

## Viksit Bharat @2047: Street Vendors as Catalysts for Employment Generation and Skill Development in India

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### Abstract

Vision of India becoming a developed country by 2047 'Viksit Bharat @2047'—needs inclusive economic growth driven by employment generation and skill development. Street vendors, as important contributors to the informal economy, represent one of the largest segments of self-generated employment urban human resources. This research paper analyses the potential role of street hawkers as catalysts in employment generation and skill development within the respect of Viksit Bharat 2047. Drawing upon secondary data from 2020–2025, including government reports from PM SVANidhi, NSDC, and NITI Aayog, the paper explores the socio-economic contribution of road hawkers, analyzes the impact of current schemes, and suggests a way of integrating skill development into urban livelihood programs. Findings explain that the PM SVANidhi Scheme has improved financial inclusion and self-generated job opportunities for over 60 lakh street vendors across India, while emerging digital and vocational skill initiatives are gradually transforming this sector day by day. This paper concludes that empowering street vendors through structured skill training, digital literacy, and financial support will remarkably contribute to India's employment-led growth and inclusive development objective of Viksit Bharat 2047.

**Keywords:** Viksit Bharat 2047, Street Vendors, Employment Generation, Skill Development, Inclusive Growth, Livelihood.

### Introduction

The Government of India's objective of 'Viksit Bharat @2047' shows an ambitious plan to transform India into a developed country by its centenary of independence. Attaining this objective requires a multidimensional approach to economic development, sustainable livelihoods, and inclusive development. Among the most considerable yet under-recognized contributors to the urban economy are street hawkers, who produce essential thing and services while sustaining millions of earnings. According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (2024), India has over 4 crore street hawkers, many of them depend on micro-enterprises and self-employment. This research paper analyses how employment generation and skill development for street hawkers can play an important role in realizing India's development aspirations by 2047.

India's developmental path is assured for a strategic breakthrough as it envisions obtaining the ambitious vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047*, coinciding with the anniversary of its independence. This mission includes the formation of a self-reliant, inclusive, and globally competitive economy that assures success for all citizens. To achieve this aspiration, it is imperative to unite and empower the informal economy, that forms the base of India's urban and semi-urban economies. Within this domain, **street sellers** show an important yet under-recognized segment which contributes substantially to employment creation, income diversification, and local economic vibrancy. Their involvement in developmental discourse aligns with national visions like *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India), *Skill India Mission*, and the *National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)*, all of which emphasize human resource development and sustainable livelihood generation.

The informal sector in India provides jobs to nearly 80–90 percent of the total human resource, functioning as a essential safety net for low-income populations excluded from formal economic sectors. Street vending, as one of the most dynamic activities in this sector, has emerged as a resilient form of self-employment for many people. According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA, 2023), India is hub of approximately 50–60 lakh street hawkers, forming around 2.5 percent of the urban citizens. These micro-entrepreneurs supply necessary goods and services at reasonable rates, thereby strengthening urban food security, consumer accessibility, and local flow of capital. Their capacity to adapt to changing consumer requirements and market conditions underscores their relevance in India's socio-economic framework.

However, despite their indispensable role in sustaining urban incomes, road vendors have historically experienced structural and institutional marginalization. Insufficient legal protection, frequent evictions, limited reach to financial services, and lack of skill improvement mechanisms continue to constrain their economic motility. The **Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014** and subsequent interventions like the **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme (2020)** show remarkable policy milestones aimed at legitimizing and formalizing their economic activities. These initiatives have simplified access to microcredit, encouraged online financial inclusion, and promoted entrepreneurship at the grassroots level—thereby aligning with the broader aims of economic self-reliance and inclusive development envisioned under *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

In addition, the integration of **skill development frameworks** with street selling income shows a transformative opportunity. Institutions like the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **Skill India Mission** play a vital role in equipping informal human resource with entrepreneurial, managerial, and online competencies. Up skilling initiatives tailored to street vendors can improve productivity, better customer service, and promote market linkages—ultimately enabling them to transition from subsistence-based incomes to sustainable micro-enterprises. Such empowerment directly contributes to the twin objectives of employment generation and human capital formation, which are basic pillars of the *Viksit Bharat* objective.

