

The use of descriptive phenomenology was appropriate for this study since it sought to investigate and comprehend the lived experiences of street vendors in urban areas. Phenomenology enabled in-depth research into the complex daily experiences encountered by street vendors in their operations. Furthermore, emphasizing the challenges of street vending and how they helped sustain livelihoods necessitated an in-depth investigation of the vendors' viewpoints. Through descriptive phenomenological design, researchers could capture the contextual nuances of street vendors' lives, providing significant insights into the complexities of their experiences and the broader societal ramifications of street vending.

### **Research Locale**

The study was conducted in the downtown area of Tacloban City. It was an urbanized city in Eastern Visayas, Philippines. It was the capital of the province of Leyte and was autonomous from it. The downtown area of Tacloban City illustrated an urban setting, implying a concentration of economic activities, such as street vending, which was in line with the research focus on street vending. The researchers investigated the dynamics of street vending on the selected streets, considering the geographical specifics of the downtown area and how they affected street vendors' practices and experiences.

### **Participants of the Study**

The study focused on all food street vendors in the chosen area, regardless of gender, aged 18 and above who sold any kind of food on the sidewalks. Most of the participants are adults who have families. Phenomenology was the research methodology that sought to explore and describe the essence of a particular experience or phenomenon from the perspective of those who had lived it. According to Creswell (2013), a typical sample size for phenomenology research ranges from 3 to 10 participants. However, this study's sample size was larger, consisting of 10 to 15 participants. This larger sample size allowed for a more comprehensive and diverse exploration of the phenomenon under investigation.

Furthermore, purposive sampling was used to identify possible participants, guaranteeing a spot based on the study's requirements and willingness to contribute ideas. It was best suited for deep investigation of small samples (Nikolopoulou, 2023). Participants were identified through communication outlining the goals and methods of the study.

### **Research Instrument**

The researchers used a semi-structured interview to analyze the experiences of street vendors in urban informal economies. Traditionally, phenomenological research relied on numerous interviews with open-ended questions, each with a distinct focus (Beven, 2014). Interviews that were semi-structured used participants' memories and thoughts to help them revisit their experiences (Crotty, 1998). Three semi-structured interviews were conducted for each participant under Seidman's interviewing method (Beven, 2014). The first interview focused on questions about the participant's background and context, the second asked them to reconstruct the experience, and the third asked them to consider the significance of their experience.

Ensuring the effectiveness of a semi-structured interview guide in obtaining the necessary information and aligning with the study's objectives was crucial. To this end, content validation was an essential process. The interview guide underwent expert evaluation



## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

before conducting the actual interviews. The experts' feedback ensured that the questions were relevant, comprehensive, and aligned with the study's objectives.

Moreover, the interview guide's clarity and comprehensibility were assessed through a pilot test. The feedback obtained was used to improve the instrument's quality through appropriate revisions. The interview guide was refined iteratively, incorporating feedback from both pilot testing and expert evaluations. This procedure guaranteed that the questions were formulated objectively, free of bias, and capable of eliciting insightful and relevant responses.

In addition, the interview guide was translated into Tacloban City's native Waray-Waray language to help in the clear comprehension of the research instrument. This translation ensured that participants, particularly those who were not fluent in the study's primary language, understood the questions and could effectively express their experiences and perspectives during the interviews. The procedure was consistent with the ethical principle of cultural sensitivity because it recognized and respected the linguistic diversity of the community under study, promoting inclusivity and accuracy in data collection.

### **Data Gathering Procedure**

The study's data collection process entailed a carefully structured approach that meticulously adhered to the outlined research design. Communication was established with an emphasis on ethical considerations, whereby the study's objectives were clearly defined, and potential participants were welcomed to participate in the study.

An informed consent form was given to participants before they participated in the research. Participants received a comprehensive explanation of the study's goals, confidentiality assurances, possible risks and benefits, and their right to withdraw at any time from this consent form. Obtaining informed permission ensured that ethical standards were upheld and that participants were fully informed about their involvement in the study.

Once participants signed up, interviews were conducted at their convenience, with a focus on comfort. An interview guide was used to collect qualitative data on a range of topics about urban street vending. The questionnaire was designed to answer the study's objectives. To guarantee clarity and efficacy, a pilot version of the questionnaire was conducted before the primary data collection. In-depth interviews were added to the information gathered via questionnaires. Selected important informants and vendors on the street participated in semi-structured interviews. The qualitative viewpoint offered by these interviews enabled participants to expound on their perceptions, challenges, and insights about street selling. The information acquired through interviewing improved the knowledge of the socioeconomic factors underlying street vending.

Transcription was an essential process that helped convert audio or written information gathered from interviews into written text. This process was meticulous and involved careful attention to detail to ensure the accuracy of the qualitative insights collected through interviews. The transcribing process facilitated a detailed examination of participants' responses, helping to identify recurring themes, nuances, and patterns within the data. This step not only aided in organizing and summarizing the qualitative content but also served as the foundation for subsequent phases of analysis, interpretation, and the drawing of meaningful conclusions from the collected information. In essence, transcription played a critical role in ensuring that the qualitative insights from interviews were accurately documented and ready for analysis, leading to a better understanding of the gathered data and the ability to draw meaningful insights from it.

### **Ethical Considerations**

It was critical to follow ethical guidelines when conducting a phenomenological study on street vending in the downtown area of Tacloban City to ensure the participants' respect, rights, and well-being. Every stage of the research process was guided by ethical considerations.

Researchers had to thoroughly explain the purpose, methods, possible risks, and benefits associated with the study to participants before enlisting their participation. Given the nature of street vending, participants could have been from vulnerable groups such as low-income earners. It was crucial to guarantee their informed consent and voluntary participation. All participants provided informed consent, emphasizing their voluntary participation and the right to withdraw at any time without penalty.

Street vending could be a sensitive subject, and participants might have shared their own experiences and challenges. Researchers had to ensure confidentiality by guaranteeing that shared information remained anonymous and could not be linked to specific individuals. Participants were protected from any negative effects and discrimination by doing this.

Researchers needed to optimize advantages for participants while reducing risks. To minimize any potential distress or discomfort caused by discussing sensitive subjects related to the livelihoods and challenges of street vendors, the study had to be conducted in a way that respected the participants' well-being. Participants were treated with dignity, and their opinions were valued throughout the research.

It was important to consider Tacloban City's distinct social and cultural dynamics when engaging with participants. In addition to showing cultural sensitivity and recognizing local customs, researchers had to make sure that the study's design and questions were appropriate for the participants' cultural backgrounds and beliefs.

Discrimination and marginalization were commonplace for street vendors. To avoid bias or misconceptions that could affect data collection, analysis, or interpretation, researchers had to make sure that participants' experiences were treated fairly and accurately

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

reflected. Furthermore, due to the participants' socioeconomic status, street vendors—especially those from marginalized communities—might have been viewed as vulnerable. To safeguard the rights and welfare of the participants, researchers had to take further measures, such as offering more assistance or resources as needed.

Moreover, transparency was essential during the whole research process. It was important for researchers to successfully explain the study's objectives, procedures, and conclusions to participants and pertinent stakeholders, like advocacy groups or community leaders. This promoted accountability and trust in the research process.

Additionally, it was essential to go through an ethics review process, wherein the ethics committees meticulously reviewed the research design and procedures. By ensuring compliance with established ethical guidelines and standards, this external review process contributed to the research endeavour's credibility and integrity.

### **Research Reflexivity**

All studies were planned, carried out, and reported in an open, sincere, and sincere manner. Any research that did not adhere to these fundamental guidelines was misleading (Simundić, 2013). Recognizing and addressing any potential biases was crucial when conducting the study on street vendors and their pursuit of sustainable livelihoods. Reflexivity was essential to ensure transparency and self-awareness and minimize the unwanted impact on the research process. It was important for the researcher to carefully craft the research topic and select an appropriate methodology to mitigate the risk of bias in the study design.

Prior to conducting the study, researchers recognized and evaluated any preconceived ideas, opinions, and experiences they had about street vending and sustainable livelihoods. Throughout the data collecting and analysis process, they practiced ongoing self-reflection to identify and resolve any biases that surfaced. Participating in peer debriefing also offered outside viewpoints and chances for remedial action. In addition, member checking was used to minimize the possibility of bias and misinterpretation in the research findings by including street vendors in the validation process and ensuring that their perspectives were fairly reflected.

### **Data Analysis**

The researchers analyzed the data using *Colaizzi's 7-Step Approach*. It was a qualitative data analysis technique that was widely used in phenomenological research. This method was intended to assist researchers in investigating and comprehending people's lived experiences. Every stage in the distinctive seven-step process stayed consistent with the data and offered a comprehensive analysis. The outcome of the research was a short but comprehensive account of the phenomenon being studied, evaluated by its participants who contributed to its creation.

