

**WOMEN STREET VENDORS IN KENYA
POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY**



**ENHANCING LOBBYING CAPACITY OF WOMEN STREET VENDORS
THE CHALLENGES IN THE KENYAN POLICY ENVIRONMENT**

DECEMBER, 2000



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Submitted to the International Development Research Centre [IDRC] as per project memorandum requirement on 'Women Street Vendors in Kenya: Policies, Regulations and Organisational Capacity' [Centre File: 98-8556/55399].

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Acronyms

| | |
|---------------|--|
| CBD | Central Business District |
| CBOs | Community Based Organisations |
| FGDs | Focus Group Discussions |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GST | General Street Traders |
| IDS | Institute for Development Studies |
| KCITI | Kenya Christian Industrial Training Institute |
| KHA | Kenya National Union of Hawkers |
| KSTS | Kenya Street Traders Society |
| KHA | Kisumu Hawkers Association |
| K-REP | Kenya Rural Enterprises Programme |
| KWFT | Kenya Women Finance Trust |
| LAs | Local Authorities |
| MSTS | Migori Small Traders Society |
| NYS | National Youth Service |
| NGOs | Non Governmental Organisations |
| NCKK | National Council of Churches of Kenya |
| ROSCAs | Rotating Savings and Credit Associations |
| SMEs | Small and Micro Enterprises |
| SSJKE | Small Scale Jua Kali Enterprises |
| SV | Street Vendors |
| WEDCO | Women Enterprise Development Company |
| WSV | Women Street Vendors |

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Street vending continues to offer economic opportunities and remains a source of livelihood for many Kenyans, mostly the urban dwellers. The conditions under which the vendors work are, however, generally quite harsh. They operate on open grounds without any shelter, have very limited access to credit, have no storage facilities for their wares and are not provided with the necessary business services. Further, they are poorly organised with hardly any access to policy makers, planners and administrators who instead subject them to endless harassment.

Street vending falls among the Small and Micro Enterprises [SMEs] which provide employment and income to about 70 per cent of the Kenyan population, especially urban residents. A Baseline Survey of SMEs showed that the contribution of the sector represents between 18 - 23 per cent GDP. If unclassified labour force is taken into consideration on assumption of value added per head, then the contribution of the sector would come to 30.2 per cent of the GDP. In total, Kenya has 1.3 million SMEs employing an estimated 2.4 million people [CBS, ICEG and K-REP 1999].

In spite of employment opportunities offered by the sector, incomes within the sector especially from micro enterprises such as street vending are very low. The potential for earning a living, for investment and for growth is highly constrained. It is in this respect that the study on policies, regulations and organisational capacity was conceptualised, with an aim of coming up with proposals and recommendations which will not only improve performance of the sector, but also improve livelihoods of street vendors and their relations with other stakeholder groups.

Concern relating to small scale economic activities is by no means a new policy area for Kenya. As far back as 1972 the government recognised the importance of the sector in employment creation and generation. Although there were no programmes immediately put in place to support the sector, until later in 1986 when the government published the landmark paper on Economic Management for Renewed Growth, there have since been a number of

programmes aimed at supporting the sector. They include: a Sessional Paper on Small Scale and Jua Kali Enterprises [SSJKE] [Kenya, 1992], and special task force charged with reviewing all policies, laws and regulations with a view to identifying those considered punitive to the development of SSJKE. The efforts of the Task Force has resulted in removal of a number of regulations and licensing requirements which retard the establishment and development of businesses being removed. The Single Business Permit [SPB] being implemented by Local Authorities since January 1999, for instance, is indeed a positive move toward undertaking policy change, but also improving the livelihood of small scale traders such as street vendors.

This particular study is a component of the larger IDS project¹ on 'Women Street Vendors in Kenya: Policies, Regulations and Organisational Capacity' which is examining the vendors associations with a view of recommending strategies for building capacity of Women Street Vendors [WSV]. Specifically, the assessment of WSV associations in this paper cover the following themes: methodology, associational life of street vendors, characteristics of street vendors' associations, governance in street vendors associations, relationship with government and other organisations, policies and regulations, provision of services and management of vending sites, and challenges and strategies for vendors' associations.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The issues relating to street vendor's associations were investigated using mainly a survey and Focus Group Discussion [FGDs] approach. These methods were backed up with key informant interviews, and dialogue workshops at both local and national levels.

The survey of associations and Focus Group Discussions [FGDs] covered four urban areas [Nairobi, Kisumu, Migori and Machakos]. Nairobi, which is the capital city and the largest town covered in the study had 99 respondents, Kisumu, 84 respondents, Machakos 60 and Migori 58. In total, 301 respondents were interviewed in the four towns.

During the first phase of the project, contacts were established within the sampled urban

¹ The IDS project is supported by the Canadian International Development Research Centre [IDRC] and the British Department for International Development [DFID]. The project has closely collaborated with a network, 'Women in Employment, Globalising and Organising' [WIEGO], researching and doing advocacy work on issues relating to women's employment.

centres. This was followed by identification of existing street vendors associations. There was, however, no reliable documented information on street vendors associations per se, mainly because most groups were registered as women or self-help groups. In order to overcome this hurdle, civil society organisations which support street vendors and relevant government offices were consulted. This was followed by basic fact finding involving walking and talking to both existing street vendors associations and street vendors themselves. Through this approach, a number of Revolving and Savings Credit Associations [ROSCAs] were identified. In addition, the 1998 Baseline Survey [Graham et al 1998] on street vendors was used to supplement the information gathered from this process.

The preliminary phase of the project showed that existing street vendors associations were few with many being small and medium size organisations. Only a total of five street vendors associations [three in Kisumu, and one each in Nairobi and Migori] which focus on street vending issues and advocacy were found in the four towns. They included: Kenya Street Traders Society [KSTS], Kenya National Hawkers Union [KENAHU], Kisumu Hawkers Association [KHA], General Street Traders [GST] of Kisumu, and Migori Small Traders Society [MSTS]. In total, twenty eight associations were covered in Nairobi, twenty three in Kisumu, sixteen in Machakos, and fifteen in Migori.

Information gathering and further identification of additional street vendors associations was done during the data collection phase. Interviews were conducted with representatives [leaders and/or spokesperson] of street vendors associations in the four towns. Using a questionnaire [appendix 1] information on associational life of street vendors, inter-associational cooperation, relationship with development agencies, policies and regulations and personal details.

Focus Group Discussions with representatives of street vendors associations were held in each of the four towns [appendix 2]. This was aimed at providing additional information to those gathered through questionnaires and also getting views on policies and regulations governing street vendors operations, and how associations react to the regulatory environment. Once the questionnaires had been administered, key informant interviews and FGDs conducted and data analysed, at the local authority level dialogues bringing together stakeholders in each of four urban centres were held.

Local level dialogues were followed by a national level dialogue bringing together the four urban councils, government and United Nations agencies, street vendors associations and other agencies who support street vendors. This was aimed at discussing the pertinent issues

regarding overall findings on the sector at the national level. The national workshop also provided a forum for the urban councils to interact with each other, and with those who support SMEs. Further, it offered a good opportunity to forge partnerships, notably for possible funding of programmes for street vending within respective urban councils.

From the on-set the study had a positive bias towards WSV associations. However, as preliminary work continued, it was revealed that there were no major associations, especially umbrella ones which were predominantly women. Subsequently, the research did not only cover associations with women only, but also those with mixed membership comprised of both women and men. This report focuses on the street vendors [SV] associations in general, even though there was a higher representation of WSV's groups through ROSCAs.

3.0 ASSOCIATIONAL LIFE OF STREET VENDORS

Associational life is an important factor among small scale enterprise operators. Most of them rely on the several groupings which have been formed to cater mainly for welfare needs, including reviving and sustaining group members businesses. Small scale enterprise operators hardly make any appreciable savings, and when confronted with extra expenditure, they have to fall back on their associations, relatives and friends. As the economy continues to perform poorly, relatives and friends can hardly provide support, and individuals have to turn to associations for support.

3.1 Socio-economic characteristics of Respondents

In terms of provinces of origin, most of the respondents interviewed in this study [48.8%] were from Nyanza. The rest were from Eastern province [27.6%], Central [14.6%], Western [4.7%] and Nairobi [1.7%], Rift Valley [1.0%] and North Eastern [0.3%]. A total of 1.0 per cent non Kenyans also fell within the sample. Both the provinces and districts of vendors reflect the diverse areas of their origin. The sample, it should be remembered was based on urban authorities, where migrants people from different provinces and districts search for work.

As regards home district, Machakos district was dominant [21.3%] as the district of birth of vendors interviewed. Those from Kisumu were, 21.4 per cent, Siaya [8.3%], Bondo [7.1%] Rachuonyo [4.8%], Homa Bay [3.0%], Makueni [3.3%], Mwingi [1.0%] and Kitui [1.0%]. Kisumu District had the highest [15.0%] number of the respondents from Nyanza province. Other districts within the province that were represented were; Siaya [11.3%], Migori

[12.3%], Bondo [3.7%], Homa Bay [3.0%], Rachuonyo [2.7%], Kisii [1.0%] and Suba [0.3%]. The dominance of Nyanza is explained by the fact that two of the urban centres covered are located within Nyanza province, with most vendors coming from the same province.

Western province was represented as follows; Vihiga [2.7%], Kakamega [1.0%], Nyando [1.0%] and Bungoma [0.3%]. The respondents who came from Central Province were from Muranga [4.7%], Kiambu [3.3%], Nyeri [3.3%], Thika [1.3%] and Kirinyaga [1.0%] Districts. Those from the Rift Valley were from Nakuru [1.0%] and Nyandarua [0.7%] Districts. Nairobi District had 1.3% of the respondents, Turkana [0.3%] and the foreigners were 0.7%.

The respondents' ages ranged from 19 to 79 years. The average age of the respondents was 35.4 years with half of the respondents aged 19 - 34 years and the other half, 35 - 79 years. There seemed to be a higher percentage of the respondents aged 30 to 35 years accounting for nearly 20 per cent [10.9% and 8.8%] of the respondents respectively.

The majority of the respondents [90.4%] had children, with only 8.3 per cent not having any children. The children were aged as follows: below six years [26%], 6 - 12 years [23%], 13 - 17 [28%] and above 18 years [23%]. Most of the respondents [69.1%] were married, single [18.3%], widowed [6.3%], divorced [3.7%] and 2.7 per cent separated.

The majority [91.1%] of the respondents had some formal education, while only 8.6 per cent had no formal education. Those with primary education accounted for 56.1%, while those with secondary education were 33.6%.

The respondents who had attained university education were 0.3 per cent, adult education 1.0 per cent, while 0.3 per cent did not respond to the question as reflected on Table 3.1.

Table 3.1: Education Level of Respondents

| Education | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| No formal education | 26 | 8.6 |
| Adult education | 3 | 1.0 |
| Lower primary | 28 | 9.3 |
| Upper primary | 141 | 46.8 |
| Lower secondary | 45 | 15.0 |
| Upper secondary | 56 | 18.6 |
| University | 1 | 0.3 |
| No response | 1 | 0.3 |
| Total | 301 | 100 |

A total 20.3 per cent of the respondents had undergone some formal training, while 9.0 per cent had informal training. The type of training included: nursing, teaching, hair dressing, secretarial, tailoring, business management, sales and store-keeping, catering and driving. The institutions where the respondents had undergone training were largely informal. Others were private institutions; government institutions like KCITI, National Youth Service [NYS], Kenya Educational Training Institute; Religious organisations like Church Army and Magadi Catholic Centre, and NGOs supporting small scale activities such as Women Enterprise Development [WED] and National Council of Churches of Kenya [NCKK].

3.2 Characteristics of Women Street Vendors' Associations

Majority of street vendors associations are small with about thirty members. They address largely welfare issues such as sickness, funerals, payment of fees and purchasing household goods. A few associations go beyond welfare to address issues affecting vendors such as site of operation and advocacy on rights of street vendors.

The associations of street vendors are of three categories. In the first category are national or umbrella associations that have branches in various towns in Kenya. They include, KSTS with head office in Nairobi, and KENAHU with head office in Kisumu. Category two are the regional organisations, which operate within specific towns but have sub-sections and sub-committees.

The sub-sections and/or committees, are largely formed along the different types of commodities of trade. They are meant to make management of the larger association easier, since they are mandated to address specific issues relating to their sections. Sub-sections have representatives in larger associations, and the larger associations deal with groups and not individual traders. This type of association include the General Street Traders of Kisumu and Migori Small Traders Society.

The third category, which are largely ROSCAs, can be further divided into small and medium size. They are local associations covering specific trading sites. Both sizes focus on welfare issues, but occasionally medium size associations address street vending issues, particularly those affecting traders at the site such as flooding, damage of goods by sun and/or rain or undue harassment by the authorities. Among the study sample, they include Maziwa and City Stadium open air markets of Nairobi, Nguo Investment of Kisumu and Sokoni open air market of Machakos.

The medium size associations in comparison with small size groups have slightly a higher membership of between 50 - 200 members. Some of these groups, for example Maziwa and Stadium open air market have some links with large umbrella associations such as KSTS, and have in some cases benefited from activities of the latter. Maziwa open air, for example, obtained their trading site through efforts of KSTS.

Small size associations have relatively low membership averaging between twenty to thirty members primarily focusing on welfare issues. They hardly address street vending issues, even though some of their membership belong to large associations. As observed by Alila and Mitullah [1999a], street vendors in Kenya, especially WSV, are largely organised in small ROSCAs which are generally weak and hardly address issues such as harassment and lack of recognition of street vending activities. Instead, they act as insurance during emergency and hardship times.

A Baseline Survey of WSV in Kenya found out that most SV belong to non formal associations

which provide support in the areas of welfare, savings and credit. This lack of formal organisations as noted by Alila and Mitullah has been exploited by authorities and has contributed to SV goods being confiscated or destroyed with hardly any compensation.

3.2.1 Membership

In the sample for this research date of registration as a member of various associations was from 1971 to 1999. In specific towns it ranged as follows: Nairobi: 1979 to 1999, Kisumu: 1986 to 1999; Machakos 1971 to 1999, and Migori: 1982 to 1999. The sample shows that more than half of the respondents [57.4%] joined the associations in the last two years with the highest percentage [29.2%] having joined in 1998 and 28.2% in 1999. Another 10.0% of the respondents joined the associations in 1996 and 7.6% in 1997.

Those who joined the associations before 1995 were only 25.0%, while the rest [75.0%] joined the associations between 1996 and 1999. Essentially this implies that the associations are young and are still at an infancy growth stage. This may also partly explain our finding that the associations are weak and poorly organised.

