**A Study on Street Garment Hawkers in Dhaka City of Bangladesh**

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**Abstract**

Among the 170 million people of Bangladesh, more than 20 million people live in Dhaka city – the capital of the country where the street garment hawkers are visible. One of the popular forms of business chosen by the lower middle income people is street vending where business requirements are very low. To fulfill the basic needs of the clothing of a large number of people of all walks having limited budgets select street hawkers to buy their garments. According to Dhaka City Corporation, there are around 90,000 street vendors in the city who are mainly engaged in readymade garments trading ranged from medium to low value garment products to the middle and lower income people of the city. They operate mainly in Motijheel, Baitul Mukarram, Gulistan, Shahbagh and New Market Areas. Street vending is considered illegal and hence vendors face constant harassment from different authorities. The vendors even need to pay a sizeable part of their income as bribes in order to keep smooth running their trades. Hence, this study aims at identifying the factors influencing the evolution and survival of street garment hawkership in Dhaka city. This study is based on a survey of 251 street garment hawkers doing business in Dhaka City. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the data. Descriptive statistics were used to describe the present situation of the street garment hawkers of Bangladesh. Inferential statistics like factor analysis, multiple regression analysis and structural equation modeling were used to identify the relationships between the overall situation of the street garment hawkers and the factors affecting their businesses. Results show that in order to keep pace with the growing demand of regular clothing at affordable cost, individuals having limited capital are inclined towards capturing this market for meeting their needs. Study also shows that the hawkers do face challenges pertaining to business infrastructure, legal and regulatory matters, lack of education and training, shortage of capital, political and economic problems and lack of knowledge of efficient technology to run their businesses. This study suggests that the policymakers should take these problems of street garment hawkers into account and focus on infrastructure, legality of the entity, sourcing production technology, and sourcing capital for their businesses in order to bring discipline in this important segment of business.

**Keywords:** Street Garment Hawkers, Medium Value Products, Cost Efficient Production Technology, Legal and Regulatory Bodies, Political and Economic Factors.