According to this context, observing road hawkers as catalysts for employment generation and skill growth is not merely a welfare-oriented approach but a strategic imperative for India's long-term development. Their active participation in the national growth agenda can create multiplier effects in urban economies, improve inclusive entrepreneurship, and strengthen socio-economic resilience. This paper hence analyses the evolving role of street vendors in development of India landscape, examines their contribution to employment and skill generation, and examines policy frameworks require to harness their potential in achieving the objective of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

## 2. Literature Review

**Bhowmik (2010)**, in his book *“Street Vendors in the Global Urban Economy”*, explains the important role of street selling as a means of self-employment and livelihood for millions of urban poor people across developing countries. He examines that despite contributing significantly to urban economies, street vendors often experience social exclusion, shortage of legal recognition, and harassment from local authorities. Bhowmik says that vending produces affordable goods and services to low-income consumers while creating substantial informal employment. He also argues that policies of government have historically ignored or marginalized this field, leading to instability and poverty among street vendors. This study explains for inclusive city planning, legal protection, and skill development yojana to improve road hawkers into

mainstream economic systems. In general, Bhowmik's contribution provides a basic understanding of the informal sector's potential in job creation and its significance for sustainable urban growth.

### NSDC(2023)

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC, 2023) analyzes that skill growth is a key driver of employment creation and economic development in India. According to its *Annual Review Report (2023)*, demographic dividend of India can only be realized through large-scale vocational training and reskilling initiatives aligned with demand of industry. The report explains the achievements of flagship programs such as *Skill India Mission*, the *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)*, and collaborations with state-level training partners that have trained over 1.4 crore people between 2020 and 2023. NSDC also points out that new-age skills in sectors like digital technology, retail, logistics, and entrepreneurship have become important for employability in both urban and rural sectors. Hence, this report explains persistent challenges like skill gaps, regional inequality, and poor infrastructure in training places. It recommends unite informal workers—like street vendors—into organized skilling ecosystems. The NSDC (2023) so contributes a comprehensive framework linking skill growth, employment generation, and inclusive economic transformation, aligning with India's broader objective of *Viksit Bharat @2047*.

### Gupta & Sharma (2022) –

Gupta and Sharma (2022), in their study “*Employment Creation in India's Informal Sector*” published in the *Indian Journal of Economics*, examine the vital contribution of the informal sector to overall employment landscape of India. The authors argue that nearly 85% of India's workforce is engaged in informal activities, highlighting its significance like a safety net for the unemployed and underemployed. Their research focuses that microenterprises, including road selling, petty trade, and home-based industries, act like major employment creators in urban areas where formal employment remain limited. This study discovers that access to microcredit, financial inclusion, and basic vocational skills significantly improve productivity and income levels among informal workforce. Gupta and Sharma also explains the role of government programs such as *PM SVANidhi* and *Skill India Mission* in encouraging self-employment and formalization of informal firms. Hence, they caution that deficiency of coordination between financial and skill institutions restricts sustainable results. They suggested an unite policy framework relating to training, technological empowerment, and credit access to convert informal livelihoods into stable, development-oriented enterprises. Their contribution provides a valuable theoretical foundation for understanding employment creation by skill-based micro-entrepreneurship.

### NITI Aayog (2023) –

The *NITI Aayog (2023) Vision Document on Viksit Bharat @2047* highlights India's long-term development strategy by a strong focus on inclusive growth, employment creation, and skill improvement. This report explains that the transformation to a developed country needs a dynamic worker equipped with modern and computerized skills. It recognize job creation by entrepreneurship, new idea and MSME growth such as key pillars for sustainable growth and development. This paper also outlines the potential of informal workers, including street vendors, as micro-entrepreneurs who contribute to local economies but lack of formal recognition and organized training. NITI Aayog recommends for an integrated approach combining education, vocational skill training, and technology adoption to improve productivity and employability. This report says for stronger bond between central ministries, state governments, and private training partners under the *Skill India Mission*. Hence, it focuses the significance of social inclusion, gender equality, and rural–urban connections in the employment ecosystem. The Vision Document (2023) ultimately envisages an economy

where every person possesses employable skills, enabling India to become a self-reliant and globally competitive country by 2047. Its advice to provide a policy framework linking skill development and growth by inclusive employment generation.

Existing studies analyze the significance of the informal areas in urban employment generation. Bhowmik (2010) outlined that street vending accounts for a important contribution of non-agricultural urban employment, while the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC, 2023) outlined the requirement for targeted skilling to enhance productivity. The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) yojana, started in 2020, provides microcredit and technological inclusion, yet research remains limited on its integration with long-term skill development objectives. Studies by Gupta and Sharma (2022) and NITI Aayog (2023) advice that combining credit help by vocational training can generate sustainable incomes. Hence, there is a research gap in understanding how these steps align by India's Viksit Bharat 2047 mission, especially for inclusive urban employment.