Membership in associations varies in terms of type of association. The umbrella associations have large membership, although actual proof of the active members for some of them was not possible to establish during the field survey. The KSTS, for example estimated its membership as 11,000, while General Street Traders had 600 members, KENAHU 2,400 members and MSTs 510 members. The medium size groups had slightly larger membership than the small size associations. Maziwa open air and Nguo Investment had membership of 200 each, Sokoni open air market, 600 and City Stadium open air 31. On average, the small organisations had membership of between 20 - 30 with the lowest having three members and the highest 50.

Street vendors' organisations have an important role to play to change the public authorities perception, and to this end commitment of the membership is key. In addition to being formally organised, the associations need to demonstrate membership solidarity if they are to be taken seriously and as representative of SV. Some of the associations covered in the study, especially the large ones, claimed large membership of over two hundred but could not show evidence of their actual membership. Instead, they provided estimate figures some of which were clearly doubtful. A few of them, though, had up to date records of their members, where the members traded and the type of commodities they trade in - small and medium size associations by virtue of their small size tend to be able to show proof of membership.

The informality among the associations is partly a contributing factor to the lack of influence on issues affecting SV. Group formation and growth undergo various stages from recruitment of members, acquittance of members to group goals and participation in group activities. Not all street vendors associations mature to the level of being registered. Some associations remain informal for a long time, though unlikely to be for a duration of more than five years, while others collapse.

The growth of a group subsequently leads to stability, and eventually to the group graduating to the level of registration or formalisation. Registration of a group is thus a sign of growth and portrays some level of commitment by members. It is therefore likely that as groups advance in years, the number of the registered ones increase, while those of unregistered ones decline.

The main requirements for membership included payment of registration fee, having a business, and payment of periodic subscriptions. Other requirements were operating in a particular area, being female, being a resident of a particular area and being hard-working and committed to group activities, as shown on table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Membership Requirements

| Requirements for Membership | Frequency [multiple responses] | Percentage |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Registration fee | 200 | 37.5 |
| Must be in business | 98 | 18.4 |
| Periodic subscription | 96 | 18.0 |
| Must be operating within a specified area | 34 | 6.4 |
| Must be female | 29 | 5.4 |
| Must be resident of a particular area | 20 | 3.7 |
| Must be hardworking and committed to group activities | 14 | 2.6 |
| Must be trading on specific commodities | 12 | 2.3 |
| No requirement for membership | 20 | 3.7 |
| Others [have a bank account, must be a Kenyan, married, be of a particular tribe, adhere to the constitution] | 10 | 2.0 |
| Total | 533 | 100 |

In all the four urban areas covered, except Nairobi, registration fee was ranked as the most common requirement. Nairobi placed it second to periodic subscription. Although periodic contribution did not fall as a first requirement in other towns, it is an important variable in keeping groups together. One has to ensure that they pay their share, as required. Indeed this is part of being committed to group activities, which was also mentioned as one of the requirements by a few respondents.

In some cases membership was restricted only to those trading in particular areas or commodities. In all the towns covered in the survey, the requirement to trade in particular area ranked 5th, while in Nairobi it ranked fourth. This requirement is relevant for

ensuring close association and payment of dues. One group in Kisumu required the members to trade in high quality goods [²camera] to ensure that the members do not incur losses as this would affect their ability to contribute.

The large and medium size associations are open to both male and female, but are restricted to traders only. The General Street Traders of Kisumu is more restrictive in terms of where the members should trade. Only those trading on sites previously allocated to street vendors by the authorities are allowed to join the group. The reason for doing this is to avoid conflict with the authorities as the association would have difficulties defending members operating outside the areas previously allocated to them.

For a few groups with written constitutions, the members ability to read is crucial. Others put more emphasize on personal characteristics like being married, being a Kenyan and not more than sixty years old. One group in Kisumu required the members to be Luo.

Evaluation of one's good conduct is fundamental before a member can be admitted to a group. The traders have access to information relating to one's character since they interact and know each other by virtue of trading in the same area. Defaulters are a category most avoided by many groups. One group in Migori, required the members to apply in writing indicating the reasons for wanting to join the group and their credibility was assessed and determined by the officials.

The process of remaining a member is also governed by specific requirements. Most groups require the members to pay registration fee ranging from Kshs. 100 - 550 for the umbrella associations, and from as low as Kshs. 20 to as high as Kshs. 500 for the small and medium size associations; make regular daily, weekly and/or monthly contributions which goes to the revolving savings and credit schemes or is used for welfare reasons such as death and sickness and other emergencies.

The FGDs showed that constant failure to pay required shares, without clear justification often results in membership being withdrawn. Requirements such as 'must be trading in a particular area' and 'must be resident of a particular area' are all means of ensuring adherence to payment requirements.

²This is the business language used to refer to goods the traders are given first priority to select.

3.2.2 Objectives of the Associations

WSV form or join groups for both social and economic reasons, with addressing welfare and financial matters as key objectives. In the survey interviews, about half [50.5%] of the respondents gave the objective of the associations as addressing welfare issues [table 3.3]. This includes sickness and death of members or their immediate family, school related problems like school fees, school books and uniforms; as well as household needs which include household goods like utensils and foodstuffs.

Table 3.3: Objectives of Associations

| Objective | Frequency [multiple responses] | Percentage |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Addressing welfare issues | 192 | 50.5 |
| Mobilising resources through savings | 153 | 40.3 |
| Advocacy on street vending issues | 14 | 3.7 |
| Assisting members acquire or locate trading sites | 9 | 2.4 |
| Sharing ideas on business promotion | 6 | 1.6 |
| Registration of an association | 2 | .5 |
| Organising members | 2 | .5 |
| Savings and investment** | 1 | .3 |
| Contribution to public function | 1 | .3 |
| Total | 380 | 100 |

All the sampled urban centres ranked 'addressing welfare issues' first, followed by mobilising resources through saving, except Machakos, where welfare issues was ranked number two, and mobilising resources through savings ranked as number one. To a large extent, the small and medium size associations largely focus on welfare. However, even among the umbrella associations, welfare issues are addressed within the sub-sections or groups.

Addressing welfare issues and mobilising resources through savings are thus the key variables which justify formation of street vendors associations. In Kenya, the poor, including small scale entrepreneurs hardly have any form insurance cover. The groups therefore act as a form of social security to street vendors who largely do not have access to a formal social security system. Within the groups, members problems are treated as group problems.

Related to welfare is the need to socialise. The research revealed that some groups are formed purely for the purpose socialization. One group in Kangemi in Nairobi was formed in order to enable members to organise visits to their parents back in the rural areas; while in Migori a group was formed to meet the members spiritual needs by bringing the members to pray together.

Mobilisation of resources for purposes of boosting members businesses was given as the objective of associations by a significant percent [40.3 %]. During the FGDs it was observed that boosting members businesses is an important objective for forming groups. Most street vendors have low investment capital and their profits are minimal. Through group effort, they are able to mobilise and pool together some of their earnings. In some cases, the resources mobilised are invested back into businesses through revolving fund schemes.

In case of non performance or collapse of a member's business, the member is advanced a loan by the group, often at low interest rates, to revamp the business or buy new stock. The FGDs cited business expansion, as another objective of forming groups. Most street vendors are on the streets for lack of an alternative means of livelihood and would eventually want to graduate from the streets to kiosks and shop ownership and are keen to see their businesses grow and expand.

The FGDs further revealed that a few street vendors' associations had investment as an objective. Given that most street vendor associations have financial constraints it is difficult for them to start income generating activities. Those initiating income generating activities use the members savings. For some, it is the desire to be freed from the NGOs loans which have higher interest rates, that drive groups to start income generating activities. With the incomes raised, the members hope to form a resource base through which they can lend money to the members at low interest rates or to other business operators at higher commercial rates. Investment projects undertaken by most street vendor's associations are

small scale in nature and include purchasing plots, buying shares, basket making, tie and die and poultry keeping.

It was also observed in FGDs that a good number of the street vendors associations, particularly the formal associations are formed to obtain credit and sometimes training on business management from organisations supporting small scale enterprises such as, Kenya Rural Enterprises Program [K-REP], Kenya Women Finance Trust [KWFT], Faulu Kenya, WEDCO and WED.

Not all the street vendors associations qualify for NGOs support since the mode of support is based on some basic requirements. Most street vendors are not licensed and operate on temporary sites and structures and therefore lack security which is required to qualify for most NGOs loans. In case of demolitions or evictions, the NGOs have difficulties tracing the vendors and even their repayment is affected. The NGOs through the group guarantee approach, have supported some street vendors but these are mainly those in groups that have some members trading in more or less permanent sites. A case was noted in Kisumu, where an NGO requires knowledge of residential homes of those being supported and/or their group leaders.

The research also revealed that some groups are formed out of larger ones so as to meet specific members needs and create greater autonomy in performing group activities. The Soda Dealers women group of Kisumu, for example, was formed out of the larger Kisumu Soda Dealers association comprising of both men and women. The leaders of Soda Dealers women group observed that women took their obligations more seriously. It was noted that, most men defaulted in making contributions and the women needed to form their own associations with committed and accountable members. Another group in Kisumu, Sarenda women group, was formed to give individualised attention to members needs which they felt were not being met adequately in the larger group.

The findings of this study concur with those of Lund [1998:33] that; 'women street vendors have particular reasons for forming strong associations, most of them to do with trying to break the marginal position they are in, or improving the conditions in which they are marginal'. Lund argues further that ... income generation and job creation strategies for women rarely succeeded in improving women's economic position if they do not address the marginal position of women which is common to all patriarchal societies.

While meeting welfare needs and socialisation are very important objectives, our observations and analysis show that a number of facilitative objectives seem not to be given any importance or are not considered at all. Advocacy on street vending issues and organising members which are very important for ensuring smooth operations had almost insignificant scores. Ensuring these two aspects are met would result in street vendors being able to effectively dialogue with urban authorities, and participate in organising and improving their operations.

During the research process of this project, local and national policy dialogue forums were organised, and the street vendors associations were able to not only interact with the concerned urban authorities, but to closely discuss the issues of concern. Organising policy dialogue forums and having an open door for street vending associations should be the way forward for street vending operations, since punitive measures taken against them for over decades has not worked.

3.3 Governance in Street Vendors Associations

3.3.1 Rules and Regulations [Constitution]

The survey shows that majority [90%] of associations have rules and regulations, while only 9.0 per cent had none. Further analysis of the specific urban centres covered shows that most groups have rules and regulations. Response on this issue ranged from 84.8 per cent in Nairobi to 96.4 per cent in Kisumu. The high score for Kisumu reflects the many associations existing, with comparatively better organisation. They have been able to organise themselves, initiate dialogue with urban authorities, but with limited success.

Most [70.8%] of the respondents noted that the rules of their associations were written on paper, while 19.3 per cent indicated that the rules were not written on paper. More than half [56.5%] of the respondents who noted that the rules were written on paper had, had a chance to read them, while 14.3 per cent had not read the rules and regulations. Although the latter group may not have read the rules and regulations, our discussions during the FGDs showed that almost all members of associations knew the basic rules and regulations which apply to their association.

The formal registered associations actually have written rules. Having a written constitution is a requirement for group registration by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and

Sports. The rules are largely written in English although some groups had translated the rules into Kiswahili for the benefit of the members who did not understand English. One group in Migori had the rules written in the local language [Dholuo]. The rules for most of the informal groups are not written but instead are communicated verbally to the members.

The rules focus on a number of issues. Punctuality in attending meetings and making contributions is key. Most groups charge a fine for lateness ranging from Kshs. 10 to Kshs. 50 and for absenteeism without apology between Kshs. 30 - 100. Defaults carry heavier fines. A member could be dismissed from the group and be forced to pay back the money advanced to her or him. If the member cannot raise this money, her/his assets if any, given as security, are auctioned to recover the money. One group in Migori noted that fines do not have a deterrent effect and preferred giving written warnings. Some group constitutions give guidelines about membership composition. Some limit their membership to a maximum of twenty and others thirty, while others allow only female members. Some allow both men and women but restrict the male members from holding any leadership positions or indicate who should hold what position. This is a requirement by Ministry of Home Affairs, Heritage and Sports. It is aimed at reducing male dominance in women focused activities and also to empower women on leadership skills.

Formation of women groups gives women some form of recognition and freedom in an otherwise male dominated society. For most women, it is only through the groups that they can exercise freedom. Watchel and Watchel [1974: 4] in a study of women groups and co-operatives in Nakuru noted that reasons for forming women's groups include the desire by women to manage their own affairs on recognition that 'they cannot trust men's motives' and the desire to learn to get ahead independently. Cross in his study observes that organising among members of the informal sector emerges out of economic interests [Cross 1998]

Maintaining good relations among the members is necessary for maintaining co-operation and group cohesion, and is a requirement by some groups. The members are expected to support those among them who may be in difficulties by giving both financial and moral support. Some groups require the members to attend funeral arrangement meetings, avoid unnecessary gossip and generally to relate well with one another.

Maintaining order in group meetings is also important and some groups have constituted fines for interrupting meetings or walking out of meetings unnecessarily. In some groups, it

is the duty of the organising secretary to ensure that order is maintained at all times.

3.3.2 Leadership

Street vendors associations have different structures, ranging from a loose representation system [where one to three individuals are nominated/appointed to direct the operations of the group], to a full committee elected by members. Our research findings show that the majority [80.7%] of the associations are run on a committee system, while 10.3 per cent have appointed officials, 0.3 per cent volunteers and 8.3 per cent have no defined structure.

Most of the associations covered had predominantly women in the management committee as reflected in Table 3.4. This is largely due to the fact that the initial goal of the research was to cover women street vendors associations. However, as the research progressed it became clear that some associations had both men and women; although the men played a limited role in their management.

Table 3.4: Gender of the office bearers

| Office bearer | Percent Distribution by gender | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| | GENDER [n = 301] | | | | Total |
| | Female | | Male | | |
| | % | | % | | |
| Chairperson | 149 | 49.5 | 73 | 24.3 | 73.8 |
| Vice chairperson | 74 | 24.6 | 35 | 11.6 | 36.2 |
| Secretary | 127 | 42.2 | 73 | 24.3 | 66.5 |
| Vice secretary | 62 | 20.6 | 29 | 9.6 | 30.2 |
| Treasurer | 177 | 58.8 | 22 | 7.3 | 66.1 |
| Vice treasurer | 56 | 18.6 | 22 | 7.3 | 25.9 |
| Organising secretary | 29 | 9.6 | 8 | 2.7 | 12.3 |

The positions held in most of the associations were those of the chairperson [73.8%], secretary [66.5%], and treasurer [66.1%]. Other positions were those of vice chairperson, vice secretary, vice treasurer and organising secretary.

