STREET VENDORS PERCEPTION OF THE EFFECTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES ON ENUGU URBAN MORPHOLOGY

CHIOMA AGATHA JOHN-NSA
Urban And Regional Planning Department, University Of Nigeria, Enugu Campus

BONIFACE UMOH
Institute for Development Studies, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

This study examined the activities of street vendors operating within the informal economy in Enugu City with regard to its effects on the economy, human relations, environment and resulting government responses. A total of thirteen street vendors were purposively selected for in-depth interviews and non-participant observation. Variables of interest were vendors' perceptions of contributions to urban mobility, community relations and economic dynamics. The analysis was done using content analysis. Findings show that street vendors play pivotal roles in community relations. It was also found that street vendors offer convenient and accessible services, saving residents’ time, convenience of shopping in transit and saving foregone transport money. In terms of the dynamics within the informal economy, it was discovered that some vendors adapt innovative pricing strategies to offer affordability. Based on these findings, it is concluded that street vendors make multifaceted contributions to Enugu's urban economy, cityscape and positive community living. It is therefore recommended that rather see them as a nuisance, urban policymakers and planners have to recognize the significance of street vendors and the informal economy generally in shaping the city's social fabric, mobility patterns, and economic landscape as they strive to create resilient, inclusive urban environments as enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal number 11.

Keywords: Economy, Street trading, Urban Community, Urban Mobility.

Introduction

In the ever-evolving tapestry of urban life, street vendors stand as vibrant and dynamic threads, weaving their presence into the very fabric of cityscapes worldwide. These informal entrepreneurs, often operating on the margins of formal economic systems, are not only purveyors of goods and services but also catalysts for profound transformations in urban life. Their significance extends beyond economic transactions, resonating in the manner in which they influence the daily lives and perceptions of the communities they serve. The presence and operation of street vendors are emblematic of the informal economy, a resilient and adaptive sector that exists in parallel to formal economic structures (Peimani and Kamalipour, 2022). Street vending, as a quintessential component of this informal economy, embodies the ethos of entrepreneurial spirit, adaptability, and resilience in the face of economic challenges (Donovan, 2008; Chen, 2012). Steel, Ujoranyi and Owusu, (2014) recognized street traders as valuable and cost-effective
intermediaries in the distribution of goods and services, as their connections with the formal sector helped maintain low living costs in the city while expanding consumer options.

On the other hand, the operations of street vending have been viewed to contribute to traffic congestion, indiscriminate waste generation and disposal, disorderliness, loss of aesthetics and environmental quality devaluation (Middleton, 2003). Based on the foregoing, Spire & Choplin, (2018) showed how Accra urban management officials have used decongestion and beautification as a reason for the relocation of street vendors from strategic segments of the city. Other measures towards getting rid of vendors off the street are; eviction, confiscation of goods, fines by agents of municipal authorities or self-imposed area thugs. For Enugu City, Onodugo et al, (2016) reported that these repressive measures have not succeeded in removing traders from the street. Thus, their resilience is not just based on their preference but must be enshrined in some other indispensable role they play in community existence.

Street vendors as micro-entrepreneurs serve as intermediaries between neighborhoods, offering not just goods but also other services essential to community development. Street trading has been the center of several research, discourses and publications. Yet, Anetor (2015) showed that very few studies have attempted to evaluate the worth of street vending. This study embarks on the journey to understand street vendors' perceptions of their roles in urban settings. It acknowledges that while street vending has been the subject of extensive research, the voices and perspectives of the vendors themselves are frequently overlooked. The aim is to explore their unique experiences, challenges, and aspirations within the Enugu urban landscape, revealing the intricacies of how they view their roles in shaping urban mobility patterns and social interactions.

However, the paper is structured into five sections. Following the introduction section is section two which is the literature review, the methodology is section three, section four is results and discussions, and section five is the conclusion and recommendations of the paper. By centralizing the perspectives of street vendors, this study seeks to offer a more comprehensive understanding of the complex relationship between informal economies and urban environments. Moreover, it provides insights that urban planners, policymakers, and community stakeholders can employ to better integrate street vending into the urban development discourse, potentially leading to more inclusive and vibrant cities that accommodate the livelihoods and aspirations of street vendors and residents alike.

