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An Investigation on the Phenomenon of Women Vendors in Tehran's Metro

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Abstract: One of the major challenges facing managers and urban planners in the third millennium is increasingly development of informal economy. Tehran Metropolis is not an exception and it has witnessed a growing expansion of the informal economy, especially vendors in the subway over the last few decades. Accordingly, this paper aimed to review the theories and approaches about the phenomenon of street vending and then analyzed the passengers' attitudes towards women vendors as well as the characteristics and reasons for its spread in subway cars using a survey based on semi-structured interview. The statistical population includes of two groups of traveler women and street vendors of Tehran metro line 1 and the sample size is 75 and 82 respectively. The results revealed that passengers are more willing to buy from Metro vendors. The major group age of metro's vendors are young, educated, often immigrants, married and heads of households. The most important reason for this activity is inadequate capital and lack of jobs in the formal sector. The respond of managers and city officials is often based on legalistic approach, prohibiting, and preventing their activities. Finally, in order to organize vendors in metro, solutions including efficient and comprehensive spatial planning throughout the country, facilitating self-employment, development of special places for vendors, monitoring and controlling the quality of products, training and empowering, licensing activities in specific places and renting metro stalls to vendors have been presented.

Keywords: informal economy, street jobs, women vendors, Tehran Metro Line 1
JEL Classification: E26, J32, L91, J61

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1- Introduction

Over the last decades, rapid growth of urbanization and overcoming urbanization of urban planning have made many big problems facing urban managers and policy-make, particularly in developing countries. Nowadays, more than 85% of that growth belongs to the cities located in southern countries. One of the most influential push factors of such rapid growth is rural-urban migrations in those countries. Promoting medical facilities, developing modern transportation technologies, increasing cultural and economic exchanges, and natural growth of rural populations along with limited human and natural resources lead the peoples from villages directly to the cities to find a better life. In southern world cities unlike the industrial societies, the lack of resources besides the gradual economic growth enfeeble cities to provide a qualified life and enough jobs for immigrants who are not skilled and educated, therefore they immediately get into the informal section of the economy (Bhowmik, 2005). The informal section makes a room for newcomers who are not well educated nor skilled (Maneepong & Walsh, 2013). Increasing informal employment and its emerging challenges have made a common ground to become an international development discourse since 1970s (Heinonen, 2008) and it has attracted the attention of academics, social activists, and policy makers to itself more than before. Street vending is the well-known sub-division of informal employment which is really common both in across the country (Onyango et al., 2012). Basically, this activity is a historical profession which rooted in ancient societies. It used to have a dominant role in trade network at that time. According to Modernism, it was presumed that cities free from informal activities will be created, and these businesses will simply disappear (Meneses-Reyes & Caballero-Juárez, 2014). However, today, street vending is a growing phenomenon that most of the workers make money through it in developing countries (Kayuni& Tambulasi, 2009). Urban managers have always tried to prevent the activity of these people in the streets or to regulate at least this activity, but not only have not succeeded, but sometimes these efforts have the opposite effect ((Meneses-Reyes & Caballero-Juárez, 2014). And in most cases it has caused conflicts between city officials and street vendors. These conflicts are often due to lack of license, tax avoidance, and the occupancy of public space and sidewalks by sellers (Kayuni & Tambulasi, 2009). Despite these issues, these individuals not only earn money by relying on small personal and native capital, but by providing a range of cheap and affordable goods and services for deprived people of the community, they play an important role in increasing economic and physical access to the products and, consequently, in the urban economy (Weng, 2013). Tehran, as a political center of Iran, is the heart of economic activities in the country. Like many populated Asian cities, Tehran is received constantly a large number of people who seek for job and street vending is a bold character in its public spaces. Furthermore vending at subway has become controversial as an emerging issue that vendors from both genders got involved in it. Since the uncontrolled rise of these vendors, the relevant authorities, including the municipality and Tehran-Suburban Railway Company, have tried

in various ways to organize transportation and combat the activities of these people. Moreover, it is imperative to take advantage of planners and policymakers to solve this problem.