The FGDs showed that positions that were not held by all the groups were those of the committee members, organising secretaries and trustees. A few groups had no office bearers but had appointed a spokesperson or one member to act as the group's treasurer for purposes of collecting and keeping members contributions.

Women dominated all the leadership positions, particularly those of the chairpersons, secretaries and treasurers. Unlike the positions of the chairpersons and the secretaries where there was a considerable percentage of men holding positions, as compared to women, the positions of the treasurer and vice treasurer were almost entirely held by women. This could be due to the notion that women are more trustworthy and accountable on money matters. In the mixed groups and umbrella associations, women are marginalised in leadership positions where the key positions [chairperson, secretary] were held by men.

The situation in Kenya is similar to that of South Africa which as observed by Lund and Skinner [1999:13]. The study showed notable gender disparities in women's representation in leadership of street trader organisations. Except in a few exceptions, women were under represented in leadership positions of street trader organisations.

Some groups, like the General Street Traders had made efforts to involve women in leadership. However, the women leaders were heading respective sub-sections and not the larger and/or umbrella associations. Women according to the leaders of the General Street Traders of Kisumu shy away from taking up leadership positions in larger and/or the umbrella associations, where men are members or are discouraged by their spouses.

Discussions in FGDs, especially in Kisumu noted that in mixed group associations, women tend to leave leadership to men. Women's reluctance to take up leadership roles, is largely influenced by patriarchal construction, which justifies male dominance in society.

Patriarchy hinges on myths which perpetuate the subordinate position of women. The myths create illusions which play a role in sustaining patriarchy and retaining women at peripheral levels [Mitullah 1999]

Majority of office bearers in all the associations were volunteers and received no monetary benefits for the time they put in group activities. However, one group in Migori rewarded the efforts of the office bearers by offering them gifts at the end of the year.

The process and mode of electing office bearers is indicated in some of the groups constitution. Many of them elect their leaders annually, while others do so only when there is need. Some do not hold elections but instead appoint leaders. The mode of electing the official is largely through the secret ballot, show of hands and queuing system as shown on table 3.5.

Table 3.5: Mode of electing office bearers

| Mode of election | Frequency | Percentage |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Secret ballot | 98 | 32.6 |
| Show of hands | 85 | 28.2 |
| Appointment | 31 | 10.3 |
| Queuing | 10 | 3.3 |
| Others | 21 | 7.0 |
| N/A | 56 | 18.6 |
| Total | 301 | 100 |

The most popular mode of electing office bearers was the secret ballot [32.6], followed by the show of hands [28.2%]. Other modes of electing office bearers were appointment of office bearers based on one's ability [10.3%] and the queuing system [3.3%]. Some respondents [7.0%] did not know the mode of elections used in appointing office bearers. Most of such members were new and had not participated in elections.

The research revealed that most [44.5%] associations elect their leaders annually, 6.6 per cent after three years and 5.0 per cent after two years, while 8.3 per cent appoint leaders. In isolated cases associations only elect leaders when those holding offices are not performing as expected. A total of 2.0 per cent had no specified time for having elections.

The annual elections was further confirmed by a question asking respondents to indicate when elections were last held. Responses show that majority [77.3%] were held in 1999 and 1998. A further question asking how frequently elections were held showed that most associations largely [44.5%] hold elections annually, while few others hold elections after two years [5.0%] or three [6.6%].

It seems a large percentage of the associations do not follow the conventional methods of electing leaders, which is often through the secret ballot. A probe on this issue during FGDs showed that, in cases where there are no elections the same leaders either continue to lead, or keep being re-appointed. Indeed, this is not good for ensuring democratic practice. In one instance, an association noted that for over a decade they had the same appointed leaders, and they only realised when the chairlady had to migrate abroad that the money they had been saving was not being banked. While social capital through trust is a good resource, in this case it failed - a significant number of members of associations operate on trust and do not ask for documentation, such as bank credit slips and statement.

3.3.3 Association Meetings

Different groups have different days and times for holding meetings. Most groups meet once a week, a few others more than once a week [three times or daily] and some once or twice a month or when there is need. The groups holding fewer meetings tend to be older and meet only to collect members contributions, and may meet for longer time when they have specific issues to address.

Most groups hold meeting at the trading sites and some in hired premises like bars and hotels. A few meet in members homes. The days for meetings are also varied and could be any day of the week except Sundays when most traders close businesses. The time for the meetings for most groups is from mid-day to late afternoon, around 4.30 pm. Rarely are meetings held in the morning hours and if they do, it is often during late morning [10.30am to 12.00pm].

Morning hours are devoted to buying wares and opening businesses, and are thus not likely to be spent on meetings. The time between 2.00 - 4.30pm is considered most appropriate because it is low for business. The time spent in the meetings is also minimal and does not exceed one hour for most groups, especially for the groups that meet in hired premises. Late afternoon meetings are avoided because this is peak time especially for street vendors businesses. It is also the closing time for women traders with young children and families

to attend to.

3.3.4 Organization in Associations

The respondents were asked to assess the level of organisation within their association, and majority [70%] of the sample indicated that associations were organized, while another 15.9 per cent indicated that they were very organised. On the other hand, 13.3 per cent of respondents noted that the associations are not organised, with 0.3 per cent categorically stating that they were very disorganised. Those interviewed gave reasons for their assessment of being organised as shown on table 3.6.

Table 3.6: Reasons for being Organised

| Reason for being organised | Frequency [multiple responses | Percentage |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Good relations between the officials and the members, and generally among members | 150 | 62.5 |
| Effective leadership | 51 | 21.3 |
| Holding elections as required | 10 | 4.2 |
| There is Accountability | 9 | 3.8 |
| Association being young | 6 | 2.5 |
| Good relations among members | 5 | 2.1 |
| Freedom of expression | 5 | 2.1 |
| Respect for individual privacy | 3 | 1.3 |
| Members make contributions well | 1 | 0.4 |
| Total | 240 | 100.0 |

Good relations between the officials and the members and among members themselves was viewed as very important by 62.5 per cent of the respondents. This was followed by effective leadership [21.3%], holding elections as required [4.2%], being accountable

[3.8%] associations being young [2.5%], and good relations among the members [2.1%].

The data shows that respondents do not view accountability and freedom of expression as important, but consider good relations between officials, and the members, and among members as very important. Effective leadership and holding elections as required which are some of the key ingredients of good management, had comparatively low scores. This partly explains the poor management of most associations. In any case the inter-personal relations, although highly regarded by most associations, has limitations in changing the economic situation of street vendors.

Reasons for assessing associations as very organised included achievement of objectives [14.0%] smallness in size and therefore easy to manage [10.3%] or having a good finance base [9.0%]. On the other hand, reasons given for not being organised included lack of office bearers, members default in loan repayment, lack of cooperation between officials and ordinary members, lack of central office to conduct associations affairs and lack of effective rules. In Nairobi, the respondents included other factors for not being organised: default in loan payment and lack of co-operation between officials and other members.

An assessment of data across the four urban areas supports the assessment of level of organisation. In Nairobi, respondents attributed organisations ability to being very organised to good financial base [7.1%], good management [2.0%] and ability to achieve set objectives [1.0%]. In Kisumu, the respondents indicated that leadership was good [45.5%], that there existed good relations among members and between officials and members [37.9%], that associations had good financial base [13.1%], and were able to meet set objectives [8.3%].

On the other hand, data from Machakos shows that respondents attached importance to good communication between officials and members [77.4%], good and effective leadership [11.3%], and conducting elections as required [3.8%]. In Migori, the respondents largely attached being organised to effective leadership [45.5%], and good communication between officials and members [36.4%].

3.3.5 Membership in other Associations

A question probing whether respondents belonged to other associations, showed that more than half [65.1 %] of SV belonged to other associations; while 34.6% did not belong to any

other association. This result was reflected in individual respective urban areas covered with Nairobi, Kisumu, Machakos, and Migori scoring 52.5, 78.6, 65, and 67.2 per cent respectively. Kisumu had the highest number of street vendors belonging to other associations, while Nairobi had the lowest. This can partly be attributed to the comparatively advanced level of street vendors' organisations in Kisumu and the value they attach to associational life.

The purpose of belonging to other formal associations included; addressing welfare issues such as funeral, sickness, school fees and meeting household needs [15.3%] benefit from business support services such as finance and technical support provided by and/or through the associations [8.6%], addressing street trading issues such as harassment, licensing, trading site [1.3%] and contribution to development projects [1.0%].

The purpose of belonging to informal associations were also largely similar to those of the formal associations with majority [39.2%] of respondents stating welfare needs. Boosting businesses scored 8.0 per cent, saving, 1.7 per cent and starting income generating activities, 0.7 per cent. These responses show that the associations only cater for business development in a very limited way.

Our observations show that a number of businesses close down when faced with difficulties, especially financial problems. While the associations are very quick at addressing issues such as sickness, and educational issues, they are less responsive on issues affecting members businesses. This partly explains why some entrepreneurs find it difficult to join associations, especially when they are struggling to start a business. It is a vicious cycle for young entrepreneurs, who do not only lack adequate social networks, but also financial contributions required in most associations.

3.3.6 Benefit of belonging to other Associations

A further question asking respondents to specify the perceived benefits of belonging to other associations was in line with reasons for belonging to associations. A total of 53.6 per cent of respondents indicated that assisting in welfare matters, was a key benefit.

Mobilisation of resources and boosting members businesses were observed as other benefits by 33.8% of the respondents. Other reasons included, promotion of development activities, moral support, provision of social security and technical advice, advocacy and protection against harassment by the authorities, and assisting members to acquire trading sites as

shown in Table 3.7. The situation was overall similar in various urban areas.

In Nairobi, the respondents attached greater importance to addressing welfare issues and boosting business, while in Machakos, apart from welfare issues the respondents indicated that providing business support services such as finance, savings and technical assistance by NGOs was important.

Table 3.7: Benefits of Belonging to Associations

| Benefit | Frequency [multiple responses] | Percentage |
|--|---|-------------------|
| Welfare | 141 | 53.6 |
| Resource mobilisations and business support | 89 | 33.8 |
| Promote development activities | 14 | 5.3 |
| Moral support and social security | 9 | 3.4 |
| Technical advice | 7 | 2.7 |
| Advocacy and protection of vendors against harassment by authorities | | 0.8 |
| Members are assisted to locate and acquire trading sites | 1 | 0.4 |
| Total | 263 | 100.0 |

3.3.7 Associations Addressing Street Vending Issues

The street vendors seem to work in isolation, with most respondents [66.8%] having no knowledge of associations that address street vending issues. A limited number [31.9] of the respondents had knowledge of associations addressing street vending issues and gave such examples as:-. They mentioned the following associations; General Street Traders [9.6%], Migori Small Traders Society [4.3%], KENAHU [1.0%], Kisumu Hawkers Union [1.0%], Kenya Street Traders association [0.7%] and the ROSCAs [1.0%]. None-

governmental organisations such as WED [2.3%], K-REP [1.7%], Neema Family Development Project [1.0%], Pride Kenya, Red Cross, Breast-feeding Information Group and Faulu Kenya each accounting for 0.7% of the respondents, were also mentioned.

Other NGOs that were mentioned were Maendeleo ya Wanawake, WED and Mwana Mwende association each accounting for 0.3% of the respondents. Some of the respondents reported that the LA officers [3.3%] and the Central government officials, mainly the Social Workers [0.3%] fall among those addressing street trading issues.

In Nairobi, although more than half of the respondents belonged to more than one association, an overwhelming majority [95%] had no knowledge of associations which¹ address the issues of vendors. In Kisumu, 54.8 per cent had no knowledge of associations addressing street vending issues, while in Machakos, 81.7 per cent and Migori 38.9 per cent. The high level of awareness of associations addressing street vending Migori is attributed to the presence of one major traders association located within the open air and Municipal Council market. It is organised in sub-sections linked to commodities of trade both within and outside the market, with over 90 per cent being located within the market.

The data indicates that most of the street vendors have no advocacy structures. The few associations listed above, seem to operate either within a specific urban centre, or are only limited to specific areas within a given urban area. Two associations [KENAHU and Kenya Small Traders Association], which claim to represent street vendors nationally, were hardly known by vendors. Our probe showed that KENAHU was very young while Kenya Small Street Traders Association has been in business for decades.

3.3.8 Inter-Associational Cooperation

There was little inter-associational cooperation between the street traders associations as most of the respondents [78.4%] reported that their associations did not cooperate with others. A limited number [20.6%] of respondents reported inter-associational co-operation. The associations that many [13.6%] of the respondents co-operate with are of the same size, while 3.3% co-operate with slightly bigger associations and 4.7% with big associations.

Nairobi had the highest [94.9%] score for lack of inter-associational life, followed by Machakos [71.7%], Kisumu [75%] and Migori [62.1]. The nature of inter-associational

cooperation across the four urban centres is mainly during fund raising [6.3%], when associations hold meetings aimed at addressing common problems facing the members [6.0%], during official functions [3.7%], funerals [2.7%], training offered by institutions providing credit [1.3%], national campaigns and in joint investment projects, each scoring less than 1 per cent.

Rarely do associations exchange ideas or discuss problems or strategies of business as noted by 11.6% of respondents. A few of the respondents [9.3%] observed that the associations discuss problems or strategies of business occasionally. Such discussions dwelt on issues related to business management [6.6%], strategies for fund raising [3.3%], obtaining credit [1.0%], dumping of cheap products in the market [0.3%] and updating each other on activities of the street traders associations [0.3%].

In Kisumu, it was observed that discussing problems and business strategies were mainly done when association[s] have joint projects, for example buying land and/or plot. In Machakos, it was noted that discussions on strategies for business included strategies for fund raising and business management; while in Nairobi, it was noted that they updated each other on activities of their associations. In Migori the subjects of discussion were mainly business management, strategies for fund raising and obtaining credit.

4.0 RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

4.1 Contact with Government Authorities

Associations have very limited contact with both central and local government authorities. Our findings across the four urban centres show that a large majority [67.8%] of respondents and 60.8 per cent of their associations have no contact with local government or central government authorities. The limited incidence of contact between the street vendors and the local government officials occurred mainly during payment of daily fee [26.9%], following up on confiscated goods [0.7%], during site allocation [0.3%], refuse removal and cleaning of sites [0.3%] or when being harassed by the authorities [0.3%].

The street vendors' associations mainly relate with LA officials during payment of daily fees [26.9%], site allocation [15.5%], when being issued with trading licenses [3.4%], cleaning of sites by the authorities [5.3%] and when meetings are held between the authorities and the associations [1.0%]. On the other hand, the relationship between

associations and central government officials occurs during registration [14.6%], arbitration of disputes between and among street vendors and with others by the District Officers, Chiefs [2.3%], and when the officers solicit for harambee contributions from the street vendors [0.7%].