The first step in Colaizzi's 7-step approach was *Obtaining a General Sense of Each Transcript*. In order to have an in-depth understanding of the data, this first stage entailed reading each transcript several times over. Researchers immersed themselves in raw data to gain a general understanding of the participants' experiences. The second step was *Extracting Significant Statements*. To extract an overview of the participants' experiences, the researcher selected and highlighted key sentences or phrases from the transcripts. These claims provided the foundation for the analysis that followed. The third step was the *Formulation of Meanings*. Following that, researchers interpreted the important claims. This involved interpreting the participants' expressions and gathering any underlying ideas or meanings from them. The objective was to capture the main points of the messages being conveyed by the participants. The fourth step was the *Organization of Formulated Meanings into Clusters of Themes and Themes*. This was the fourth step where the clusters and themes were created from the meanings that were retrieved in the previous step. Overarching ideas or trends that showed up in the data were called themes. Groups of linked themes were represented by clusters. In order to find important patterns and concepts, this step assisted in organizing and classifying the data. The fifth step was to *Exhaustively Describe the Phenomenon*. This step entailed giving a thorough explanation of the phenomenon that was being studied. With the inclusion of the recognized themes and clusters, the researchers hoped to provide a comprehensive and nuanced picture of the experiences. The richness and depth of the phenomenon under study were better conveyed by this description. *Describing the Fundamental Structure of the Phenomenon* was the sixth step. Beyond brief explanations, researchers explored the underlying structure of the phenomenon. This entailed studying the fundamental concepts, connections, and basic traits that described the phenomenon. It was a more in-depth examination that aimed to identify the key ideas of the lived experiences. The last step was *Returning to the Participants to Validate Findings*. The final step involved the researchers going back to the participants to confirm the results. This member-checking method comprised sharing the studied data with the participants and seeking their feedback. It guaranteed that the interpretations corresponded with the experiences and viewpoints of the participants, thus strengthening the study's credibility and reliability. Colaizzi's approach placed a strong emphasis on a methodical and exacting process of analysis in phenomenological research, with the goal of meaningfully and accurately capturing the essence of human experiences.

## **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

This descriptive phenomenological study aimed to investigate the experiences of being a street vendor in downtown Tacloban City. The responses of ten (10) participants were analyzed, and four major themes emerged from the data gathered from the interviews. Four research questions were used to guide the study. Many interview questions were used to explore the participants' perceptions

## A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City

and better understand the phenomenon. The themes emerged, including reading the transcripts, listening to recorded audio, and identifying similar responses. The participants' verbatim responses resulted in four themes.

1) Economic Necessity, 2) Adaptation to Economic Instability, 3) Strategies for Daily Operations, 4) Coping Mechanisms.

### Theme 1: Economic Necessity

Economic Necessity emerged as a central theme, showing the fundamental drivers behind street vending in downtown Tacloban City. It illuminates the pressing needs and motivations that impel individuals to engage in this informal economic activity.

#### *Sub-Theme 1.1: Basic Needs*

Street vending serves as a means for individuals to secure their basic necessities, such as food, shelter, and daily sustenance. This sub-theme resonates strongly with Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory, which underscores the importance of individual agency and well-being. Sen argues that individuals must have the freedom to pursue their goals and values, which includes meeting their basic needs. Additionally, Self-Determination Theory (SDT) posits that fulfilling basic needs is crucial for individuals' psychological well-being and motivation. The literature on informal economies corroborates this, highlighting how street vending often arises as a response to economic hardship, offering a means for survival and livelihood. For example, Susanto & Sudrajat (2017) emphasize the role of informal economies in providing manageable resources to fulfill basic needs, aligning with Sen's concept of agency and well-being. Furthermore, Brown & Robinson (2016) discuss how fulfilling basic needs is essential for psychological well-being, supporting the framework of SDT. Participants articulated the pressing economic circumstances that drive them to engage in street vending.

*"Para may makaon"* [So they have something to eat.] – P1

*"Para pan palit pagkaon adlaw-adlaw"* [To provide for daily meals.] -P5

*"Para hit amon pan-adlaw adlaw na pagkaon"* [For our daily meals.] -P9

By interpreting these responses, it becomes evident that street vending serves as a lifeline for individuals grappling with poverty and insecurity. However, interpreting their responses shows an interplay between economic necessity and personal agency. Street vendors not only view vending as a means of survival but also as a form of self-reliance and empowerment, as they exercise agency in determining their livelihoods and meeting their basic needs.

Understanding the role of street vending in meeting basic needs shows the importance of policies and interventions aimed at enhancing economic security and alleviating poverty. Policymakers may prioritize initiatives that address the economic vulnerabilities driving individuals into street vending, such as access to stable employment and social safety nets. With that, having an environment that supports the autonomy and agency of individuals to meet their basic needs is crucial for their overall well-being and economic empowerment. Recognizing street vending as a form of economic resilience and empowerment can inform targeted interventions to support vendors and enhance their socio-economic outcomes, contributing to more inclusive and sustainable urban development.

#### *Sub-Theme 1.2: Family Support*

Street vending is often driven by the imperative to support one's family, particularly in providing for children's education and the future. This sub-theme connects with Self-Determination Theory (SDT), which emphasizes the importance of relatedness in human motivation and well-being. According to SDT, individuals have an inherent psychological need for connection and belonging, and supporting one's family members aligns with fulfilling this need. When individuals engage in street vending to provide for their families, they are driven by a sense of purpose and responsibility towards their loved ones, which contributes to their overall well-being. Additionally, the Informal Economy Theory of Hernando de Soto shows the significance of informal economic activities in providing economic stability and supporting families' livelihoods. De Soto's theory shows that the informal economy acts as a safety net for individuals facing economic hardship, enabling them to sustain their families' basic needs and secure their future through informal economic activities such as street vending. Participants emphasized the significant role of family support in motivating their engagement in street vending.

*"Para makabulig ha ak anak nga makatapos pag eskwela"* [To assist their child in completing their education.] -P3

*"Kay para liwat hiton future hit akon mga anak kay nagingiskwela"* [To secure their children's future education.] -P6

*"An akon pagbaligya hini para pamilya, mabuhì ko hira tikang han pagtikang ko pagtinda nakapa eskwela akon mga anak, nakagpakuan akon mga balay-balay amo la ini akon."* [I sell this for my family, to sustain them from when I started selling until my children's schooling, I've built my house, this is all I have.] -P7

By interpreting these responses, it becomes evident that street vending serves as a means of economic empowerment, enabling individuals to take control of their financial destinies and secure a better future for their loved ones. This shows the connection between economic stability and familial well-being within the context of street vending.

Recognizing the importance of family support in street vending has profound implications for policy development and community support initiatives. Policymakers may prioritize the creation of supportive environments that enable street vendors to balance their economic activities with their familial responsibilities. Initiatives such as flexible working hours, access to childcare facilities, and educational support programs can alleviate the burden on street vendors and empower them to fulfill their roles as providers and

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

caregivers simultaneously. By addressing the intersection of economic necessity, policymakers can focus a more inclusive and supportive ecosystem for street vendors, promoting both economic empowerment and familial well-being.

With that, community-based organizations and non-governmental agencies can play a crucial role in providing targeted support services to street vendors and their families. Collaborative efforts aimed at offering financial literacy training, access to microfinance opportunities, and social support networks can enhance street vendors' economic resilience and family stability. By building strong community resources and networks, these initiatives can empower street vendors to navigate the challenges of street vending while prioritizing their familial obligations. Thus, recognizing and addressing the familial dimension of street vending can contribute to building more resilient and thriving communities, where individuals are supported in achieving both their economic and familial aspirations.

### ***Sub-Theme 1.3: Location Strategy***

The strategic selection of vending locations by street vendors is influenced by factors such as market accessibility and adherence to local regulations. This sub-theme connects with Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory, which emphasizes the economic interactions of activities outside formal regulatory systems, such as street vending. De Soto's theory interprets that individuals engaged in informal economic activities make strategic decisions based on their resourcefulness and the constraints imposed by regulatory frameworks. Street vendors, operating within the informal economy, strategically choose their vending locations to maximize their market presence while navigating regulatory barriers. Their decision-making process reflects the inherent challenges and opportunities within the informal sector, where individuals adapt to the constraints of the regulatory environment to sustain their livelihoods. With that, De Soto's theory also shows the importance of recognizing informal economic activities to unlock their potential for economic growth and social inclusion. By understanding street vendors' strategic decisions through the lens of Informal Economy Theory, policymakers can develop targeted interventions to support their economic activities while promoting regulatory reforms. Participants emphasized the importance of market presence in their decision-making process as street vendors.

*"Kay dinhi naman ako nagbabaligya han una pa"* [Because I have been selling here for a long time.] -P2

This suggests that familiarity and established customer bases play a significant role in vendors' location choices.