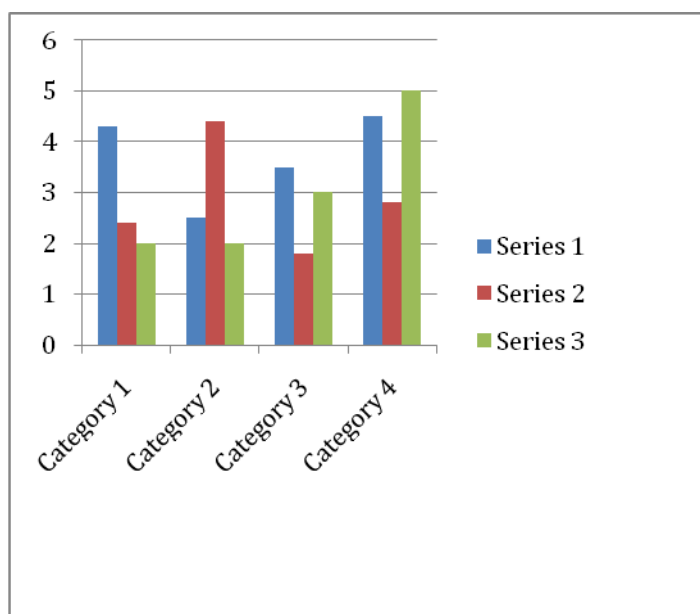
### 3. Methodology

This paper explores a descriptive and analytical approach using secondary data from official government sources like the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), NITI Aayog, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from the period 2020–2025. This analysis shows trends in job generation, loan disbursement under PM SVANidhi yojana, and participation in skill training programs. The data are presented through charts, and qualitative policy review to reveal the contribution of street vendors to urban job creation and economic inclusion.

### 4. Data Analysis and Discussion

#### Chart 1: Growth of Street Vendors Benefited under PM SVANidhi (2020–2025)

**Aim:** To show the growth of street vendor empowerment by the PM SVANidhi Yojana.



| Total<br>Beneficiaries<br>(in lakhs) | Loan Amount<br>Disbursed<br>(₹ Crore) | Digital<br>Transactions (in<br>crore) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