The above data shows that relationship between street vendors and relevant authorities is mainly limited to enforcement of regulations and soliciting support and/or resources from the vendors. Important aspects such as planning and management of street vending are not included. On a comparative note Machakos street vendors had more contact with local government officials, either individually or through their associations. The associations made contact with the officials during allocation of trading sites, when obtaining licenses, and when vendors and the authorities hold joint cleaning exercises. The latter was also the case for Migori.

In Machakos, the contact with central government officials was limited to registration of associations, while in Kisumu it included soliciting for harambee contributions by central government officials. In Nairobi, the vendors noted that they only come in contact with the central government when provincial administration staff such as District Officers and Chiefs are arbitrating disputes between and/or among street vendors or vendors and other groups.

Soliciting harambee funds seems to be a common practice among provincial government administrators, although it was not mentioned in some councils. The provincial administration is also known to be involved in site allocation and harassment of street vendors. In a study of street vendors conducted in Nairobi in 1990, it was revealed that KANU political party [during single party system] was also collecting non accountable fees [protection fees] from street vendors. Subsequently, there was hardly any harassment in Mathare where the practice was dominant.

During the local level dialogue in Nairobi there was an intense debate on the role of provincial administration in planning and managing street vending. It was noted that the provincial administration officers had wide powers, and in many cases allocate trading sites with hardly any consultation.

4.1.1 Contact with Specific Offices/Officers

The survey across the four urban centres shows that many vendors [47.2%] go to a particular officer, anybody [13.6%] or to both [8.0%]. In contacting authorities, street vendors seem to visit and consult particular offices and officers. Street vendors mostly go to Market Master [19.6%], followed by the office of the Town Clerk [16.6%] when they have problems relating to street trading. Other offices which are consulted include: Enforcement officer's [9.3%], Mayor's office [7.3%] revenue officers [3.7%], District Commissioner or District Officer [0.3%], Area Councillor [0.3%]. Other respondents noted that they send their representatives [0.7%], while a total of 11 per cent of the respondents noted that, they have not had a problem requiring them to visit LA offices, as shown on Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Officers Visited by Vendors

| Offices Visited by Vendors | Frequency [multiple responses] | Percentage |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Town Clerk | 50 | 16.6 |
| Has not had a problem requiring him/her to visit any office | 33 | 11.0 |
| Market Master | 59 | 9.6 |
| Enforcement Officer | 28 | 9.3 |
| Mayor | 22 | 7.3 |
| Revenue Officer | 11 | 3.7 |
| Others [chief, councillors, DO or DC] | 4 | 1.6 |
| Send association's representatives | 84 | 0.7 |
| Do not know | 2 | 1.3 |
| No response | | 27.9 |
| Total | 299 | 100 |

In Migori, majority [82.8%] go to market master, followed by 12.1 per cent who go to the Town Clerk. In Kisumu majority go to the town clerk [33.3%] and the Mayor [20.2%], while in Machakos they go mostly to Enforcement officer [33.3%] and Market Masters office [15.0%]. In Nairobi, like Kisumu, vendors mostly go to Town Clerk [10.1%] and the Mayor [4%]. The unique outcome of Migori is partly explained by the fact that, Migori is a small council, which still has no full fledged department of enforcement. Further, most street vendors are affiliated to an association based at the market, and largely deal with the Market Master.

The street vendors are handled well by the officers as reported by 28.9% of the respondents and sometimes very well [9.6%]. Other responses on how officers handle street vendors included: fairly well [9.6%], badly [10.3%] and sometimes very badly [6.0%]. A few of the respondents [0.3%] seemed to have vague feelings and were not able to tell how the officers handled them, while 2.0 per cent did not respond to the question. The question did not apply to 33.2 per cent of the respondents.

4.2 Relationship with other Development Agencies

As in the case of relating with LAs, majority of street vendors [93.0%] have no contact with NGOs or CBOs supporting small scale enterprise initiatives, except for 6.3 per cent reported of having some contact. Likewise, the majority [78.1%] of the street vendor associations had not had any contact with NGOs and CBOs supporting small scale activities; except for 21.3 per cent of the associations.

The NGOs and CBOs mentioned by the respondents included, K-REP [1.3%], Faulu-Kenya [1.3%], WEDCO [0.3%], Family Action Network [0.7%], NCKK [0.3%], Neema [1.7%], KENAHU [0.3%], and WED [0.3%]. The question did not apply to 91.4 of the sample, while 2.3 per cent did not respond to the question. The relationship with these organisations was limited to credit and training.

The associations of street vendors were relating largely to the same organisations the street vendors relate to. They included WEDCO [9.6%], K-REP [2.0%], Neema [1.3%], Breast-feeding Information Group [0.7%], N.C.C.K [0.7%] and WED [0.3%]. The associations also relate with District Development Offices [0.3%]. The question did not apply to 83.7 per cent of the sample, while 1.3 per cent did not respond to it. As in the case of street vendors, the relationship between vendors' associations and the above organisations was

mainly limited to credit and training.

4.3 Involvement in Urban Planning

A further probe asking street vendors whether they participate in planning, showed that street vendors are hardly involved in urban planning. Majority of the respondents [94.7%] and their associations [83.4%] indicated that they had never been involved in urban planning by the authorities. The respondents who reported of having been involved were only 3.3 per cent and the associations 13.3 per cent. The involvement of the few respondents was mainly in identification of trading sites [1.3%], while the associations were involved in discussion with the authorities on issues relating to trading sites [8.3%] and issues related to licensing and payment of daily charges.

The lack of involvement is also reflected in respective urban centres. In Kisumu, all respondents interviewed had never been involved in urban planning, only a few [13.1%] of their associations had been involved in discussing the issue of trading sites. In Machakos, Nairobi and Migori, only 10.0, 2.0, 3.4 per cent respectively had been involved. This data shows that, on a comparative note associations interact more with the authorities as opposed to individuals, and are to some extent involved in planning. Associations act as spokespersons for the street vendors, although their achievement across the urban centres covered have been very limited.

5.0 POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

5.1 Awareness of Policies and Regulations

Over half of the respondents [65.8%] were aware of policies and regulations relating to street vending, while 33.9% were not aware. The dominant policies and regulations the respondents were aware of included payment of daily fees, maintaining hygienic conditions at the trading sites, avoiding unbecoming behaviour such as theft and fighting at the site among others as shown on table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Policies and Regulations

| Policies and Regulations | Frequency [multiple response] | Percentage |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Payment of daily fees | 81 | 29.2 |
| Hygienic conditions must be maintained | 67 | 24.2 |
| Unbecoming behaviour [theft, fighting] not allowed | 22 | 7.9 |
| Street trading to be undertaken in specified areas | 18 | 6.5 |
| Should not cause obstruction | 18 | 6.5 |
| Street vending is illegal | 13 | 4.7 |
| Trading should only be on authorised goods | 13 | 4.7 |
| Trading hours should be observed | 10 | 3.6 |
| Public health certificate to be obtained for specified businesses | 6 | 2.2 |
| Licenses must be renewed yearly | 4 | 1.4 |
| No construction of permanent structures | 3 | 1.1 |
| Notice should be given to licensed business before demolition/eviction | 1 | 0.4 |
| Confiscated goods to be returned once the matter is settled | 1 | 0.4 |
| Others [must move if required, sites should have toilets and water] | 20 | 7.2 |
| Total | 277 | 100 |

In Migori the respondents pointed out that they knew that street trading was illegal. They further noted that street trading should only be done in authorised places, and that public health certificates should be obtained for businesses dealing with cooked food. In Nairobi

and Machakos, the vendors were aware that they should move if required to do so by urban authorities. Vendors in Machakos were also aware that vending sites should be provided with services such as water and toilets, although they were not provided.

Knowledge and information is important if the street vendors have to address issues facing them. In our sample, the source of information on policies and regulations was mainly the municipal officers [13.3%], public signboards and notice boards posted by either local and central government authorities [3.7%]. A few [1.3%] others got the information from the provincial administration through chiefs' barazas. In Machakos the traders also got information on policies and regulations from fellow vendors.

5.2 Assessment of Policies and Regulations

The research investigated the respondents thinking on appropriateness of policies. They noted that the policies and regulations are appropriate because they create order at the trading sites [15.0%], control diseases and epidemics when the public health requirements are observed [11.6%], enhance security and provide the right environment for business [8.3%], makes trade legal [6.0%], avails revenue to LAs [4.0%], ensures that vendors trade on appropriate sites and do not cause obstruction [2.7%], vendors have no alternative but to follow [1.3%]** Ann do not litter streets [0.7%] facilitates compensation for damaged goods [0.3%] and are able to plan trading time [0.7%]. The case did not apply to 49.4 per cent of the respondents.

The respondents who thought that the policies and regulations were inappropriate observed that this was because street traders have no permanent sites [4.3%], LAs do not operate according to laid down regulations [3.0%], daily charges is expensive [2.7%], poor location of vending sites [2.0%], restriction on trading hours [1.7%], general restriction on trading [1.3%], for example being barred from displaying clothing on standing structures. They further noted that confiscation of goods contributes to losses [0.3%], and that harassment by officers is not aimed at ensuring that policies and regulations are observed but merely aimed at soliciting for bribes, and manipulating traders [1.3%]. The case was not applicable to 84.4 per cent of the respondents.

A total of 33.2 per cent of respondents who had no knowledge of policies and regulations, indicated that they would be interested in getting the information; while only 1.7 per cent were not interested in getting information. The preferred languages for getting information

include: Kiswahili [12.3%], English [7.3%], Dholuo [2.3%], Kikamba [1.3%] and Kikuyu [0.7%], while 0.7 per cent did not specify the language.

Other forms of communication that were suggested included; pictures and cartoons [3.7%], audio [3.0%], public meetings [2.7%], training and seminars [1.7%]. A total of 11.6 per cent did not respond to the question, while it was not applicable for 77.4 per cent of the respondents. The need for availing easy reading and visual material for street vendors was acknowledged during the development of the proposal for this study. Subsequently, easy reading material and visual information have been prepared [appendix 3]

The survey further shows that communication by LAs to street vendors mainly occurs during licensing and payment of fees as observed by 45.5% of the respondents.

Alternatives methods included communication through the chiefs [5%], issue based committees [2.7%], during harassment and confiscation of goods [2.3%], central government officials [1.7%], and through market master [0.7%]. In Kisumu, the street vendors noted that the LAs communicate to them through their leaders. The rest of the responses were that there was no communication [33.6%] while some 2.3% did not know, with 6.3 per cent giving no answers.

Communication between the street trader associations and the LAs according to most [55.8%] respondents is very minimal. The minimal level of communication between LAs and associations comprised: meetings at vending sites when providing services [13.6%], street vendors committees [10.0%], chiefs [5.3%], notice boards [3.0%], leaders [2.7%], posters [1.0%] and central government official [0.3%]. A total of 55.8 per cent of the respondents had no communication with the authorities, while 8.3 per cent did not respond to the question. The minimal communication partly explains the inability of street vendors influence on LAs.

5.3 Influence on Decisions Affecting Street Vending.

Policy influence and advocacy are important for any development operations. Street vendors are known to hardly [72.4%] influence issues relating to their operations. The data shows that only 24.9 per cent of the respondents had managed to influence the LAs decision, while 0.7% were not sure of whether they had influenced the decisions or not. An examination of data from respective councils confirms the lack of influence on policy on the part of street vendors.

The respondents who had managed to influence the LAs decisions had done so during site allocation [8.0%] or in persuading the authorities to allow them put up structures [5.3%]. The associations on their part, had influenced the LAs decision through dialogue and sometimes through demonstrations as reported by 11.0% and 1.0% of the respondents respectively.

The respondents who had not managed to influence the LAs decisions reported that they had not been involved in discussions with the authorities on policy related issues [19.9%], while 2.3% noted that they had left all matters relating to street trading to be handled by their associations. Some of the respondents [3.7%] were hesitant to approach the LA officials for fear of being victimised.

Other factors contributing to lack of influence on LAs included: lack of communication between the authorities and the street trader associations [26.2%], imposition of decisions by the authorities [10.3%], failure to recognise street vendors' associations [4.7%], lack of unity among street vendor associations [2.0%] and failure by the organisations to approach the LAs officers [2.7%].

Policy influence needs well established channels of communication, be they formal or informal. The few informal channels open to street vendors seem not to work. The policy dialogues conducted in the various towns during the survey, in combination with the national level dialogue gave a number of recommendations on improving communication channels as will be discussed in the section dealing with challenges and strategies for improving vending activities.

6.0 PROVISION OF SERVICES AND MANAGEMENT OF VENDING SITES

6.1 Services to Street Traders

Most of the respondents observed that no services were provided to street traders by LAs [59.5%] or by other organisations [98.7%]. Only a few of the respondents reported that LAs [14.3%] and/or other organisations [6.0%] provided services to street traders. The respondents who reported that the LAs provide street vendors with services were 39.2% and other organisations 3.3%. The services that were provided by the LAs to street traders included: refuse collection and sanitation [44.1%], water [3.0%], toilets [2.7%], conflict resolution [1.3%], and security [0.3%]. The services provided by other organisations

include refuse collection [0.7%], water [0.7%], credit [0.3%] and training [0.3%]. The case was either not applicable to the rest or they did not respond to the question.

The traders who are not provided with services by either the LAs or other organisations largely obtain water from the neighbourhood either from bars and hotels [30.9%], or from residential areas [11.6%], from municipal services nearby [11.3%], or buy water from vendors [7.0%], individual provision [1.0%]; some [0.3%] did not need water in the type of business they were undertaking. The question did not apply to the rest percentage.

Toilet services are also largely accessed from bars and hotels [30.4%] and neighbouring facilities provided by municipal councils [21.6%] such as markers. Others rely on their own residences [7.0%], paying for use [0.3%], and individual provision [0.3%]. On the other hand, most vendors dispose their own refuse [15.6%] or use municipal services provided nearby, for example within council markets.

6.2 Perception of Vendors on Vending Activities

More than half [58.8%] of the respondents had some aspects of street vending that they viewed negatively, while 39.9% reported that there were no aspects of street vending they viewed to be negative. The respondents who viewed some aspects of street vending as negative observed that; street vending causes accidents and traffic jams [24.3%], that its undertaken under unhygienic conditions as the sites lack the needed facilities [19.5%], and that sale of cooked food is unhealthy [12.4%].