*"Dre man pwede mag-iba kay may bawal man, amo iton balaod"* [We cannot move to other areas because regulations prohibit it.] -P5

This illustrates how regulatory constraints also influence vendors' decisions regarding their vending locations. The discussion reveals that street vendors engage in strategic decision-making to maximize their economic opportunities during the regulatory landscape. With that, understanding the strategic decision-making processes of street vendors interprets their entrepreneurial behaviour and economic sustainability. By analysing the factors influencing vendors' location choices, policymakers can design more effective urban planning strategies and regulatory frameworks that support street vendors' economic activities. Also, having an environment that encourages innovation and flexibility in street vending can enhance urban economic resilience.

### ***Sub-Theme 1.4: Income Variation***

The economic instability street vendors face is evident in the significant variation in their daily incomes. This sub-theme aligns closely with Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory, which emphasizes individuals' capacity to make choices and take actions that affect their well-being within the context of economic instability. Sen's theory indicates that individuals possess agency, the ability to act autonomously and pursue their goals in handling challenging economic circumstances. Street vendors, facing income variation and financial uncertainty, demonstrate agency by employing adaptive strategies to cope with fluctuations in their earnings. With that, Sen's framework shows the importance of recognizing individuals' capabilities and providing opportunities for them to enhance their well-being through informed decision-making. By understanding how street vendors exercise agency in responding to income fluctuations, policymakers can develop interventions that support their economic resilience and empower them to improve their livelihoods.

With that, insights from the Informal Economy Theory of Hernando de Soto are also relevant in understanding street vendors' experiences of income variation and financial adaptability. De Soto's theory emphasized the resourcefulness of individuals engaged in informal economic activities and their ability to navigate complex regulatory environments. Street vendors, operating within the informal economy, often rely on flexible and adaptive strategies to manage income variations and sustain their livelihoods. De Soto's framework emphasizes the importance of formal recognition and legal protection for informal economic activities, which can enhance street vendors' financial security and enable them to better cope with economic uncertainties. By recognizing the informal nature of street vending and addressing the regulatory barriers that hinder formalization, policymakers can create an enabling environment that promotes economic resilience and well-being within informal economies.

The discussion surrounding income variation and financial adaptability among street vendors shows the significant challenges they experience in maintaining stable livelihoods within the informal economy.

*"Danay waray, danay mayda. Di man ine masisiring na permanente may income"* [Sometimes there is none, sometimes there is. It cannot be said there is always an income] -P5

This variability in income shows considerable challenges for street vendors, requiring them to develop adaptive strategies to cope with economic uncertainty. With that, the wide range of income stated by participants reflects the diverse economy in which street



## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

vendors operate, where market fluctuations and competition can significantly impact their financial outcomes. Despite these challenges, street vendors demonstrate remarkable resilience and adaptability, employing a range of strategies to manage income variations and sustain their businesses over time.

With that, fluctuating incomes can affect not only the financial stability of individual vendors but also their well-being and quality of life. Financial instability may hinder long-term financial planning and investment in education, healthcare, and other essential needs, perpetuating cycles of poverty and economic vulnerability. Therefore, addressing income variation among street vendors requires comprehensive policy interventions that not only support their immediate financial needs but also promote economic empowerment and social inclusion. By recognizing the challenges shown by income variation and providing targeted support services, policymakers can contribute to building more resilient and inclusive urban economies where individuals can thrive despite economic uncertainties.

### ***Sub-Theme 1.5: Ownership Type***

The type of ownership in vending operations significantly determines vendors' economic stability and autonomy. This sub-theme in connection to Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory is particularly salient. Sen's theory emphasizes the important role of human agency in shaping individual well-being and freedom. Specifically, ownership type directly impacts street vendors' economic agency and autonomy, emphasizing Sen's interpretation that individuals must have the capability to make autonomous choices regarding their economic activities.

*"May agaron. Iya man ini na mani, akon la adi na mga surudlan."* [I work for a boss who owns the food, I own the containers] -P1  
*"Kalugaringon"* [Personally owned] -P2

This distinction shows how ownership status influences the degree of control and decision-making power street vendors possess over their businesses. Sen's framework suggests that enhancing street vendors' economic agency through ownership-based models can lead to greater economic empowerment and overall well-being, aligning with the principles of Human Agency Theory.

With that, the analysis of ownership type within the framework of Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory provides additional insights into the implications for street vendors' economic autonomy. De Soto's theory emphasized the importance of recognition and legal protection in enhancing individuals' economic agency within the informal economy.

Understanding the implications of ownership type for street vendors' economic autonomy carries significant policy ramifications. Participant 1's statement shows the need for policies that support the informal economy. Policymakers may prioritize initiatives that facilitate entrepreneurship among street vendors, including access to microfinance opportunities, business training programs, and legal support services. By promoting these, policymakers can empower street vendors to exercise greater control over their economic destinies, having economic autonomy and resilience within the informal economy.

With this, recognizing the implications of ownership type for street vendors has broader socio-economic benefits for urban communities. Policymakers may prioritize interventions that support ownership-based models as part of broader strategies for inclusive urban development. Additionally, promoting ownership-based models aligns with principles of economic empowerment and social justice, as it allows individuals to build assets and pursue their economic interests autonomously. By prioritizing ownership-based models within the informal economy, policymakers can create more resilient and inclusive urban environments where street vendors have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to local economic development.

### **Theme 2: Adaptation to Economic Instability**

The emergence of theme two helped to understand how the factors impact street vendors' livelihood and well-being. This theme is closely connected to five meaning units: Resilience, Flexibility, and Survival. Each unit provides a deeper insight into the economic pressures and motivations that drive individuals to engage in street vending.

#### ***Sub-Theme 2.1 Resilience***

The capacity to recover from challenges is a defining trait of street vendors, allowing them to manage economic uncertainties and maintain their means of living. Resilience among street vendors can be illuminated through the lens of the Human Agency Theory proposed by Amartya Sen. According to Sen, agency refers to individuals' capacity to make choices and take actions that influence their well-being. In the context of street vending, resilience emerges as a manifestation of individuals' agency in handling economic hardships and sustaining their livelihoods. Street vendors exercise their agency by adapting to changing circumstances, such as illness or economic downturns, and taking proactive steps to maintain their financial stability. Sen's framework underscores the importance of recognizing individuals as active agents capable of shaping their own destinies, highlighting the role of resilience in promoting well-being within informal economies. Participants' responses show the inherent resilience of street vendors, as showcased by their ability to endure and adapt to challenging circumstances. For instance, one participant expressed:

*"Oo. Makuri gad, han dati, may trabaho pa akon asawa, nasakit man hiya asya yana, ako nala nagtitinda"* [Yes, it's really difficult. Before, my husband had a job, but now he got sick, so I'm the one selling.] -P1

This response illustrates the participant's resilience in taking on greater financial responsibility during unexpected hardships, such as a family member falling ill. Similarly, another participant shared:

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

*"Oo. Yana nakaka pangeskwela akon mga anak na may balon na sakto la..."* [Yes. Now, I can send my children to school with just enough allowance, and I can buy them what they need for their projects or anything else.] -P6

This response emphasized the participant's ability to use income from street vending to support their children's education despite facing financial challenges, reflecting determination and resourcefulness.

With this, participants' responses show their proactive approach to maintaining their livelihoods despite adversity. They utilize inner strengths and external resources to handle complex economic landscapes and sustain their businesses over time. However, street vendors employ various survival tactics, such as adjusting product offerings or seeking alternative sources of income, to mitigate the impacts of economic instability. Through the lens of the Human Agency Theory, we gain insight into the active role played by street vendors in shaping their own well-being and economic destinies, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and supporting their agency within policy and intervention frameworks.

### ***Sub-Theme 2.2 Flexibility***

Flexibility emerges as another keystone of street vendors' experiences, enabling them to adapt to changing market dynamics and occupational opportunities within informal economies. Flexibility among street vendors can be comprehensively understood through the lens of Edward L. Deci and Richard M. Ryan's Self-Determination Theory (SDT). SDT indicates that individuals are motivated by intrinsic and extrinsic factors, with autonomy, competence, and relatedness serving as fundamental psychological needs. In the context of street vending, flexibility reflects individuals' autonomy in choosing their work hours, location, and product offerings. Street vendors exercise autonomy by strategically adjusting their business strategies to align with market demands, thereby enhancing their job satisfaction and motivation. Moreover, flexibility enables street vendors to develop competence in sales techniques and business management, contributing to their sense of mastery and self-efficacy. Thus, street vending involves significant social interaction with customers and fellow vendors, fulfilling the need for relatedness and fostering a sense of community. SDT emphasizes how social and cultural factors can either enhance or hinder individuals' sense of volition and initiative, underscoring the role of flexibility in promoting well-being and performance quality within informal economies. Participants' responses show the strategic flexibility employed by street vendors in navigating the challenges of informal economies. For instance, one participant mentioned: *"Mayda. Construction worker ako han una."* [Yes, I was a construction worker.] -P5

*"An trabaho ko han una nakadto ako Javier, porter ako, amo la ito."* [My work before was a porter in Javier.] -P7

This shows the transition between jobs in pursuit of better opportunities within the informal sector. This shows street vendors' ability to adapt their livelihood strategies to capitalize on emerging opportunities, thereby enhancing their sense of autonomy and competence. Additionally, participants' experiences emphasized the importance of flexibility in responding to fluctuations in consumer behaviour and competition from alternative marketplaces. As expressed by one participant:

*"Mas masurong ngan damo an tawo han una kaysa yana kay sarang naman an mga tawo..."* [More people used to buy back then compared to now because the sellers are scattered] -P4

This shows by acknowledging the need to adjust to changing economic fluctuations to maintain competitiveness. With that, participants' responses show the role of flexibility in having a job and motivation among street vendors. By exercising autonomy in choosing their job and adapting their business strategies to meet evolving market demands, street vendors enhance their sense of competence in informal economic activities. Also, the social interactions inherent in street vending contribute to their sense of relatedness, building a strong supportive community that enhances their overall well-being.

