

**A STUDY OF WOMEN WORKING AS VENDORS
IN THE COASTAL AREAS OF GOA:
VAGATOR AND ANJUNA BEACH**

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POOJA V PHADTE

Women's Studies Programme, Goa University

MAY 2022

DECLARATION

I, Pooja V Phadte, hereby declare that the dissertation titled '*A Study of Women Working as Vendors at the Coastal Areas of Goa: Vagator and Anjuna Beach, Goa*' is the outcome of my study undertaken under the guidance of Mrs. Vithai Zaraunekar and Mrs. Kajal Rivankar, Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Programme, Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Goa University. This Work has not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, or certificate of this Institute or any other Institute or University. I have duly acknowledged all the sources used by me in the preparation of this dissertation.

Pooja V Phadte

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation titled '*A Study of Women Working as Vendors at the Coastal Areas of Goa: Vagator and Anjuna Beach*' is the record of the original work by Miss Pooja V Phadte under my guidance and to the best of my knowledge. The research results presented in this dissertation have not previously formed the basis for the award of any degree, diploma, or certificate of this or any other university.

Date: 12th May 2022

Mrs. Vithai Zaraunekar

Research Guide, Assistant Professor

Women's Studies Programme

Manohar Parrikar School of law, Governance and Public Policy, Goa University

Mrs. Kajal Rivankar

Research Guide, Assistant Professor

Women's Studies Programme

Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Goa University

Prof. Shaila Desouza

Dean

Women's Studies

Manohar Parrikar School of Law, Governance and Public Policy, Goa University

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

Women Working as Vendors at the Coastal Areas: An Introduction and Methods

Goa is the smallest state in India by its geographical area. Its culture and historical background has been remarkable and created its importance from ancient times. It's a former Portuguese colony that is blended and has formed up a culture, art, and architecture which attracts several tourists every year. It's not only famous for its beaches and nightclubs but also for its traditions, festivals, and its exotic food. Tourism is largely contributing to the state of Goa. People from various places are interested and enjoy the beauty of the state of Goa. The very common reason why tourists do visit Goa is mainly because of its beaches, food, nightclubs, and culture which it has.

There are several beaches across Goa with their different beauty. Numbers of tourists are coming up to these beaches to enjoy their life without any stress and worries. On the beaches, there are multiple beach huts where tourists prefer to have a stay. They can also enjoy the boat rides which are also available on the beach. There are also different shacks where they can enjoy the taste of Goan delicious food. Some of the popular beaches are Baga, Calangute, Anjuna, Vagator, Arambol, Palolem and Sinquerem. Many activities are created for all the tourist visitors. Some are Indian where as some are foreign tourists. Activities are offered such as jet-skiing, parasailing, water scooter rides, and many more. To attend to the guests and the tourists, there are thousands of people who are indulging themselves in these beach activities and are working as vendors. Even the local people are working on the beach in large numbers.

There are thousands of people who have been earning their livelihood by working on these beaches. People work as the vendors who are selling different things such as some are selling clothing, ornaments, small huts with restaurants, and many more. Those are mostly the local population who are staying nearby of that particular beach. Beach vendors are highly spread over these beaches. Locals are working as vendors in different dimensions to earn their

livelihood. They sell things and prepare food and snacks for the tourist who visits with great enthusiasm. Not only men but women are also working in this field. ¹

Women are equally contributing to this occupation as vendors. It is been challenging for women to work in the tourism sector but there are still many of them who do stand and work with courage. They come out of their household and start working in the tourism sector where they are working on their own. Women are working as vendors where they prepare food and snacks, and sell ornaments, jewelry, clothing, handmade bags, and whatnot. They work for themselves and their family to earn livelihood and learn many other things which might help them in their life.

1.1 Need to study Women working as vendors on the beach

According to me, the way tourism is playing a major role in contributing to the economy of Goa where tourists from all over the world are been welcomed in Goa and are enjoying most of the resources which are been availed to them. Similarly, while looking after their needs, it is seen that in the tourism sector not only men but women also play a great role. As I live in a coastal area, many times I observed women working in different occupations to get income for themselves and their families and I feel their part of the contribution which they are making to live and everybody's life is neglected many times. So, there is a need to study the role of women in the tourism sector and to appreciate them for their work.

1.2 Background of the Study

Women work for their livelihood and their family in various sectors. Tourism has set up a platform for many lives in various ways. In the coastal areas, the local population is working with great enthusiasm. It's not only restricted to men but also women are working as vendors on the beach areas who are working in the store, in the snacks and beverages shops,

¹ "Goa Tourism, Information About Goa Tourism."

also some women are making braids and much other work. Their life is depended upon the work which they are doing. Working in this occupation has played a major role in their life and also they are facing challenges and learning about various other platforms.

1.3 Self-Reflexivity Note

I have chosen this topic to highlight this occupation which is been carried by so many locals living around coastal areas. Their lives and livelihood are dependent upon this occupation of working as vendors. I came across this occupation when I used to often visit beaches. Many times, I observed all the people who are working in the store or shops especially, women who are often said to be shy and weak, working in this occupation.

I got to know that these women have to listen to many taunts and are demotivated just because they are working in this occupation. I also came across women in my life who are having a completely different background of work but preferred to work in this occupation and have to listen that working in this occupation is not good for them and this gave me great interest to know and learn more about this occupation and highlight these women's and their work. So, I decided to have this research and do it in Vagator and Anjuna beach.

During the research process, I observed that in all of the stores, shops, and other occupations, a woman is largely involved. They are working hard for themselves and more for their family. Some of them are working for their children and some want to contribute to their families. I also observed that women are breaking the stereotype of the division of labor. They are doing every work which is believed by our society that it's not meant for a woman as such. Also, I learned that even in this occupation women are facing violence and abuses like verbal abuse and misbehavior by the customers and the other tourists. It is very important to learn both positive as well as negative viewpoints regarding any occupation mostly related to women.

Section Two: Research Methods Used in the Study

1.4 The Research Design

For this study, I have used the qualitative method. In which primary data and secondary data are used. The interview method will be in-depth with the women who are indulged in this occupation of working in beach shops and stores. Asking them questions related to their work and experiences while working in this sector. I will be doing my literature studies using secondary data where I will use existing sources such as books, articles, newspapers, journals, etc. To find more about the topic.

1.5 The Objective of the Study

- a) To study the socio-economic situation of women working as vendors at beaches.
- b) To study the health and hygiene concerns of women working as vendors.
- c) To know new learnings and contributions made by this profession in their lives.
- d) To understand the challenges faced by women working as vendors in general and in special reference to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.6 Research Questions

- a) Why these women have decided to work as vendors at the beach?
- b) What is their knowledge about this occupation and how did they come across it?
- c) What are different issues which they must be facing?
- d) How do they manage their household work and work at their shop or store?
- e) Does this occupation bring any positive impacts on their life?
- f) How do they look after their health?

1.7 Universe of the Study

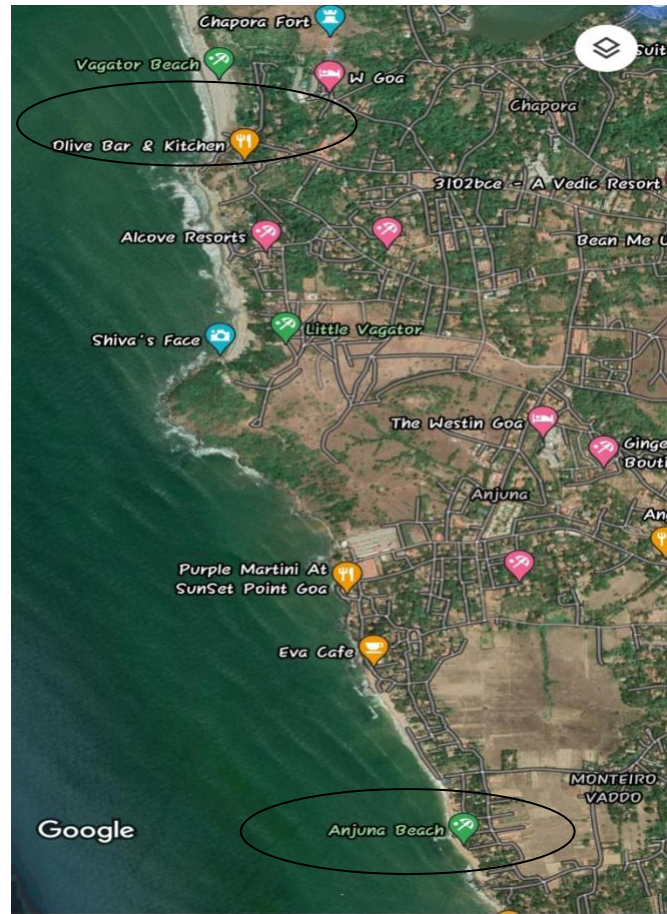
There are more than 30 stores and other shops including the shacks in Vagator and Anjuna Beach. All of them sell different items such as some of them sell ornaments, clothing,

and accessories, and small restaurants. I will be dealing with the women who are working as vendors in the shops and the stores in which I will do my research on the life of these women. As I am not going to focus on all of them. Therefore, I have selected the target of 15 respondents.

1.8 Field Area for the Study

I will conduct my research at Vagator and Anjuna Beach. Vagator beach is situated in North Goa in Bardez Taluka. The beach attracts most of the tourists who are amazed in seeing the beauty of the place. It offers forts, beaches, Goan food, and other exciting things to the visitors. On the left of the beach lies Ozran beach which is probably known as 'small Vagator' by the locals where a beautiful sculpture of *Shiva* is been carved on stone and the right lies 'big Vagator'. The population of the Vagator-Chapora is 3301 where the male population is 1667 and the female population is 1634.

Map of Vagator and Anjuna Beach



Source: Google Maps

Figure 1.1

Vagator Beach



Image taken on 9th February 2022

Figure 1.2

Incarnation of Shiva at Small



Image taken on 20th January 2022

Figure 1.3

Anjuna Beach

Anjuna is a village located on the Coast of North Goa. It is a very famous tourist destination that is fully active when it comes to night parties, clubs, Goan food, and much more. It also hosts a famous flea market every Wednesday. Where multiple things are been sold by the locals as well as migrants. From clothes to jewelry and from footwear to bags etc. Anjuna Beach is a beach in Goa that is located 18 kilometers from Panaji and 8 kilometers to the west of Mapusa, North Goa. It is situated in Anjuna village of Bardez taluka in North Goa. The beach is part of a 30-kilometer stretch of extended beach coastline along the west coast of Goa by the Arabian Sea. Anjuna is a Census Town city in the district of North Goa, Goa. The Anjuna Census Town has a population of 9,636 of which 4,921 are males while 4,715 are females as per a report released by Census India 2011.

Anjuna Beach



Image taken on 3rd March 2022

Figure 1.4

1.9 Sampling Methods Used

My study is based on Primary data where I went to the women who are working as vendors at the Vagator and Anjuna beach and interviewed them. Here, I used the interview method where I interviewed the working women and also the owners with the key informant method. I also used the observation method where I visited the site personally and observed the work which they do, the behavior of the customers, and other things. As there will be some things that I could not experience by hearing from them while interviewing. So, I observed the site by myself to get more sources for my research. As there are different types of Interviews I have dealt with in-depth interviews and key informant methods. Also, I used snowball sampling to reach out to more women whom I don't know with the help of women whom I know already.

1.10 Sampling Size

My research has been done through interview methods by forming a tool that is a questionnaire where I took the interviews of the women who are working as vendors at the

beach. This will not only include the local women who are working at the beach but also the migrant women.