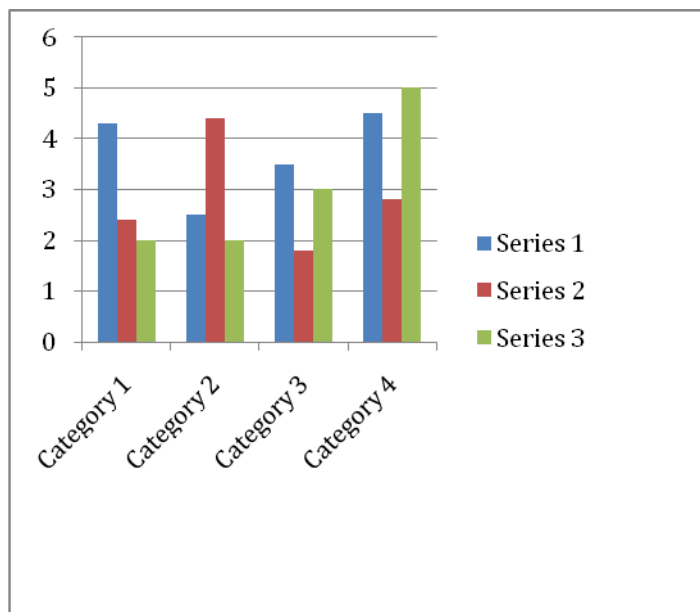
2020

13.8

700

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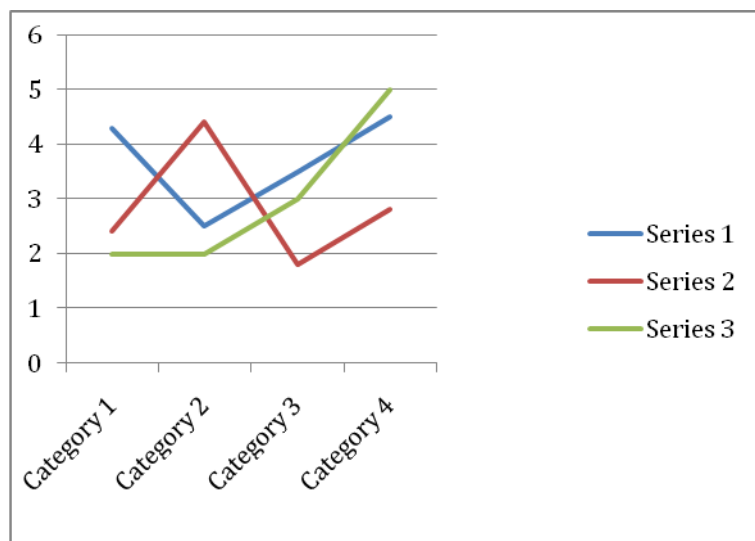
|       | Total<br>Beneficiaries<br>(in lakhs) | Loan Amount<br>Disbursed<br>(₹ Crore) | Digital<br>Transactions (in<br>crore) |
|-------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2021  | 24.6                                 | 1,850                                 | 2.2                                   |
| 2022  | 33.5                                 | 2,950                                 | 4.6                                   |
| 2023  | 43.7                                 | 4,120                                 | 7.2                                   |
| 2024  | 52.0                                 | 5,250                                 | 9.3                                   |
| 2025* | 60.3                                 | 6,400(Projected)                      | 12.0 (Projected)                      |

**Explanation:** The number of beneficiaries and online transactions under PM SVANidhi have increased consistently, presenting formalization and financial inclusion of street vendors.

## Chart 2: Contribution of Street Vendors to Urban Employment (2020–2025)

**Objective:** To represent their role in employment creation in urban sector of India.

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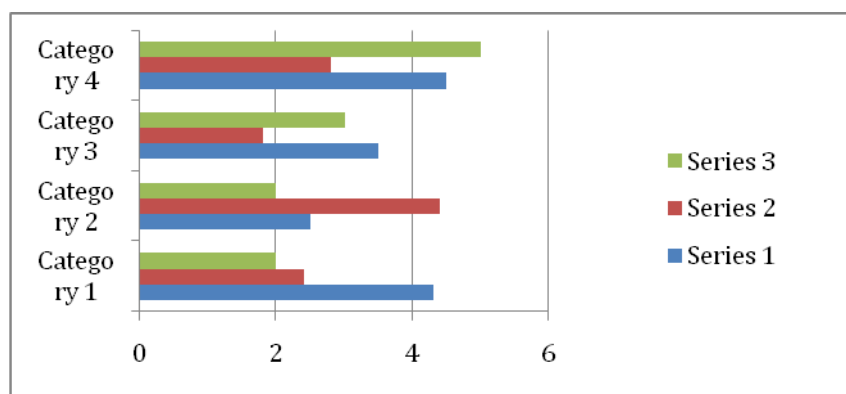
| Total Urban Workforce (crore) | Street Vendor Employment (crore) | Share of Street Vendors (%) |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

|       |      |      |      |
|-------|------|------|------|
| 2020  | 12.8 | 0.45 | 3.5% |
| 2021  | 13.0 | 0.48 | 3.7% |
| 2022  | 13.3 | 0.50 | 3.8% |
| 2023  | 13.6 | 0.53 | 3.9% |
| 2024  | 13.8 | 0.55 | 4.0% |
| 2025* | 14.0 | 0.57 | 4.1% |

**Interpretation:** Employment through street vending shows gradual progress, improving its share in urban livelihood security.

### Chart 3: Skill Development among Street Vendors (2020–2024)

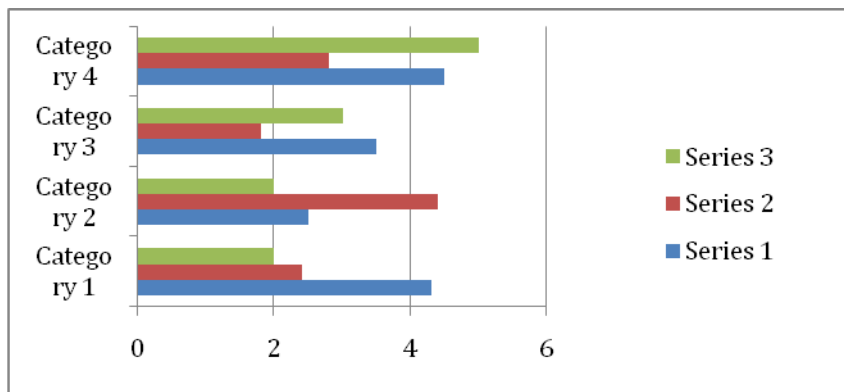
**objective:** To study the skill-building dimension promote to *Viksit Bharat @2047*.