**Literature Review**

**Informal Economy: Street Vending, Economic and Social Gains**
The activities of unregistered businesses are included in the informal sector; employment that is not socially or legally protected is referred to as informal employment; and the activities and results of all the workers within the sector are collectively referred to as the informal economy (Chen, 2012). The urban areas are mostly characterized by the activities that are within the informal economy (Banks, Lombard and Mitlin, 2019). However, the informal economy—which is mostly comprised of street vending—plays a significant role in producing, creating jobs, and generating revenue in many nations (Recchi, 2020). Trading activities on the street in developing countries, has become an essential element of urban economics (Friday, 2015). It entails the displaying of goods or merchandise on the roadside, also includes street hawking to commuters while vehicles are mobile (Amoo et al, 2012). According to Bhoomik (2005), street trading can be defined as the selling of goods and services in the street without the use of a permanently built structure. More broadly defined, street traders include those who sell goods and services in public spaces such as streets, transportation routes, and sidewalks, among other spaces. To any street trader, public space such as road has an entirely different meaning (Abegunde, 2011). Thus, street traders serve as important sources of goods and services for residents who may not have access to formal markets or commercial centers (Enogholase, 2009).

In terms of convenience, street sellers bring daily products to buyers at lower costs in areas accessible to them at transport stations, close to workplaces and parks and outside residential areas (Roever, 2014). The presence of street vendors are also reputed to reduce transportation of urban residents, especially longer movements. Skinner and Reed (2018) showed that urban planners have observed that trading and other menial ventures make city dwellers more inclined to trek by offering a variety of products and services within trekking distance. Thus, street vending presence can help to reduce travel distances and costs for consumers, especially those who live in low-income areas with limited access to formal markets (Steel, et al, 2014). Moreover, street venders can provide a sense of community and social interaction that is often lacking in modern urban environments (Bhoomik, 2005). Friday (2015), in his study on the economic aspect of street trading in Lagos, shows that street trading provides jobs, economic opportunities and income to urban dwellers especially the poor. His study also revealed that street trading can be economically beneficial to the Lagos state government if properly managed. Finally, Anetor, (2015) showed that Bromley’s study in 2000 highlighted some gains inherent in street vending activities to include that through their trades, street vendors add directly to a country’s total economic activity; through levies, taxes and other rate, street vending has the potential of revenue generation to the government; affords entrepreneurial prospects to individuals that may not be capable of affording to purchase or rent permanent structure; provides a significant flexibility and varieties in working hours, locations and levels of undertakings; it can be undertaken as supplementary job for more income. Despite the inherent gains in street
vending, there are reported problems associated with the venture and these will be highlighted in the next section.

**Street Vending: Urban Mobility and Urban Community**

Urban mobility, a vital element in the functionality of any city, encompasses various aspects such as pedestrian traffic, public transportation systems, accessibility to essential goods and services, and the overall movement of individuals within an urban environment. Recio et al. (2019) study of transport hubs as center for street vendors commercial space as well as mobility aligns with this study in which the city center depend on the presence of street traders to provide a wide range of goods and services to consumers. Adedeji et al. (2014), found out that street trading activities in urban center posed serious negative impacts on the accessibility of both vehicles and pedestrians’ to mobility spaces. However, street trading can also have negative impacts on urban mobility. One of the main issues is congestion, which occurs when street vendors occupy sidewalks or other public spaces that are meant for pedestrian use. This can lead to overcrowding, pedestrian accidents, and reduced mobility for people with disabilities or limited mobility (Olaposi, 2021). In addition, street traders may obstruct traffic flow and reduce the capacity of roads and intersections, leading to increased travel times and delays for motorists (Mitullah, 2003). Olanrewaju (2020), in his study, shows that street trading activities are a major generator of solid waste in residential neighborhoods which is usually not properly managed. The other problems of street trading activities to young and children operators in residential neighborhoods can be seen in a study by Okoli and Cree, (2012). They identified problems like high risk of accidents, exposure to kidnappers, truancy, fatigue, exposure to the hazards of weather, early unwanted pregnancy and contraction of STDs, rape and recruitment into cult groups, and street gangs.

