

# **Regulating Mobility: Analyzing the Legal and Policy Framework for Mobile Street Vendors in Kalaburagi City**

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## **Abstract**

This paper examines the legal and policy framework governing mobile street vendors in Kalaburagi City, Karnataka, with a focus on balancing their mobility with regulatory measures. Street vending is a critical economic activity for urban informal sectors, providing livelihood opportunities to a significant portion of the population. However, the mobility of these vendors often creates challenges related to urban planning, traffic congestion, public safety, and sanitation. The study analyzes the existing policies and laws at both local and national levels, such as the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, and its implementation in Kalaburagi. Through a detailed review of municipal regulations, field interviews with vendors, and discussions with local authorities, the paper highlights gaps, challenges, and opportunities in the regulation of street vending. Furthermore, it explores the role of local governance in facilitating a balanced approach that ensures the protection of vendors' rights while addressing urban mobility concerns. The paper offers policy recommendations for improving the legal framework, suggesting adaptive strategies that promote a sustainable and inclusive street vending ecosystem in Kalaburagi City.

**Keyword-** Street Vendors, Vending Zone, Economic Development, Informal Sector, Legal and Policy, vendors' rights

## **1.1 Introduction**

Street vending is an essential component of urban economies, particularly in rapidly growing cities in India, where it serves as a critical livelihood source for millions of informal sector workers. In Kalaburagi City, a major urban center in Karnataka, mobile street vendors play a vital role in providing affordable goods and services to residents while contributing to the city's vibrant informal economy. However, the mobility of these vendors, who operate in public spaces such as sidewalks, roadsides, and transport hubs, often leads to significant challenges in terms of urban planning, traffic management, public health, and safety. While

street vending offers numerous socio-economic benefits, it has long been a subject of legal and policy debate. Local authorities and urban planners face the challenge of regulating these vendors' mobility without stifling their ability to earn a livelihood [1]. National and state-level legislation, such as the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, aims to safeguard the rights of vendors while addressing the need for order in urban spaces [2]. However, in practice, the implementation of these policies remains inconsistent, with many vendors continuing to face harassment, displacement, and legal ambiguities. The legal and policy framework that governs Mobile Street vending in Kalaburagi City, analyzing its effectiveness, challenges, and implications for urban mobility. By reviewing key legislation, examining local policy documents, and gathering perspectives from vendors, city planners, and local authorities, the paper seeks to highlight the complexities involved in regulating mobile street vending. The goal is to propose recommendations that balance the rights of street vendors with the broader needs of urban mobility and public safety, ensuring a sustainable and inclusive approach to managing informal economies in Kalaburagi.

## 1.2 Studies related Literature reviews

This literature review synthesizes key concepts and findings related to the regulation of street vendors, particularly mobile vendors, in India, with a focus on Kalaburagi. The studies discussed offer a broad view of the existing regulatory landscape and the socio-economic challenges faced by vendors, while also suggesting pathways for more inclusive urban governance. Below is a sample literature review structure that integrates relevant studies and discussions: **World Bank (2015)**, The World Bank's report on street vendors in South Asia highlights their vital role in urban economies, highlighting their socio-economic contributions and challenges. Street sellers create jobs, reduce poverty, and operate in the informal sector, but they also confront legal and public space difficulties. The paper calls for inclusive policies that balance street sellers, local enterprises, and urban growth. Street sellers need enabling legal and institutional frameworks to survive and promote sustainable urban expansion. The paper uses South Asian city case studies [3]. **Bhardwaj, A. (2016)**, this study explores the legal protection and regulation of street vendors in India, focusing on the informal economy and their challenges. The research compares the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, to worldwide best practices. It highlights regulatory inadequacies, enforcement issues, and vendor socioeconomic impacts. The report also offers a broader strategy to protecting street sellers'

rights while balancing urban growth and public space management. A more effective regulatory