Accordingly, the present study aims to review the academic literature of the world in this regard, and then analyze the reasons for the presence and employment of vendors in Tehran's metro space and the satisfaction of metro commuters with regard to vendor's activities. Finally, there are alternatives to consider. Thus, the main questions of the research are:

1. How satisfying are the activities of vendors and the goods provided by them to the commuters?

2. What are the characteristics of female vendors and what are the reasons to be subway vendor in Tehran?

3. What are the best alternatives to organize female subway vendors in Tehran?

2- Literature Review

a) Foreign Researches

The word "informal" was first introduced by Keith Hart (1973), an anthropologist in social sciences, in an article entitled "Informal Opportunities for Income and Urban Employment in Ghana." His study focused on self-employed workers who failed to get the right job in the formal sector. He showed that high inflation, insufficient wages and an increasing number of workers who surplus market demand led the workers to get into the informal jobs.

Until 2000, there was no significant literature available on the subject of street vending, and fewer studies were conducted than other sectors of the economy.

The International Labor Office has extensive studies in this field, and the informal sector is divided into four subdivisions: Home-based workers (those who produce goods and services at their homes), domestic workers (servants and guards), street vendors, and waste pickers. The organization believes that promoting a decent work requires an integrated strategy that removes the negative dimensions of informal jobs by maintaining its potential for job creation and income.

The World Bank has carried out various researches in this field, often focusing on evaluating methods and the informal sector.

Along with these studies, there have been other researchers in foreign literature, such as Pena (1999), which explores the role and function of street vendor organizations. The results indicate that these organizations carry out two major roles in negotiating and managing social capital.

In a study published in six countries, including, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa, Mitola (2003) concluded that the workers in this sector of the economy were in irregular and unprotected environments they work not well for business.

In 2004, Jimu investigated pros and cons of street vendors and indicated that by establishing appropriate regulations and creating economic opportunities, it would likely to be counted as a positive factor in the socio-economic development and development of poor societies.

In 2011, Timaslina acknowledged the importance of the street businesses and argued that these jobs are the income source for many poor rural comers in urban areas, which not only have the opportunity to earn money for these people but also it provides low price goods for lower class in the city.

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b) Iranian Researches

Sadeghi Fassaei & Ajorlu (2012) in an article examined the phenomenon of vending and reasons of women's tendency to this phenomenon. Findings of the research showed that financial need, women's atmosphere, job flexibility and proper income are among the factors driving women to the market. According to the results of the research, women vendors were divided into five groups of supervisors, co-workers, amateurs, criminals and habitants.

Rostami (2014) studied the causes and consequences of women's vending in Tehran. This research is a descriptive-analytic study. Using a survey method and a questionnaire, 200 women were surveyed in Tehran district 12. The results showed that there is a significant relationship between the tendency toward vending and economic, social, personality and cultural consequences for the women surveyed.

Visian et al. (2015) studied the status of employees of the informal economy in the city of Ghorve. Data were analyzed using SPSS software and descriptive-inferential statistics. The research findings showed that the geographical distribution of this activity in the city of Ghorve is not uniform, most people working in this sector do not pay taxes, and there is a relationship between job dissatisfaction and the informal sector.

3-Theoretical Background

Informal Economy

Currently, informal activities are an integral part of the urban economy, especially in the Southern countries (Meneses-Reyes & Caballero-Juárez, 2014), which covers a wide range of economic activities in trade, commerce, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, transportation and services (Timalsina, 2011). According to the actors, activities, and scale are very diverse and heterogeneous (Heinonen, 2008); but briefly, with characteristics such as nonsupport laws, limited range of user activity, small scale production, individual or family service activities, easy and free access to it, irregular market, low capital, low skill, and limited practice (Fashoyin, 2008). This section is referred as shadow economy, underground economy, second economy, cash economy and parallel economy (Schneider et al., 2010). In 2002, International Law Commission (ILC) introduced the word "informal economy" in place of the foregoing informal section to better describe the scope and diversity of the phenomenon around the world. Instead of providing a definite definition, this framework provides parameters for recognizing the activities of this section, which are all activities that are not adequately covered by formal arrangements in law and practice (La Hovary, 2013). A street vendor is a person who offers his goods and services but does not have a permanent, structured location (Yatmo, 2009).These people may be placed on walkways, streets and other public and private spaces, or, as they carry their goods in bins, cartons, carts or their hands, from one place to another. (Sekar, 2008). Street vendors create a job opportunity and provide affordable goods and services for deprived people (Weng, 2013); however, these people in most third world countries are regarded as disturbing, the source of disturbance and the visual disturbance factor of cities, and for this reason, policies that are being developed tend to curtail their presence in urban environments with a view to creating a better image of the city (Yatmo, 2009).