Through the lens of SDT, flexibility emerges as a fundamental psychological need that not only promotes individual flourishing but also contributes to the resilience and sustainability of informal economies.

Understanding the strategic flexibility of street vendors has implications for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to support informal economies. By recognizing street vendors as adaptive agents capable of responding to changing market fluctuations, policymakers can design interventions that promote economic resilience and well-being. Initiatives aimed at having flexibility and could include providing access to training programs and entrepreneurial support services to enhance street vendors' capacity to adapt to evolving market conditions. Thus, creating an enabling regulatory environment that supports innovation and diversification within informal economies can empower street vendors to thrive amidst economic uncertainties. By incorporating flexibility-building strategies into policy frameworks, policymakers can contribute to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of street vendors and their communities within informal economies.

### ***Sub-Theme 2.3 Survival***

Survival strategies emerge as an essential element of street vendors' experiences, reflecting their relentless pursuit of economic sustainability in challenging environments within informal economies. Survival strategies among street vendors can be analysed within the framework of Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory. De Soto emphasizes that individuals engaged in informal economic activities demonstrate resourcefulness and drive to succeed despite facing obstacles within unregulated economic systems. According to De Soto, the informal economy serves as a safety net for individuals who lack access to formal employment opportunities, fostering economic expansion and individual empowerment. Street vending, as an important component of the informal economy, exemplifies the resourcefulness and resilience of individuals in handling unregulated economic environments. De Soto's theory shows the importance of recognizing the ingenuity and determination exhibited by street vendors in overcoming

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

barriers to economic participation, such as limited property rights and legal recognition. By understanding the dynamics of the informal economy through De Soto's lens, we gain insight into the adaptive responses of street vendors to economic instability and external pressures.

Participants' responses illuminate the resourcefulness and persistence shown by street vendors in pursuing economic sustainability within informal economies. For instance, one participant acknowledged:

*"May ada, oo kay han una, masurong, yana baga luya-luya yana an pakabuhi."* [Yes, there is, because at first, many really bought it, but now the livelihood is weak.] -P2

This reflects the challenges of maintaining consistent income amidst fluctuating market dynamics. This emphasized street vendors' relentless pursuit of survival amidst economic uncertainty, showing their determination to overcome obstacles and thrive in challenging environments. Also, participants' experiences reveal the adaptive nature of survival strategies, as they employ various tactics to mitigate the impacts of economic instability.

For example, one participant mentioned:

*"Danay dre, danay kinakapos."* [Sometimes not, sometimes lacking in income.] -P5

This indicates the unpredictable nature of informal economies and the need for street vendors to constantly adapt to fluctuating market conditions to ensure their economic survival. Moreover, participants show the resilience and resourcefulness exhibited by street vendors in having available resources and networks to sustain their businesses. From adjusting product offerings to seeking alternative sources of income, street vendors employ a range of survival tactics to navigate economic uncertainties and meet their basic needs. Through the lens of De Soto's Informal Economy Theory, survival strategies emerge as a manifestation of individuals' agency and drive to succeed within unregulated economic environments. Recognizing the importance of survival strategies informs policymakers about the need to create supportive environments and regulatory frameworks that empower street vendors to thrive amidst economic uncertainties and external pressures.

Understanding the resilience and resourcefulness of street vendors in employing survival strategies has significant implications for policymakers and stakeholders involved in supporting informal economies. By recognizing street vendors as active agents capable of navigating economic challenges, policymakers can design interventions that promote economic resilience and well-being. Initiatives aimed at strengthening survival strategies could include providing access to financial resources, such as microcredit facilities or savings programs, to help street vendors mitigate the impacts of economic shocks. Also, having supportive social networks and community partnerships can enhance street vendors' capacity to seek assistance and share resources during times of adversity. By incorporating survival strategy-building initiatives into policy frameworks, policymakers can contribute to the long-term sustainability and prosperity of street vendors and their communities within informal economies.

Moreover, recognizing the resilience and resourcefulness of street vendors shows the importance of creating an enabling regulatory environment that supports entrepreneurship and innovation within informal economies. Policymakers can have an advantage in insight into survival strategies to design regulations that reduce barriers to entry and facilitate economic participation for street vendors. This may include simplifying licensing processes, providing legal recognition for informal businesses, and building partnerships between street vendors and formal sector entities. By creating an environment that strengthens entrepreneurship and economic empowerment, policymakers can promote the resilience and long-term viability of street vending as a vital component of informal economies.

### **Theme 3: Strategies for Daily Operations**

The third theme's emergence aids in understanding how the participants adjust to difficulties in their street vending activities. This theme focuses on street vendors' many tactics and strategies to handle and overcome daily challenges in their work environment. These techniques are critical to their survival and success in a competitive, often unexpected environment. These strategies assist street vendors in managing their daily challenges and contribute to their sustainability and success in the street vending livelihoods.

#### ***Sub-Theme 3.1 Weather Adaptations***

Street food vendors are especially vulnerable to climate-related hazards like drought, typhoons, and flooding (Brata 2010). Due to their outdoor operations and lack of infrastructure, they face increased dangers during extreme weather. It emphasizes the critical need for strategies to increase resilience in dealing with climate-related challenges. This sub-theme is closely related to Edward L. Deci and Richard M. Ryan's Self-Determination Theory (SDT) through the lens of the theory's core principles: autonomy, competence, and relatedness. According to SDT, intrinsic psychological needs motivate people to grow and change.

Participants consistently highlighted weather adaptation as a primary adjustment strategy for everyday activities.

*"An ticket tapos kun na uran"* [The ticket and when it rains.] -P1

*"Kun mauran hin duro, nabalhin, nasirong pero kun mahinay la an uran, tiyaga la. Kun sugad may bagyo, waray kami tinda"* [If it rains hard, we move and take shelter, but if the rain is light, we endure it. If there is a storm, we don't sell.] -P6

These responses imply that street vendors frequently adjust their activities in response to weather conditions. They demonstrate autonomy by making self-determined choices about how to modify their operations to deal with various weather situations. This

## A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City

could include selecting specific locations with shelters, adjusting working hours, or changing product offerings. These autonomous decisions enable them to continue operating despite environmental challenges.

To successfully adapt to changing weather conditions, street vendors must develop skills and strategies that allow them to manage operations effectively. Knowing how to protect their goods from rain, understanding which products sell better in certain weather, and setting up and dismantling their stalls quickly and efficiently. This continuous adaptation and skill acquisition helps vendors feel competent and effective.

Weather adaptation frequently requires interaction and collaboration with others. For example, street vendors may share tips and strategies for dealing with extreme weather or collaborate to build communal shelters. These interactions foster a sense of community and support among vendors, which meets the need for relatedness. Furthermore, maintaining a consistent presence despite weather changes assists vendors in developing and maintaining relationships with their customers, reinforcing their sense of connection and belonging to the community.

### **Sub-Theme 3.2 Security Measures**

Aside from weather concerns, street vendors have to handle security practices daily. This sub-theme in the context of street vending is linked to Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory using the theory's key insights into the challenges and characteristics of the informal sector. De Soto's work focuses on how informal economic activities, such as street vending, operate outside of formal legal and regulatory frameworks, often due to regulatory obstacles and inefficiencies in the formal economy.

It focuses on how street sellers routinely handle cash and other items, making them prime targets for thieves and assaulters. They may be subject to attacks from individuals aiming to take their money, causing financial losses and violence (Sialoombe, 2023).

*"Han una waray pa pandemic dinhi kami nangangaturong damo nakuha dinhi nga prutas, kwarta"* [Before the pandemic, while we still used to sleep here, many fruits and money were stolen.] -P2

*"An syahan an ak kasapit dnhi nga lagas han una paragtahi hin sapatos, nagka problema kami na duha iya ako gin kastigo ba sugad hiton, lagas naman gud tapos lalaki pa gud takay nagdugo man akon nawong, amo ito gin pa priso ko hiya"* [The first time I came here to work, I had a problem with someone who was a shoemaker; he even hit me, and my face bled. That is why I reported him, and he was imprisoned.] -P3

As informal businesses, street vendors lack access to the same security measures and protections as established businesses. As a result, they must implement their own security measures to protect their property, income, and personal safety. This self-reliance in security practices is a direct response to the lack of formal legal protections, which de Soto identifies as a major challenge for informal economy participants.