Other aspects of street vending that were viewed negative were; lack of customers due to poor site [5.4%], poor customer relations and use of abusive language by the vendors [5.4%], inappropriate display of goods [4.3%], sale of drugs and poor quality goods by the vendors [3.8%], high licensing fee [3.2%], confrontations and conflict between the traders themselves [3.2%] and between vendors and shop owners [1.1%], failure by the vendors to adhere to the councils regulations [2.7%] and pay the required municipal charges [2.2%], environmental degradation [2.7%], encourages theft [1.1%] and that LAs look down upon vendors, and demand bribes [0.5%]. The rest either did not respond to the question or the case was not applicable.

In Nairobi, it was noted that bad weather affects trading activities, and limits the number of customers. In Machakos, it was noted that sale of expired drugs and dumping of poor

quality products were problematic to street vending. The same was observed in Kisumu. In Migori and Kisumu the vendors noted the dangers of trading on road reserves. In Migori, where most vending activities goes on in the immediate road reserve, the vendors noted that vendors are regularly knocked down by motorists, with some being killed. In Kisumu and Migori some traders had been crushed prior to our research.

6.3 Allocation of Trading Sites

Allocation of trading sites remains the most problematic aspect of street vending. Regulations require that any trader given a license must have an authorised site of trade. However, in most urban councils, the number of traders are far higher than the available trading sites. The street vendors were asked to comment on allocation of trading sites, and most [22.6%] of them indicated that there should be appropriate allocation of sites with access to services. It was observed that vending sites are never allocated [17.6%], or those allocated are inappropriate and lack services [15.6%], and that there is frequent relocation of vending sites [9.6%] as shown on Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Comments on Allocation of Vending Sites

| Comment | Frequency [multiple response] | Percentage |
|---|--|-------------------|
| Appropriate allocation of sites with services | 68 | 22.6 |
| Vending sites are never allocated | 53 | 17.6 |
| The sites allocated are inappropriate and without services | 48 | 15.6 |
| There is frequent relocation of vending sites | 29 | 9.6 |
| Sites allocated are appropriate but lack services | 18 | 7.1 |
| There is interference by the central government officers in allocation of sites | 17 | 6.0 |
| Allocation of sites is based on nepotism | 12 | 5.6 |
| The sites allocated are too small to accommodate the vendors | 6 | 4.0 |
| Allocation of sites on private land | 6 | 2.0 |
| Site allocation is done according to the commodities | | 2.0 |
| Vendors are allocated sites | 4 | 1.4 |
| Site allocation not official [no legal/official documents issued] | 5 | 1.7 |
| Sites too near the road and are prone to accidents | 4 | 1.4 |
| Allocation of site is done by landlords | 2 | 0.7 |
| Do not know | 15 | 5.1 |
| Total | 287 | 100 |

In Nairobi, the interference by District Officers and chiefs in allocation of vending sites

was reported. In Kisumu, Migori and Machakos it was observed that the sites lack services and that allocation is largely based on nepotism. It was further observed that allocation is sometimes done on private land, with no official documents being issued; while other Kisumu respondents noted that some sites are too small to accommodate large numbers of street vendors. Some vendors were also noted to sell sites allocated to them.

6.4 Management of Street Vending

This research shows that with good planning, street vending can be managed, with street vendors effectively participating in the management. A significant number of street vendors acknowledged that street vendors can manage the sites by ensuring that they maintain cleanliness [27.5%]. The LAs should, however, recognise and support the leaders of street vendors associations if the associations are to effectively manage the sites.

Other ways in which street vendors can manage the sites were given as; co-operating with the authorities and to abide by the laid down regulations [17.4%], and forming strong associations that would negotiate with the authorities issues relating to street trading [14.4%] as shown on Table 6.2. The need to follow right procedures and use of protocol when negotiating for street trading issues with the authorities was stressed.

Table 6.2: Strategies of Managing Street Vending

| Strategy | Frequency [multiple response] | Percentage |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Maintaining cleanliness at the trading sites | 101 | 27.5 |
| Co-operating with the authorities and abiding by the required regulations | 64 | 17.4 |
| Forming strong associations that would address street vending issues | 53 | 14.4 |
| Pay the LAs stipulated fees and charges | 47 | 12.8 |
| Avoid blocking walkways | 26 | 7.1 |
| Using proper strategies when negotiating and/or challenging the authorities | 19 | 5.2 |
| Avoid trading on unauthorised sites | 12 | 3.3 |
| Construct structure to reduce food contamination and destruction | 11 | 3.0 |
| Being empowered by LAs to manage their sites | 9 | 2.5 |
| Develop good relations with their customers | 9 | 2.5 |
| Should obtain trading licenses | 6 | 1.6 |
| Others [vendors to be allowed to hawk anywhere] | 10 | 2.7 |
| Total | 367 | 100 |

Other suggestions were that vendors should avoid causing obstruction, pay the required municipal charges, construct raised structures to protect their goods from being damaged or contaminated and obtain trading licenses. A small proportion of the vendors [2.7%] suggested that vendors should be left to trade anywhere without harassment.

An examination of the above responses by the vendors, shows that their thinking is in line

with the requirements and expectations of LAs. Even in Nairobi, where the fight between street vendors and the City Council officers has been rampant; the vendors gave priority to maintaining cleanliness on their sites of operation [19.5%], being empowered to manage sites [18.3%], avoiding blocking access roads/walkways [14.1%], following regulations and cooperating with authorities [9.9%], and paying fees and charges [7.6%].

Considering the above, one would wonder what the problem between street vendors and urban authorities is? It seems that the confrontations are largely based on mis-understanding and ineffective communication. The vendors have to appreciate the role of planning and efficient management, but not at the expense of not being able to operate within the urban economy.

The respondents suggested how street vendors should be managed by LAs. Many of the respondents [43.9%] suggested that LAs should set aside street trading sites and provide vendors with services. Other suggestions were that the authorities should provide services at the trading sites, charge daily fees that compares to the size of stock and consider issuing vendors with trading licenses as opposed to charging the daily fee as reflected on table 12.

Table 6.3: Handling of Street Vending Issues by LAs

| Suggestions | Frequency [multiple response] | % |
|--|--|------------|
| Allocate trading sites and provide services | 177 | 43.9 |
| Provide services at the trading sites | 58 | 14.4 |
| License businesses instead of charging a daily fee | 35 | 8.7 |
| Use better enforcement procedures | 34 | 8.4 |
| Coordinate street vending activities | 5 | 5.1 |
| Charge a fee that is equivalent to the stock | 19 | 4.7 |
| Design mechanisms which promote dialogue between the LAs and the vendors | 18 | 4.5 |
| Educate vendors about regulations relating to their businesses | 17 | 4.2 |
| Set appropriate trading time | 12 | 3.0 |
| Allow vendors to put up structures | 11 | 2.7 |
| Allow vendors to sell cooked food | 1 | 0.2 |
| Allocate different sites for different businesses | 1 | 0.2 |
| Total | 403 | 100 |

It was also noted that better enforcement procedures which should include giving notices before demolitions or evictions should be effected, and that harassment of vendors and confiscation of goods should be stopped. Street vendors should also be educated about policies and regulations affecting their businesses and the authorities should come up with a mechanism that promotes dialogue with the vendors, and other stakeholders. Authorities should also allow street vendors to put up structures so as to protect their goods from being damaged by rain and sun, coordinate all street vending activities, and organise vendors according to type of goods, they trade in and also set appropriate trading time.

Most of the suggestions made by street vendors seem to lay a heavy burden on the LAs, without clear outline of the vendors role. In all urban areas covered except for Nairobi, the need to form strong associations aimed at addressing vending issues was the dominant variable in vendors strategies of addressing the problems they face. This was followed in all the cases by the need to co-operate with authorities and abide by required regulations.

In Nairobi, maintaining cleanliness at trading sites was listed as the most important variable. This was followed by being empowered to manage sites, not blocking access roads, while cooperating with authorities and following regulations was listed fourth. The vendors in Nairobi noted that authorities should educate the vendors on council regulations. They further suggested that mechanisms for promoting communication between vendors and LAs should be devised, and that the authorities should improve the safety of the vendors, especially in relation to use of space.

6.4.1 Management of Vending Sites

The issue of whether street vendors can manage vending sites is contentious, with some officers of LAs being of the opinion that when vendors are allocated sites, like the market stalls, they do not take the initiative to keep them clean, but instead leave the responsibility to the LAs. On the other hand, NGOs, CBOs and the vendors themselves think that if vendors are organised and mandated to manage vending sites, they can do so effectively.

The study findings show that vendors organise themselves for cleaning of the sites and/or hire people to clean [38.1%]. They also ensure that they do not display their wares too near the road [21.6%]. Other respondents felt that there was no organised method of managing sites by vendors [23.1%]. Cases were cited of respective councils assisting in managing of vending sites by providing services to the vendors [9.7%]. in some cases [0.6%] the shop owners also manage sections of vending sites near their door steps. The research observed that where there is no organised way of managing sites, the vendors, motorists and pedestrians compete for space [6.8%].

7.0 CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES FOR STREET VENDORS' ASSOCIATIONS

7.1 The Challenges

At association level, the vendors have limited access to resources and largely concentrate on welfare issues and mobilisation of resources. At the same time, they are poorly organised with weak management structures which hardly engage in advocacy and organisation for policy influence on issues affecting them as street traders. The vendors and their associations have very limited contact and relationship with other development agencies, including urban authorities. This has contributed to their inability to lobby for policies on issues affecting their operations. To some extent, this situation has contributed to urban authorities ignoring important street vending issues such as policies and regulations awareness and exposure, allocation of appropriate vending sites, involvement in urban planning and provision and management of services.

This study raises issues regarding the various challenges which the street vendors in Kenya face, both within in their associations and in their relations individually and as a group, with other development authorities. The next discusses some of the challenges facing street vendors, while the subsequent section proposes some strategies for addressing the challenges.

7.1.1 Associational Life of Street Vendors

Street vendors belong to several associations, but majority of associations are loosely organised and largely engage in welfare activities. The associations have different structures, ranging from loose representation, in which a dominant practice is appointment and/or nomination of leaders, to an elected committee system in which officials are , charged with directing group operations. Payment of registration fee and periodic subscription are the key requirements for membership. These two requirements being met reflect members commitment to group objectives and activities.

There are two major objectives of associations, namely, addressing welfare issues and mobilising resources, while issues relating to advocacy and policy influence are hardly addressed. Since street vendors lack any form of insurance, the associations act as a form of insurance, and most vendors consequently fall back on associations whenever they have any problems. The urge and need for some form of insurance is further illustrated in the

fact that majority of street vendors belong to more than one association [formal and informal], which largely focus on similar objectives of welfare and resource mobilisation.

Facilitative objectives such as policy influence and advocacy, and linking up with urban authorities, sharing business ideas and effective participation of membership are either not included in objectives or are marginal to the key objectives. Associations respond to issues such as sickness, bereavement and educational issues, but are less responsive when a members' business is collapsing. It is in this context that one can understand why some entrepreneurs having greater concern for their business do not bother to join associations, especially when they are struggling to start an enterprise.

Facilitative objectives if made a priority and pursued can help to improve the business environment and influence participation in urban planning, including allocation of trading sites. Such objectives are effectively pursued by larger associations, which most members of smaller of associations apparently do not even know about. For example, in Nairobi 95 per cent of those interviewed did not know associations which address street vending issues. This is in spite of the fact that Kenya Street Traders Association, with head office in Nairobi, has been in existence for over two decades.

Organisation of Street Vendors into Associations

The street vendors have limited capacity for organisation, with a large percentage of their associations not having a good record of membership and operations. Information on associations and their operations is mostly given verbally, relaying largely on personal memory with a number of gaps and inconsistencies. The latter is due to inability to remember details not recorded over the years. Further, most office holders of associations work on voluntary basis with very limited resources.

It was noted that street vendors associations lack appropriate meeting venues and do not hold regular meetings. Groups that have members who are scattered have difficulties in organising meetings or involving them in group activities. Constant change of membership as a result of evictions and drop out rates also affects street vendor associations. Some members high drop out if they do not see immediate benefits of being in the groups, while others are unable to sustain making contributions, others have set high periodic contribution requirements which are unattainable and force members to drop out.

Street vendors lack finances and their associations are not able to raise enough money to sustain the groups and support the members. This lack of finances is due to various factors. Unlike other small scale entrepreneurs, street vendors are not licensed and operate on temporary sites. They lack proper security and do not qualify for NGOs loans. Further, the profits for most street vendors' businesses are low, and this has implications on their ability to contribute and their level of organisation.

At the same time, welfare responsibilities, such as death and sickness, are frequent occurrence that consume a high proportion of the groups' savings; while others are not able to raise substantial savings because of low membership. In Kisumu, for example had only three members. Apart from the group having very limited contributors, it could not qualify for an NGO loan since the minimum requirement by most NGOs supporting small scale businesses is five members per group.

Members of associations tend to link organisation with achievement of objectives, small size and ease of management, and having a good financial base. On the other hand, not being organised is linked to lack of office bearers, default in payment of subscription and loan, lack of cooperation between officials and ordinary members, and lack of central office to conduct associations affairs.

The inability to organise is partly due to the fact that vendors lack permanent trading sites and some are scattered. Some of the representatives felt that the vendors are not in a position to demand for their rights since their organisations are not registered and therefore not recognised. The fear of being victimised by the authorities prevented some vendors from demanding for their rights.

Leadership and Participation

Most small and medium associations have women in leadership, while the large associations largely have men holding key positions, except for the posts of treasurer and vice treasurer. In cases of mixed groups, the positions of chair-person and secretary are largely held by men. Although the majority of associations elect leaders through secret ballot, a large percentage are elected by show of hands and by appointment/acclamation. Less than fifty per cent of the associations in our sample elect leaders annually, while others elect after three years, or when needed in the cases of appointment of leaders.

It seems most associations do not follow the conventional methods of periodic election of leaders. This has partly contributed to the same leaders continuing to run operations of associations, even in cases where they have run out of ideas. Over the years such leaders become less accountable, and are not transparent. This situation results in a build up of tension and suspicion among the members, with some members losing interest, while others split to form new groups.

The members of vendors associations do not view accountability and freedom of expression as important. Instead they consider good relations between officials and members, and among members as very important. Effective leadership backed up with regular election of leaders is not a key priority of vendors and their associations, although it is important for good management. Inter-personal relations highly regarded by members of associations seemingly, has limitations in changing the situation of street vendors.

Poor leadership and lack of commitment by members affect the groups. Given that most of the leaders work as volunteers, some are torn between group activities and their businesses which they depend on for a living. There is also laxity among some members who find it difficult to take time off from their businesses to attend meetings.

7.1.2 Contact with the Authorities

Street vendors and their associations have limited contact with both central and local government offices. The limited contacts with urban authorities occur as the authorities seek to get their dues such as licensing fees, and during harassment and follow up on confiscated goods. In isolated cases, some vendors are in contact with authorities during allocation of vending sites, refuse removal and cleaning of vending sites. In the case of central government, contacts occur during registration of association, arbitration of disputes and when central government authorities solicit for harambee contributions.