1.11 Data Collection Methods and Tools

I have made use of the tool of the questionnaire which I have framed based on the occupation of vendors where I have made use of this tool by asking questions to the women who are owners and also the ones who are been hired to work in the shops or stores.

1.12 Items of Information

1. Women working as vendors: women with different backgrounds are working as sellers on the coastal areas/ beaches. Selling jewelry, clothing, preparing food and snacks, and handmade things.
2. Socio-Economic conditions of women: understanding their social behavior where their skill of communication in the public and with the tourist is observed. Also, their economic condition will be understood by making use of a questionnaire and trying to understand their financial status.
3. Challenges in general: while working in this occupation as vendors, women are been facing different challenges not only in their workspace but also in their personal life.

1.13 Ethical Consideration

I gave brief information about this research to all the respondents and I began with my interviews once I got their consent verbally. The names of the respondents were kept confidential who do not wish to share their identities also some of them were comfortable sharing their names and identity.

Among them, there was one who said not to mention her name and shared an incident with me which she requested not to tell anyone. But later on, I requested her that I will only tell

this to my teachers and not to anyone else and not even going to mention it in my research project. Also, I respected some of the women who didn't allow me to click their photos.

1.14 Language Used

The interviews are conducted in Konkani and Hindi languages where the Konkani language was been used for Goan women and Hindi was been used for women who do not know Konkani.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

I used some keywords to conduct this research such as Women in tourism, Impact of tourism, beach vendors, working women, the contribution of the tourism sector, employment opportunities in tourism, employment for women, Goan beach shops and stores, challenges faced in the tourism sector.

According to V.S Mahajan, women play an important role by being housewives and by working and many times they are been neglected. There is an existence of male domination because of which women could not able to play their roles properly (V.S. Mahajan 1991). I found this book useful as it speaks about various other aspects of how women in the labor market and their contribution to the economy and social life as one of my objectives focus on the same.

In the book title as ‘Tracing the Maze: a dossier on women and tourism’ women in tourism have been discussed where it has mentioned that in tourism women's employment has been lesser than men. Women are getting a job based on what skills they have rather than focusing on their education. For example, in my research, most of the women working in restaurants, are been given the tasks of cooking and cleaning. By indulging in the tourism sector traditional occupations are been given up by the people for example; fishing and agriculture. (Rosemary, 2011).

The research was done to find out about the status of women in the tourism sector in Zimbabwe Tariro Sibanda and Joseph M. Cheer. It resulted in their findings that women have better decision-making and a positive impact on women. The study also states that they have limited access to formal employment opportunities. (Sibanda and Joseph). The study will help me in knowing about the impacts of tourism on women’s life.

Lauren Duffy, Carol Kline, and two others (2015) conducted a study on women in Tourism. Their study resulted that tourism bringing employment opportunities for women and independence in the economic making. Their findings also reveal issues such as double workload and negotiation in domestic work with partners and some of the challenges between men and women and how those are impacting their work and life. (Duffy, Kline et. al., 2015). This study will help me out as I will be focusing on the gender discrimination which are been made in this occupation when it comes to dividing the work.

A study conducted by Anisah Deen, Vyasha Harilal, et al. (2016) on women in tourism: experiences and challenges faced by owners of small accommodation establishments analyses the roles which are been played by women in the sector of tourism and their experiences and challenges in their business. With this study, I can know how women are been dealing with the different challenges in the tourism sector. As the study also states that women not only enter the business to make a profit but also to have growth in their life for themselves. (Deen, Harilal et. al. 2016). As I also decided to have an overview of women who are owners so, after referring to this study I can have a general view of their experiences and what are the challenges they are facing.

Pamawati Rita, Wike et. al. (2019) conducted on the involvement of women in tourism. This study aimed to identify factors (internal and external) that support women's participation and their contribution to the household's income. The study used qualitative as well as a quantitative methods. Where they formed a questionnaire with the quantitative method and took in-depth interviews, observations, etc. Using the qualitative method. The respondents of the study were determined by snowball techniques. For my dissertation, I will be also making use of this sampling technique so that I could get to know and reach out to more women who are working in this occupation. (Rita, Wike et. al. 2019)

The study was conducted by Ferguson Lucy on promoting gender equality and empowering women- tourism and the third millennium development goal which says that tourism contributes towards gender equality and women's empowerment. It also spoke about the reframing of the policies to maximize their potential. This work can help me to provide some knowledge about how the whole tourism sector empowers women and brings equality in gender. (Lucy 2011)

The study was conducted by Tamar Diana Wilson on Self-employed women in the informal economy: beach vendors in Acapulco. The study focuses on the women who are working as beach vendors where in the paper they have stated how women are been working for children, for themselves to earn their livelihood. With the help of this study, I can have more knowledge about the women who are working as vendors on the beach which will help me to contribute more to my research.

A study was conducted on the outbreak of the Covid-19 in the tourism sector and how it affected the local communities. They have spoken about that how Covid-19 impacted various jobs, developments, and various activities. Through this study, I will have a point marked which will give me the basic impacts of Covid-19 on the tourism sector. (Sanjita, Parida, et. al. 2021)

I have referred to an article on ‘Why Has COVID-19 Been Especially Harmful to Working Women?’ which gives a glance at how Covid-19 impacted women. Pointing out to what are the different aspects of women getting affected by Covid-19. This article will allow me to know about the different circumstances which made women getting affected because of the pandemic.

The article by BBC news that is ‘Positive and Negative Impacts of Tourism’ gives a glance on what are the impacts of tourism on the people. There are various positive and negative impacts have been mentioned in this article. For example; jobs are been created but they are seasonal. So, various impacts are used and I will get an overview of them and which will be clearer to me during my research. As given in the example above working on the beach is seasonal.

2.2 Gaps in the Existing Literature

After reviewing the literature, we can find that most of the studies and articles are focusing on the contribution of tourism and its impacts of tourism by highlighting certain aspects. There are even studies which are been made regarding beach vendors where they have considered women but in terms of economy and not specifically to Goa.

There are not many studies that mainly focus on the life of working women who are indulged in the work of beach vendors. It was hard for me to even look for the studies which are related to my topic which might have been done in Goa. Therefore, I feel that this study is required to be held to know the connection between the women who are working on the beach as vendors and also which will focus on there in the dimensions of social and economic.

Chapter Three

Case Studies of Women Working as Vendors

3.1 Women Vendors at Vagator Beach

A total of 7 interviews were taken with women working as vendors from Vagator Beach. A detailed case study of each respondent is described below:

3.1.1 Respondent 1: Mrs. Suhasini Govekar

Socio-demographic Profile: Mrs. Suhasini Govekar aged 57, resides at Dabholwadda, Chapora along with her family including her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson. She completed her studies till SSC and then got married. She shared that her childhood was very joyful as her parents were very supportive of her. However, during her late teens, she faced a lot of difficulties from society. As she was not ready to get ready for the marriage, she had to go through taunts from the people who tried to suppress her, it was then that she started crossing all the limits that society had created for her. She shared about her marriage life, and how she and her husband have always been supportive of each other. Also, she mentioned her son that has always stood beside her on every platform of life.



Image taken by the researcher on 19th February 2022

Figure 2.1



Image taken by the researcher on 19th February 2022

Figure 2.2

Socio-Economic Details: Mrs. Suhasini is working in the shop at Vagator beach for 30 years. She is working along with her son who is helping her in this occupation. She decided to work in this occupation as earlier in the past they had a restaurant but

after her husband's death, they couldn't able to continue with it due to financial issues. So, they sold that restaurant and decided to erect a shop about which they had come across from her neighbor. It was very difficult for her during this period to settle down with the shop business which was started by her during the interview. She is herself the owner of the shop.

She didn't have much knowledge about the procedure which she followed as most of the documentation work was handled by her son, but she only told him that his son had to visit the village Panchayat and Goa Tourism Department. She does almost all the work which is indulged in the shop. From sweeping to cooking and her son helps her in preparing *butta* (corn). She also sells tender coconut. Her shop is 15 minutes away from her home where she travels by bike with her son. For the shop, they have to get fresh vegetables daily of about Rs 150 from Chapora horticulture market, then spices and Maggie packets, snacks, juice-soft drinks every week which reaches to the amount of Rs 2000 and all these commodities are been sold to them by a seller which comes to their shop. She said that she almost gets 30 customers who visit her shop.

She mentioned during the interview that she doesn't have to do a lot of work at her household before coming to the shop as her daughter-in-law looks after every household work and helps her sometimes in the shop. She only has to look and focus on the work which is indulged in her shop. The season of the shop begins mostly from October till February end. They have a working schedule that they follow on the daily basis. They come to the shop at 8.30 am and work till 10 pm. During the heavy tourist period, they work in the shop till 2 am. Their shops are closed during the monsoon season. Working in the shop is the only occupation on which she and her family have relied. In a further interview about earning, she told me that, "there is nothing like satisfaction in the earning which I earn, rather I am thankful of this occupation because it is helping me and my family to at least have enough resources to live." Which I found a good answer. According to her, she was satisfied with the earnings which she earns by working in the shop.

About her experience, then she had a positive one overall. In the beginning, she had to face trouble settling down within the atmosphere of the business. Facing tourists,

and communicating with them was the biggest fear that she had earlier. But now she completely overcome her fears and is having a quite good experience while working in the shop. Rather than this, she didn't share any other negative experiences of her. Mrs. Suhasini shared the new skills that she learned by working over there. She learned different languages such as English, Gujarati, Bengali, and French by communicating with tourists. She was not knowing the digital payment method that she came across while working in the shop and which was told to her by one of her tourist visitors. She also talked about her positive experience where she never faced any tourist who misbehaved with her or disrespected her. All the customers were very kind to her and she mentioned some particular customers who visit her shop and who used to call her 'Aai' (Mother).

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: In the further interview, I asked her questions related to her health and hygiene. Her daughter-in-law prepares lunch for them. They have their breakfast before coming to the shop, have their lunch at 2 pm, and mostly have dinner after going back home. Sometimes, she along with her son eat Maggie at the shop itself which she cooks. Mrs. Suhasini has an injury in her leg because of which she cannot walk properly. She still decides to work in the same condition without taking any leave even after being tired. She said that she got this injury due to one accident where she fell at her home. She visits the health center of Siolim and comes back to work. They don't have a toilet facility. They have to walk for about 5 minutes long to reach the toilet. This is the one thing which she wished to change where they all need a good toilet facility and also a good garbage disposal source.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): She shared about minor challenges while working in the shop where she cannot stand for long because of her leg injury because of which she fails to prepare food on time but still her customers never complained about the same. Rather than this, she did not face any challenges from the tourist or anyone. During the drastic change which was brought about by COVID-

19, she faced difficulties when the shops were shut down during lockdown. They were not having any other occupation so she started selling fish which her son used to get by fishing. Its earnings were not enough for them to survive. She also started working in one family and used to do their household work and earn their livelihood. She stated that COVID-19 largely affected their occupation. There was no other earning source for them rather than working in the shop.

After, when lockdown ended, they continued with their work. They looked after the proper measures they took during the pandemic. They had sanitizer, wear a mask, and keep a proper distance and thankfully they were safe during the pandemic. Her experience and hardworking nature were very inspiring for everyone who is also working over there. She said that many times her son tell her to stop working now because of her old age but she has never given up and continued to work for which she was been appreciated by the visitors and the other shop workers.