Street vendors mainly rely on social capital and their networks for protection in the lack of official security measures. These networks provide vendors with information, support, and collective security arrangements to help them mitigate risk. This reliance on social ties and community cooperation is a central feature of the informal economy, as described by de Soto, in which trust and relationships frequently replace formal contracts and organizations.

Examining security measures through the lens of Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory reveals that street vendors' daily security practices are a direct response to the structural and regulatory challenges they face. These measures are a necessary response to their exclusion from formal legal protections, and they highlight the broader dynamics of survival and resilience in the informal economy.

### **Sub-Theme 3.3 Competitive Responses**

Competitors in street vending are an ongoing feature of urban economies. Hernando de Soto's theory of the informal economy can be linked to this sub-theme in the context of street vending through a number of significant facets of his examination of these activities. According to De Soto's theory, people in the informal economy use adaptable tactics and enterprising tendencies to flourish in the absence of official acknowledgement and assistance. Despite the noisy sidewalks and colourful stalls, food vendors compete silently but fiercely for customers and ideal locations.

*"Dri natutuhay kay nababahin naman"* [It's not right because it's divided), indicating a negative impact of competition as they have to share the market with others.] -P2

*"Bagan dre maupay. Baga mas maupay iton nagbuburublag. Kaysa hit harani kay nagpapakuanay kamo hin presyo, mayda mahabubo bagan mayda saktto, igkakaway ka pa"* [It's not good, it's better if we are in different places. Unlike if we're close to each stall, we compete on prices.] -P4 *"Maluya labi na kun gutiay mamaralit."* [It's weak, especially when only a few are buying.] -P5

The increased number of vendors on the streets has resulted in increased competition. This increased competition within the marketplace will challenge street vendors to earn profits, thereby compromising the long-term stability and growth of their vending (Liu, 2022).

Because street vendors lack access to formal retail spaces and are frequently prohibited from desirable areas, they must compete fiercely for the best available spots on sidewalks and in public places. This competition is a direct result of their exclusion from formal market spaces, requiring them to be strategic and proactive in securing locations that maximize their visibility and customer flow.



## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

Many street vendors rely solely on their ability to attract and retain customers in a competitive environment. This economic necessity motivates them to develop competitive strategies such as diversifying their product offerings, adjusting operational hours to accommodate busy times, and constantly monitoring and responding to customer preferences and competitor actions. These survival-driven competitive behaviours are central to the informal economy, where every vendor must differentiate themselves to maintain their income.

In the context of street vending, informal rules and norms regulate how vendors claim and defend their locations, negotiate with one another, and resolve disputes. These unwritten rules shape competitive responses as vendors navigate the social dynamics of their environment to gain an advantage and build loyal customer bases. This informal governance structure enables vendors to operate efficiently in the absence of formal regulations, embodying the principles described by de Soto.

### ***Sub-Theme 3.4 Food Management***

In urban areas, food management in street vending poses a special level of challenges. This sub-theme can be linked to Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory in several ways. De Soto's theory emphasizes the challenges, adaptive strategies, and entrepreneurial behaviours that people working in the informal economy use to manage their livelihoods in the absence of formal recognition and support.

*"Han yana maluya, usa ka kilo, one-half la an nauubos, gin papaso ko la liwat utro, dire man hiya ma ano basta tag duha la ka adlaw"* [Sales are currently slow, with only half of the one-kilogram portion sold; I've reheated it to ensure it lasts up to two days without spoiling.] -P6

It addresses the difficulty of managing unsold food, emphasizing the necessity for innovative ways to reduce waste while maintaining food safety standards. By reheating unsold pieces to extend their shelf life, they proactively reduce possible losses while maintaining product quality. The duration of experience in the street food vending business is linked to food safety practices, as vendors acquire valuable food safety knowledge over time, enabling them to implement these practices effectively (Mwove et al., 2020).

Street vending operates in a regulatory unclear space in many cities, with food preparation and storage restrictions imposed on vendors. Reheating unsold pieces enables vendors to comply with health and safety regulations while making the best use of their inventory. Its innovative approach to food management is a realistic response to regulatory constraints, allowing vendors to keep their businesses running despite operating in a legally uncertain environment.

Examining food management through the lens of Hernando de Soto's Informal Economy Theory reveals how street vendors' strategies for optimizing food resources mirror the informal economy's adaptive behaviours and entrepreneurial approaches. These food management practices are practical responses to scarcity, uncertainty, and regulatory constraints, demonstrating how people creatively navigate the challenges of operating outside of formal economic structures.

### ***Sub-Theme 3.5 Waste Disposal Management***

Effective garbage disposal procedures are essential for preserving environmental health and urban cleanliness. This sub-theme in the context of urban cleanliness and environmental health is related to Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory because it emphasizes individual capabilities, freedoms, and the role of collective action in addressing societal challenges. Sen's theory emphasizes the role of human agency in shaping social and economic outcomes, highlighting individuals' and communities' ability to make decisions and take actions that promote well-being and development.

*"Oo mayda kada gab e"* [Yes, there is, every night.] -P2

*"Mayda dinhi nakolekta"* [There is someone who collects here.] P7

It highlights the government's waste disposal management, as stated in RA No. 9003, which requires appropriate solid waste segregation, collection, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal. The law encourages using ideal environmental practices in ecological waste management and prohibits incineration. It forbids harmful practices such as burning and promotes best environmental practices in waste management. Through such policies, governments enable individuals and communities to make informed decisions and take responsible actions to effectively manage waste, thereby preserving environmental health and urban cleanliness.

Effective waste disposal procedures necessitate individual as well as community effort. Individuals are responsible for properly segregating their waste, adhering to recycling and composting guidelines, and safely disposing of hazardous materials. At the same time, collaborative efforts, such as community clean-ups and municipal waste management programs, are critical for managing waste on a larger scale. Waste disposal management exemplifies the use of human agency at both the individual and community levels, as individuals and institutions collaborate to address environmental issues.

It improves people's capabilities by providing a clean and safe environment in which to live, work, and thrive. Governments and communities can protect public health, prevent environmental degradation, and create conditions for people to achieve their goals and aspirations by ensuring proper waste segregation, collection, and disposal. Waste management thus becomes essential to the larger goal of promoting human well-being and empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

Examining waste management through the lens of Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory reveals how individuals, institutions, and governments use their agency to address environmental challenges and promote social well-being. Individual responsibility,

## A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City

collective action, government regulation, and empowerment strategies are all necessary for effective waste management, and they all reflect the principles of human agency and capability enhancement that are central to Sen's theoretical framework.

### Theme 4: Coping Mechanisms

The emergence of theme four provided insights into the resilient coping mechanisms employed by street vendors in downtown Tacloban City to navigate challenges and sustain their livelihoods. This theme is closely linked to four key subthemes: informal financial support, government support, financial management, and innovation. Each sub-theme offers a perspective on the strategies and resources these individuals leverage to cope with economic instability and operational difficulties that arise from working in the informal economy sector. Understanding how street vendors employ various coping tactics illuminates their determination, resourcefulness, and ability to adapt to adversity, enabling them to persist in their livelihoods despite numerous obstacles.

#### *Sub-Theme 4.1 Informal Financial Support*

In the dynamic and challenging environment of street vending within urban informal economies, informal financial support plays a critical role in vendors' survival strategies. This reliance on informal financial support closely aligns with Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory, which emphasizes the significance of individuals having the autonomy to pursue their values and objectives. In the context of street vending, this includes achieving financial stability through informal networks. The theory highlights the vendors' proactive role in navigating their economic realities and making strategic decisions that reflect their pursuit of well-being and economic resilience. The act of seeking and providing informal financial support exemplifies the vendors' agency, demonstrating their capacity to adapt and thrive within the constraints of the informal economy.

Additionally, Sialoombe (2023) underscores the importance of social capital and networks in navigating economic uncertainties. Street vendors often rely on informal financial arrangements, such as rotating savings groups or borrowing from family and friends, to access capital and manage financial risks. This aligns with the participants' experiences of seeking financial support from money lenders and relatives, reflecting the significance of social networks in the informal economy.

*"Ngadto hit nagpapautang"* [I go to those money lenders.] -P1

*"Danay iton pautangan"* [Sometimes I go to lenders.] -P5

*"Ha akon mga bugto ak nadaop danay"* [Sometimes I rely on my siblings.] -P2

Furthermore, lacking access to formal financial services is a significant challenge for street vendors. Martinez and Rivera Acevedo (2018) state that street vendors may borrow money at exorbitant interest rates due to the absence of microfinance opportunities. The participants' reliance on informal financial support, such as money lenders, can be seen as a coping mechanism in response to this lack of access to formal financial services.