strategy is recommended by the research [4]. **Saxena (2017)**, explores the intricate policy, legal, and institutional frameworks surrounding street vending in Indian cities, highlighting the challenges faced by vendors due to inadequate legal protections and regulatory ambiguity. It examines the evolution of street vending regulations, from early attempts to the 2014 Street Vendors Act, and the role of local authorities and urban planners in shaping the urban landscape. The book calls for comprehensive reforms that balance street vendor needs with urban planning goals for a more inclusive approach to city governance [5]. **Narayana, D. (2018)**, focuses on urban Indian street sellers and informal economic regulation. Street vending's socio-economic dynamics and regulatory frameworks are examined. The research examines street vendors in a large Indian metropolis to show how urban development strategies conflict with their economic demands. It stresses sellers' lack of legal protection and the competing interests of vendors, municipal government, and formal corporations. The paper recommends more inclusive and balanced approaches to regulation that consider street vendors' needs while promoting sustainable urban development [6]. **Sharma and Kumar (2020)**, examines the legal and policy frameworks governing street vendors in urban India, highlighting their significant role in providing livelihoods to millions of urban poor. It critically examines existing laws and policies, such as the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, and their effectiveness in ensuring vendor rights while addressing urban planning and public space concerns. The study calls for comprehensive reforms that balance urban development goals with the protection of street vendors' rights, advocating for a more inclusive and supportive regulatory framework to improve socio-economic conditions [7]. **Street Vendors' Rights Association (2021)**, The Street Vendors' Rights Association's 2021 report on Kalaburagi, India, highlights the struggles faced by street vendors in securing their livelihoods and legal rights in an urban environment that often marginalizes informal workers. The report explores the socio-economic conditions of street vendors, the impact of urban policies on their lives, and their efforts to organize for better recognition and protection of their rights. It calls for a more inclusive urban planning approach that recognizes street vendors' vital role in the local economy and advocates for reforms in regulatory and legal frameworks to support their rights to work and earn a living without fear of eviction or harassment [8].

### 1.3 Legal and Policy Framework for Mobile Street Vendors

The legal and policy framework governing mobile street vendors in India, including cities like Kalaburagi, is shaped by a combination of national laws, state-level regulations, and local municipal policies. These regulations control street vendors, preserve their livelihoods, and balance urban mobility and public space management. This section covers India's mobile street vendor laws and policies. The Indian Street sellers (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 protects and regulates urban street sellers. The Act requires local Town Vending Committees (TVCs) to identify and regulate vending zones, providing sellers equal access to public places. It also provides for the demarcation of vending zones, which are designated areas where vendors are allowed to operate without obstructing pedestrian or vehicular traffic [9]. The Act stipulates that vendors need to obtain licenses from municipal authorities to operate in designated vending zones, ensuring that these licenses are not unreasonably withheld and that vendors have an avenue to appeal if their license application is rejected. It stresses the protection of vendors' livelihoods, ensuring they are not arbitrarily removed from their locations without alternative arrangements being made. The Act aims to balance the needs of vendors with the broader urban development plans. This table highlights the key components of the **legal and policy framework for mobile street vendors** and the ongoing challenges in implementing these regulations effectively, especially in **Kalaburagi**. The recommendations aim to enhance the current system, promoting both the protection of vendors' rights and the sustainability of urban development.

Aspect	Description	Key Policies & Laws	Challenges	Recommendations
<b>Legal Recognition</b>	The extent to which street vendors are legally recognized and granted rights to operate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014</li> <li>- Municipal Corporation Acts</li> <li>- Urban Planning Laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of implementation of the 2014 Act in many cities, including Kalaburagi</li> <li>- Limited awareness among vendors and local authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full enforcement of the Street Vendors Act</li> <li>- Awareness campaigns to educate vendors and officials about rights and responsibilities</li> </ul>

<b>Vending Zones</b>	Regulations around where vendors can operate, and how space is allocated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 (provision for creating vending zones)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inconsistent identification and allocation of designated vending zones</li> <li>- Vendors frequently evicted from unauthorized spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear demarcation and enforcement of designated vending zones</li> <li>- Establishment of mobile vending zones in high-traffic areas</li> </ul>
<b>Licensing &amp; Registration</b>	Process for vendors to obtain legal licenses to operate, including requirements for registration and renewal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Street Vendors Act (2014) mandates local authorities to issue licenses</li> <li>- State/City-Specific Licensing Schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bureaucratic delays in obtaining licenses</li> <li>- Difficulty for vendors to meet registration requirements due to lack of documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simplified registration process</li> <li>- Local governments should expedite the licensing and renewal procedures</li> </ul>
<b>Eviction &amp; Protection from Harassment</b>	Protection against eviction, harassment, and exploitation by local authorities or other stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Street Vendors Act (2014): Provisions against eviction without proper procedure</li> <li>- Judicial Interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular evictions by municipal authorities</li> <li>- Inconsistent application of legal protections against harassment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stronger enforcement of eviction safeguards</li> <li>- Clear guidelines for preventing harassment by authorities</li> </ul>
<b>Access to Public Spaces</b>	The ability of mobile vendors to access and use public spaces for vending activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Space Management Policies</li> <li>- Urban Development Acts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Restrictive urban planning policies</li> <li>- Conflicts between vendors and formal businesses in public spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusive urban planning that integrates vendors into public space management</li> <li>- Multi-stakeholder consultations on space allocation</li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory Authority</b>	Agencies responsible for the implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Municipal Corporations</li> <li>- District Collector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of coordination between various regulatory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish a dedicated street vending regulation body</li> </ul>