The vendors and their associations it is apparent hardly make contacts which focus on business issues, organisation of street vendors or policy issues. Over eighty per cent of both street vendors and their associations sampled do not play any role in urban planning. There is, however a minimal rare role for associations limited to identification of trading sites and related trading issues. Nevertheless interactions with the authorities are not conducted using partnership approaches, but authority and subject approach - the authorities inform vendors about what they have decided and hardly seek their views.

Some associations attributed lack of involvement in urban planning and management to poor organisation of vendors associations and lack of recognition by the authorities. Some associations were not registered and were therefore not recognised, while others were young and not organised to the level of being involved or consulted by authorities. Above all, misunderstanding between the two parties, due to poor communication seems to contribute to lack of accommodation of street vendors interest into overall planning and management.

Although relations between street vendors and authorities has begun to improve, street vendors conflict with the urban authorities still continues with each side accusing the other. The authorities blame the vendors for trading in wrong/illegal sites, trading without licenses, avoiding payment of daily fee, trading in front of shops, near church and school compounds, obstruction and littering the streets. The street vendors, on the other hand accuse the authorities of not informing the vendors of intended evictions or demolitions and being ruthless when dealing with street vendors.

Indeed there seem to be contradictions in the way authorities relate with the vendors and their associations. The authorities allocate sites to vendors and still continue to harass them, while others collect daily fees only to later confiscate the vendors goods for trading illegally. A few street vendors and their associations, view the lack of knowledge by the street vendors of policies and regulations relating to their businesses, and the refusal by vendors to bribe council askaris as a reason for harassment by the authorities and a major source of conflict.

7.1.3 Policies, Regulations and Harassment

The street vendors and their associations are largely aware of basic requirements of trade such as payment of daily fees and maintaining hygienic conditions. Some vendors' association representatives were also aware of the health requirements and noted that sale of cooked food had health implications, and contributing to the spread of infectious diseases such as cholera and typhoid. Food contamination and illnesses such as coughing were also linked to dust on the streets. However, very few street vendors are aware of laws and regulations which govern their operations, and contribute to harassment. They include: trading in specified areas, causing obstruction, illegality of vending on sites not allocated, trading in unauthorised goods, notice being given before eviction and demolition, and requirement to return goods once the matter is settled.

While the officials of the vendor associations were aware of the regulations, they observed that in many cases, the urban authorities acted outside of these regulations. For example, the vendors are required to maintain cleanliness of the sites yet no water is provided, while at the same time, the authorities do not collect garbage. One focus group in Migori observed that there was laxity among the public health officers to inspect food kiosks and wondered whether it was only the vendors who should observe the regulations.

The umbrella street vendor associations have tried to engage the urban authorities in dialogue in order to get solutions to street vending problems, but have not achieved much. The biggest challenge, however, is when the authorities fail to honour promises made to the vendors representatives. In Kisumu, for example, in 1996 the authorities were involved in dialogue with the officials of General Street Traders associations aimed at setting aside a vending site. This process resulted in allocation of street trading sites along Taifa Park and selected streets namely Ojino Okewo, Angawa, Tom Mboya, Nyamori and Gor Mahia. However, upon election of new council, the new team of officers threatened to evict vendors from the allocated sites.

Another example is the KSTS which managed to secure trading site for the members, notably, Maziwa Open-air market along Jogoo road, Toyi market in Kibera and the hawkers market along forest road. This did not stop harassment, and there were situations when the association resorted to use of violence to stop harassment and eviction of its members.

The urban authorities do undertake punitive measures against street traders who go against their regulations and policies. Some of the enforcement procedures applied by the urban authorities include: street vendors being evicted from the streets, confiscation of goods and arrests. In Machakos, where street vending is recognised, those who delay in payment of license fee are penalised, while in Migori, traders with large stock were often charged with evading licenses. According to the authorities, such traders should trade in shops and not in the open air markets or the streets.

There is inconsistencies in the way the authorities handled the street vendors. In some towns, it was noted that the daily fee charged was not fixed and depended on the officer on duty, who for want of being bribed might demand higher charges. Further, once goods are confiscated, no inventory is taken and this has led to some of the vendors losing their

goods through confiscation or destruction, resisting arrests or being beaten by the askaris.

Ideally, it should be the responsibility of the urban authorities to inform the street vendors about the laws and regulations, including by-laws other than assuming, which has largely been the case, that the vendors know and should know. The position taken by authorities when dealing with street vendors who are presumed to have violated the laws is that 'ignorance is no defence'. On their part, the street vendor associations should take the initiative to find out what policies govern their operations and make the effort to educate their members.

7.4 Licensing and Trading Sites

The surveyed urban authorities, except Machakos, have not officially set aside street vending sites. Instead the vendors identify sites on their own, and the authorities react by either evicting the vendors, tolerating them or charging a daily fee like is done at Mutindwa in Nairobi and in Migori. In Kisumu, the authorities used to charge a daily fee but stopped for fear that this would attract more street vendors in the CBD.

In Nairobi, the council, in an effort to remove street vendors from the CBD, identified some temporary vending sites for relocating vendors. These included: Mwariri, City Stadium, Uhuru open-air market along Jogoo road, Korogocho and the hawkers market along forest road. The Mwariri site was rejected by vendors for lack of customers, while the others are considered as temporary sites. The vendors can be evicted any time by the authorities and they cannot undertake any form of development like construction of structures or toilets.

The street vendors associations, except the Kisumu General Street Traders, do not determine or influence where their members trade. Some associations like the KSTS, have facilitated allocation of sites by the authorities to the members. In Migori, most of the vendors are concentrated in the new municipal and open-air markets but a few trade along the streets. In Migori the new municipal market was said to be inappropriate because it is made inaccessible to customers by poor planning and floods during the rainy season.

The many vending sites, although most are not legally allocated by the authorities, are considered to be appropriate by the leaders of street vendors associations. They are not only strategic and accessible to customers but also spacious, near roads or residential areas

and are easily accessible by public transport. Street vendors who trade outside the CBD experience less harassment.

Street vendors are not licensed because they do not have permanent trading sites/premises. They are also perceived by the authorities to operate in a dirty manner, are a nuisance and unlike the kiosk owners, market traders, retailers and wholesalers, most of them do not have trading licenses. The process of obtaining a license is cumbersome, and most urban authorities issue very few vending licenses and generally have a negative attitude toward street vending [Alila and Mitullah. 1999a:9]. Further, those who get licenses have to bribe or use influential 'god fathers'.

Obtaining a license does not give one full trading rights. Vendors are required to observe other trading requirements like trading in approved or designated areas and observe the health requirements. The street vendors representatives reported cases of street vendors licenses being confiscated by askaris for trading in wrong places although this was sometimes done to extort bribes from the vendors.

The sites where street traders operate from are not provided with any services, even in cases where they are paying for licenses or a fee [Alila and Mitullah, 1999b: 6). On the other hand, when the vendors offer to provide, manage and maintain the facilities like toilets, most urban authorities are reluctant leading to vendors either operating in unhealthy environment, or using services located nearby. Such services available at nearby municipal markets, hotels and bars, while others obtain services from their homes or nearby residential areas. Services provided at the municipal markets are inadequate and poorly managed; while street traders clean their sites or hire people to collect and dispose garbage.

7.2 Strategies for Building Capacity

A study conducted on street vending in South Africa argues that 'if the interests of workers in informal economy are to be integrated in urban and economic policies, one important task of organisations is to identify where policies are made and how agendas are influenced, so that representation is made in appropriate places' [Lund and Skinner.1999:9]. Apart from knowing where policies are made, the street vendors, if they are to effectively lobby and demand for their rights, also need to know and understand the policies and regulations governing their operations. These tasks cannot be undertaken by individual vendors but by their associations as groups.

In Kenya the street vendors associations seem far from achieving the above goals. This is largely due to the fact that associations have limited contact with the urban authorities and other development agencies. An important aspect of organising is to represent the views and interests of the street vendors to the authorities governing the street vending activities. This requires the street vendors organisations to be in contact with the governing institutions like the local authorities, central governments and other stakeholders who in one way or another influence their activities.

Lund and Skinner [1999] further argue that if street traders are not organised, and thus not in a position to put pressure on local government, resources are unlikely to be allocated to them. In Kenya, most towns are not designed for street vendors and hardly any street vending policies exist. Subsequently, if street vendors are to be provided with trading sites services, they must lobby policy makers, planners and administrators to recognise their operations and include them in urban planning and management.

There are indications in the foregoing analysis that street vendors, if organised into strong associations, have the ability to demand and defend their rights. However, the reality in Kenya is that most street vendors associations are composed of small groupings which hardly address broader issues such as advocacy and policy influence. While most of the street vendors associations link the cause of conflict between street vendors and the local authorities to lack of licenses, trading sites and not being involved in decision making by the LAs, only a few associations address these issues. There is therefore need to strengthen the capacity of street vendors, and to improve communication between their associations and other stakeholders, especially urban authorities. Below are some identified strategies for improving specific areas.

7.2.1 Associational Life of Street Vendors

The associations are generally weak in organisation and negotiation, and largely concentrate on welfare and mobilisation of resources. There is thus need to:

- strengthen capacity on advocacy and policy influence, by training leaders and creating awareness among members,
- facilitate the development of good management system, including efficient record keeping of membership and operations of vendors

associations,

- facilitate sharing of business ideas at both intra and inter associational levels, making improvement of business a priority,
- provide incentives for leaders, and management resources,
- facilitate organisation and registration of street vendors associations, as well as regular election of leaders through the ballot and specified terms

7.2.2 Relationship with Authorities

Street vendors and their associations have minimal relations with other stakeholders, especially urban authorities. This has contributed to misunderstanding from both parties, and there is need to:

- establish a communication forum at both local authority and national level for street vendors and other stakeholders they relate with,
- for umbrella street vendors associations to form committees with accessible secretariats at urban councils and national level; in order enhance regular meetings with urban authorities and other stakeholder groups,
- establish working relationship with other micro and small enterprise associations.

7.2.3 Policies, Regulations and Harassment

Street vendors are not adequately aware of relevant policies and regulations, and there is need to:

- review policies and regulations and make them accessible to street vendors,

- pressurise urban authorities to act within the reviewed policies and regulations,
- ensure that new elected urban councils follow and honour policies and regulations, including commitment by previous councils,
- pressurise urban councils to act in a consistent manner in relation to policies, regulations and harassment,
- develop clear guidelines on enforcement methods in collaboration with street vendors and other stakeholder groups.

7.2.4 Licensing and Trading Sites

Urban authorities provide very limited number of licenses and trading sites, and there is need to:

- develop clear outline of licensing requirement with street vendors and stakeholders, and increase the number of licenses for street vendors,
- facilitate urban authorities in collaboration with street vendors and other stakeholder groups to come up with appropriate long term vending sites, which are recognised and planned,
- facilitate street vendors to collaborate with urban councils and other stakeholder groups in providing basic services in areas designated for vending,
- support street vendors to take responsibility and ensure that their operations do not contravene agreed policies and regulations.

7.3 Concluding Remarks

The research process and its outputs have significantly influenced the opening of communication channels among street vendors associations themselves, and between associations and urban authorities. Consultations and sharing of ideas within individual street vendors associations, and across associations has been initiated. Further, discussions are on-going on possibility of forming a national alliance of street vendors in Kenya, which could eventually result in the emergence of an umbrella body.

For street vending to thrive in Kenya, there is need for urban policy change aimed at integrating street vending in planning and decision making. All stakeholder groups, including urban authorities, central government and street vendors have to effectively contribute ideas and strategies relevant for policy making, planning and decision making relating to street vending. The street vendors should be consulted, and their views integrated in coming up with relevant policies for their operations. On the part of urban and central government, they should ensure an enabling environment, including appropriate policies and regulations. This has to be done through a participatory partnership approach, involving all stakeholder groups.

The SV earn minimal income and hardly set aside resources for management, including organising. Monitoring of SV associations on-going activities after the research by IDS has revealed that resources necessary for organising forums for addressing street vending issues, and efficient management are lacking, and there is need to mobilise resources towards this goal.

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APPENDIX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS OF ASSOCIATIONS

**WOMEN STREET VENDORS IN KENYA
POLICIES, REGULATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEMBERS OF STREET VENDOR'S ASSOCIATIONS

1: ASSOCIATIONAL LIFE

1.1 When did you become a member of this association? _____

1.2 What were the requirements for membership _____

1.3 What are the objectives of the association? _____

1.4 Does your association have rules (constitution) which members have to follow? [1] Yes
[2] No

1.5 If yes, are they written on paper? [1] Yes [2] No

1.6 Does any of the rules relate to your business operations?
[1] Yes [2] No

1.7 Have you ever had a chance to read the rules [1] Yes [2] No

1.8 What is the structure of your association [probe whether run on a committee system,
management board and/or trustees] _____

1.9 Does the association have any office bearers [1] Yes [2] No

1.10 If yes, specify offices and gender _____

1.11 If yes, how are the office bearers elected? _____

1.12 If elected, how often are elections held? [1] annually
[2] Every after two years [3] every after 3 years
[4] Every after five years [5] not specified
[6] Other(specify) _____

1.13 If elected, when was the last elections held? _____

1.14 Have you ever participated in the elections [1] Yes [2] No

1.15 Please, elaborate your answer _____

1.16 Assess the level of organisation in your association

[1] Very organised [2] Organised
[3] Not organised [4] Very disorganised

1.17 Please, elaborate your answer _____

1.18 A part from this association, do you belong to any other association? Yes [1] No [2]

1.19 If yes, specify;

| Associations | Purpose of Association |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Formal Associations | |
| [1] | |
| [2] | |
| [3] | |
| Informal Associations | |
| [1] | |
| [2] | |
| [3] | |

1.20 What do you see as the benefits of belonging to an association?

1.21 Do you know any associations which address the issue of street traders [1] Yes [2] No

1.22 If yes, please list and name at least one contact person

Name of associations _____

Contact persons _____

2: INTER-ASSOCIATIONAL COOPERATION

- 2.1 Does the association cooperate with other associations
Yes [1] No [2]
- 2.2 If yes, specify the nature of cooperation _____

- 2.3 Specify the type of associations you cooperate with.
Same size [1] Slightly bigger [2] Big [3]
- 2.4 Do you exchange ideas or discuss problems or strategies of business with other associations?
Never [1] Occasionally [2] Often [3]
- 2.5 If occasionally or often, please indicate subjects of discussion.