By understanding the role of informal financial support through the lens of Human Agency Theory and the study of informal economies, policymakers can develop targeted interventions to enhance street vendors' financial resilience. Initiatives such as facilitating access to microfinance, promoting community-based savings groups, and strengthening social networks can empower street vendors to navigate economic uncertainties while maintaining their autonomy and agency.

#### *Sub-Theme 4.2 Government Support*

Government support programs for street vendors, such as welfare assistance and livelihood initiatives, are essential for enhancing their well-being and economic stability. These programs empower vendors by providing resources and opportunities to sustain their businesses independently, fostering a sense of control and self-direction (autonomy). Additionally, participation in these programs allows street vendors to acquire new skills, improve their businesses, and enhance their economic competence. The social connections and community resources these programs facilitate contribute to street vendors' sense of relatedness and support. These government assistance programs provide street vendors with a safety net and supplemental income, contributing to their resilience and ability to cope with economic uncertainties.

*"Ha DSWD"* [To the Department of Social Welfare and Development] -P3

*"Oo mayda, DSWD"* [Yes, I have the Department of Social Welfare and Development] -P7

*"Oo, kanan 4ps. Nakukuha ko 5200 kay duwa la na estudyante akon bulig"* [Yes, I receive support from the 4Ps program. I get 5200 pesos because both of my children are beneficiaries.] -P6

*"Usahay may ada, mga livelihood sugad ha PESO o ha DOLE"* [Sometimes there are livelihood programs like those from PESO or DOLE.] -P3

*"Mayda, kanan DOLE. Kada usa ka tuig, kwarat it ginhahatag"* [There is one from DOLE. Every year, they give money.] -P9

*"Mayda senior citizen."* [There is one for my senior citizen.] -P7

This support aligns with Self-Determination Theory (SDT) principles, emphasizing that individuals have innate psychological needs for autonomy, competence, and relatedness, driving their motivation and well-being. Government support programs can enhance street vendors' overall satisfaction and engagement with their work by providing resources and opportunities that support these needs.

By examining government support through the lens of SDT, policymakers can develop more effective and comprehensive support programs tailored to street vendors' unique needs and motivations. Initiatives that promote autonomy, such as simplifying licensing

## A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City

processes and reducing bureaucratic obstacles, can empower street vendors to exercise greater control over their economic activities. Competence-building programs, such as business training and skill development workshops, can enhance street vendors' ability to manage and grow their businesses effectively. Moreover, community-building initiatives and support networks can foster a sense of relatedness and social cohesion among street vendors, further contributing to their overall well-being and resilience.

### Sub-Theme 4.3 Financial Management

Financial management plays a crucial role in the daily operations and sustainability of street vendors within urban informal economies. This subtheme delves into the strategies and practices employed by street vendors to manage their finances effectively. This subtheme connects with Self-Determination Theory (SDT), which emphasizes autonomy, competence, and relatedness in driving human motivation and behaviour, we explore how street vendors navigate financial challenges and make decisions regarding budgeting, resource allocation, and economic resilience within the informal economy. "*Ginbudget la anay an kwarta*" [The money is being budgeted first.] -P1

"*Magbudget*" [To budget] -P2

"*Unahon pagpalit iton panginahanglan, mag budget*" [Prioritize buying the necessities, budget.] -P3

"*Budgeton iton income*" [Budget the income.] -P4

"*Kumita ngan 50, budgeton la anay para бага pagkabuwas bangin waray ako tinda makakapalit gihapon ako bisan la gutiay*" [If I earn 50 pesos, I budget it so that even if I don't have anything to sell, I can still buy a little something] -P7

The interactions and decision-making processes related to financial management among street vendors underscore their autonomy and self-determination in navigating economic uncertainties. By applying Self-Determination Theory (SDT), we gain insights into how vendors prioritize budgeting, allocate resources, and strive for economic stability within the informal economy. These financial management practices not only showcase their autonomy and competence in managing their financial affairs but also highlight the interconnectedness of their financial decisions with their overall well-being and livelihood sustainability. Understanding the dynamics of financial management through an SDT lens offers valuable perspectives for policymakers and community stakeholders to develop targeted interventions and supportive environments that empower street vendors to enhance their financial resilience and achieve greater economic empowerment.

### Sub-Theme 4.4 Innovate

Street vendors often demonstrate significant innovation in adapting to their challenging work environments. This sub theme connects with Amartya Sen's Human Agency Theory, which emphasizes the capacity of individuals to make choices and act on them to achieve desired outcomes. According to Sen, human agency is "the ability to pursue goals and values" (Sen, 1985), which is evident in the innovative strategies that street vendors employ to sustain their livelihoods. By continuously adapting their methods and locations in response to environmental conditions, vendors exhibit agency and resilience, crucial for their economic survival. This adaptability is not merely a reactive measure but a proactive approach to improve their working conditions and enhance their economic opportunities.

"*Kun na uran, nabalhin la anay ako para may masirungan, tapos kun kulop na nabalhin ako kay masirak*" [When it rains, I move to find a covered area, and when it's hot, I move again to find shade.] -P1

"*Nagbibiling la anay iba na pwesto, amo la*" [Will look for another place, that's all.] -P7

The innovative adaptations described by participants align with findings from the literature review that street vendors develop creative strategies to navigate challenges like lack of infrastructure and weather exposure (Sabinada, 2022). Additionally, street vending requires resourcefulness to operate outside formal regulatory systems (Recchi, 2021).

Recognizing the importance of innovation in street vending has profound implications for policy development and community support initiatives. Policymakers may prioritize the creation of supportive environments that enable street vendors to balance their economic activities with their innovative strategies. Initiatives such as providing flexible working spaces, weather protection facilities, and access to resources that support adaptive practices can alleviate the burden on street vendors and empower them to continue innovating in their work environments. By addressing the intersection of economic necessity and innovation, policymakers can foster a more inclusive and supportive ecosystem for street vendors, promoting economic empowerment and resilience.

These responses indicate the risky nature of street vending and the potential positive impact that targeted government support could have on their livelihoods and resilience. By having an available government resource and advocating for additional assistance, street vendors demonstrate their resourcefulness and determination to handle the challenges they face in the informal economy.

The findings were gathered through interviews, which offered detailed and rich insights into the participants' direct experiences. Focus groups supplemented this by providing experiential responses and an overview of participants' general beliefs and attitudes toward their situations. This firsthand information was crucial in developing a framework to describe the lived experiences of those involved in informal economies, particularly concerning their actual experiences.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusions

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn:

## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

1. Street vendors in downtown Tacloban City contribute significantly to the economy and job market by offering essential goods and services, particularly catering to the needs of urban communities. Economic necessity emerged as the primary motivation for street vending, emphasizing its crucial role in providing income to cover basic necessities for vendors and their families.
2. The informal nature of street vending provides a flexible and accessible means of earning a living, particularly for individuals facing economic hardship and socioeconomic challenges. Participants emphasized the importance of street vending in supporting their families, particularly in ensuring their children's education, indicating its significance in assuring their families' financial future.
3. Street vendors showed exceptional resilience, adaptability, and resourcefulness in responding to economic instability and operational challenges. Their ability to adapt their business operations, utilize limited resources optimally, and access informal networks for support reflects their capacity to handle and overcome adversity in the urban environment.
4. Participants exhibited adaptive coping mechanisms to handle economic uncertainties, including transitioning to street vending from other occupations, adjusting strategies to changing market conditions, and utilizing social networks for support. Their proactive efforts to cope with adversity showed the importance of resilience-building initiatives to enhance the livelihoods and well-being of street vendors in informal economies.
5. Community connections play an important role in the sustainability of street vending operations, providing vendors with financial aid, resource sharing, and emotional support. Government assistance programs, although occasionally inconsistent, can significantly contribute to supporting street vendors by offering financial assistance, training, and infrastructure improvements. Interpersonal relationships within the community also play a crucial role in the success of street vendors, having a loyal customer base and creating a favourable atmosphere for business operations.