	and regulation of street vending laws.	Offices - State Urban Development Departments	bodies - Inadequate monitoring and enforcement on the ground	- Improve coordination between municipal, state, and central authorities
<b>Socio-Economic Impact</b>	The role of mobile street vendors in the local economy, including employment, income, and access to goods.	- Street Vendors Act (2014) (intended to improve livelihoods)	- Limited access to social benefits like healthcare, insurance, and loans - Struggles with low income due to restricted areas	- Formalization of vendors through social security schemes - Financial support mechanisms like loans or insurance for vendors
<b>Public Awareness &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Efforts to raise awareness among vendors, local authorities, and urban planners about regulations and rights.	- Awareness Programs under the Street Vendors Act (2014) - Local Government Engagement Programs	- Low awareness among vendors about their rights - Resistance from local authorities towards vendors' legal claims	- Awareness campaigns targeting both vendors and local authorities - Capacity-building workshops for urban planners and law enforcers
<b>Sustainability and Inclusiveness</b>	Long-term strategies for ensuring that street vending remains a viable livelihood option while supporting sustainable urban development.	- Sustainable Cities Initiative - Urban Inclusive Development Policies	- Vendors' livelihoods often compromised due to unsustainable practices or exclusion from formal urban planning	- Encourage sustainable vending practices - Policies that promote inclusivity in urban planning and livelihood opportunities

However, challenges remain in implementation, especially in cities like Kalaburagi, where the process of identifying and formalizing vending zones has been slow. Many vendors

continue to operate in informal, unauthorized locations due to the lack of adequate spaces provided by municipalities. State-level regulations, such as the Karnataka Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules, 2017, offer more specific guidelines for the identification of vending zones, the licensing process, and the duties of local authorities. However, the implementation remains uneven [10]. Local municipalities, such as the Kalaburagi City Corporation (KCC), have a significant role in the regulation of street vending. They are tasked with implementing the policies outlined in national and state laws and are responsible for ensuring the creation of vending zones, regulation of mobility, enforcement and compliance, and court rulings and judicial intervention. Despite the legal protections offered to street vendors, significant challenges persist in the practical implementation of these laws and policies. These include the lack of adequate infrastructure, inconsistent enforcement, and urban mobility conflicts. To improve the legal and policy framework, it is essential to adopt a more collaborative approach, including improved coordination between authorities, inclusive urban planning, vendor education and empowerment, and a focus on empowering vendors with knowledge of their rights, the legal framework, and best practices for compliance. This includes providing training on hygiene, safety, and conflict resolution [11]. The legal and policy framework for mobile street vendors in Kalaburagi is evolving, but challenges persist in its implementation. The key to effective regulation lies in striking a balance between protecting vendors' rights to livelihood and addressing urban mobility and public space concerns. With better coordination between authorities, clearer guidelines for vendors, and increased attention to the informal sector in urban planning, Kalaburagi can build a more inclusive, sustainable, and efficient regulatory framework for its street vendors.

#### **1.4 National policy on urban Street vendors 2004-09**

The National Policy on Urban Street Vendors was introduced in 2004 to acknowledge the role of street vendors in urban economies and ensure their social and economic inclusion. The policy aimed to balance vendors' needs with urban planning, provide legal recognition, protect their livelihoods, and regulate the growing number of vendors in cities. Key aspects of the policy included legal recognition and protection, local authority involvement, designated vending zones, welfare and social security provisions, and inclusive development. The policy recognized street vending as a legitimate livelihood and provided a framework for granting legal status. It also entrusted urban local bodies with planning vending zones, issuing licenses, and ensuring vendors' activities do not disrupt public spaces or traffic. The policy

also aimed to promote inclusive growth by integrating street vendors into the formal economy through better regulatory frameworks and support systems.