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Vending is an activity outside the regulatory framework of the formal and legal sector, because it is not often registered in the tax system and relies on a permanent movement. These occupations were initially as an ancient and important job in almost every country, both developed and developing (Recio & Gomez Jr, 2013). But, now these jobs are more common in developing countries, and women make up a large share (Herrera et al., 2012).

The debate about the nature and composition of the informal economy has crystallized into four major schools, as follows:

The Theories of Informal Economy

In general, over the previous decades there has been a debate about the nature of the informal economy in the four main schools, which are as follows:

Dualist Theory

The theory of dualism articulated by Tokman (1978). This theory was based on the dominant thoughts that emerged after World War II, and the recognition of informal jobs as an expression of urban duality, and this was often seen in cities where there was a clear difference between formal and informal jobs, in other words; it can be argued that this theory proves the existence of a primitive sector to a modern and specialized section. (Recio & Gomez Jr, 2013). According to the theory of dualism, the continuation of formal activities should be examined in light of the fact that the official job opportunities created for employment are not adequate and responsive to the gradual economic development and rapid urbanization. On this basis, the economy, due to its dual nature, consists of two traditional and modern parts, and the formal and informal sectors are considered to be two opposite segments due to the absence of almost any relationship. (Ndhlovu, 2011). Given the dualistic view of informal jobs, it is not a surprising and non-therapeutic phenomenon, but a common phenomenon that, in the early stages of industrialization, is due to the discrepancy between job opportunities and labor supply. This is a transitional phase towards development and will disappear when development is complete. This sector, as it generates for poor people, is also a safe ground for the time of. This section is a feature of pre-capitalist societies which disappears along with the modern economy.

Structuralism Theory

In response to dualism, a new understanding emerged from the informal sector called structuralism theory. This theory is also known as the Black Market Theory, Underground Theory, Global Systems Theory, and Portes Theory. Structuralism was introduced by Moser and Castells in the late 1970s and 80s, they focused on analyzing production methods in the capitalist system and dependence and determinism in which it was taking place. The proponents of structuralism rejected the dualism argument of the economic system and emphasized the way in which forms of production, production units, technology, and workers in different economic sectors were merged. For example, small companies operate in the informal sector as a function and unit of the specialized units of the formal sector (Ndhlovu, 2011). This led to the fact that most employers in many capitalist companies have come to reduce informal jobs for reducing labor costs, increase flexibility, increase competition, and protect profits by increasing government laws and changing global conditions. In this perspective,

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informal employment is the result of a capitalist process that tries to keep labor costs down. Key policies include increasing the bargaining power of informal workers through the implementation of labor standards, the formation of a union, labor market regulations, and the expansion of macroeconomic policies (Avirgan et al., 2005). In general, the structuralist school calls the informal sector as a unit of function and a subset of economic units such as small companies and workers who serve it, in order to reduce labor costs and, consequently, increase competition between capital companies is formed (Chen, 2012).

Legalist Theory

The theory of legalism is articulated by scholars, including De Soto (1989), Centeno and Ports (2003), Croos and Pena (2001) and Bromley (1994) (Ofori, 2007) and it is closely related to neoclassical economics and neoliberalism (La Hovary, 2013). De soto argued that the emergence of the informal sector is the result of administrative barriers and rigid rules and regulations for business in the formal sector, thus becoming an additional barrier for individuals, hence, they are forced to circumvent formal rules by working in the informal sector (Ndhlovu, 2011). According to this school, it is believed that the informal sector players will choose to avoid additional costs, time and effort for formal registration, and most of them will be made up of those who are subject to the law of ownership for the conversion of assets to formal assets (Chen, 2012). In this vision, the interests of capitalism, which De Soto calls "Mercantilist interests", colludes with the government to constitute "bureaucratic rules of the game". The supporters of conservatism argue that informal economy is not necessarily the signal of declining in the quality of employment, and the policies pursued by this view are promoting the transparency of laws, improving the legislative capacity and changing the tax system (Avirgan et al., 2005)

Voluntary Theory

This theory considers of informal economics as entrepreneurs who have resorted to this part of the economy in order to avoid taxes, commercial regulations, rental fees, and other costs in the formal sector (Maloney, 2004). This theory emphasizes that informal entrepreneurs, unlike legal theory, have no problem with the rules and procedures of registration, but are deliberately seeking to avoid regulations and taxes (Chen, 2012).