3.1.2 Respondent 2: Mrs. Raveena Ravindra Narvenkar

Socio-demographic data: Mrs. Raveena Ravindra Narvenkar, 45 years old is residing at Bandirwadda, Kaisuva. Her family includes her father-in-law, mother-in-law, husband, and 2 daughters. She completed her SSC and started working. After marriage, she was a housewife. She had started working in a supermarket but left after pregnancy. After her children grew up, they were having no income sources so she started working in the shop. One of her daughters is studying in 12th whereas the other is in class 8th.

Socio-Economic Details: She is working in the shop for the last 12 years. She came across this occupation when it was suggested by her husband as he is a taxi driver so after being to beaches, he many times have seen the shops which were run by many locals so they also decided to join the same occupation. Her husband is the owner of the shop so did not have much knowledge about the procedure which they followed but she told me that they have to run a lot behind the Panchayats to erect the shop which

troubled them a lot. Where they have to spend a large amount to have this land to erect their shop. She mostly works alone and sometimes her husband or her elder daughter helps her with the work. She comes to the shop at around 9 am and works till 11 pm or 12 am and more. She has to travel for about 10 minutes to reach her shop. Most of the time her husband drops her at the shop.



Image taken by the researcher on 24th February 2022

Figure 2.3

She prepares food such as Maggie, sweet corn, and drinks like lemon soda and all the cleaning work are been handled on her own. All the requirements are brought by her and her husband on weekly basis except the vegetables which they get on the prior day from Chapora horticulture market. She does the household work before coming to the shop with the help of her daughter. She shared about her family that her mother-in-law supported her and let her work in the shop. As she mentioned during the interview, “working in the shop, especially at night on the beach areas is not safe for women”. She also said that it was difficult for her at the beginning of the occupation as her neighborhood people used to taunt her because she used to work late at night at the shop.

Their season starts during October but she said that they begin with their shop work by September itself and work till April. It is compulsory for all the people who

are working in the shop to remove their shops during the monsoon season. Her daughter is a *Mehandi* artist, so during the off-season, it helps them to cope with their expenditure, and also her husband is a taxi driver. But she stated that working in a shop helps her a lot to deal with the house expenditure. She gets her breakfast at the shop itself as she said that she doesn't get enough time in the morning. She wakes up early at 6 am and sometimes she fails to have her breakfast before coming to the shop. She even sometimes gets her lunch box while coming to the shop in the morning or else her daughter gets the lunch. She stated during the interview that it gets late to have her dinner as there is no fixed time when they will shut their shops.

While working in the shop, she said that she comes across many tourists where she has to shout the name of the special recipe which she cooks and juice by which tourist gets attracted and visit her shop. During the season, she gets enough customers, approximately 20 to 25 customers per day which profits her up to Rs 800 to Rs 1000. She uses the digital payment method which was introduced to her by her daughter. She tries to communicate with them while they are sitting in her shop. She said that she often gets a good response from her customers as they ask her about the recipes and flavors which she adds. Also, she often finds customers who talk to her about her life and make a good conversation with her.

During their free time, she uses her mobile phone to watch videos on YouTube of different dishes. Also, she shared a positive experience where some of her customers also introduce her to Instagram and said to create her profile on it and share the different dishes which she prepares. She does not have any negative experiences as such. She added further that she learned about how to communicate with others which she often does with her customers and tries to learn their language, where she learned English and Marathi languages. She was also helped by her other friends who are having their shops and working at Vagator beach, where they told her to use induction gas and she got to know how to use it which she did not have an idea about.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: As mentioned earlier she gets her lunch at the shop which she cooks at her home. She said that she eats *chapati* and tea for her breakfast. For her lunch and dinner, she eats rice, curry, fish, *dal*, and any *sabji* (*bhaji*). She does not have an exact meal timing; it depends on the rush of the tourist. Sometimes she also misses her meal due to heavy customers visit. During winter, she sometimes falls ill due to cold after which she doesn't work much and during that time her daughter and also her husband helps her with the work. She visits the nearby clinic which is there in Chapora or even the district hospital at Mapusa which is Asilo Hospital. She said that it is difficult for her to take leave even if she feels weak because her husband doesn't know to cook properly and it is not friendly to handle the work of the shop and she mostly doesn't allow her daughter to work alone in the shop as she feels that it is not safe to work in the shop. As once her daughter was working alone in the shop while Mrs. Raveena had gone to the market to get some vegetables, some tourist had misbehaved with her daughter from then she never allowed her daughter to work alone in the shop. So, she feels that it is really difficult for a woman to cope with such a society where people make the life of a woman even worse.

When I asked her about the toilet facility then she told me that they don't have a toilet facility. The one which they have is very far and because she is working alone, she cannot go there as there is nobody to look after her shop. Sometimes she requests her nearby people who are also working in the shop to look after her shop. Even during her menstruation days, they believe that women should not stay outside the home late at night but she never believed in such things. But, when it comes to sanitation, there is neither a disposal source for them too nor if they want to change. So, she found it difficult to work during her menstruation days.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): During COVID-19-19 pandemic, it was difficult for her to cope with the situation. Working in the shop has become their major work and during the pandemic, her daughter had tested positive so she also has to shut down her shop. Because of this, they have to go through financial issues as her husband was also not getting customers. After lockdown, when they

restarted their shop business, she said that she used to be very careful while working and while interacting with the tourist as there were few tourists which she came across who were not wearing their masks and were not maintaining social distance. She has always been aware of such tourists and did not allow them in their shop due to fear of the virus. She also stated that once her daughter tested positive so she was scared because she works in the shops and comes across many people, she might get infected by this virus and which will in turn trouble her family. So, she was very much concerned about her family during the COVID-19-19 pandemic.

She said that because of this virus her life has become terrifying because at every moment she used to feel scared but did not have any other option but in continuing with the work as her and her family's life has dependent upon this work. She stated that COVID-19-19 has largely affected her occupation of the shop in various ways such as there were a smaller number of customer visits at her shop which were not making a good profit rather, they used to spend more on the requirements but did not get enough tourist. As time went by, the cases started reducing and there was a good response of customer visits to her shop. She said, "COVID-19-19 has destroyed so many lives but still many of them gave their best to cope with this demonic virus." She has taken measures to keep themselves and the tourist customers safe from this virus by keeping sanitizers and disposal cutleries. Though this was making extra spending still they continued to serve in disposal plates and glass.

3.1.3. Respondent 3: Mrs. Bharati Sawant

Socio-demographic profile: Mrs. Bharati Sawant aged 48, is the residence of Bandirwadda, Chapora. She completed her study till the 8th standard. Her family includes her husband and 3 children. She talked about her family a bit where she stated that she is very lucky to have such children who are very supportive of her and they never disappointed her and always understood their parents. She also mentioned about

her elder son that he is mentally disabled, and because of this there is always been ups and downs in her family. They have to listen to society's taunts that their son will never let their family live happily. She tried her best at every point to never let her family down and always looked after her children without considering her elder son's disability as a sickness but rather treated him equally.

Socio-Economic details: Mrs. Bharti decided to work in the shop when she thought of having her own business. She came across this occupation of the shop by talking to one of her friends. She along with her husband and daughter look after this business. They had brought the requirements like chairs, refrigerator, cooking essentials, plates, glass, spoon, etc. which cost them about Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 including the commodities for the cooking such as snacks, Maggie, cold drinks, etc. She along with her daughter works in the shop. She cooks Maggie, cleaning and preparing lemonade for the customers. Her daughter helps her with cutting vegetables and also helps in cooking. Sometimes her husband also helps her with the work. She gets the required commodities from the Mapusa Market or sometimes from the Chapora market along with her husband. She stays nearby to her shop so it doesn't take much time for her to travel to the shop so almost it takes 10 to 15 minutes to reach her husband who drops her at the shop. During the interview, she stated that she does all the household work before coming to the shop and her son and daughter also help her. Her daughter has completed her studies by doing her Post-graduation and her younger son still studying in her second year. Her elder son is been learning in Sanjay School.

She starts working from October till February as it is considered their season where they have a large number of tourist visits. During the off-season, they are dependent upon their husband's work and they do not have any other source of income. After working in the shop, largely contributed to their family by making a good profit. She believes that the shop business is a good sector to work in as it has a good economic contribution. She follows her schedule of working where she comes to the shop from 9 am till 10 pm. Before coming to the shop, she prepares breakfast and lunch and gets her tiffin to the shop. She replied saying that she never misses her lunch timing and follows

the meal timing properly. She has her breakfast before coming to the shop and her lunch time is at 1.30 pm and dinner after going home.

She attracts the tourist by playing good music related to Bollywood and *Bhakti* songs because of which many tourists do visit her shop. Per day, almost 15 to 20 customers visit her shop. She attracts the tourist by loudly calling the name of the dish which she cooks or any other thing which she sells. She interacts with the customers by talking to them and asking them about their natives and traditions by which she came across many Indian traditions which she didn't know earlier. She also learned many languages such as Marathi, Gujarati, Malwani, etc. while working in the shop. She observed other women who indulge in the work of tender coconut. She learned the skills which are needed to peel the coconut. So, now she even sells tender coconut at her shop which makes customers visit her shop. After asking about the earnings, she said that she is satisfied with the earnings she gets. As a woman, she never thought of herself being so strong and moving out of her home and working in such a sector that is not supportive of the woman. Her family always feels proud of her because she without any fear works in the shop even at night time. She mentioned that whatever earnings she earns through this business is enough to cover those patches which letting them behind to live their life. She uses the digital payment method that she came across through her daughter and now she knows how to operate this payment method.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: For her breakfast, she eats *Chapati* and tea and sometimes even bread. She gets rice, dal, and any *sabji* for her lunch. Mrs. Bharti is a patient with blood pressure and whenever she falls ill, her daughter and son look after the shop but don't stay till night. She visits the Siolim Health Center for a checkup or whenever she falls sick. She also mentioned the time when it was difficult for their children to look after the shop when she used to feel sick because of their studies, at that time she didn't care about her health and continued to work in the shop. While talking on this topic she stated that she does not look after her health just because she doesn't want any kind of excuse when it comes to her work. even if it is related to her health.

She mentioned the poor sanitation at their workplace. Where there is no toilet facility nearby, as she needs to work 5 to 10 minutes away from her shop which is risky sometimes when she is working alone. She talked about the facility providers who are lacking behind to look after the hygiene and sanitation of the people who are working in such a sector which is considered a major one. She said that the government only constructed the proper road to travel at Vagator beach but they failed to provide for their basic needs to them. Even though they had talked about and raised this issue of having proper toilet and hygiene facilities in the Panchayat but they did not come up with any solution. She told that when she is in needs to rush to the toilet then she cannot go to the toilet by leaving her shop alone.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): About challenges related to her work then she said that many times tourists do misbehave with them. They never understand the hard work behind working in the shop. She has an experience where she came across some customers who bargain the prices which are set. For example; if she sells Maggie for Rs 25 then some customers say that they should not sell it for such a higher rate as on the packet it's only Rs. 12, so she needs to sell it for 20 only. Where they don't understand the hard work of cooking and getting the things which are served to them perfectly. She even mentioned the customers who became violent as they sometimes already consume alcohol and misbehave by taunting and making bad comments to her. These are the challenges that she faced during her work. Even there are cases when sometimes snakes and rats are also captured inside their shop. As they do not have a proper structure for their shop she faced this difficulty.