In 2009, the National Policy on Urban Street Vendors underwent a revision to improve enforcement, protect vendors, and enhance their livelihoods. Key changes included the creation of Town Vending Committees, a national survey of street vendors, and a focus on legal and social protection. The policy also emphasized the need for comprehensive social security programs for street vendors. The policy also provided institutional support from local and state governments, including financing measures, basic amenities, and professional skills enhancement. Training programs were introduced to improve vendors' management, hygiene, and quality control skills, and to help them navigate the formal economy better. The revised policy aimed to ensure better enforcement of regulations and protect vendors' rights and livelihoods.

The 2004 policy on street vendors in India provided general recognition but lacked clear enforcement mechanisms. The 2009 policy, which was more detailed, aimed for better implementation through legal structures like Town Vending Committees and the Street Vendors Act. The 2009 policy led to the formulation of the Street Vendors Act, 2014, which gave vendors a clearer legal standing and rights. Both policies proposed broad regulations and the creation of vending zones, but the 2009 policy enforced these regulations through Town Vending Committees and focused on better urban space management. The 2009 policy made more specific provisions for health insurance, pension, and welfare programs.

### **1.5 Rights of Street Vendors in India**

The Street sellers (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, governs the rights of street vendors in India, allowing them to continue their activities unless there is a good cause to evict or relocate them. The Act protects vendors from unlawful eviction by requiring due process, including a survey and registration process by local authorities and the creation of designated vending zones by municipal corporations. This law ensures that street vendors can continue their livelihood and sell goods legally, ensuring that they are protected from exploitation and displacement [12]. No eviction can take place without a valid reason, and the vendor must be given a fair opportunity to challenge the eviction in court or before a relevant authority. Street vendors have the right to be allocated a designated space for vending, which is required by the Act to ensure that vendors operate in

an organized manner and are accessible. In cities where designated vending zones are lacking, the Act mandates the creation of these zones through a town vending committee set up by the local authorities. The Act mandates the registration of vendors, allowing them to apply for a license or registration with the local authorities to operate legally. This process provides vendors with legal recognition of their right to trade, enables authorities to keep track of the number of vendors operating in the area and their designated vending zones, and issues identity cards or licenses to protect them from harassment by local authorities or police. The Act also mandates the provision of social security and welfare benefits for street vendors, such as health insurance and pension schemes for old age, accident, and life coverage, access to government welfare schemes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) for basic food items, and education and training programs for vendors and their families. However, the implementation of these provisions has often been slow and inconsistent, and many vendors still lack access to these social security benefits. Vendors have the right to protect their goods from theft, damage, or destruction, and are entitled to fair compensation for any loss or damage caused to their goods during eviction or displacement, if the eviction is found to be unjust or without due process. They are also entitled to the right to protest and organize, as protected under the Right to Freedom of Assembly (Article 19(1)(b)) and Freedom of Speech (Article 19(1)(a).) The Act establishes procedures for the resolution of grievances, and sellers are able to seek help from the Town Vending Committee in cases of eviction, vending space distribution disputes, and other legal matters [13]. The Street sellers Act protect sellers from exploitation, yet many vendors do not know their rights or what the law says about them. The Street sellers (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 is one of many laws in India that safeguard the rights of street sellers. A few examples of the rights outlined here include the following: the right to be recognized legally, the right not to be evicted, the right to use social security, and the right not to be harassed.

## **1.6 Conclusion**

The regulation of mobile street vendors in Kalaburagi City is a complex issue involving urban development, legal frameworks, and informal labor. Although street vending is a vital part of the urban economy, it often poses challenges in urban mobility, traffic management,

and public safety. National laws like the Street Vendors Act, 2014 have made progress in recognizing vendors' rights, but gaps remain in local enforcement. Mobile vendors face obstacles like lack of designated spaces, regulatory ambiguity, and harassment from authorities. Local governance structures are often constrained by limited resources, lack of awareness, and political dynamics. To address these issues, a more integrated approach is recommended, including better coordination between local and national authorities, the establishment of designated vending zones, and enhanced vendor representation in urban planning decisions. Capacity-building efforts are also needed to ensure both vendors and local authorities understand and adhere to the existing legal framework.

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