3: RELATIONSHIP WITH CENTRAL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

- 3.1 Do you or your association have any contact with Central or local Government officers?

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--------|
| Self | [1] Yes | No [2] |
| Association | [1] Yes | [2] No |

- 3.2 If yes, specify the nature of contact:

Self:

Central Government _____

Local Government _____

Association:

Central Government _____

Local Government _____

3.3 Have you or any member of your association ever been involved in issues of urban planning and development, especially setting aside street vending sites by the Local Authority?

Self: Yes [1] No [2] Any member: Yes [1] No [2]

3.4 If yes, please specify the nature of involvement

Self: _____

Any member of association: _____

4: POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

4.1 Are you aware of policies and regulations that apply to street trading within this Local Authority? Yes [1] No [2]

4.2 If yes, elaborate your answer, and indicate your source of information on policies and regulations [research assistants to thoroughly probe]

4.3 Do you find the policies and regulations appropriate?
Yes [1] No [2]

4.4 Please elaborate your answer:

Yes _____

No _____

- 4.5 If no to question 4.3, would you be interested in getting the information?
Yes [1] No [2]
- 4.6 If yes, in what form would you like the information
[1] written (specify language) _____ [2] pictures and cartons [3] audio [4]
other (specify) _____
- 4.7 Could you specify, how the Local Authority, normally communicates to you and your organization information relating to street trading
- Self: _____
- Your organization _____
- 4.8 Are there any services provided to the street traders by the Local Authority or any other organisation?
- 4.9 Local Authority Yes [1] No [2]
Other organisations Yes [1] No [2]
- 4.10 If yes to any of the above, please indicate
- Local Authority _____
- _____
- Other organization _____
- _____
- 4.11 If no, indicate how you access services (for example water, toilet, refuse removal)
- _____
- _____
- 4.12 Are there any aspects of street vending, you view as negative
Yes [1] No [2]
- 4.13 If yes, please specify _____
- _____
- 4.14 Could you comment on how street vendors manage their sites of operation, especially in

terms of water and sanitation as well as human and vehicle access

4.15 Could you please comment on the allocation of street vending sites by the Local Authorities _____

4.16 Which offices within the Local Authority do you deal with whenever you have a problem relating to your street vending?

4.17 Do you go to a particular officer or anybody within the Local Authority? Particular officer [1] Anybody [2] both [3]

4.18 Comment on how the officers handle you _____

4.19 Do you think at any time you or your organization has been able to influence the decisions of Local Authority relating to street vending? Yes [1] No [2]

4.20 Please elaborate your answer _____

4.21 Suggest how street vending should be handled by both the street vendors themselves and Local Authorities, clearly specifying the role/activity each one should take

Vendors

Local Authority

5: RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER DEVELOPMENT AGENTS

5.1 Do you or your organisation have any contacts with NGOs and CBOs supporting small scale enterprise initiatives?

| Self | | Association | |
|---------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Yes [1] | No [2] | Yes [1] | No [2] |

5.2 If yes, specify;

Self

Name _____

Nature of contacts _____

Association

Name _____

Nature of contacts _____

6: PERSONAL DETAILS OF RESPONDENT

6.1 Name of respondent _____

6.2 Province of birth _____

6.3 District of birth _____

6.4 Age / Year of birth _____

6.5 Marital status: Single [1] Married [2] Divorced [3]
Widowed [4] Separated [5] Other, specify _____ [6]

6.6 Education Level:

No Formal Education [1] Adult Education [2]
Lower Primary [3] Upper Primary [4]
Lower Secondary [5] Upper Secondary [6]
Form 5/6 [7] University [8]

6.7 Do you have any form of training?

Formal Yes [1] No [2]
Informal Yes [1] No [2]

6.8 Give details of training

| Types of training | Duration | Institution | Year |
|-------------------|----------|-------------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

6.9 Do you have any children? Yes [1] No [2]

6.10 If yes, specify number and age:

Below 6 year _____ [1]

7 - 12 years _____ [2]

13 - 17 _____ [3]

Above 18 years _____ [4]

7: Additional Information

7.1 Name of Interviewer _____

7.2 Date of interview _____

7.3 Time Begun _____

7.4 Time Finished _____

7.5 General observations and comments by the interviewer

APPENDIX 2: CHECKLIST FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

WOMEN STREET VENDORS IN KENYA

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Guide

1. BRIEF ON THE RESEARCH

- Nature of the research
- Why the Research
- Choice of the area and group
- choice of method of data collection
- Conduct of FGD [The Need for and importance of full participation]

2. GROUP INTRODUCTION

- General group introductions including personal briefs
- Background Information on participants (Summary sheet attached)
- Total number of participants
- Gender distribution and age range
- Education Levels
- Marital status
- Religious affiliation
- Number of children
- Other occupation

3 Associational Life of Women Street Vendors

- Names and types [formal and informal] of associations street vendors belong to.
- Registration fee and any other payments [type of hawkers who are members; requirement for membership; meeting periods and specific time].
- Purpose of organisation [type of support provided to members and participation of members].
- Presence of street vendors association(s), especially umbrella bodies [probe membership by gender, office bearers, availability of constitutions, initiators, level of organisation].
- In mixed associations, probe the percentage of women in leadership positions, gender of primary spokesperson, process of becoming and remaining a member.
- Find out whether associations are registered with any government department and/or with any NGO, including any religious institution.

- Find out whether the association has offices, location, staffing, specifying whether voluntary, paid, part time or full time; mode of contact; relationship with Local Government.
- Find out whether associations are independent or part of Local Government.
- Probe whether associations negotiate street trading issues with Local Government.
- Find out the level of action, whether specific trading area, city, provincial, national or international.
- List of problems the association faces and suggest how they can be solved.
- Most urban authorities are often in conflict with hawkers and street vendors: comment on the issue and give three main reasons that explains the trend [probe how the association addresses the issues].

4. Policies and Regulations

- Awareness of policies and regulations that apply to street vending [probe source of knowledge, appropriateness of policies, methods of communicating information from the LAs.
- Probe management of sites of operation [water and sanitation and access].
- Offices and officers within the Local Authority dealing with street vendors [probe the manner street vendors are handled].
- Discuss the potential of street vendors to influence decisions of Local Authorities relating to street vending, for example allocating vending sites.
- Suggest how street vending can be planned and organised within urban setting.

5 Involvement of Stakeholder Groups

- Involvement of street vendors in formulation, review of policies, regulations and management of vending activities.
- probe the possibility of vendors improving their level of organisation.
- Discuss the possibilities of street vendors establishing and defending their legal rights to space, protection of goods, to be informed about policies and regulations and the right to safe environment.
- Probe the level of communication between street vendors, council and other stakeholder groups: [channels for communication and whether there is any working relationship between the local authority officers and the hawkers and vendors association or

individual hawkers].

6 Licensing

- Numbers who apply for licenses vis-a-vis those licensed according to gender, categories, areas of operation etc. [get a rough idea of street vendors licensed over five year periods since 1980: 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 1998; assess whether the numbers are increasing or reducing].
- Estimates of total number of hawkers within the urban centre [by gender, categories, areas of operation].
- Requirements for hawking and vending [Criteria used for licensing].
- Type of street activities licensed and those not licensed and reasons for not licensing some activities.
- Specify the areas set aside for street vending and explain reasons for choice of site.
- Probe whether street vendors experience harassment [specify nature, source, reason and how often harassment is experienced].

7 Inter-firm Cooperation

- Probe whether street vendors cooperate [nature of cooperation; size of firms they cooperate with; whether formal or informal firms].
- Probe exchange of ideas across firms [all sizes, both formal and informal].

8 Contact with Development Agents

- Probe whether street vendors have contact with NGOs providing business development services and the nature of contacts [name the NGOs they have contact with and the type of products they offer; whether the products are suitable].
- Probe whether street vendors have contact with both Central and Local government [specify the nature of contact and the type of support provided].

9 Harassment

- Probe whether street vendors experience harassment [specify nature, source, reason and how often harassment is experienced].
- Type of punishment for street vending without relevant papers.
- Suggestion on how the reasons for harassment can be solved.

- Suggestion on how the reasons for harassment can be solved.

10 Business Location

- Probe how street vending premises are located [factors leading to choice of area; whether any rent is paid; duration of operating in located premises].
- Relationship of street vendors and formal retailers.

11 General Issues

Services provided by urban authorities to street vendors [if none, probe possibilities of providing services such as shelter, storage, water, toilets and child care].

Outline enforcement procedures [Comment on general harassment of hawkers confiscation of commodities, being beaten, held, charged: get the theory and the practice (probe knowledge of what the by-laws say and what the officers actually do)].

Probe the health problems related to hawking? What measures do the street vendors take to ensure that the health requirements during their operation are followed [refuse collection, method of displaying commodities, condition of commodities and general sanitation].

Are there any preferential treatment for women hawkers with children in cases where punitive measures have to be taken against street vendors.

Challenges facing street vendors in dealing with Local Authorities and the vision for addressing the challenges.

Suggest how street vending can be planned and organised within an urban setting.

Probe knowledge of Single Business Permit [SBP] on street trading.

Relationship of street vendors with other small scale traders, large scale traders and other stakeholders [probe nature of relationship].

List types of support provided to street vendors by different groups and inherent constraints if any.

Extent of street vendors involvement in urban planning undertaken by Local Authorities and Central Government Ministries.

Comment on the regulatory framework of street vending and general handling of street vendors by Local Authorities.

Isolate and assess the street vendors working relationship with the council and other stakeholder groups [grade: very good, good, fair, bad].

Probe the possibilities of street vendors establishing and defending their legal rights to space, protection of goods, to be informed about policies and regulations and the right to safe environment.

Probe possibilities of involving small scale traders in formulation, review of policies, regulations and management of trading activities.

Probe the possibility of street vendors, especially women getting organised into effective planning, management and advocacy associations.

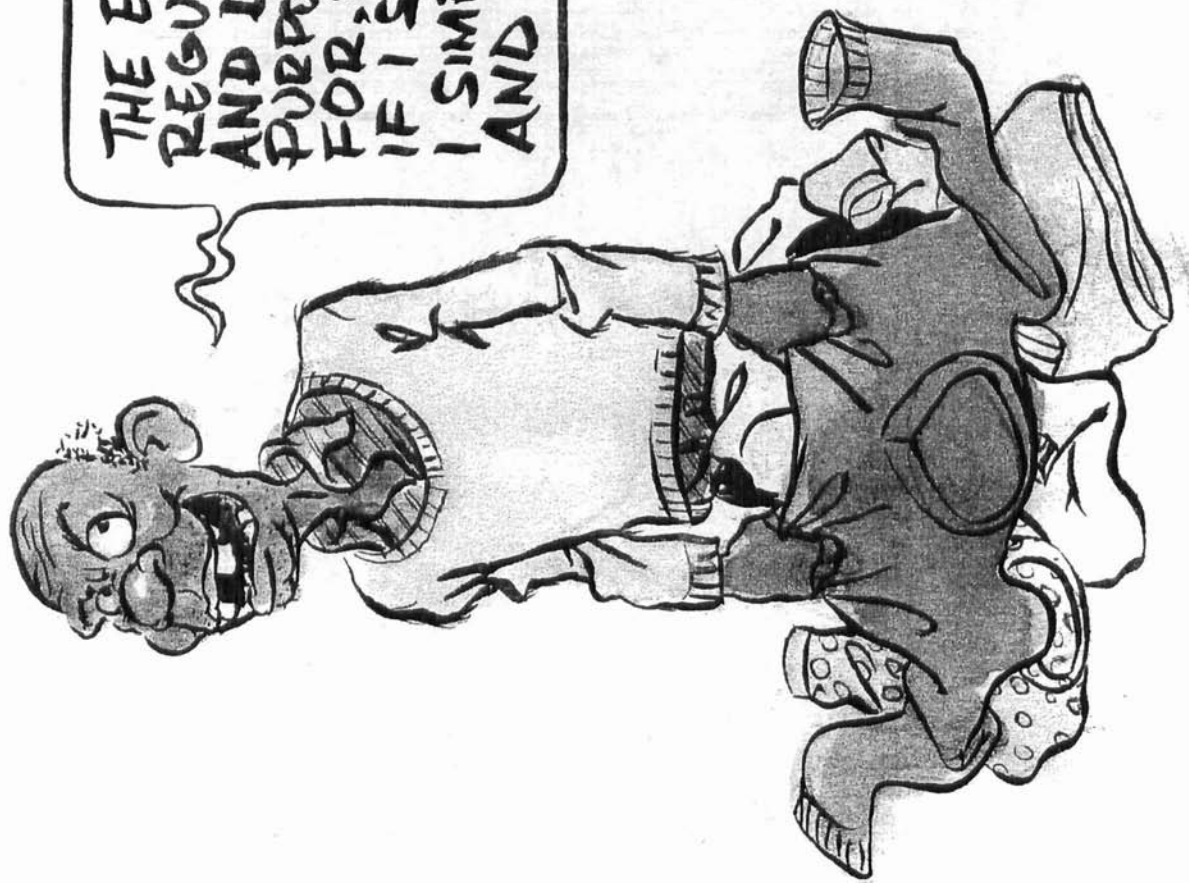
Most urban authorities are often in conflict with hawkers and street vendors: comment on the issue and give three main reasons that explains the trend, and suggest how the working relationship between the two can be improved.

Comment on the relevance of policies and regulations on street vending to the prevailing situation of reforms [probe possibility of giving the responsibility for management of street vending to street trader organizations and/or property owners].