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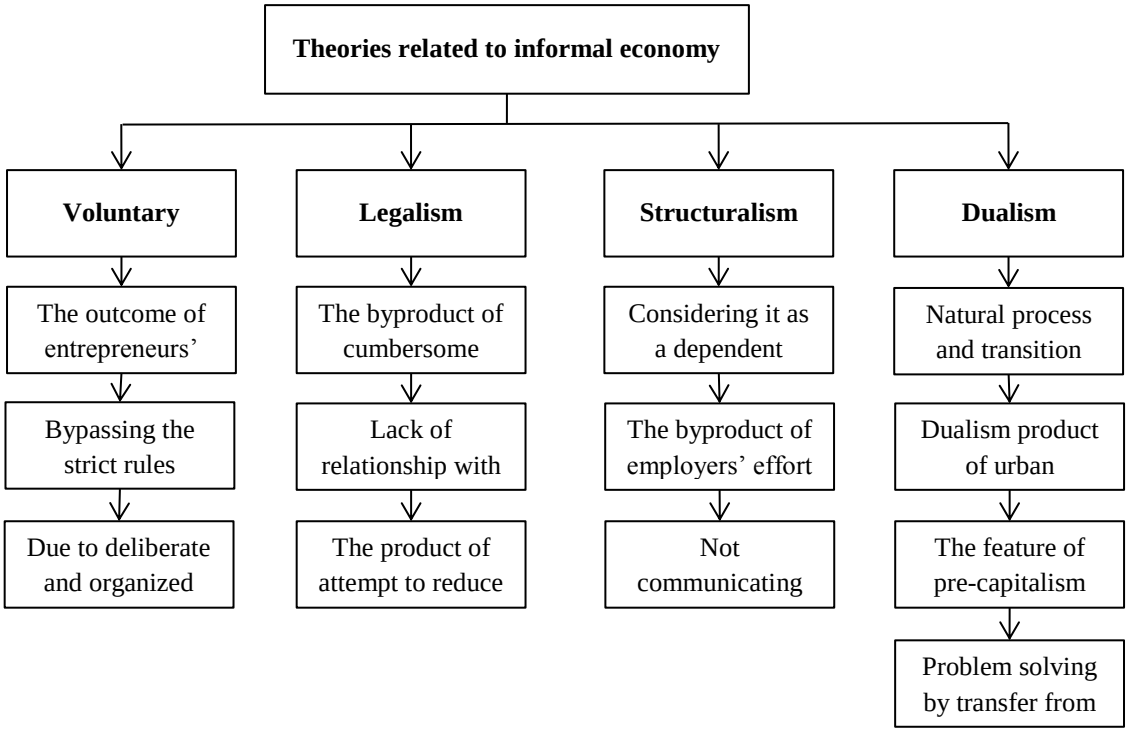

Fig1. Theories related to informal economy

Different Approaches Related to Street Businesses

Urban authorities' response to street businesses can be categorized from absolute barring and organizing (Bhomik, 2005; Onyango et al, 2012). Generally, social activities with illegal and unofficial labels are considered from two vision. The first view is the rule of law, according to informal activities which are in conflict with the law and must be prohibited. The second view is the viewpoint of organizing that is more comprehensive than legislatism and its main purpose is not to eliminate these activities from the urban space, but its supporters believe that these activities should be monitored, controlled, moved and allowed them to work. This view uses four methods of licensing, ownership plans, organization-based registration, and zoning and relocation schemes for organizing and distributing these people in the streets (Meneses-Reyes & Caballero-Juárez, 2014). By studying theoretical literature, the approach of intervention and the attitudes and strategies of these views for street employment can be illustrated as Fig. 2.