About difficulties specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic, she had faced difficulties where shops were shut down and a lockdown was imposed. The commodities which they have bought were wasted. After when cases were reduced and the lockdown was ended, she joined back her work at the shop but she was scared to work there. She sometimes used to feel scared about working there. Many questions were arising in her mind, "what if I get infected? what if my children and family fell

sick because of me?”. Which were very obvious that after being a mother she was worried for her family. To stay away from this virus, she followed guidelines of wearing masks, keeping a social distance, and keeping environment-friendly plates and spoons which are disposable. According to her, COVID-19 largely affected her life, as for a certain period it completely took away their source of income and a place where she worked hard and know many things which she never even heard of. She said at the end of the interview that she is happy to work in this occupation as it made her even more strength and improved her communication skills.

3.1.4. Respondent 4: Mrs. Deepa Narvekar

Socio-demographic profile: Mrs. Deepa aged 39, is the residence of Chapora, living along with her husband, daughter, and in-laws. She has completed her studies till the 12th. She was doing a job at the clinic as a nurse at Mapusa which she, later on, left after the birth of her child. Her husband is a taxi driver and her daughter is in class 11th and is pursuing science. Mrs. currently doing a job in the school as a peon and after coming back from that job, in the evening she goes to her shop and starts working.

Socio-Economic Details: Mrs. Deepa decided to work in the occupation of shop for her daughter. Her daughter wants to be a doctor and because she should not face problems economically, Deepa decided to do one more job for her. As her brother was earlier indulged in the same occupation, so she also chose the same occupation, when she found that it largely contributes to the life of people economically. She is working in the shops for 1 and half years now. Her husband is the owner of the shop. During the erection of the shop, they wrote an application to the Panchayat which was later on forwarded to Goa Tourism Department. It took time for the approval and after 3 months they were allotted the land for their shop. She works during the day time in the school so after coming back home from there at 3 pm, she does all the household work and then at around 5.30 pm she goes to the shop at Vagator and comes back at 1 am or even

3 am. She doesn't take any meal along with her. All the requirements which are required for their shops such as tables, chairs, refrigerator, and cooking equipment were bought by them from Mapusa market including disposable plates, spoons, and glass. It cost them almost Rs. 30,000 including the commodities such as Maggie, soft drinks, and other cooking resources. They get vegetables every 2 days from the Chapora horticulture market and they get other commodities every week which cost them about Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000.

She commutes to the shop along with her husband or sometimes comes alone. Her husband also helps her with the work at the shop. She stays 10 minutes away from her shop. She said that she has to wake up early to do all the household work, from preparing breakfast to lunch and all other work is done by her alone. Sometimes her daughter helps her in doing the household work but most of the time she only has to look after everything alone. After coming back from her morning job, she then prepares the evening tea for her family and herself and goes to the shop. Her decision of working in the shop is not at all accepted by her mother-in-law, as she stated during the interview that many times her mother-in-law shouts at her for working in the shop. She always tells her that, "working in the shop late at night alone is not safe and it doesn't suit you. You are destroying the reputation of our family". Even after going through such taunts she never gave up and continued to work. She mentioned that her husband has been very supportive of her and never discouraged her. As a woman, she feels proud of having such a husband and daughter who respects her decisions.

As mentioned by her, their season starts in October and she works till April. She cooks Maggie with different flavors, makes milkshakes, and lemonade, and twice a week she makes chicken gravy as her specialty. She even sells snacks, chips, and other soft drinks. She stated that she has a good tourist visit because of her unique menu which she had kept in her shop and which helps her attract tourists to her shop. Per day, for about 30 to 40 customers. From December to January, it almost crosses 50 to 60 customers per day at her shop she stated. She interacts with the tourist by playing music and by shouting the name of the dishes which she prepares. She said that she didn't expect so many people will visit her shop. The earnings which she makes are very much

satisfying to her, she earns about Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 per day during the peak of the season. She is happy that this work has been very much contributing to her life and her family which is one of the positive impacts of this occupation in her life.

While discussing her experiences she shared some of the incidents where she came across many tourist customers who enjoyed the recipes which she prepares and compliments her every time. Also, she interacted with the other people who are working in the shops nearby her. She is learning new languages such as Gujarati, Rajasthani, and Bengali by interacting with the customers and by talking to her while making the recipe. She also talked about the negative experiences and impacts of this occupation in her life. She shared an experience where she faced some tourists and even the local people who are teasing and taunting her while she is working. Even the other shop members who are taking this sector as a competition and passing bad comments to her and her husband just because they are getting a good response from the tourist customers compared to others. Also, this occupation creates a headache for her while working. As she already works in other job and after coming back from there, she has to rush back to the shop because of which she cannot take proper rest and which makes her feel tired.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: About her health then, she replied that she doesn't have any health issues but as mentioned earlier, due to lack of sleep it sometimes makes her feel dizzy and tired. When she falls sick then she directly takes leave and her shop is been closed for the day because rather than her, there is nobody to look after her shops if she remains absent. Her husband also cannot work as he is also working as a taxi driver. She visits the clinic of Chapora village or cures herself by doing home remedies as she was a nurse earlier so she has that knowledge about the medicines. She eats her breakfast at around 7 am and directly has her lunch after coming back home at 2.30 pm and sometimes she eats whatever she cooks at her shop as her dinner or misses the meal at night due to the rush of the customers. Which sometimes makes her feel weak the next morning. She shared that her daughter always shouts at her because of this.

Speaking about sanitation, then they do not have a toilet facility as mentioned earlier in the other interviews as well. She also has to walk 5 minutes long way to go to the toilet. She stated that if one thing that she wants to change about the place then they will like to have a toilet facility nearby.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): It is sometimes difficult for her to handle everything alone as she does not have anybody to help her. Also, there is no proper garbage disposal source to throw their garbage away. She set up a big basket outside her shop where she used to put all the waste items and then put them in the disposal bag and throw them in the area's dustbins. While doing the work she said that she has to face difficulties during the nighttime. Sometimes she works alone in her shop, so she cannot handle customers alone. Also, due to no support or help, customers don't understand her situation and they argue. Even she faced difficulties from the tourist who pass by and taunts and verbally harass her. At the time of the pandemic now, she takes necessary measures to keep herself and her customers safe from the COVID-19 virus. Her shop was not erected during the 1st wave but after that, it has been difficult for her to cope with the pandemic. Her husband has tested positive so with that reference she had to shut her shop down. After a month they continued with their work and considered the guidelines very properly. There were times when some customers just appear and they don't follow the guidelines of social distancing and this sometimes made her feel scared were, she also mentioned that because of this pandemic their life was so difficult and that even after knowing working in this occupation might risk their life, but they continued to work and till today is been working.

3.1.5. Respondent 5

Socio-demographic profile: Respondent 5 is a resident of Chapora village. She is living along with her husband, 2 children, and in-laws. She completed her education till the 11th and couldn't able to continue because of financial issues because she had to

leave her education and she started working in an Aganwadi at Chapora itself. Right now, she is working as a vendor at Vagator beach, where she is working in the *Gado* (restaurant). Her husband is working in the school as a peon and her children are studying in the primary grade.

Socio-Economic Details: She is working in this occupation for 7 years along with her husband. She came to know about this occupation when she once visited the beach along with her family and she saw many people working on the beach as vendors who were selling ornaments, caps, dresses, and snacks-beverage shops. Earlier her sister-in-law also used to work as a vendor at Calangute beach. She talked to her and find out about her occupation. Her husband found out about the procedures when he visited the village panchayat and did further steps. My respondent didn't give me the proper procedure method as she didn't know properly about it. She gave a rough idea that they spend over Rs. 60000/- to start with this occupation. She rented money from her brother to start with this occupation and she looked happy while sharing about her family that how they helped her and encouraged her to start with this occupation.

She works in the snacks-beverages shops. Her schedule is 8.30 am to 11.30 am. she said that she never works late at night as her family doesn't allow her to work after midnight so she comes back home before that time. She stays about 2km away from her workplace. She commutes to her workplace by bike. She gets the required things from her home while coming to the shop. Before coming to the shop, she drops her children at school. She has to do all the household work before coming to the shop. From tea to lunch, she has to prepare and keep everything. She gets her tiffin while coming to the shop. She mentioned that she never misses her meal as lunch is the only time where she gets some time to relax. During this period, she shuts her shop off so that no customer will come and disturb her while having her food. She has her dinner after going back home as she said that it's very crowded during the night time so she cannot shut her shop and have her meal properly because this makes her lose some heavy bunch of

customers. From morning to afternoon, she has to work alone and then at 3.30 pm, her husband comes to the shop to help her till night.

She along with her husband get the required commodities from Mapusa Big Bazar and the vegetable market. Also, they brought bowls, plates, spoons, and glasses from Mapusa market only. The quantity of the snacks and beverages such as soft drinks, chips, and Maggie depends on the customer visit per week. She spends over 2000 to 4000 buying all these commodities monthly. She starts working from October to April and during the off-season she and her family are dependent upon their husband's job. She was earlier working as a domestic helper but later she left that work. For her, working in this occupation has been a great help in her life and also contributed a lot to her and her family's life greatly. Her experience in this occupation has been very much positive. Only at certain times when customers misbehave, that's the time when she feels troublesome. Working in this occupation made her learn things. She got to know how to communicate properly with the customers. She said that her communication skills have improved and also, and she learned about time management.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: Speaking about health and nutrition, then she has milk and any other random meal along with it. She eats her breakfast properly as she had to work till the afternoon without any other snack in between. Sometimes, she gets some biscuits to have in between but not every day. For her lunch, she has rice, bhaji, dal, or any curry. She said that her sleep doesn't get complete as she works a lot even after going back home at night, which sometimes makes her feel dizzy and sleepy in the morning. The respondent shared that she doesn't have any health issues. Sometimes during the winter, she gets a viral cold for that she visits the local clinic and takes some rest for a while. During that time, her sister comes to help her. She cannot take leave until and unless the sickness is extreme. At this time, she visits Siolim health center. Mild fever and cold don't allow her to take a leave from her work.

The second thing is hygiene and sanitation then there is no toilet facility as said by other respondents as well. They do have a toilet facility but it's far away from their

shop. They have to go about 200m away from her shop. Also, there is no source to throw garbage about which they have spoken to the village panchayat who did not give them a good response but after complaining several times they sometimes send a garbage van and take away the waste items but not regularly. I also asked her about menstruation hygiene and sanitation where she was a little uncomfortable at the beginning but later on, she told me that because the toilet is far, she can't go to change her sanitary napkin properly which makes her feel irritated and uncomfortable while working. During this time, she tells the neighbor person to look after her shop while she comes back from the washroom. Also, when she is in her menstruation, her mother-in-law doesn't allow her to go to the shop because of some false beliefs. Apart from this, she even can't take a leave from her work during her menstruation cycle and rest at home and after working continuously, she gets very tired.

Challenged Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): She shared her general challenges which she has to face during the work and while working in this occupation, where sometimes some customers who visit her shop and who are often drunk and they ruin the atmosphere of her shop by shouting and continuously staring at her. when she tries to tell them not to misbehave, then those customers use abusive language and shout at her. Also, because their season is mostly during the winter the climate turns very cold during the night time and it feels very difficult to work in that atmosphere on the beach. After shutting their shops off during the rainy season, because of the heavy wind blowing their shops mostly collapse because of no proper and well structure of it. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was very difficult for her to work in the sector where they come in contact with many tourists who come from different parts of the world. During the lockdown, it was very difficult to cope with the monthly expenses. She had to be depended upon other sources of income which was difficult to find. She started sewing clothes at home and sometimes used to sell flowers and garlands in the temple which was not making any income source for them. After when lockdown ended, and everything began, along with the shops then she was scared while working there. Also, there were few customer visits because of the pandemic. During this time,

it was difficult for her to work and earn there. Some commodities like vegetables used to get spoiled and wasted. To maintain a safe working condition, she followed the social distancing properly and made use of a mask and sanitizers to protect herself from the virus.