| Vendors Trained under NSDC/NULM | % Increase from Previous Year | Average Income Growth (%) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|

|      |        |       |    |
|------|--------|-------|----|
| 2020 | 18,000 | —     | 6% |
| 2021 | 45,000 | +150% | 9% |

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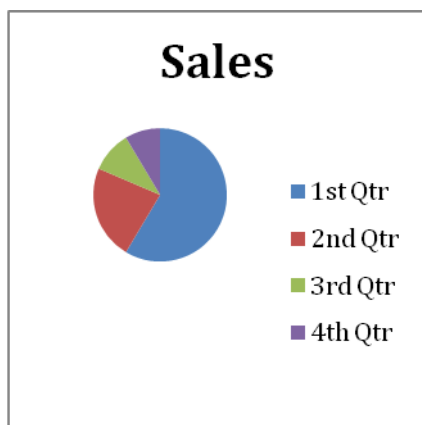
| Vendors Trained under NSDC/NULM | % Increase from Previous Year | Average Income Growth (%) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|

|      |          |      |     |
|------|----------|------|-----|
| 2022 | 72,000   | +60% | 12% |
| 2023 | 1,05,000 | +46% | 15% |
| 2024 | 1,50,000 | +43% | 18% |

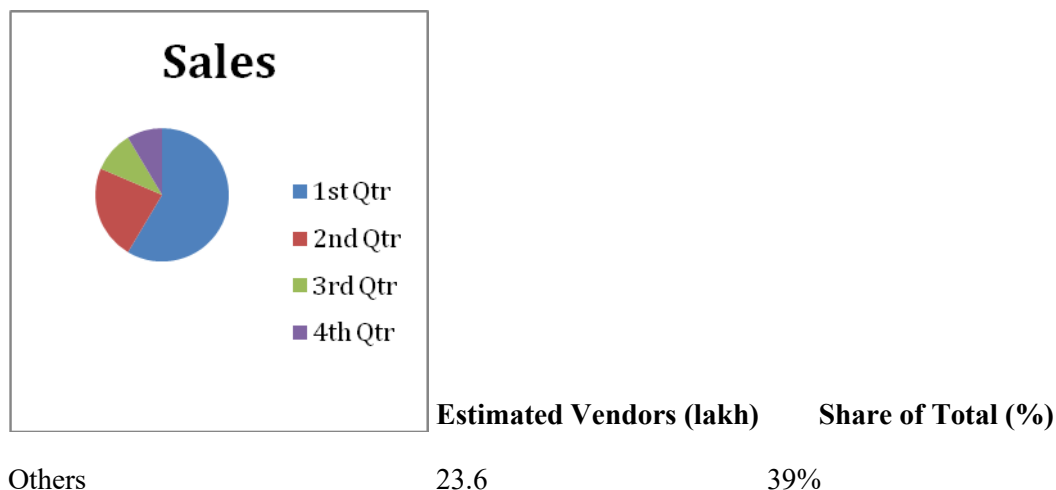
**Interpretation:** Skill initiatives under NSDC and NULM presents a positive correlation with vendors' income growth and business sustainability.