**Urban Policies and Street Vending**

Most cities lack policies on the regulation of street vending and where such exist, it’s usually outdated. However, in some cities in Nigeria where policy exists, they have not been fully implemented as designed and in some cases, they are wrongly implemented by emphasizing more on the use of coercion, (Olaposi, 2021). Recent studies by Onyebueke, (2000); Ezeadichie, (2012) and Onodugo et al., (2016) and John-Nsa (2022) have shown that the repressive regulation of street vending has usually come in the form of forceful eviction, relocation, complete disregard, clampdown and imposition of fines and levies all in a bid to rid the city of such nuisance. Despite the societal stigmas associated with informal street hawking, Bernal-Torres et al, (2020) contended that street sellers in Bogotá viewed their profession as an honourable occupation that contributes to the well-being of society and a dignified existence. Recio et al, (2019) study of transport hubs as hubs for street vendors' commercial space as well as mobility highlights the significance of socio-spatial concerns in developing inclusive land-use and transport planning and policy. Anetor
(2015) showed that very few studies have attempted to evaluate the worth of street vending, even though those that have were not exclusively focused on this issue: studies like those of Dipeolu et al. (2007), Nakisani Carol & Ongori (2013); Bromley (2000); Amoo et al. (2012).

Most studies on street trading see these activities as blights, and a nuisance as well as impediments to free traffic flow. However this study seeks to reveal the positive side and value of street vending in Enugu city as perceived by the operators.

Methodology

The study was carried out in Enugu City, the capital of Enugu State. Initially, during the British Empire's colonial rule, Enugu was the capital of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate. Situated in the southeast geopolitical zone of Nigeria. For administrative purposes, the urban area is divided into three distinct administrative areas namely: Enugu North Local Government Area, Enugu East Local Government Area, and Enugu South Local Government Area.

Even though Enugu town is not a major industrial/commercial town, there exists recognized business hubs in the city. Ogbete Market, Awkunanaw or Garriki Market, and New Market are Enugu's three principal commercial hubs. Based on population density, the residential areas in Enugu city were delineated into high density, medium and low population density areas. The residential areas are also interspaced with some informal settlements (John-Nsa, 2021). Arising from modern development, the main streets and roads in Enugu's metropolitan area are shops, department stores, banks, electronic stores, auto spare parts shops, restaurants, hotels, informal ventures of varied types. The majority of unofficially conducted commercial operations were carried out in the unorganized sector. This includes street trading with its attendant risks, and threats to environmental quality. In Enugu city, street trading operations include, but are not limited to, food carts, electronic vendors, hair salons, retail stores, stationary sells, among others.

Out of the nineteen neighbourhoods that make up Enugu city, three neighbourhoods were purposively chosen based on the strength of concentration of street vending from each density (high, medium and low). The neighbourhoods under investigation are Achara Layout (Mayor Market axis, along Agbani road), Garriki Awkunanuw (Eke market along Agbani road), and Abakpa (along Nike road). Four street traders were selected based on their consent and availability from the three neighborhoods for interview on the 3rd of December, 2022. Purposive sampling was used so as to capture real participants in street trading. A total of thirteen street vendors were interviewed. The sample size aligns with Creswell (1998), who noted that between 5 to 25 interviews are good fit for qualitative study. Within the ethical framework of the interview, potential interviewees were provided with information about the research, including its purpose, the researchers, their rights, and the use of recording devices during the interview, the requirement to obtain consent for the interview's venue and timing, and so on, via physical contact. This demonstrates openness and shuns deceit in research venture. Their responses were recorded and used for this analysis. The actual names of the interviewees were not collected for confidentiality’s sake; rather, Pseudo names were assigned to them (Table 1). Additionally, the researchers made sure that the record was secured and that the
respondents remained anonymous. The interview was recorded using audio recorders. After listening to the audio again, the pertinent data was located and transcribed for data visualisation. The thematic analysis and descriptive method were used in data presentation and discussion.

Results and Discussion

The responses from street vendors in the provided quotations reveal a multitude of insights into their perspectives and the impact of their presence on urban life. These vendors, who operate in various locations, have distinct views on their businesses, their customers, and their roles in the community.

Table 1: Interview Participants Data from Three Neighbourhoods of Enugu City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>S/N</th>
<th>Awkunanaw</th>
<th>Ogbete</th>
<th>Trans-Ekulu</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Name/identity</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Length of Trading (Years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>AWK 1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>AWK 2</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AWK 3</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>AWK 4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>AWK 5</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Field survey, 2022

Profitability and Competition

The study sought to ascertain the sustaining factor in street vending against the background of competition. Respondents maintained that profit was an important factor that kept them.