She shared that it's not easy for women to work alone in this sector which is been believed by many people around, but from her own experience, she said that it is a great experience for her to work in this occupation and contribute to her life and her family.

3.1.6. Respondent 6

Socio-demographic details: Respondent 6 is the resident of Chapora-Vagator. She completed her education till the 8th standard and had to look after household chores as she was the elder daughter of the family and had to look after the source of living. She got married when she was 20 years old. She lives along with her husband, mother-in-law, and son. Her husband is working as a taxi driver at Vagator. Both of them had to take up the responsibilities of their household and the expenses of their child's education who is studying in class 7th.

Socio-Economic Details: She is working in this occupation as a vendor for the last 15 years along with her husband. She came to know about this occupation from her husband only. As mentioned earlier her husband is a taxi driver and he works till 7 pm after that he comes to the shop to help her with the work. As told by her mother-in-law to her, "women should not work at night" which is a very common mindset that our society has. Therefore, her husband shows up when it's dark. She had to look after the work such as cooking, serving, and cleaning. She said that when her husband comes to the shop he looks after serving orders to the customers. They buy commodities once every week from Vagator supermarket such as Maggie, required ingredients like sauce, spices, etc., and soft drinks and vegetables from Chapora's horticulture store. They spend over Rs. 2500/- to around Rs. 3000/- (monthly) in buying these commodities. When asked about the procedure then she replied saying that they had applied for a

space to have this shop but they didn't get any confirmation from the Panchayat for 15 years. She didn't discuss this more.

She stays nearby to her workplace so her husband drops her at the shop in the morning at around 9 am. Her working hours are irregular which is dependent upon the customer's visits but mostly she ends up by 11.30 pm. Sometimes it's difficult for her to handle both the work that is household and the shop. Her mother-in-law is old because of which she cannot work properly, so she only has to do everything. She wakes up at around 5 am and does all the work and then comes to the shop. She said that sometimes her husband helps her out doing household chores but most of the time she only has to do everything. She cooks food and prepares breakfast for everyone.

Their season starts in October itself and she works in the shop till April. She doesn't get enough customers as her shop is placed on the corner and she cannot able to get customers. She mentioned that she doesn't have proper communication skills because of which she can't interact with more people. But during the heavy season, she finds quite a good response from the tourist. She shared her experiences saying that it's very difficult to communicate and interact with people over there for which she blamed her own because she is very low in communication skills but as observed me, I found that she is doing quite good while working, she talks nicely and firmly with the customers which she never notices. Rather than this then she also shared an incident where once a customer had visited her shop and gave an order, while she was preparing his order, he was asking for a woman who can entertain him and he was also saying that he is ready to pay her whatever amount she says. She said that it not only happened to her but also to other people who are working over there but nobody will share it out of fear. She also shared a positive experience that customers do treat her nicely and they are very kind to her. there is one customer which she talked about who gave her a vegetable cutter board which is very useful for her. she said that their family always visits her shop every year. She said, "working in this occupation has many positive impacts in our life where we do something for our family but also for our self where we come out of our comfort zone and work in the sector which is said 'not meant for women'. Along with the positive impacts we also face negative things but most of the

time, we prefer not to share it with anybody”. She said that their life and living are very much dependent on this occupation and whatever earnings they get they are satisfied with that. She said that working in such a sector might help her to improve her skills of communication.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: Talking about her meals then she said that for her breakfast she and her family have tea, chapati, or bread. She sometimes gets her lunch from the shop while coming in the morning or sometimes her husband gets her lunch in the afternoon. She is a vegetarian so she mostly has rice, bhaji, and dal along with the mango pickle. She also said that her meal gets missed out if there is a higher peak in the customer visit. Her mealtime is at around 1.30 pm or 2 pm and she has her dinner after going back home at night. While asking about her health issues, she mentioned that her left hand is a bit weaker than her right hand. A few years before she had met with an accident because of which she was not able to move her left hand and work properly. At that time her shop remained closed as there was nobody who was able to look after her work. She had to make multiple visits earlier to the doctor because of her hand injury but now she said that her hand is a bit, okay but still she cannot work properly with her left hand as it doesn't give much support to her. she also said that if anytime she falls sick then she visits Vagator Health Center and during that time her husband look after the shop. She said that most of the time she prefers to ignore taking leave and rest at home because she said that she can't afford to have a break in her work. After asking questions about sanitation then she replied saying that they do not have a proper toilet facility. It's far from their shop and it's troublesome and risky sometimes for her to leave her shop and go to the toilet. I have also asked her about how she manages her menstruation days but she refused to tell as she was a little shy and uncomfortable.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): She responded about the challenges saying that because of low interaction sometimes she does not get customers which is a big challenge for her to communicate properly. Also, she said that

it's very difficult for her to handle both the works that are by the household and the shop. She had to look after everything and there is hardly any time which she gets to pay attention to herself. She said that because she doesn't have a smartphone, she cannot learn the system of digital payment. Though they do have a digital payment method in her shop many times she fails to get into it and operate it properly. She also shared that as a woman, she had to go through many things while working at her shop during the nighttime. Some tourists just pass by her shop and verbally abuse her by calling her in a very bad manner and also some tourists sit and smoke in her shop and create a mess. She sometimes cannot argue with them. Only when her husband is around, does she feel safe and that's where our women lack behind. When it comes to safety women are always seen as dependable on others rather than fighting and standing alone in the crowd.

She shared her challenges about the COVID-19 pandemic where she told me that during lockdown it was so much of a headache for them because there was no work and no source of income. She and her family had to suffer a lot as her husband's job was also shut down because of lockdown. When the cases were rising, she looked after her family by cleaning the temple every day of the village and doing the household work and also her husband started working as a watchman during that time. But still, they had to face difficulties as there were no jobs available, and their business was also shut down. When the cases started reducing even at that time it was challenging for her and her family to survive. As few tourists used to visit and travel around because of which they were not getting enough customers in their shop and it was not making any profit to them. Even the commodities were getting wasted.

She said that there are many challenges which she goes through like sometimes she had to listen to her mother-in-law's taunts who always tell her not to work as a vendor but still she chooses to work in this occupation just because of her family and especially to her child.

3.1.7. Respondent 7

Socio-demographic details: Respondent 7 aged 46, is a resident of Kaisuva-Chapora. Her family consists of her mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, and her daughter. Her daughter is studying in class 10th currently. She completed her education till 12th standard and after she started working in the hospital as a cleaner.

Socio-Economic Details: Respondent 7 has her shop at Vagator beach. She lost her husband 20 years ago. After that loss, she was responsible to look after her daughter's education and life. She has taken up the family's responsibility as well and started working in this occupation as a vendor for 10 years. Though her brother-in-law is also started working for 2 years now where she said that she also made a large contribution to his studies and made him stand on his own feet. While interviewing she said that she is working in this occupation when she came to know that it's a self-employed work and where it will be easier for her to work the way she wants to. She came to know about this occupation from her friend who also works in the same occupation as a vendor. She took help from her brother and set up the business. To start with the occupation, they submitted related documents in the Panchayat, and then it was forwarded to the Department of Tourism. She didn't tell me the further procedures step as she was not able to recall it.

To erect the shop, she spent over Rs. 45000/-. Buying carpets, plastic sheets, chairs, tables, gas, and other utensils and required things. She also talked about the commodities where she sells tender coconut, Maggie, *ross omelet*, lime soda, and other beverages. She buys the commodities on the weekly basis. She buys Maggie packets, soft drinks, vegetables, etc. from Mapusa market or a nearby supermarket. She stays nearby to her shop and she travels from her home to her shop with her bike. Before coming to the shop, she does the household work and then comes to the shop. She stated that her daughter also helps her in her work at home and sometimes also at the shop.

she said that she also likes it very much when her daughter comes to the shop and does the work. she said, “In our society, we mostly don’t allow our children to work in this occupation because of its negative environment. But I want my child to learn and see the things which she might not experience in her life.”

She starts from September to May. As far today, she is only dependent upon this work and is not indulged in any other work. She comes to the shop at 10 pm at work till 11 pm or sometimes 1 am. She stated that most of the time she works alone in the shop. She gets 15 to 25 customers per day approximately where most of the time customers demand Maggie and *ross omelet* (gravy with omelet) which profits her about Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1000/-. She shared that there are rude customers who she finds who are coming in her shop who just sit for hours and don’t order anything but many times she had a good experience with the customers where they talk to her nicely and ask her about her occupation and her family. She mentioned some of the common customers who visit her shop many times and also learn things from her like cooking. She said that they taught her how to make sandwiches also which she recently started making and because of this she is getting good visits from customers. When I asked her about the workplace’s nature then she told me that few people are interacting with her who is also working as a vendor on the beach. They don’t involve much in her life and do not interact much. She feels that because she is a widow, people taunt her saying that she is attracting tourists towards her to make a profit. About this situation, she says, “maybe I am creating a competition for them because of which they are saying like this but many times it makes me upset after knowing that our community people don’t show their true faces to me and talk behind my back.” She was crying when she was telling me about the people who are randomly knowing her and are just taunting her for her life. She even shared a positive thing that she learned many new things like making new dishes and using social media sites which were suggested to her by many customers, also she told me that she learned many languages such as Marathi, English, and Tamil after interacting with many tourists.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: She wakes up in the morning at around 6 and prepares tea, and chapati for the breakfast. She gets her lunch along with her or sometimes eats whatever she cooks at her shop for example Maggie or *ross omelet*. Her meal timing is dependent upon the customer's visits. About her health, she told me that it's mostly in the winter season likely in December she falls ill because of a cold. As she is working in the cold atmosphere, she falls sick. At this time, she visits the village private clinic for the cure. She does take leave if it's more serious sickness and at this time she shuts her shop down as there is nobody to look after her shop. She told about the garbage disposal that she is having a dustbin where she throws all her waste items and then she ties it in a plastic bag. Also, she told me the same issue which was also shared by another respondent that they do not have a proper toilet facility. She said that the toilet is at distance and others tell their neighbor person to look after their shop but there she nobody on which she could rely to look after her shop. sometimes her friend who is also working as a vendor calls her up and requests her to look after her shop sometimes.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): She shared a very horrible experience of her where she was treated unequally by other people in the workplace. Most of the time people who are working at the same place are not showing any interest in talking and communicating with her. She said that sometimes she feels that she is left out. Another thing which she shared is that many tourists feel that Goa has easy access to the drugs, especially in the coastal areas which is not true, and many times there were customers who come to her and whether she sells drugs or whether she knows about where they can find drugs. Commonly, many times she has gone through such negative experiences while working over there. She also answered the questions regarding the COVID_19 challenges. She said that though it was a difficult time when the lockdown was imposed, she was searching for a good source of income by which she can contribute to her family to survive. She started tutoring children around her village and tried to earn. During the COVID-19 pandemic it was very risky for her to work in the occupation where she was risking her own life and also her

family, she says. she looked after measures to safeguard herself from the virus where she kept sanitizers, was wearing a mask and gloves and was using disposable cutlery items, and also made use of a digital payment method. She also said COVID-19 had almost ruined many lives and she had gone through many things for survival that she can't even express.