### **Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the recommendations are as follows:

1. The policy makers may provide financial assistance and access to capital through microloan programs, grants, or subsidies specifically targeted at street vendors. Policy makers may prioritize initiatives aimed at improving access to resources and opportunities. Also, there is a need for targeted interventions to address regulatory constraints and create a supportive environment for street vending activities. Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, local authorities, and community organizations can help create sustainable solutions that empower street vendors and promote inclusive economic development in urban areas.
2. To have Skill Enhancement Programs. These programs directly address the need for street vendors to adapt to changing market conditions and economic instability by improving their skills and capabilities. By offering training in areas such as financial management, marketing techniques, and product diversification, street vendors can enhance their ability to adjust their strategies and operations in response to economic fluctuations. This recommendation aligns closely with the study's findings regarding the participants' experiences in handling uncertainties in the informal economy. Strengthening the skills of street vendors through targeted training programs can empower them to adapt more effectively to economic challenges, thereby improving their resilience and overall well-being. Therefore, implementing skill enhancement programs would be the most suitable recommendation for SOP 2, focusing specifically on the theme of adaptation to economic instability.
3. Stakeholders may prioritize initiatives to build capacity, promote innovation, and enhance social protection mechanisms. This includes training programs on business skills in the informal economy, market analysis, and technology adoption to empower vendors to adapt to changing circumstances and identify new opportunities. With this, there is a need for policies that promote inclusive economic growth and protect the rights of informal workers, including access to social security benefits and legal recognition of street vending as a legitimate livelihood. Policy makers can help street vendors thrive in urban environments and contribute to sustainable development goals by investing in resilience-building measures.
4. The City Cooperatives and Livelihood Assistance Office in Tacloban may provide training programs on business skills in the informal economy, market analysis, and technology adoption to empower vendors to adapt to changing circumstances and identify new opportunities. The City Social Welfare and Development Office may also develop policies that promote inclusive economic growth and protect the rights of informal workers, including access to social security benefits and legal recognition of street vending as a legitimate livelihood.
5. The City Environment and Natural Resources Office may work on integrating environmental considerations into street vending practices, promoting sustainability.
6. The Public Employment Service Office may facilitate access to employment resources and opportunities for street vendors, helping them diversify and strengthen their economic activities.
7. By simplifying the application process, the policy makers can make it easier for people to access social support programs like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). They may also consider expanding these programs to help street vendors and other informal workers. Additionally, raising awareness about the importance of street vendors and including them in urban planning can lead to fairer and more sustainable city development.



## **A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City**

8. In the Philippines, there are a lot of social protection programs offered by the policy makers to help alleviate poverty and improve children's education. The most well-known social protection program is the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, formerly Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino, which is widely known by the public as the 4Ps. It is the government's most expensive and generous social protection program (Canare, 2017). 4Ps is considered the Philippines' flagship social assistance program.

9. Further research may include repeating this study in a different country region to verify if similar themes are identified. The geographical location of Tacloban City in the Eastern Visayas region is a limitation. Most of the study participants were vendors of food items. Conducting studies in different geographic locations using vendors who sell non-food items may provide additional insights. This study focused specifically on the lived experiences of food-related street vending. Future research could expand the scope to include other informal business activities like mobile vendors, temporary stall operators, and seasonal businesses and compare their experiences to stationary food vendors. The addition of these other informal entrepreneurial activities may uncover new themes or nuances.

10. Investigate the impact of technological advancements on street vending by examining how digital platforms, mobile apps, and online marketplaces affect street vendors' operations, marketing, and customer reach. Explore the benefits and challenges of new technologies, considering access to resources, digital literacy, and infrastructure needs. Identify strategies to bridge the digital divide and provide training or support programs to help street vendors improve their technological skills and adapt to changing market trends. The study conducted in Tanzania in 2020 can be used to strengthen further design and development of innovative solutions to improve street traders' or similar informal workers' business ecosystems. For the government and policymakers, these results must be viewed as information that enables raising awareness regarding improving the working conditions of marginalized informal workers, mainly street traders or vending, by deploying common and affordable technology (Rumanyika et al., 2020).

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This research endeavour has been successful because of the collaborative efforts of the individuals to whom the researchers wish to extend their profound thanks.

We would like to give our sincere thanks to our research adviser, Ms. Michelle Torreros, for her constant support, guidance, and encouragement that pushed us to do better and instilled hope to continue our research. Her patience and expertise have been instrumental throughout the experience.

We would also like to give our heartfelt thanks to the esteemed panel led by Professor Tyrone O. Gil Jr., together with Mr. Lance C. Cajarop and Ms. Rizza A. Mae Bang-ay, whose insightful comments and constructive criticisms have greatly improved our research work. They inspired us to go beyond our limits and strive for excellence.

We also sincerely thank the participants who gave their time, effort, and patience to participate in this study by sharing their experiences during the interview.

Finally, we would like to give our heartfelt thanks to our parents for their unconditional love, financial support, and encouragement shared and given to us. It served as our greatest strength and inspiration.

Above all, we are grateful to the Lord for his love and guidance, which have been important throughout our research journey. Without him, we wouldn't be able to survive this. We are truly blessed to have his guidance and holy spirit in shaping every step of the way.

### **REFERENCES**

- 1) Addai, B., Gyimah, A., & Owusu, W. (2017). Savings habit among individuals in the informal sector: A case study of gbegebeyishie fishing community in Ghana. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5539/ijef.v9n4p262>
- 2) Agarwala, R. (2011). Informal labor, formal politics, and dignified discontent in India. Research Gate. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139198738>
- 3) Apa, I., Asuero, C., Pilpa, A. (2019). A Study on the Effect of Capital Management on the Sustainability of Sole Proprietor Ambulant Street Food Vendors in Identified Streets of Tacloban City, Downtown Area. Course Hero.
- 4) <https://www.coursehero.com/file/40530252/CHAPTER-1-INTRODUCTIONdocx/>
- 5) Baker, J. & Watanabe, M. (2017). Unlocking the Philippines' Urbanization Potential. World Bank Organization. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/eastasiapacific/unlocking-the-philippinesurbanization-potential>
- 6) Benitez, E., & Olmogues, A. J. (2021). Food Safety Practices among Street Food Vendors in Dipolog City. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES, 1.
- 7) Berner, E., Gomez, G., & Knorigga, P. (2012). Helping a large number of people become a little less poor ' : The logic of survival entrepreneurs. Springer. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/ejdr.2011.61>
- 8) Bevan, M. (2014, January 1). A Method of Phenomenological Interviewing. Qualitative Health Research. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049732313519710>
- 9) Boels, D. (2014), "It's better than stealing: informal street selling in Brussels", International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy, Vol. 34 Nos 9-10, pp. 670-693

## A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City

- 10) Boonjubun, C. (2017), "Conflicts Over Streets: The Eviction of Bangkok Street Vendors", *Cities*, Vol. 70, pp. 22-31
- 11) Brown, C., & Robinson, L. (2016). *Breaking the cycle: From poverty to financial security for all*. Policy link Organization. [https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/BreakingTheCycle\\_0.pdf](https://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/BreakingTheCycle_0.pdf)
- 12) Buena, A., Miranda, S., Villanos, A (2019). *Street vendors: Actions to Improvement*. Course Hero. <https://www.coursehero.com/file/39666372/Street-Vendor-Chapter-1-Reviseddocx/>
- 13) Carr, C. (2019). For street vendors, finding water and toilets isn't just a nuisance, it's cutting into earnings. International Institute for Environment and Development. <https://www.iied.org/for-street-vendors-finding-water-toiletsisnt-just-nuisance-its-cutting-earnings>
- 14) Canare, T. (2017). *The Impact of Conditional Cash Transfer on Savings and Other Associated Variables: Evidence from the Philippines' 4Ps Program*, Vol.5, No.1, pp. 107-145.
- 15) Chakraborty, P. & Koley, S. (2018). *Socio-Economic View on Street Vendors: A Study of a Daily Market at*
- 16) Jamshedpur. Research Gate. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329773186>
- 17) Chen, M. (2016). *The urban informal economy: Towards more inclusive cities*. *Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing*. <https://www.urbanet.info/urban-informal-economy/>
- 18) Chille, F., Haule, M., & Aia (2020). *Influence of Urbanization on Street Vending Business in Dar Es Salaam and Coast Regions of Tanzania*. Research Gate. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344566791\\_Influence\\_of\\_Urbanization\\_on\\_Street\\_Vending\\_Business\\_in\\_Dar\\_es\\_Salaam\\_and\\_Coast\\_Regions\\_of\\_Tanzania](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/344566791_Influence_of_Urbanization_on_Street_Vending_Business_in_Dar_es_Salaam_and_Coast_Regions_of_Tanzania)
- 19) Christensen, M., et al. (2017, March 26). *Husserlian Descriptive Phenomenology: A review of intentionality, reduction and the natural attitude*. Christensen | Journal of Nursing Education and Practice. <https://www.sciedupress.com/journal/index.php/jnep/article/view/11004/6917>
- 20) Creswell, John W. (2013). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. <https://books.google.com.ph/books?hl=en&lr=&id=DLbBDQAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&d>
- 21) Crotty, M. (1998). *The foundations of social research: Meaning and perspective in the research process*. London, England: SAGE Publications. <https://fasstasticmethodologygroup.files.wordpress.com/2009/09/crotty1998.pdf>
- 22) Coletto, D. (2019), "L'economia informale e le sue rappresentazioni sociali: il caso dei mercati all'aperto", in Andreotti (Ed.), *Governare Milano Nel Nuovo Millennio*, Il Mulino, Bologna, pp. 239-261
- 23) Cuvi, J. (2016), "The politics of field destruction and the survival of Sao Paulo's Street vendors", *Social Problems*, Vol. 63 No. 3, pp. 395-412.
- 24) Department. (n.d). *City Government of Tacloban*. <https://tacloban.gov.ph/departments/>
- 25) Estuita, A.(n.d.). *The Influence of Social Capital to Street Vendors in Tacloban City*. <https://www.academia.edu/36955233/>
- 26) Giorgi, A. (2006). *Concerning Variations in the Application of the Phenomenological Method*. *The Humanistic Psychologist*, 34(4), 305–319. [https://doi.org/10.1207/s15473333thp3404\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1207/s15473333thp3404_2)
- 27) Haase, D., Guneralp, B., Dahiya, B., Bai, X., & Elmqvist, T. (2018). *Global urbanization*. Cambridge Organization. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316647554.003>
- 28) Hidalgo, A., Cuesta, A., & Razafindrabe, H. N. (2022). *Street Vendors' Livelihood Vulnerability to Typhoons in Naga City, Philippines*. *Philippine Journal of Science*.
- 29) Jaishankar, V. & Sujatha, L. (2016). *A study on problems faced by street vendors in Tiruchirappalli City*. *International Journal of Economics and Management Studies*. <https://www.internationaljournalsrg.org/IJEMS/2016/Volume3-Issue9/IJEMS-V3I5P119.pdf>
- 30) Khan E. A. (2017). *An investigation of marketing capabilities of informal microenterprises: A study of street food vending in Thailand*. *Int. J. Sociol. Soc. Policy* 37, 186–202. 10.1108/IJSSP-09-2015-0094 [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]
- 31) Kurniadi, K., & Sumarna, E. (2022). *The Process of Collaboration in Regulating Street Vendors in Bandung City*. *The Qualitative Report*, 27(5), 1439-1455. <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2022.5458>
- 32) Liu, Y. (2022). *The Unsustainability of Street Vending Business-Taking Yiwu Santing Road Night Market as an example*. *Journal of Student Research*, 11(3).
- 33) Malefakis, A. (2015). *Beyond Informal Economy; Street Vending a cultural creative practice in Daressalaam, Tanzania*. Paper presented at the International RC21 Conference
- 34) Ma, L., Chen, H., Yan, H. et al. (2019). *Food safety knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of street food vendors and consumers in Handan, a third-tier city in China*. *BMC Public Health* 19, 1128. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7475-9>
- 35) Masten, A. (2014). *Ordinary Magic*. Canadian Education Association. <https://www.edcan.ca/wp-content/uploads/EdCan-2009-v49-n3-Masten.pdf>
- 36) Mensah, A. (2016). *Street vending and competitive advantage: Towards building a theoretical framework*. *Qualitative Report*. Research Gate. <http://dx.doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2016.2438>
- 37) Neary, J. (2018). *Street vendors of Manila. Strengthening Urban Engagement of Universities in Africa and Asia*. <http://sueuaa.org/blog/street-vendors-manila>