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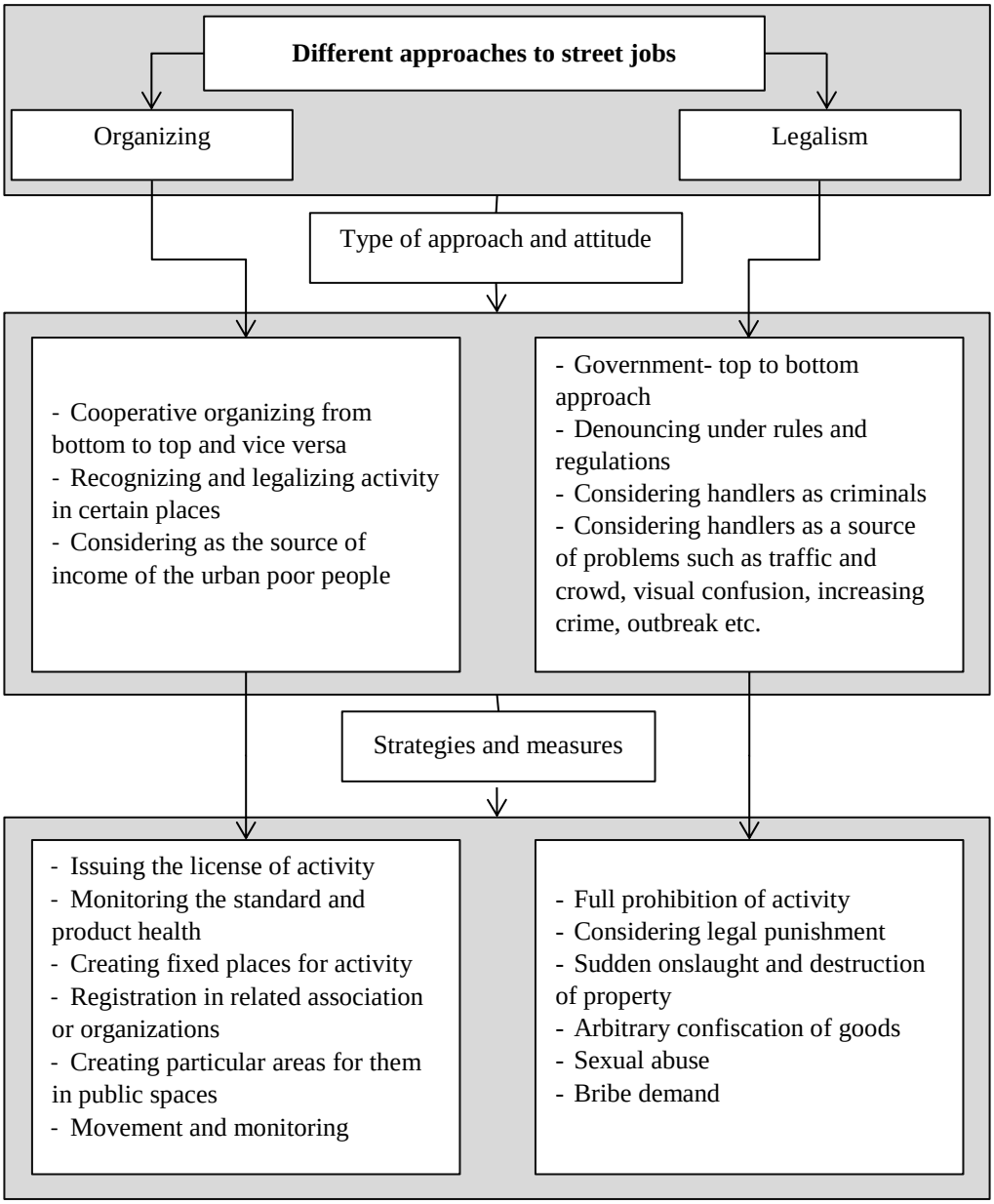

Fig.2. Different approaches to street jobs

4- Research Method

The Study Area

This research studies the phenomenon of women's subway vending in Tehran Metro. Line 1 has been selected for studying the north and south of Tehran and connecting a variety of people from different locations in Tehran. Tehran Metropolitan Metro had four internal metro lines (1, 2, 3 and 4) and an external line (5) in 2015. Line 1 is 39-kilometer long with 29 stations starting at the Tajrish station and ending at Kahrizak Station. Line 1 is intersected in seven stations with other lines, including, Shahid Beheshti station with line 3, Haft-e-Tir station with the line 7(constructing), Darvaze-Dolat station with 4 lines, Imam Khomeini station with line 2 and at the station of Molavi with (constructing) line 7.

This is an applied research and survey-based. Data were collected through the distribution and analysis of semi-structured interviews as well as collected data through secondary research and documents from February 13, 2016 to February 25, 2016.