3.2. Women Vendors at Anjuna Beach

I interviewed 4 women from Anjuna Beach who are working as vendors. A detailed case study of each respondent is described below:

3.2.1. Respondent 1: Ankita More

Socio-demographic details: Respondent 8 aged 39, is a resident of Anjuna. She completed her education till the 10th standard. Currently, she is living along with her husband and 2 children where the elder son is studying in class 12th and the younger son is studying in class 9th. Her husband is working as the postman and she is working as the vendor in the shop at Anjuna Beach.

Socio-Economic Details: She is working in this occupation for 13 years. She came to know about this occupation from the locals where there are some of her villagers who are also indulged in the same occupation. She decided to do this occupation to help her family in financial status and also to contribute by working on her own feet. Her husband was not able to cope with the household expenses so she decided to also start working. She had her brother-in-law's shop at Anjuna beach which she decided to continue with. Her brother-in-law is now not working in the shop as a vendor which now she has taken over. She follows the season which generally begins in October and she works till Mid of April. She sells things like fish thali, omelet bread, Maggie, lemonade, soft drinks, snacks, etc. She buys all these commodities once a week (according to the requirement) from the Anjuna or Mapusa Market. It almost cost Rs.

1500/- for her to buy all these commodities. Starting with this occupation made her a little tensed at the beginning where she was not at all confident but after experiencing and working over there, she became much more confident and active in this occupation. Though there were a smaller number of vendors around her who were selling all these things like her she was getting good responses from the customers who were visiting her shop. She gets around 10 to 20 customers per day at her shop. Her most famous dish is omelet bread which was largely demanded by the customers who visit her. She shared her experience where she told me how customers encourage her and remarks her good things. She also said that at the beginning it was difficult in communicating with the customers but after learning many other languages by interacting with them and by increasing her communication skills she was more comfortable and it was easier for her to interact with tourists in her shop. She shared a negative experience where people who are coming to collect rent sometimes used to charge more and once denied then they used to threaten. After that when she complained to the Panchayat they never did the same mistake again.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: She prepares her meal in the morning itself. She wakes up at around 5 am and prepares everything such as breakfast and lunch for herself and her family and also the recipes which she is going to sell in her shop for example rice, curry, and fried fish. Except for Maggie and other quick recipes and drinks. She usually makes tea, bread, and bhaji in her breakfast and has the same thali which she prepares for the customers, in which she cooks, rice, curry, fried fish, *soul-curry*, bhaji, and *tisryo*. When asked about health issues then she didn't mention anything. She said whenever she falls sick, she goes to Siolim Health Center, and at that time sometimes her brother who stays nearby looks after her shop.

Regarding hygiene and sanitation then they do have a toilet facility but is not well maintained stated by her. she said that sometimes there is no proper water in the toilet and it finds difficult for her and everyone else to visit the toilet. She shared her experience of the menstruation days as because of no proper water facility in the toilet sometimes it's difficult for her to keep proper hygiene of herself during her

menstruation. She couldn't able to change her sanitary napkin and there is no disposable dustbin that should be kept separately for the sanitary napkin. She has to wrap it in 2-3 pieces of paper and then throw it in the dustbin and when there is no water then she has to use her water bottle which is not enough.

Challenges (general and COVID-19 specific: Respondent also shared her challenges about her work that she cannot cope with both the work that is of household and the shop as she stated that sometimes she calls her brother for help but many times she has to do everything alone. She said that at night time it's difficult for her to work alone over there. There were incidents where some random tourists enter her shop and ask her for drugs or any alcohol stuff. After which, she calls her husband to work along with her. She commutes to the shop by working which is also another challenge for her because there is nobody to drop her and rarely does her husband drop but most of the time, she has to walk for 2km from her home to the shop. Challenges she faced when it comes to the COVID-19 specifically then she shared about how it was challenging for them when there was shut down of their shop during the lockdown and there was no other source of income. Even after the lockdown ended it was again difficult because fewer tourists were visiting and it was not making any profit for her while working as a vendor at the beach. She has taken the compulsory measures in terms of COVID-19 where she was wearing a mask, using sanitizers, and was making social distancing from the customers. She was scared during this time as she told me that as a mother and a wife, I was more concerned about my family and not myself.

3.2.2. Respondent 2

Socio-demographic details: Respondent 9, aged 37, resident of Anjuna itself but was a native of Karnataka. She completed her studies till the 6th standard. As her husband was a construction worker they had come to Goa, and in an accident, she lost her husband. She is now living along with her 2 children, brother, and sister-in-law.

Socio-Economic Details: She is been employed by a Goan person as a worker in the shop where she is selling handmade bags, sling bags, jewelry, clothing, and many other things at her store. She is the only worker who is working in that store. She is working as a vendor for 5 years. She came to know about this occupation through her brother as her brother is working in the Hotel at Anjuna nearby to her shop so she was been introduced to this occupation and she decided to work over there in order as she was dependent upon her brother and she doesn't want to be a burden on him and she also wanted to look after her children. So, she decided to work in this occupation. She said that all commodities and ornaments are been brought from Mumbai and are handmade. There is one person who belongs to the owner of that shop, who goes to Mumbai and brings all the commodities once a month. She said that they spend over Rs. 20000/- to buy everything every month. Her elder daughter is studying in a school in the 5th grade and her younger child is only 2-year-old so, she takes him along with her to the shop as there is nobody to look after him. She shared her experience where she stated that how she has to be active about everything and it is very much required for her to know the rates properly. As the stocks are been reported and how much is been sold is also have to be recorded. When customers visit her shop then most of them bargain for lower rates which sometimes doesn't make the expected profit. But most of the tourists don't bargain much as they sell handmade items too so she doesn't lower the rate mostly. She shared her experience where she is been respected by the customers and also the locals who visit her store. After interacting and communicating with the customers and the tourist, she learned languages such as Marathi, Konkani, Gujarati, and Bengali. She says that local people are kind of difficult to understand because many times just because they are Goan they are asking for lower rates of the items just because they belong to Goa.



Figure 2.4



Images taken by the researcher on 3rd March 2022

Figure 2.5

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: She wakes up at around 6 am, and with the help of her sister-in-law she prepares the meals. For breakfast, she has tea and biscuit and sometimes chapati and for lunch, they cook rice, gravy, and fish. She says that because there is no fixed timing is been followed in this job, she has

to work late at night and she couldn't able to complete her sleep. Working continuously without a proper break makes her feel weak but still, she does not have any other choice rather than working and staying up late without complaining.

When asked about health issues, then she replied saying that she does not have any health issues but whenever she falls sick, she does not get a whole day's leave. She has to inform her owner and take half day leave. On which her half-day pay is been deducted. She goes for the cure to the village clinic or at Mapusa. She stated that they do have a toilet facility that is not well maintained. They do not have a proper structure and it sometimes feels like not using the toilet as it is not cleaned properly. Also, she said that there was no proper supply of water. Whenever such circumstances arise, she uses the washroom of the nearby permanent shack.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): Respondent mentioned some challenges which she faces in her day-to-day life while working in this occupation. She mentioned the local customers who taunt her if she does not give them the item at their affordable rate, where they say, “you are an outsider and you have come here to loot us (Goans) and are making us fool by charging so high”. She said that most of the things which they are selling are handmade and it requires more energy and hard work because of which it is been charged a little extra compared to machine-made products. She finds rude behavior many times around her when she is been treated unequally by the locals. Also, the same point was been discussed when she was sharing her challenges during the times of the Covid-19 pandemic. She said that due to the lockdown they were not having any financial source of income. So, she started working as a domestic helper in the family. Who many times treated her in a very discriminatory way just because she does not belong to Goa. After that, she left that job and started working in another household as a domestic helper. It was very much difficult for her to find a job to get some income for her and her family's livelihood. After when the cases of the COVID-19 were decreasing, their store was reopened and she rejoined it then. Where at that time, she was not able to make enough profit because of few customer visits. She was also scared of her child whom she used to take to the store.

She was worried about him getting sick or infected. Her owner used to not allow her to get her child to the store but she was not having any other option rather than that. She stated that it's been difficult working but still working in that occupation feeds her children and her stomach, because of which she never gives up to work in every situation and continues to work. In the end, she said that after her husband it was difficult for her to look after her children alone but it was her responsibility to take care of them and make them grow in a positive environment.

3.2.3 Respondent 3

Socio-demographic details: Respondent 10, aged 34 is a resident of Anjuna, she is staying along with her husband, mother-in-law, and sister. She is basically from Karnataka but currently living in Anjuna. They have settled there for 10 years. Her husband is working as a watchman. She completed her education till the 7th standard. She along with her sister is working together in a store at Anjuna Beach.

Socio-Economic Details: She is working in a store for 4 years. She along with her sister been hired by the owner of the store and is given the responsibility to look after the store. She lost her child 6 years after the miscarriage which greatly impacted her life. She was working in a household earlier, but after the accident, she came to her sister in Goa to forget everything. She came to about this occupation when once she had visited the beach along with her husband and there, she saw people working in a hut, different stores, and shacks. From childhood, she wished to work and contribute to her life and look after her family but due to household responsibilities, she couldn't able to do the job that she wanted. Therefore, she started working as a domestic helper and looked after her family.



Image taken on 2nd March 2022

Figure 2.6

Currently, she is working as a vendor in a store where she is selling clothing and footwear. She stated her all the commodities are been brought by the owner from Bombay. Some of the items are handmade and some are readymade. She mentioned her owner buys the items once a month which cost them almost Rs. 15000/-. She commutes to the store by bike along with her sister. They come to the workplace at around 9.30 am and work till 12.30 am. She has to wake up early in the morning and do all the work which her sister also helps her. She prepares breakfast, and food and then goes to the store with the lunch box. She said that she can't go home and have her meal as it is not allowed by their owner to them, as while getting the food in the morning by its afternoon the food doesn't remain hot but still, they manage and cope up with the situation. She shared her experiences while working as a vendor. She says that working in such an occupation has been very challenging for her but also got to learn many things about life and many people. She shared an experience where she told me about how people are kind to her and respect her. They ask her about her family and where they are from. Sometimes she finds some customers who are rude in behavior and doesn't cooperate with the situation for example if she dealing with the crowd at her store then some customers will just randomly taunt her for not attending them and will go away out of anger without understanding that they have to look after everything. She also shared

how she learns many things by communicating with the customers. She learned how to access a smartphone which was thought to her by her sister so that she will be able to make use of digital payment methods, she also learns different languages such as Marathi, Konkani, English, and Malayali. She stated that her mother-in-law had greatly supported her in everything. She looked after her when she lost her child and also till today, she is been encouraging her to work hard and do whatever she wished to do.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: When asked about the meals, then she replied that she does the breakfast for which they prepare tea and chapati. She also gets the tea and biscuits along with her at the store to have in between. For the lunch, she has rice, chapati, bhaji, dal and curry, and sometimes fish. Sometimes when in a hurry, she packs her food when it's very hot because after back to the workplace during lunchtime the food gets spoiled. In this situation, they have a biscuit and don't prefer to spend over other food from the restaurant nearby. For the dinner, she said that they have the meal which they prepared in the morning or sometimes have only chapati and bhaji with onion. When falls sick then they are not been granted a full day to rest by their owner. He only allows her to take half-day leave and also, and he deducts the pay of that period.