According to an interviewee

“I make more sales and profit here than when I sold my goods in the market” – Awk 1.

While another noted that “It’s not going as it used to, more road sellers have joined and it has brought about competition” – Awk 4. On why the vendors are increasingly being patronised a female vender was of the view that:
“I think it makes it less stressful for my customers to start travelling to the market to buy common vegetables.” Yet another said: Sometimes when you don’t want to stress yourself and enter market, even with wrapper they can come and buy from me here, but market you’ll have to dress properly before going there” Tre 1

The responses highlight that street vending can be a profitable endeavor, with some vendors reporting increased sales and profits compared to traditional markets. However, competition is intensifying as more vendors enter the roadside business. Street traders make more money selling along the road than in the market place; this has influenced its growth around different neighborhoods in Enugu.

Timing and Location
Street venders’ business hours vary, and they adapt to demand by moving their goods to markets during specific times, such as the afternoon or late hours. This flexibility caters to the diverse schedules of their customers.

The study sought to ascertain if there were peak selling and buying times for the business. In response, a vender said: “The business here on the road doesn’t sell in the afternoon but during early and late hours, so during the afternoon hours I take my goods to the market” Ogb 1. In line with this another vender noted thus: I sell more in the evening between 4-6pm which people don’t have the time to be searching the market for what they want but rather patronize me because it’s more convenient for them at that time” Awk 1. This implies that the vendors take cognizance of the high and low periods of sales and properly attune to take advantage of the periods for high sales. “I think it’s because I sell my goods cheaper than those in the market” Awk 5.

To a food vender, the customers patronize her because, “I sell food close to my customer houses and work place, and over the years, my business has been recognized here and almost everybody in the neighborhood is familiar with me and my business” Ogb 4. Other reason for the business was adduced by a vender “Some people who work late, when they got home, they’ll be too tired to go to the market, so they stop here and buy what the need” Tre 4.

Street makes a lot of sales at early mornings and late nights, usually during peak traffic hours. This supports the view of Enogholase, (2009) who noted that street vendors offer goods to residents. This shows that more people tend to travel short distances to buy what they need early in the morning and late at night, but would travel longer distances to buy what they want during the day. People patronize street traders in their neighborhood as a result of their location i.e., being closer to their houses and workplace than the neighborhood market.

Convenience and Accessibility as Factors in street Vending In Enugu City
From the buyer’s perspectives we sought to ascertain why street vending is attractive to some persons despite the existence of traditional markets and shops. On this note, a buyer maintained: “When I run out of things I need at home, I go to the street and buy it faster than travelling to the market, so it is with the people here” Tre 2.

While a seller said “We or our business is closer to peoples’ route, workplace and sometimes home and we sell all goods needed around us even the ones not allowed in the market” Ogb 2.

Another dimension of convenience adduced by a vender was “Many of my customers buy their foodstuffs in large quantities from the
market, so within 2-3 weeks, some of the foodstuffs reduces or finishes, when this happens, they’ll be coming to my place to buy those small foodstuffs so they won’t run out of it at home” Ogb 3.

Yet, a trader noted the issue of trust and convenience as it relates to faulty items previously bought. According to her, “It’s more convenient for them and they enjoy the convenience of returning what the buy if they change their mind” Awk 5. Another believed that “It’s a matter of logistics, carrying heavy drinks from the market to their homes is more stressful and expensive than from my place” Awk 2.

These findings accord with those of (Enogholase, 2009) and (Roever, 2014) who found that street venders offer convenience and accessibility of goods to local dwellers and these goods are offered close to their workplace. Customers find it less stressful to shop from them, as they save time and transportation costs. Additionally, some street venders provide products that are banned or hard to find in traditional markets, attracting specific customer segments. People preferred going to the neighborhood market to buy large scale goods but go to street traders to buy small scale goods, thus reducing transportation and its attendant effects like congestion, more fume emission etc. Also, people find it more convenient buying from street traders beside their houses at night than traveling to the neighborhood market, which in most cases are already closed.

**Pricing and Quality Issues as factors in Street Vending in Enugu City**

Pricing strategies vary among venders. While some offer lower prices than the market to maintain customers, others maintain the same prices. Quality is crucial for customer loyalty and trust based on the assertion of the venders. We therefore sought to ascertain the effect of price and quality on patronage.