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This is an applied research and survey-based which, on 12/02/2013 to 02/09/1985, initial data was obtained through the distribution and analysis of semi-structured interviews and secondary data through library studies and documents are collected. The reason for using semi-structured interviews was to apply the respondent's ideas and their probable and preferential solutions that were not available in the international and domestic literature. In these interviews, questions such as the type of products provided by handlers, the place of delivery, the manner of personnel dealing with these people and the problems facing them in these occupations were open questions that related reports in the findings are presented. However, the variables that belong to the characteristics of the vendor, the view of the commuters about the activities of the vendors on the subway and the reason for those who were interested in this activity were presented in the type of close-ended questions. The population study consisted of two groups, including, female commuters and female vendors in metro line 1 of Tehran metropolis, which was designed for each group.

The indicators used in the structured interview were extracted from theoretical background and screened by 10 urban planning experts. Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used to measure the total reliability of the quantitative variables. The rate for the 19 variables consists of 0.812 for vendors' closed interview questions and 0.857 for 8 variables of closed interview questions with commuters (0.857). According to the coefficients which are above 0.7, the designed questions are reliable.

In line with the determination of the sample size, it should also be noted that the number of people in the sample of women in the subway of Tehran metropolitan area was unknown. First, 20 of the questionnaires were distributed to the commuters in a pilot way. By estimating the sample variance at 95% confidence level, the sample size was calculated using the following formula:

$$n = \frac{Z_{\frac{\alpha}{2}}^2 \times S^2}{d^2}$$

$Z_{\alpha/2} = 1.96$

d=0.05

S^2 = 0.048685

n=(0.048685×3.8416)/(0.0025)=

=74.8113184≅75

In order to determine the sample size of female commuters present in the metro, again, due to the uncertainty in the size of the population, the above formula was used again.

S^2 =0.053218

n=(0.053218×3.8416)/(0.0025)=

=81.77690752 ≅82

Finally, SPSS software, descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the collected data.

5- Results

Individual Characteristics of Passenger Respondents

Table 1 lists the individual characteristics of the attending commuters. As you can see, 66% of commuters are aged between 20-39 years old in terms of age group. The reason for this is probably the youth of Tehran's population. Nearly 89 percent of respondents have a diploma or higher education. In terms of employment, most of the contributing women are householders or employed in state-run jobs. More than 53% of respondents are married and 39% of them lives in district 16 and 20 of Tehran.

Table1. Individual characteristics of attending travelers

Respondents' feature	F	Percentage	Respondents' feature	F	Percentage
Age group			**Marital status**		
20-29	30	36.6	Single	38	46.3
30-39	24	29.3	Married	44	53.7
40-49	16	19.5	**Occupation**		
More than 50	12	14.6	Housewife	28	34.1
Education			Student	14	17.1
Illiterate	0	0	State job	28	34.1
Elementary	4	4.9	Self-employed	8	9.8
Secondary	6	7.3	Jobless	4	4.9
Diploma	16	19.5	**Residence area**		
A.A	12	14.6	North areas (districts 1 and 2)	24	29.3
Bachelor	22	26.8	Central areas (districts 6, 7, and 12)	26	31.7
Higher	22	26.8	Southern areas (districts 16 and 20)	32	39

Individual Characteristic of Vendors

In Table 2, the individual characteristics of the attendees participating in the survey are presented. More than 54 percent of female street vendors in the metro form young people ages 20-39. More than 68 percent of them are married and 66 percent are householders. A remarkable point about these people is their birthplace, with 64% of them born outside of Tehran. This suggests that most of these commuters are young job seekers who come from Tehran from the villages and small towns of the country. Another remarkable thing is the relatively high education of these people, with nearly 69% of them having a diploma or higher.

Table2. Individual characteristics of vendors participating in the survey

Respondents' feature	F	Percentage	Respondents' feature	F	Percentage
Age group			**Marital status**		
10-19	2	2.7	Single	12	16
20-29	25	25	Married	51	68
30-39	29	29	Divorced	12	16
40-49	9	9	**Education**		
More than 50	10	10	Illiterate	6	8
Dependency condition			Elementary	13	17.3
Household	50	66.7	Secondary	6	8
Under supervision	25	33.3	Diploma	31	41.3
Birth place			Associate	9	12
Tehran	27	36	Bachelor	8	10.7
Outside of Tehran	48	64	**Main job**		
-	-	-	Vending in metro	69	92
-	-	-	Other cases	6	8

Commuters' Satisfaction to the Activities of Vendors in Metro

To measure the satisfaction of commuters with the presence and activity of vendors in the metro space, the variables described in Table 3 were used. Considering that the average of all variables is higher than 3 (mid-range points), it can be argued that commuters are relatively satisfied with the presence and activity of vendors in the metro space.