Regarding hygiene and sanitation then she said that they have toilet facilities but no proper water supply on time as stated by other respondents too. She stated that they have to use their water bottle if there is no water in the toilet and also it's very uncleaned. She also said that they have one man sitting out the toilet who always stares at them weirdly and which is sometimes very uncomfortable for every woman who visits the washroom. I asked about her menstruation sanitation then she replied me saying that over there at their workplace it's a bit difficult for her to manage during her menstruation days because of the irregular supply of water and also because of the unclean toilet. Therefore, she never finds comfort in changing her sanitary napkin in the washroom. She even told me that there is no pad disposal dustbin which should be kept separately. Sometimes because of this, many women have to throw the used napkin in

the normal garbage dustbin where animals like dogs and cows roam around. She stated that there is a need to have a separate sanitary napkins disposable dustbin in the toilet.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): She shared the overall challenges which she has gone through because of this occupation. The very first challenge which she discussed with me was not having a proper water facility. Because they do not have any source of drinking water and also no water source on time for the sanitation most of the time they had to go through the difficulties. Another challenge that she faces is coping with the household work and doing the work at the store. She has to do her household chores and look after her family but because of the irregular timing of her workplace, she cannot spend time with her family properly and also does not get the proper amount of rest. She said that though she doesn't belong to Goa, there are her neighbors who are always treating them unequally and do not interact much. During the COVID-19, she mentioned that it was way challenging for her and her family to face this pandemic and find a work source for their livelihood. She mentioned that her husband found positive for the virus and which caused them more trouble. There was no source of income and they were not getting any jobs. People around them were not giving her any work to do out of fear because her husband was positive and treated her as if she is also infected or might infect them. After when cases were reduced all the stores were reopened and still, she has to go through difficulties. She had to work for herself and her family till late at night and had to work hard and protect herself from the virus too. She was scared of getting infected. Also, there were no customer visits because few tourists visited Goa. She looked after the safety measures where she made use of masks, sanitizers, and digital payment methods to safeguard herself and her family from the virus.

3.3.4. Respondent 4

Socio-demographic details: Respondent 11, aged 53, is a resident of Anjuna. She is a native of Bengaluru, Karnataka. She is staying along with her husband, son, and daughter-in-law. She along with her son is working in the store at Anjuna Beach.

Socio-Economic Details: She is working in this occupation for the last 7 years. She is been hired to work in the store. She said that this occupation is the only job on which their family is dependent. Her son used to work in a school as a peon but because it was too far for him to travel there on time, he left the job after which they have decided to work in this occupation. She began to work in September and work till April. She comes to work at around 10 am along with her son on a bike. Sometimes she comes alone when her son is not coming in the daytime. She works till 11 pm or sometimes 1 am. She mentioned about her husband that he is very old and because of this she is trying hard to look after his husband and family in every possible way.



Image taken on 10th March 2022

Figure 2.7

At her store, she is selling hats, clothing, and bags. All these things are been brought by her son itself once told by the owner of the store. The commodities are brought from Bombay once every month. It cost over Rs. 15000/- to Rs. 20000/- to buy all the required things. There are even handmade items like bags and hats which are been sold in her store. she shared her experience of working in this occupation where she stated that it's good to work in such a sector, where she gets to learn many things which are coming up in the culture. She learned languages such as Marathi, Punjabi, and Konkani. She also said that after working in this occupation she also made use of mobile and started learning how to use digital payment methods recently. She stated

that there are new things that she has never seen in her life and after coming in contact with so many people and learning about different cultures of the world she is making herself more flexible and available to lots of knowledge.

Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management: While discussing the things related to health and nutrition, she told that for her breakfast she has tea and chapati and sometimes biscuit. Her daughter-in-law prepares everything for her and her family and helps her out in doing all the household chores. During lunchtime, her son goes back home and gets the tiffin for them at the store. she shared that sometimes during lunchtime some customers come up and because of that she sometimes isn't able to have her meal properly as she needs to attend to the customers. She said that during the high peak of customer visits, her dinner is missed out and she has it later after going back home. She also commented that sometimes she feels weak as in the evening too they have only tea and sometimes have any snack with it which is not enough actually for her health. Her owner was kind to her as mentioned by her, who used to allow her to take the leave when she is not well and also was not deducting her pay. At this time her son used to look after the store. she visits Vagator Health Center whenever she falls sick.

She also said that she has blood pressure because of which she sometimes feels weaker if she didn't have her meal on time or does not take her medicine on time. She said that they have a toilet facility but as mentioned by others, they do not have a proper water facility, and it's uncleaned. And it's difficult to use the toilet without having such necessities.

Challenges Faced (General and COVID-19 Specific): She stated about challenges that as she is getting old, she is getting weaker and many times she has to stand continuously because of which she feels tired. Also, because of missing the meals, she fails to take her medicine, and more than twice she fainted because of that. Working in this occupation has been challenging to her as earlier it was more challenging to her

as she was new to all the things and she was not knowing how to communicate properly with the customers who visit her shop as mentioned to her during the interview. She also shared about the challenges that she faced during the times of COVID-19. She shared that because their stores were shut, they were dependent upon their son's job but when he left his job, it was very much difficult for them to work in this profession after the pandemic.

Though this occupation is the only source of income for them, she never decided to give up. As an old lady, she used to feel a bit afraid of the virus, she always used to carry the fear of getting infected but she praised the Lord for keeping her safe and her family too. She has taken up measures to protect herself from the virus by wearing a mask and using sanitizers. She looked happy and was saying that she didn't face many challenges while working. Also, she said that she is satisfied with whatever earnings they get and she respects it.

CHAPTER FOUR

MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

A total of 11 women vendors at Vagator and Anjuna Beach were approached for in-depth interviews. Out of which 11 women vendors agreed to be interviewed. 30% of respondents permitted me to take their photos and 70% preferred to be anonymous. 50% of respondents said that I can mention their real names in the research and 50% women vendors chose not to disclose their real names.

4.1 Educational Background of the Women vendors

Among 11 women vendors whom I interviewed, 90% shared their educational qualifications with me. 2 women completed their HSSC and are now working as a vendor at the beach. Out of 11, 4 have completed their SSC. 1 did her studies till 11th standard and then dropped out from the studies. 2 women have completed till 8th standard and other two women have completed their studies till 6th and 7th standard. There was only one woman who did not share her educational background. She only stated that she was not able to go to school because of financial issues. After knowing their educational background, I found out that a very common issue they had was family responsibilities and financial issues. In the family, it is the woman who has been given all the household chores to do regardless of her dreams and aims. Similarly, many of these women had to give up on their studies and were not able to complete their education as they were given the house responsibilities which they referred consider it as their duty. During the interview, I found 3 women who shared that they wanted to study more and have a good job but because of all the responsibilities which were imposed on them, they couldn't wish to do whatever they wanted to.

I also found that most of them still wish to continue with their studies. They said that if they are given a chance and if they are not having many household responsibilities, then they might think of continuing with their studies. There was 1 woman, who shared that her mother-

in-law still tells her to continue her studies but because of the workload and because she has to look after her family, she is not been able to choose to do her studies further.

4.2 Reason to choose this job or occupation

Women who are working as a vendor on the beach decided to work in this occupation because they find it familiar to do and it was profitable for them. Most of them came across this occupation from some of their relatives or themselves. They get to know about being a vendor after finding out about what are the privileges and work that they will have to do as a vendor. among 11 women, I found that almost 70% of the women's told me that they are satisfied with their earnings. Almost all of them chose to work in this profession for themselves and their family. But very commonly, I realized that they are working for their family.

Some women said that they want to give their children a better education and because of their financial issues they are not able to provide a good life for their children. This was the major reason which I would like to highlight over here, where most of the women are working as beach vendors for the livelihood of their families and especially their families. I hardly found women who are working for themselves and to contribute to their family by themselves.

4.3 Work Profile of women vendors

Among 11 women, only 10% of women was the owner of the stall who was providing food and other eatable items for the customers. She was doing all the work such as cooking, cleaning, and serving the customers. Her son was the only one who was helping her in doing the *butta* (corn) and she was handling all other duties on her own. She is very old but still, she was looking after each and everything and providing good service to the customers who are visiting her. Other 90% of the women were working in the shop or store among which 30% women are working in the store. The stores are been owned by some other local person and they are been hired to work and look after the store. They are selling ornaments and other accessories to the customers. They are also handling the work of cleaning the store when free.

70% of the women are working in the stall, cooking dishes like Maggie, rice curry, making sandwiches, lemonade, etc., and doing the cleaning work of the stall. They are also buying the required commodities. They are also serving the dishes to the visitor. They are also doing the work where these women are washing up the vessels and keeping their place clean. Most of the time, all of them have to work alone without anybody's help. There are 2-3 women whose husbands, sisters or brothers sometimes help them in the work but many times they had to look after their work all alone.

4.4 Management of daily requirements of the shop or stall

As 80% of the women are working in the stall of snacks and beverages, some of them buy the requirements weekly or once per month. Some of them get from Mapusa market, Chapora, or Anjuna market. They keep their commodities at home and buy around 20 to 25 packets per item for their stall. Only vegetables which are required are been brought by them before the day or 2 days before. They said that their commodities never go out to waste because they get only required things daily and have to look after them properly to manage them without any problem. Sometimes they get things like spices from nearby shops which sometimes trouble as they cannot leave their shop and go to buy the things. They have to keep the track of every little thing so that it will not create any problems in managing any item.

- 2 women who are working in stores of ornaments and other stuff do not have to buy any items from anywhere. During the interview, they stated that all these items are been brought by their owner from a neighboring state.

4.5 Work Schedule (Timing, Travelling,) and Management of Personal Commitments and Work

All these women who are working as vendors in the store or shop, of them come to their workplace by 10 am. They finish all the work in their household and come for their job. In the early morning, they prepare breakfast and lunch for themselves and their family. Sometimes their family members help them out in completing the household chores but mostly they have to look after every work and then they go to their workplace to work. Almost all of them stay

nearby in the village and 9 of them are the local people, so they do not have to travel from far away. Some are from Chapora, some are from Vagator and Anjuna itself so their work is about 1 to 2km away from their home. The majority of them that is around 70% of the women travel by bike to their work and very few come by walking.

They do not go back home for lunch as some of them get their lunch box from the shop or store and some of their lunch boxes are been brought by their family members during lunchtime. They work late at night as they all do not have a certain schedule so their working hours are irregular. I found after interviewing that all of them work till midnight and some of them work till 3 am or 4 am or sometimes 6 am especially during the heavy customer's visit during the season. Because they reach late back home, they cannot spend time with their family and their children. They get double workload, one of their houses and second is of their workplace. They always have to finish up their household chores on time and only after then they can go to their work. They cannot come back home and leave their shops shut as they will miss up the customers if they did this way because of which they are at their work whole day. They had to work late at night as told by them, after the evening the visits of the customer's increases and it makes them earn quite good earnings. They had to complete both of the work where they do not get enough time for themselves just because most of the time, they all have to do the only one thing and that is work.

4.6 Toilet facilities in the vicinity

After finding out about the toilet facilities, I found that women working at Vagator beach do not have nearby toilet facilities. They do have a toilet but it is far away from their workplace because of which they cannot leave their stores or shops open and go to the toilet. Sometimes they tell their neighbor person who is working beside them in a similar occupation to look after their shop/store till they come back from the washroom. Women who are working alone and who do not have anybody to help them out face a lot of trouble because of this issue. The toilet facility at Vagator beach is 150 meters away from their shops and it creates a problem for them. 100% of the women's complained about poor toilet facilities.

All the women vendors working at Anjuna beach stated that they do have a toilet facility which is reachable enough for them all, but they complained saying that they do not have a water facility on time in the toilet. All the women's said that there is a poor supply of water in the toilet and it creates trouble for not only them but every other person who visits the toilet. They did complain about the same in the village panchayat but still, it's lacking behind to show any good results. Also, I both the toilet to check the facilities which are provided whereas I found that the toilet facility of Anjuna is nearby though but is not providing good service to these women and other people.