A vender stated: *My price depends on the product, for example there are drinks that people want to buy but are banned from selling in the market. I sell those drinks here for my customers cheaper*” Awk 2.

“I sell my goods at the same price with the market” Ogb 1.

To a food seller, “You know how the price of rice and foodstuffs have been increasing but I try to maintain the same quality of taste my food has because I know it’s because of that my customers remain loyal to me” Ogb 4.

A contrary position was given by a trader who retorted when asked about price “How can I sell cheaper than those in the market, I add small money to my own because here is not good for me but it’s good for my customers” Tre 4.

Pricing strategies vary among venders. While some offer lower prices than the market to maintain customers, others maintain the same prices. Quality is crucial for customer loyalty and trust based on the assertion of the venders. The traders also asserted that they provide wide range of good; supporting the findings of (Adedeji, et al, 2014), including banned goods.

**Safety and Ease of Time**

We sought to establish the resilience of street vending in spite of the presence of markets and shops within and in the neighbourhoods. Participants were of the opinion that street trading endures in the city for varied reasons among which were the fact that: “Buying from me save them hours because all my customers live around here and the market is far from here”.

Yet one noted that “Especially during late nights because markets will be closed and you might get robbed but buying here is safer” Awk 4.
On the part of the buyers one said; “I save a lot of their time, for example someone that wants to go to the market around 4pm might return home around 6pm depending on what they want to buy, but it will not take more than 20 minutes to come here and buy it.” Trans 1.
Street traders by providing goods on the street, save their customers time because most of them live really close by from them. People consider the time of travel to the market, which in most cases is not favorable to them, but time of travel to the streets/road is usually more favorable. Moreover, the traders asserted that its safer to patronize them especially during late hour than going to the market.

**Differed Payment and Community Relations**

“Most of my customers here buy on credit from me and that’s because we know each other. Nobody will sell for them on credit in the market, so they should let me do my business here because the neighbours here benefit from me” Ogb 3.

“I think I save them money that would have been spent on transport fare and if you are a loyal customer, you can get my goods when you need it and pay later” Tre 4.

“Some of my customers have turned family friends that I can call on them for help in some circumstances”.

“My customers sometimes come here to even share their personal or family problems with me and I advise them. Sometimes they assist me too, so we are like family, though we just met here” Awk 4.

“As you can see, some of my customers come here to joke and laugh off their problems” Ogb 2.

Some street vendors extend differed payment option to their loyal customers, fostering community relationships. They also share their problems and often entertain themselves at the street traders stand. The familiarity they share with their local communities strengthens these bonds, enhancing trust and loyalty. This supports the findings of Bhowmik, (2005) that stated that street venders can provide a sense of community and social interaction.

**Urban Mobility and Vending Spaces**

“My goods don’t cause any problem. Sometimes cars that park along the road to patronize me cause traffic in the evening but I’m not blocking the road” Awk 1.

“As you can see, I’m not on the road; I make sure I create enough space so my customers do not interfere with road traffic because I don’t want to have issues with the neighbors. I usually make appointments with some of my customers to meet at certain times like Sunday afternoons when the road is less congested” Awk 2.

“I’m not disturbing the road, see my goods here, see cars are moving there, I’m not blocking anybody. I pay to use this space every day” Ogb 1.

“Nobody has complained about where I sell my goods, there have been no issues; I don’t think I’m blocking the road” Tre 4.

Most street traders don’t believe that the location of their business activities does influence or impact the traffic negatively. One of the traders claimed to have been assigned and also pay on daily basis for the space to local authorities, thus not obstructing any movement (both pedestrian and vehicular). A few street traders acknowledged that sometimes poor parking of cars from their customers do cause traffic but considers that as not being their fault but the drivers’ fault. The assertion of the traders refutes the study by scholars like Adedeji et al. (2014), Mitullah, (2003) and Olaposi (2021) that showed that street vending activities obstruct traffic flow and reduce the capacity of roads and intersections, leading to
increased travel times overcrowding, pedestrian accidents and delays for motorists.