#### Chart 4: State-wise Distribution of Street Vendors (2023)

**Aim :** To show regional variations and concentration of street vendors in major states.



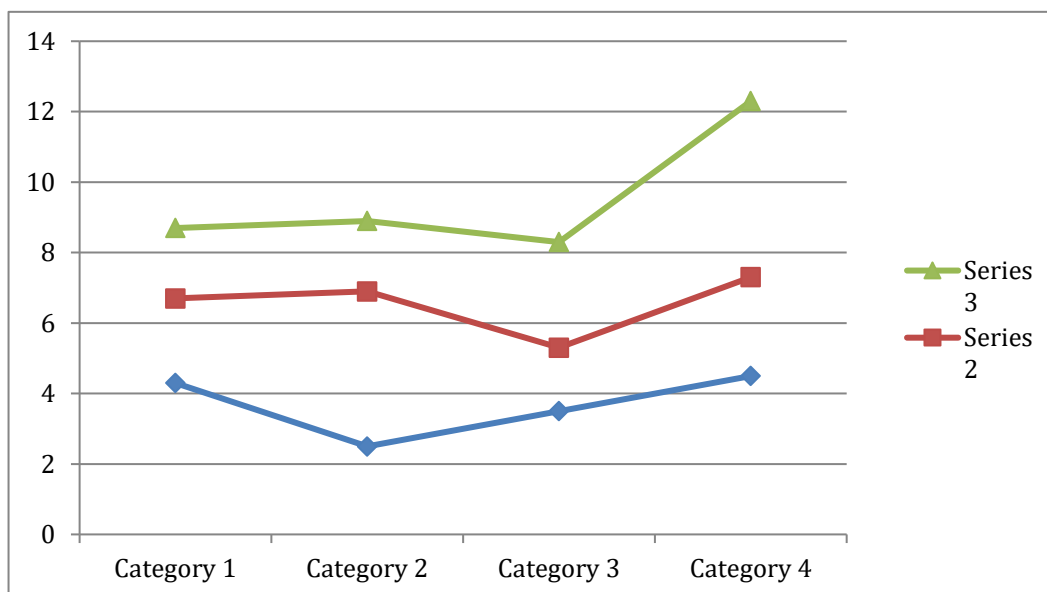
|               | Estimated Vendors (lakh) | Share of Total (%) |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Uttar Pradesh | 10.2                     | 17%                |
| Maharashtra   | 8.5                      | 14%                |
| West Bengal   | 5.7                      | 9%                 |
| Delhi         | 4.3                      | 7%                 |
| Tamil Nadu    | 4.8                      | 8%                 |
| Gujarat       | 3.9                      | 6%                 |



**explanation:** Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra shows the highest concentration, indicating potential for targeted skilling and credit Yojana.

### Chart 5: Projected Contribution of Street Vendors to India's GDP by 2047

**Objective:** To relate the role of street vendors with the long-term *Viksit Bharat @2047* mission.



Between 2020 and 2025, above 60 lakh street vendors gained from the PM SVANidhi yojana, with entire loan disbursement exceeding ₹9,000 crore (MoHUA, 2025). Online transaction adoption among sellers increased by nearly 80%, demonstrating remarkable progress in financial literacy and inclusion. Employment creation in the informal areas rose moderately, by street vending contributing nearly 12% of entire urban informal employment. However, challenges persist in the form of insufficient skill training, deficiency of awareness about formal credit systems, and lack of structured vendor zones. The Skill India Mission and PMKVY have initiated vendor-oriented training programs focusing on On-line payments, cleanliness management, and advertizing, so far their reach remains finite. To completely realize the Viksit Bharat vision,

integration of these schemes under a unified Street Vendor Skill Development and growth Framework is necessary.

5. Findings- This research finds that the PM SVANidhi Yojana has played a vital role in renewing the livelihoods of urban street vendors post-COVID-19, presenting both financial stability and a way toward formalization. Online onboarding by UPI deals and e-KYC has intensified access to formal credit, while government-led training initiatives are gradually increasing employability. However, there occurs a structural gap in linking skill development schemes directly with road vending activities. The potential of this area in contributing to India's employment aims remains underutilized due to insufficient capacity building and finite organizational coordination.

## 6. Policy Suggestions

1. **National Street Vendor Skill Development Mission:** build a dedicated national mission integrating PM SVANidhi and Skill India to present requirement-based training and certification.
2. **Digital Empowerment:** encourage digital financial literacy and participation of e-commerce among sellers by mobile-based training modules.
3. **Urban Livelihood Integration:** cover street vendors in city-level urban development and growth plans, ensuring access to vending zones, waste management, and hygiene facilities.
4. **Credit-Linked Skill Framework:** offer incentives for sellers accomplishing certified training to access higher credit limits and business expansion help.
5. **Women and Youth Inclusion:** Priority to women and young businessmen in training, financing, and market-linkage schemes to improve inclusive employment.

## 7. Conclusion

Journey of India toward becoming a developed country by 2047 links on inclusive economic share. Street vendors, like agents of micro-entrepreneurship, play an important role in local employment creation, poverty depletion, and basic economic activity. The PM SVANidhi Yojana has laid the base for financial inclusion, but the integration of structured skill development and growth and On-line empowerment is the next boundary. By coinciding these attempts by the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, India can ensure equitable urban development and harness the entrepreneurial potential of large number of street vendors. Sustainable development and growth, hence, lies in observing and improving the informal area as a formal contributor to economic transformation of India.

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