4.7 General experience in this occupation

-Positive experience: Through my interviews, I found that majority of the women had positive experiences while working in this occupation. Most of them stated that after working in such a profession where women are been kept behind by saying that this atmosphere of the work is not safe for them, they feel very proud of themselves for contributing so much to their own lives and their families. They feel good after working in such an occupation. They stated that they work so that they will not have to be a burden or dependent on anybody. After working in this occupation, they are happy with the contribution that they are making in their life. Also, some of them shared with me how their family supported them to work in this occupation.

-Negative experience: there were some negative experiences that these women shared during their interview that most of the time it's like a competition while working in such an occupation, where other vendors create a competitive scenario where most of them want to have more customers and show ignorance towards other sellers. This atmosphere ends the way of good experiences. Also, there were about 40% of the women's who shared their negative experiences saying that they have to work late at night where there are some tourists and other people who taunt them and verbally abuse them without any reason which sometimes makes them feel very upset and create a bad atmosphere during that time.

4.8 Job satisfaction (earnings, Customer's behavior, weekly off, leave)

Women whom I interviewed are happy with the earnings and the hard work which they make. They have started up the occupation to have a good livelihood and because they want to stand on their own feet, and they have no regrets while working in this occupation. Some doubts here and there, where 20% of women stated during the interview that they feel weird sometimes working in this profession because of the atmosphere and the discriminative behavior of the people. Some of them shared their experiences saying that some customers do treat them nicely and interact in a good way with them. But some customers misbehave and fight at certain times. These customers are mostly drunk (as stated by women). There are 30% of women who had a horrible experience while sharing about the customer's behavior where they stated that there are some customers who visit to buy drugs and ask about any random women for them. It sounds very upsetting that such behavior of the people still exists when they do not have a clear path and always interrupt the one who wants to work hard and have a good life.

They also shared about their leave, where most of them cannot stay back home if they are unwell. Situations like cold, which they handle on their own and continue to work. Their livelihood is dependent upon this work because of which they often neglect their health and prefer not to take leave which will, in turn, affect their work. 3 women from Anjuna beach are been hired by somebody else, 2 of them only get half-day leave and their pay is been also deducted. Because of this they often deny themselves taking a rest and continuing to work. 1 of the women shared that her owner does allow her to take a leave and doesn't deduct any pay for her because of her sickness or any other serious issue which makes her take leave.

4.9 New Skills or Learning while working in this field

All the women's shared that they did learn many things after working in this occupation. This occupation greatly helped them by making them believe in themselves and depending on themselves. They learned to communicate with people and interact with the customers which improved their communication skills and opened up a gate in their life to learn and welcome many other things in their life.

A very common thing almost all the women were learning was the different languages. By communicating and meeting up with many customers who belong to different regions, all the women's made themselves available to learn their languages which helped them to expand their ratio among many tourists to have more visits from them. They said that learning languages like Gujarati, English, Marathi, Bengali, and even some of them knew Russian, made it easier for them to understand the requirements and the needs of the customers and also understand their culture and share about various other things. Also, along with the different languages, women's who were not friendly to the technology, learned how to use mobile and how to use various other apps and sites on it such as YouTube, WhatsApp, Instagram, etc. Some women's who did not know how to use the digital payment methods, also made themselves flexible enough to learn this method and are now making use of this which is very much required during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every woman who is working in this occupation, somewhere did learn some skill or any other thing which greatly helped and is still helping them in their life.

4.10 Food habits of women vendors

100% of the women do their household work along with their breakfast and lunch before coming to the workplace. They normally have tea, chapati, and *bhaji* for their breakfast. Some have milk and biscuit for their breakfast. Some women get their breakfast at the workplace and have it there to reach on time. They get their lunch while coming to the work where there are some whose lunch are been brought by their family members during the lunch break. For their lunch, they have rice, curry, dal, *bhaji*, and fish followed the same during the dinner too, where sometimes chapati is added for their dinner. This is the common lunch menu that they prepare for themselves and their family. In between, they have any biscuits whenever they are free. The problem arises when because of the heavy workload they sometimes miss their meal. This thing largely happens during the high season period when there are more customer visits happen because of which some of these women are not able to have their meal on time. Most of them do not have an exact schedule when it comes to their meal. This often makes them feel weak but they still choose to work and do the hard work.

4.11 Health Problems faced by women vendors

As mentioned in the case studies, the season of working on the beach begins in October. Some women choose to work from October to April and some begin from September to May. As it's mostly the winter season, many women get affected by the cold atmosphere and fall sick. Even after being sick, they do not take a leave mostly and often continue to work. As mentioned by many respondents, their livelihood is dependent upon this occupation and they cannot afford to take a one-day leave or a break because they are sick, which is denying them to look after their health and take rest. Because of this their health gets affected.

Also, there is 1 woman, who had a leg injury years ago and because of that she is been still getting hurt and she cannot work properly. Even after this thing, she is continuing to work and doesn't want to give up. Few women are having BP and diabetes and due to continuous they sometimes miss their medicine dose and feel weak. Some of them fall sick during the winter season. They normally visit the clinic from Chapora or Vagator Health Centre. Also because of working for continuous hours, they do not get proper rest, and as a result, their health gets affected. Continuous work also makes them miss their meals, which also provides a lack of nutrients on time and makes them feel restless.

4.12 Menstrual Management Practices

Among all the 11 respondents, 50% of the women's shared about their management when it comes to their menstruation. They agreed by saying that it's a very difficult task for them because they all cannot manage their menstrual hygiene. Because most of them work alone, during their menstruation cycle they cannot look after their hygiene and sanitation properly. Also, because there is no good toilet facility. They have to suffer due to this problem where they don't have good sanitation sources and have to hide when they go through menstruation. 70% of the women who answered about menstruation use sanitary pads, whereas others use cotton cloth. They often shut their shops and go back home during the afternoon and change the napkin and come back by 4 pm. They also shared that they prefer not to work late at night because of the social myths and beliefs. They are not allowed to go out after dark during their menstruation.

Respondents also stated during the interview that they feel tired during this period and have no other option rather they keep on working and feel restless at the end.

4.13 Challenges faced in general

Every woman whom I interviewed had some or the other problem or challenge which they often go through while working in this occupation. 70% of the women's stated that they often go through verbal harassment by the tourist while at the workplace. Not only tourists but also locals at night. Taunting and teasing is been done to every woman, especially the one who is been working alone in this occupation mainly at night.

There are 30% of women who shared that they do have to face the quarrel with their family, especially their in-laws who keep on denying them to work in this occupation, where they are been told not to work in such a profession which is believed to be 'profession of men only'. It's a complete fake and false belief that society often believes that women should not work in such a profession mainly during the night time and this is also been faced by the respondents themselves.

Even respondents stated that they have to go through a double workload. As they have to look after the household chores and work which is related to their job also. They do not get enough time to rest, do any other activities and spend with their family which is a basic necessity that they are wanting for so long. This is the general problem that almost 90% of the respondents shared during the interview.

4.14 Challenges faced during COVID 19 pandemic

100% of the respondents replied with the answer that they did face challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. The very challenging factor which COVID-19 brought into their life was shutting down their job. Most of them were dependent on this occupation of vendors and because of the COVID-19 pandemic they had to suffer a lot as they were not having jobs and their survival was been challenged by this virus. They were in need to find some other job that will provide them livelihood and will help them to earn something for themselves and their

family. They worked as domestic helpers which was also a tough job to find as no family were wanting any helper from outside their home in the fear of COVID-19.

Even, there were 100% of the respondents stated that they were scared of this virus. They were worried about their health and their family as well. Some stated that their family member such as their husband did test positive for COVID-19 and it created a drastic change there where they had to shut down their shops or stores to follow the protocols. Most of them tried to follow all the SOPs during the pandemic times and are still following. They used masks, social distancing, and made use of sanitizers, and digital payment methods to safeguard themselves from the virus.

5.0 Conclusion

Women working as vendors in the coastal areas are doing their hard work to give their best in this occupation. They are working without having anybody's help and are trying their best to have a good life and also to provide a good livelihood for their family as well. They are crossing all the bounds which are keeping them away to do something for themselves in their life and contribute equally by breaking all the hurdles.

After my findings, I realized that after working so hard and trying to match their level with this society who are having thinking that women are been treated as marginalized, they are still kept to a certain level of boundaries, and even their actions and work is been controlled somewhere or the other. They are not allowed to work late at night alone for fear. Women do face challenges in their workplace, especially in the unorganized sector. Women are greatly contributing by working in such a sector even after knowing that there are hurdles and problems which they will have to face because of the stereotypical beliefs and biased mindset of the people.

Also, I noticed through my findings that all the women are been doing the jobs at their workplace which are stereotypically associated with women. Even when their husband or brother or if there is any other male member of her family who is helping her in working, will not do work such as cooking and cleaning and mostly these tasks are been given to the women

in the majority. This treatment of treating women unequally and doubting and questioning their abilities should be stopped and they should be given equal opportunities.

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Annexure

Questionnaire for Women working/ Beach shack owners at Vagator/ Anjuna Beach

A. Identification Data

1. Name (optional):
2. Age:
3. Educational background:
4. Place of Residence:
5. Details of family members:

B. Socio-economic details

6. Since how many years are you in this business/ job?
7. Why did you choose this occupation/job?
8. What are your work responsibilities in this occupation?
9. What commodities/ items are required on daily basis to run this business?
10. From where do you (or the owner) buy all the items?
11. How far do you stay from your workplace?
12. How do you commute every day to work?
13. How do manage personal and professional responsibilities?
14. What do you do or like to do during your free time?
15. When does the tourist season starts and ends?
16. What do you do during the off-season?
17. Do you have any other business or job?
18. What is your work schedule? (timings, lunch break, off days)
19. Are you satisfied with your earnings through this job/business?
20. What has been your general experience with the customers?
21. Can share some positive and negative experiences at your workplace if any?
22. What are the new things you learned or got to know by working in this occupation?

- Language:
- Skills:
- Experience (positive or Negative):

C. Health, Nutrition, Hygiene, and Sanitation Management

23. What do you eat for your meals?

Breakfast_____ Time:

Lunch_____ Time:

Dinner _____ Time:

Any other snack in between _____ Time:

24. Do you have any health issues? If yes, what type/s?

25. If you fall ill, are you allowed to take leave? –If employee

If you fall ill, how do you manage your business –for women owners

26. If Employee- Do your pay get cut if you take leaves?

27. Which clinic/hospital/doctor do you visit if you fall ill?

28. Is there a toilet facility nearby?

29. If yes, do you use the toilet facility?

30. If no to Q.25, and no to Q. 26: How do you manage?

31. How do you manage your menstruating days (changing of pads)- Question only if the respondent is in the menstruating age

D. Challenged faced (general and covid specific)

32. Do you face any challenges in your job/ business?

33. If yes, can you share them?

34. How do you tackle those challenges? (if answer yes to Q 33)

35. During the COVID-19 pandemic (National Lockdown) did you face any problems?

36. If yes, how did you tackle them?

37. Do you feel the Covid-19 pandemic has affected your work/business?

38. If yes, kindly explain in what way?

39. What are the safety measures you take because of Covid?

E. To be answered only if the respondent is also the owner

40. What are the procedures to be followed in opening a shop/store/shack?

41. Did you face any difficulties while doing the procedure?

42. How many workers are working under you? Total____ Male____ Female____

43. Have you taken any loans for this business?

44. Do you provide digital payment options for the customers?

45. If yes, then how did you come across this way of payment?