## A Phenomenological Study of Street Vending in Downtown Area, Tacloban City

- 38) Nikolopoulou, K. (2023). What Is Purposive Sampling? | Definition, Examples. Scribbr. <https://www.scribbr.com/methodology/purposive-sampling/>
- 39) Nurhayati, C. (2020). Social development in the urban informal economy: A case study of street vendors in Pasar Minggu, Jakarta. Academia. [https://www.academia.edu/74421922/Social\\_Development\\_in\\_the\\_Urban\\_Informal\\_Sector\\_A\\_Case\\_Study\\_of\\_Street\\_Vendors\\_in\\_Pasar\\_Minggu\\_Jakarta](https://www.academia.edu/74421922/Social_Development_in_the_Urban_Informal_Sector_A_Case_Study_of_Street_Vendors_in_Pasar_Minggu_Jakarta)
- 40) Odoom, F. & Milliar, G. (2011). The informal economy is an employer, a nuisance, and a goldmine: Multiple representations of and responses to informality in Accra, Ghana. Research Gate. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/256979944\\_The\\_Informal\\_Economy\\_is\\_an\\_Employer\\_a\\_Nuisance\\_and\\_a\\_Goldmine\\_Multiple\\_Representations\\_of\\_and\\_Responses\\_to\\_Informality\\_in\\_Accra\\_Ghana](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/256979944_The_Informal_Economy_is_an_Employer_a_Nuisance_and_a_Goldmine_Multiple_Representations_of_and_Responses_to_Informality_in_Accra_Ghana)
- 41) Reechi, S. (2021). Informal street vending: a comparative literature review. International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-07-2020-0285>
- 42) Recio, R. & Gomez, J. (n.d.). Street vendors, their contested spaces, and the policy environment: A view from Caloocan, Metro Manila. Research Gate. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0975425313477760>
- 43) Rocha, M. (2006). Vanishing assets: Cumulative disadvantage among the urban poor. Research Gate. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0002716206288779>
- 44) Roeber, S. (2014). Street Vendors and Public Places. Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO). <https://www.wiego.org/>: <https://www.wiego.org/sites/default/files/resources/file/Street%20Vendors%20and%20Public%20Space%20%20An%20EBook.pdf>
- 45) Roy, A. (2005). Urban informality. Wiego Organization. <https://www.wiego.org/sites/default/files/publications/files/Urban-InformalityRoy.pdf>
- 46) Rumanyika, J., Apiola, M., Mramba, N., Oyelere, S., & Tedre, M. (2020). Mobile technology for street trading in Tanzania: A design science research approach for determining user requirements. Research Article. Wiley Online Library. [doi/10.1002/isd2.12176](https://doi.org/10.1002/isd2.12176)
- 47) Sabinada, G. (2022). Lived experiences of street vendors in Catbalogan City: A Phenomenological study. Journal of Humanity and Artificial Intelligence. [1-9+LIVED+EXPERIENCES+OF+STREET+VENDORS+IN+CATBALOGAN+CITY+A+PHENOMENOLOGICAL+STUDY.pdf](https://www.jhain.org/1-9+LIVED+EXPERIENCES+OF+STREET+VENDORS+IN+CATBALOGAN+CITY+A+PHENOMENOLOGICAL+STUDY.pdf)
- 48) Santos, M., Badua, R., Callo, C., & Ferrer, F. (2020). Street vending locations: The determinants affecting the choice of location of street vendors at science city of Munoz, Nueva Ecija. American International Journal of Business Management. <https://www.aijbm.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/12/J3125762.pdf>
- 49) Seto, K., & Reenberg, A. (2014). Rethinking Global Land Use in an Urban Era. Research Gate. <http://dx.doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/9780262026901.003.0001>
- 50) Self-Determination Theory. (n.d). Center for Self Determination Thoery. <https://selfdeterminationtheory.org/theory/>
- 51) Schoenecker, A. (2023). Street vendors. Oxford Bibliographies. [doi.10.1093/OBO/9780190922481-0061](https://doi.org/10.1093/OBO/9780190922481-0061)
- 52) Sialoombe, V.a.P. B. K. (2023, July21). Security Implications of Street Vending. Kennedy Writings. [https://kennedywritings.com/2023/07/20/security-implications-of-street-vending/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR2RRYUXzS\\_K7EmGIRVjDXF6sMnXrpaqX7iiCg3D4ea5pkaV-zdDPmGTAg\\_aem\\_AYTGFGEAOVxBbFy7QtRgp8tVJ0zNSkb5fM3cwEjtOvHGH1FUP1yvb-2TcS\\_t2W3zuGhTBPIpxa9eiGMSpBTPsE](https://kennedywritings.com/2023/07/20/security-implications-of-street-vending/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR2RRYUXzS_K7EmGIRVjDXF6sMnXrpaqX7iiCg3D4ea5pkaV-zdDPmGTAg_aem_AYTGFGEAOVxBbFy7QtRgp8tVJ0zNSkb5fM3cwEjtOvHGH1FUP1yvb-2TcS_t2W3zuGhTBPIpxa9eiGMSpBTPsE)
- 53) Susanto, M., & Sudrajat, S. (2017). Strategi Penghidupan Rumah Tangga Petani Di Desa Pandansari, Kecamatan Paguyangan, Kabupaten Brebes. Jurnal Bumi Indonesia, 6(4). <http://lib.geo.ugm.ac.id/ojs/index.php/jbi/article/view/913/885>
- 54) Tamilarai, S., and Angayarkanni, R. (2016). Exploring the work life balance of street vendors with reference to tambaram: a township area in Chennai metropolitan city. Int. J. Econ. Res. 13, 1679–1688.
- 55) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). (2015).
- 56) Virani, V. (2012). Saving and Investment pattern of school teachers-A study With special reference to Rajkot City, Gujrat. Abhinav National Refereed journal of research in Commerce and Management. 2(4):2277-1166.
- 57) Wongtada, N. (2014). Street vending phenomena: A literature review and research agenda. Semantic Scholar Organization. <https://doi.org/10.1002/TIE.21596>
- 58) Zhang, X. (2016). The Trends, Promises, and Challenges of Urbanization in The World. Science Direct. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2015.11.018>



There is an Open Access article, distributed under the term of the Creative Commons Attribution – Non Commercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0) (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits remixing, adapting and building upon the work for non-commercial use, provided the original work is properly cited.