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Table3. Satisfaction of commuters with regard to the activities of vendors in the subway

Satisfaction of commuters with the presence and activity of vendors in the subway	Average	Standard deviation	T	d.f	p-value
Buying from vendors saves the time	3.51	0.118	29.764	81	0.000
Buying from vendor saves the cost	3.26	0.125	26.107	81	0.000
The presence of vendors in the subway does not disturb	3.36	0.17	19.847	81	0.000
The respondent does not agree with removing the vendors from the subway	3.40	0.168	18.131	81	0.000

In order to measure the commuters' satisfaction with the product offered by subway vendors, four variables of quality, health, diversity, and price of the product were used according to Table 4. The results show that the highest satisfaction with the price of these products and the lowest is the quality and health of these products. But given the fact that the average of the index (total of 4 variables) is 3.064 and more than 3 (average range of scores), it can be said that the commuters have a fairly high satisfaction with the goods offered by the vendors.

This part of the findings, which has been analyzed in response to the first question of the research, suggests that commuters are not opposed to the presence of street vendors in the metro space and are satisfied with the products provided by them.

Table4. Satisfaction of commuters with products provided by vendors

Satisfaction of commuters with the supplied goods	Average	Standard deviation	T	d.f	p-value
Health of supplied goods	2.73	0.971	26.979	81	0.000
It was cheaper than the one on the official market	3.85	1.032	33.819	81	0.000
The high quality of the goods supplied is similar to that of the official market	2.61	1.015	23.274	81	0.000
High variety of goods supplied	3.07	0.953	29.202	81	0.000

Characteristics and Reasons of Female Vending in the Case Study

Female vendors in the subway provide a wide range of products, including all kinds of clothing, junk foods and snacks, types of sanitary/hygienic products, types of jewelry, some kitchen appliances, electronic accessories and a variety of writing supplies to be sold in the subway. The findings show that vendors often offer these products, which most of them are Chinese products, from major stores in "Panzdah-E-Khordad" Market, and are not sure about their standard. These goods are changed according to seasons and the needs of customers. These people work from 7 to 21 in the subway, but on average the peak hours are between 10 and 20. 58.7% of vendors are weekly, 26.7% six days, and 14.7% are sparse during the week. 78% are always in the regular line (line 1), but 21.3%, according to the conditions, change their line during their activity, 66.7% always sell the same goods, but 33.3% sell different goods according to the conditions.

Based on the views of the vendors, none of the questioners is working for the organization, certain person or in a group and in partnership with a particular

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person or individuals, and their activities are considered as self-employed. 52.8% of these people have had other jobs before being employed on the subway, which has been fired, or for some reason lost their jobs. 92% of them said that the vending in the subway is their main job and earn all their income through the same job. Nevertheless, 2.8% of these people, in addition to being a vendor as their main occupation, have a second job. None of the respondents had ever been on the street before being employed in the subway and only 2.77% had a history of drug use.

The reasons for choosing this job from the vendors, which was presented in the second question of research, were based on six main reasons, which, according to Table 5, are the most important ones, lacking sufficient capital to start the formal business, and other reasons based on averages for each item are: lack of proper job in the formal sector, tax evasion and extra costs, lack of skill for other businesses, relatively decent income from this occupation compared to other businesses, and ultimately interested in this job.

Table5. The reasons for choosing a vending as a job by female vendors on the subway

The reason for choosing street vending job	Average	Standard deviation	T	d.f	p-value
Avoid paying taxes and additional costs	3.53	0.114	30.879	74	0.000
Failure to find a job in the formal sector	4.12	0.149	27.572	74	0.000
Lack of skills to deal with other businesses	2.85	0.19	14.979	74	0.000
Not having enough capital to start the formal business	4.82	0.064	75.394	74	0.000
Interested in the job	2.56	0.153	16.207	74	0.000
Sufficient income provided by the job	2.8	0.102	27.39	74	0.000

The Solutions for Organizing Female Vendors

Considering the rapid growth of Tehran's urban population and the fact that the formal economy of our cities will face significant challenges in attracting all active groups of society, at least over the next decade, the necessity of management and planning for the informal economy seem inevitable. One of the main obstacles to organize vendors of Tehran's metropolitan subway is the lack of clarity of the custodians.