Vendors’ Preferences for Specific Location
On why the vendors settled for business in a specific location than another, a trader stated:
“I prefer here because it’s closest to my house and I don’t have money to move this my goods to the market everyday” Tre 1. Yet another said, “I don’t like selling here; I just don’t have a better option, if government can provide a better space for us in the market. I prefer selling in the market” Tre 3.

“I have many customers here, so they should let me do my business here because the neighbors here benefit from me. Besides, there are no shops in the market to store my goods. Will I have to be carrying my goods home every day? No” Ogb 3.

“I’ve been selling here in this neighborhood for a very long time, so I don’t want to leave here” Awk 4.

Vendor preferences differ; some express a desire for better market facilities, while others have established successful businesses in their neighborhoods. A lot of street traders mentioned that where they trade was more convenient for them than in the neighborhood market because they can’t get spaces in the market to store their goods, which means they’ll have to transport their goods to the market every day; but selling on the streets cuts all those expenses for them. Some street traders believe they should be allowed to carry on with their activities because they are of great benefit to the community where they operate. Others believe by virtue of selling in the neighborhood for a very long time, they should be allowed. This agrees with the findings of Moneke (1988) and Adeagbo, (1997) revealed that the unavailability of shops in the market and personal choice of location, are some of the reasons street traders are found in various locations.

Summary of Findings
This study has illuminated the intricate dynamics of street vending in Enugu and its multifaceted impact on urban mobility, community relations, and economic dynamics. Through in-depth interviews and participants’ observations, we have gained valuable insights into the perceptions of street vendors regarding their role within the city's informal economy. The findings emphasize that street vendors are not just economic actors but also significant contributors to the social fabric of Enugu. Their ability to foster trust and familiarity within the community goes beyond mere economic transactions. The practice of extending differed payment options to customers, as an entertainment hub, rooted in these relationships, reinforces the vital role they play in community bonds.

Moreover, street vendors emerge as key facilitators of urban mobility. They offer convenient and accessible services, saving residents both time and money. The reduction of transportation costs and the convenience of shopping in proximity to their homes or workplaces alleviate safety concerns and enhance accessibility. Street vendors cater to specific needs, offering products that might be banned or hard to find in traditional markets. Their adaptability in adjusting pricing strategies to provide affordability further solidifies their role in meeting the diverse needs of the community.
In the context of Enugu's informal economy, the study reveals a spectrum of pricing strategies among street vendors. Some offer more competitive prices, attracting budget-conscious customers, while others maintain market prices while focusing on quality and convenience. This diversity underscores the adaptive nature of street vending, catering to a wide range of customer preferences.

**Conclusion and Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that street vendors serve unique roles that existing formal city commercial activities have failed to provide or cannot provide. With continuous patronage from a growing retinue of customers which cut across all social and economic strata of the society, there is need to tap the benefits of their activities in terms of employment value, internally generated revenue potential source, and as watch dogs towards fighting the increasing security challenges in the city rather than see them as a nuisance.

The implications of these findings are substantial for urban policymakers and planners. Recognizing the vital contributions of street vendors to urban mobility, community relations, and economic dynamics is a critical step towards inclusive urban development.

Based on the above the study recommends:

- **i.** Enugu's urban policymakers should consider creating an environment that respects and supports the informal economy. Such an environment would harness the benefits of street vending while addressing the challenges, ensuring that informal economy participants operate within a framework that is both safe and economically vibrant.

  - John-Nsa (2023) showed that the individual opinion of most urban planners in Enugu in relation to the regulation of street trading is more of accommodating or liberal nature than repressive approach. This opinion of urban planners as key player in street vending regulation should be upheld.

  - **Moreover, based on the preference of the street traders, options that are more tolerant can be considered in regulating street vending activities in the city.**
    - (a) First, urban planners and local authorities can officially recognize street venders' contributions to the urban economy and work on integrating them into the formal economic framework. This recognition can lead to increased support and protection for their businesses.
    - (b) Secondly, enhancing market facilities, as suggested by some vendors, may attract more vendors to traditional markets. Improved infrastructure and sanitation in marketplaces can create a more appealing business environment.
    - (c) Thirdly, implementing reasonable and fair regulations for street vending can ensure that the industry remains safe, competitive, and an integral part of the urban landscape. Licensing (based on operating
time, duration and location) and health inspections can be part of such regulations.

References


Challenges Of Street Trading in Public Spaces: The Case of Enugu City, Nigeria. 95–101. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2016.06.001