In this research, it has been tried to identify the different approaches taken by the officials of other countries in order to organize these occupations, considering the theoretical frameworks and background of the study. Realization of the proposed approaches depends on the cooperation between the legislature (to provide the necessary legal framework for its implementation) and the executive branch (especially the municipality of the regions) to implement it.

These approaches, which are shown in Table 6, were shared with the participants and were asked to comment on their desire for each one. The results of this table, in response to the third question of research, indicate that vendors are often willing to obtain a license allowing them to operate within subway carriages, and subsequently willing to receive low-yield loans for leasing or buying a store and booth in the space of the stations. In addition, the results indicate that they are not willing to leave subway and create markets for their activities. It can be argued that subway vendors are not interested in leaving the subway.

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Table6. Organizing subway vendors

Alternatives for organizing vendors	Average	Standard deviation	T	d.f	p-value
Licensing	4.56	0.642	61.532	74	0.000
Long-term rental booths at metro stations	3.76	0.898	36.256	74	0.000
Moving from the subway and creating markets for activity	2.34	1.007	20.186	74	0.000
Creating special sales areas in different parts of Tehran	3.13	1.266	21.428	74	0.000
providing low interest loans to rent or purchase a shop and booth	4.17	0.795	45.473	74	0.000
Establishing organizations and membership	3.3	1.059	27.369	74	0.000
Developing employment in other cities of Iran	2.36	0.981	20.825	74	0.000
Creating small businesses in Tehran	3.76	0.836	38.965	74	0.000
Increasing the capacity and training vendors to enter the formal sector of economy	2.93	0.684	37.115	74	0.000

6- Conclusion and Discussion

One of the greatest challenges faced by urban managers and planners in the third millennium is the expansion of informal employment (especially vending) for various reasons, including rapid urbanization, weakness and low capacity of urban economy in the south and greed for profits are in advanced industrial nations.

There are many theories about the nature and reasons for the expansion of the informal economy. The theory of dualism calls it a natural process and a transitional phase towards a developed society. While structuralism, legalism, and voluntarism, similarly, consider informal economy views as an unrelated phenomenon to the economic weaknesses, it is considered as a deliberate act to evade tax, tough and cumbersome laws, and to increase profit and competitiveness. Approaches and reactions of urban planners and policymakers to the phenomenon of vending can be summarized in the framework of the two views of legalism and organizing it.

In the first approach, the phenomenon of street vending is considered to be an illegal activity and is seen as a law-abiding and criminal offender who is the source of many problems, including traffic congestion, visual disturbance, increased crime and the spread of illness. Advocates of this view suggest preventing activities of these individuals and actions such as confiscation of property and taking punishment, etc. In contrast to this view, there is an organization perspective that emphasizes the monitoring, control, displacement and correction of this activity that are in accordance with the results of Bhowmik (2005), Joseph (2011), and Timalsina (2007 & 2011).

Vending is often their main occupation, and the items supplied by them are very diverse and are mostly in the regular line. The most important reason for choosing this job is their lack of capital and lack of proper employment in the formal sector of the economy, which should be noted that the results of this section are also in line with the background of the study (Mitullah, 2003). Urban authorities are more closely aligned with the viewpoint of legalism in solving the shopping challenge in Tehran Metro, and they have a low level of job security.

Finally, the ways of organizing vending in Tehran were reviewed from the viewpoint of the vendors. The findings showed that respondents are

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often interested in continuing their activities on the subway through legal channels such as: official registration and rental of booths by government loans.

Considering the current economic conditions of the country, the rapid growth of the urban population of Tehran, the extreme flood of educated unemployed people and the fact that the official economy of our cities, at least over the next decade, faces significant challenges in attracting all active groups of society, the politicians and managers will have no choice but to plan and manage the informal economy in Tehran.

According to the findings of the research, the following suggestions can be made in the form of organizing perspective:

1. Effective spatial planning in the country in order to create an ideal working environment and life for all, considering the capabilities and capacity of environmental sustainability in different regions of the country to reduce migration to Tehran metropolis

2. Providing facilities with low-interest loans for business start-ups and youth self-employment

3. Creation and selection of special spaces for the activity of vendors, especially in low-income areas

4. Establishing a committed and high executive authority to monitor and control the quality of the goods provided by vendors

5. Planning for the empowerment, capacity, education and supporting female vendors to enter the official economic section

6. Organizing and issuing activity licenses for vendors and monitoring their activities

7. Providing rental pavilions in the subway with special facilities for vendors

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