APPENDIX 3:
VISUAL INFORMATION MATERIALS FOR STREET VENDORS

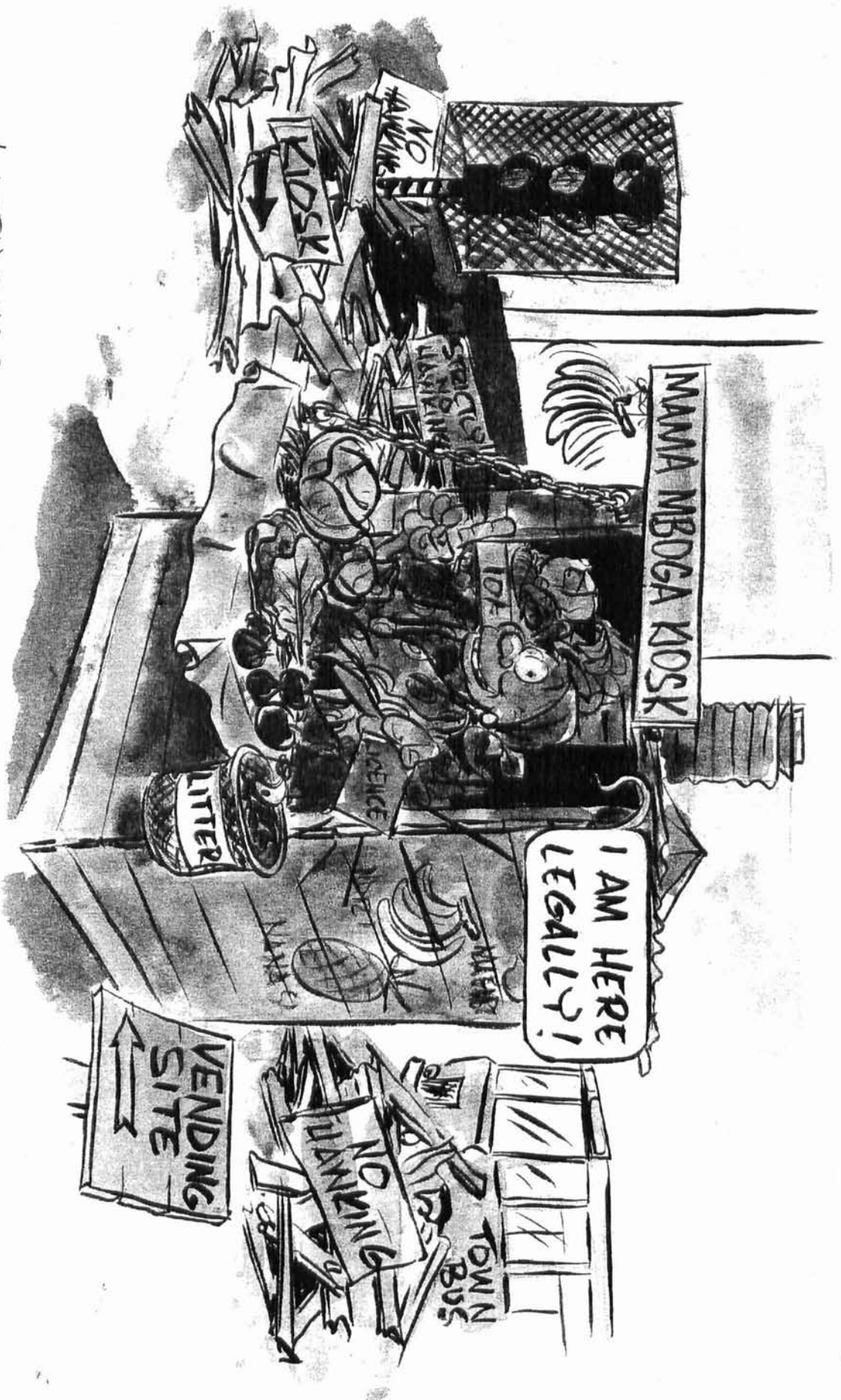


Existing policies are Old
and Outdated

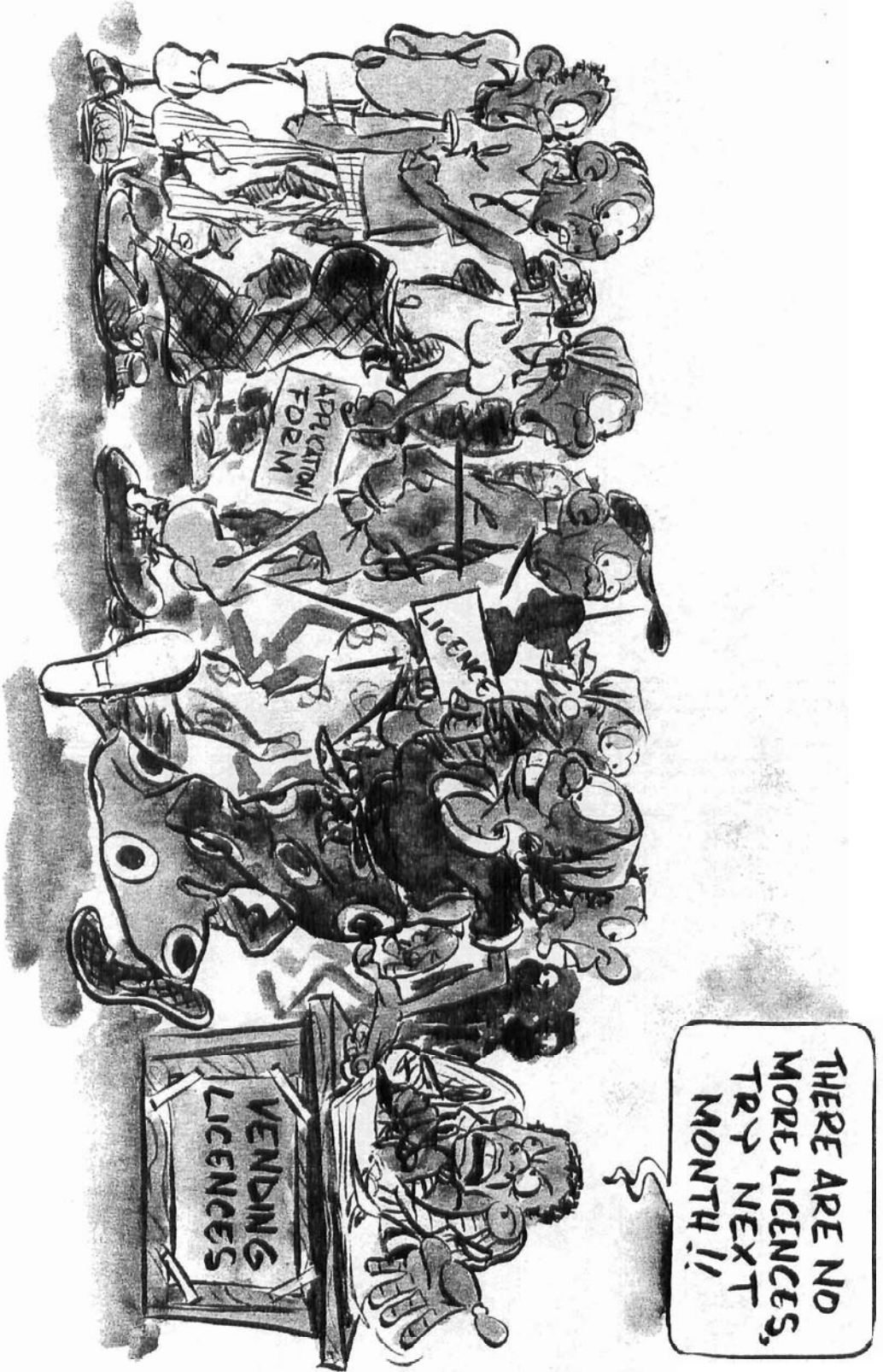


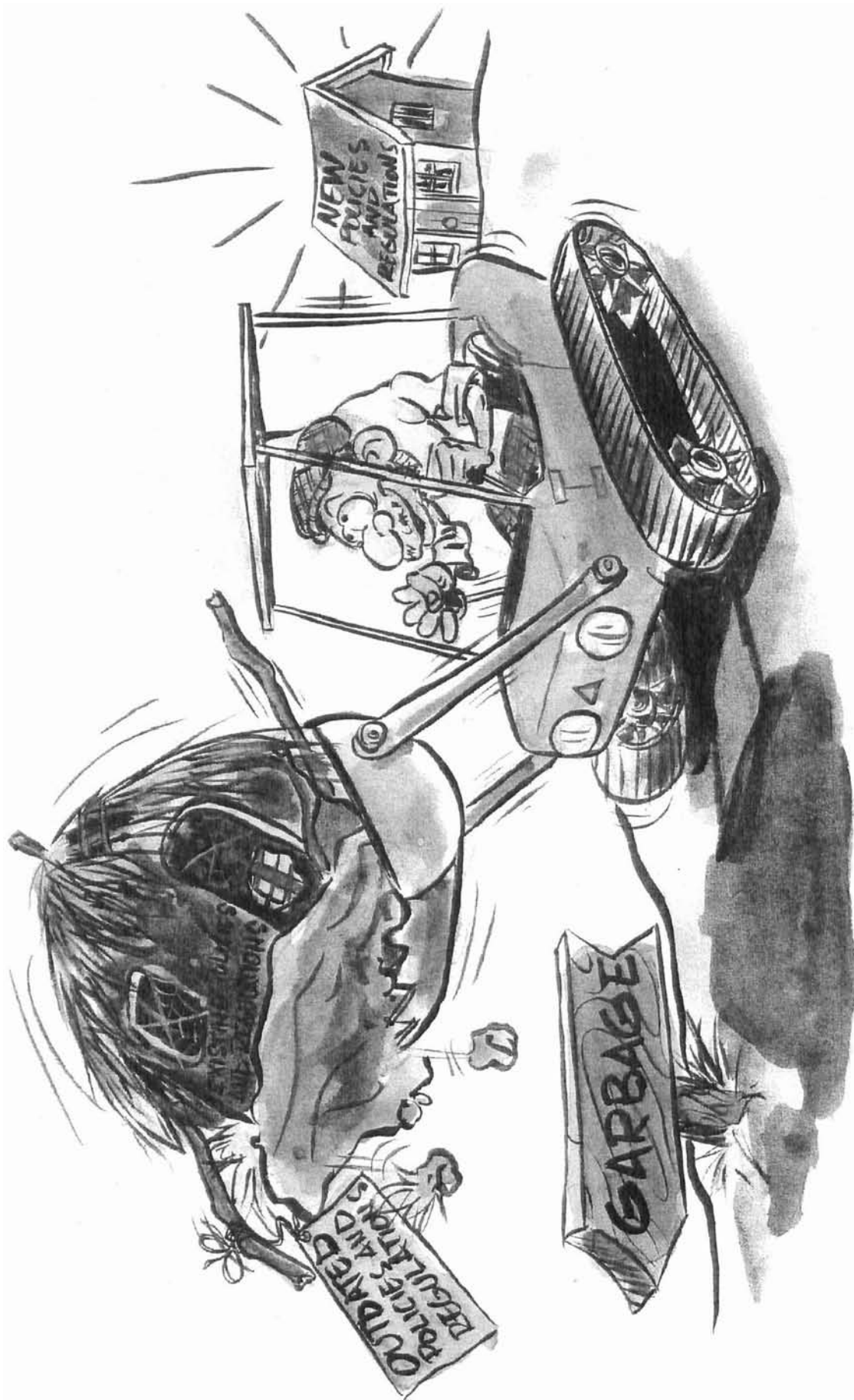
THE EXISTING POLICIES AND
REGULATIONS ARE OUTDATED
AND DON'T SERVE THE REAL
PURPOSE THEY WERE INTENDED
FOR, SO I CAN'T FOLLOW THEM.
IF I SEE THE ASKARI'S COMING,
I SIMPLY PACK MY THINGS
AND TAKE OFF!

LICENSING IS NECESSARY TO AVOID CLASHING WITH
THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

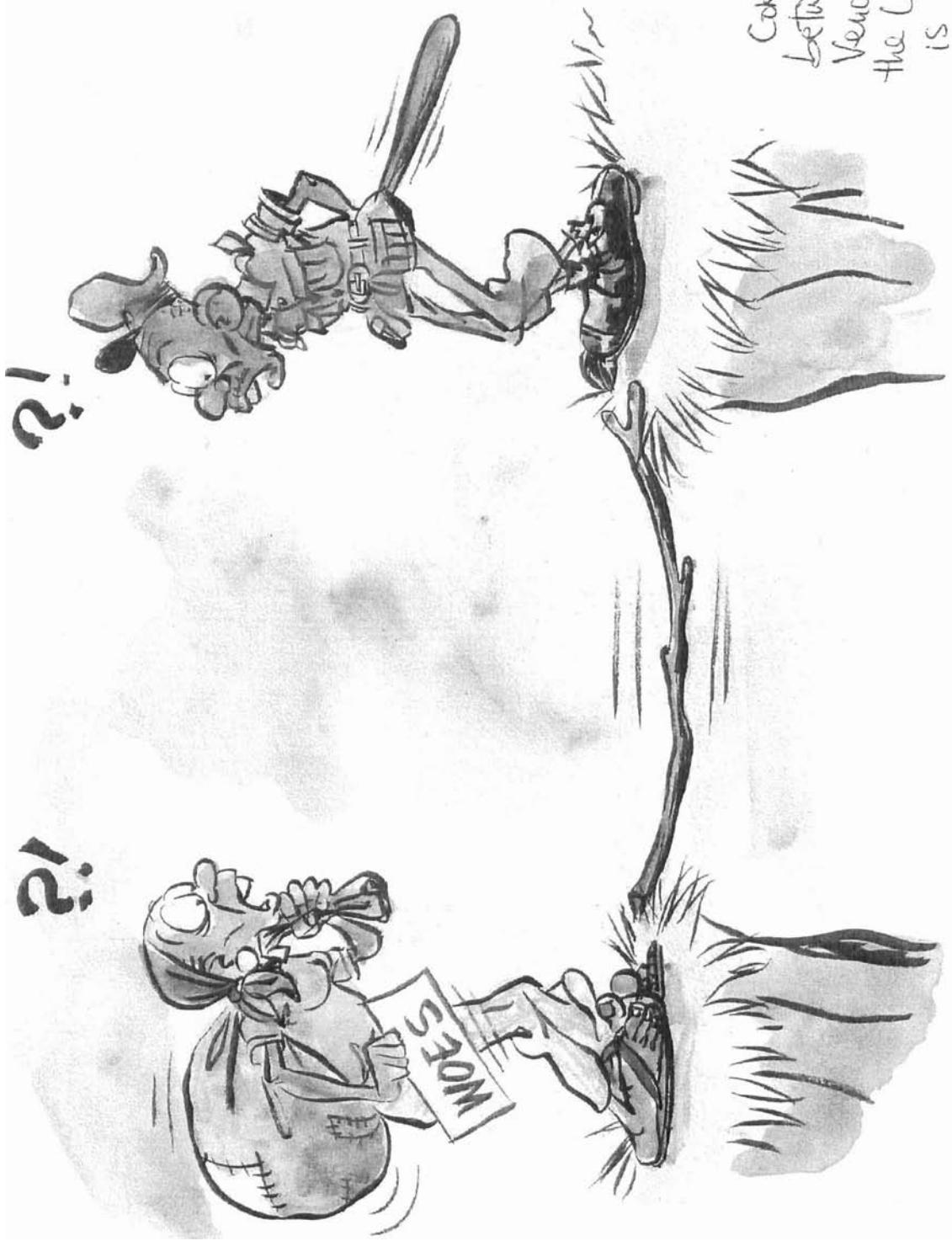


Vendors find it difficult
to comply with licensing/
daily fees regulations.





Outdated Policies ^{and regulations} Should be Overhauled for new Ones



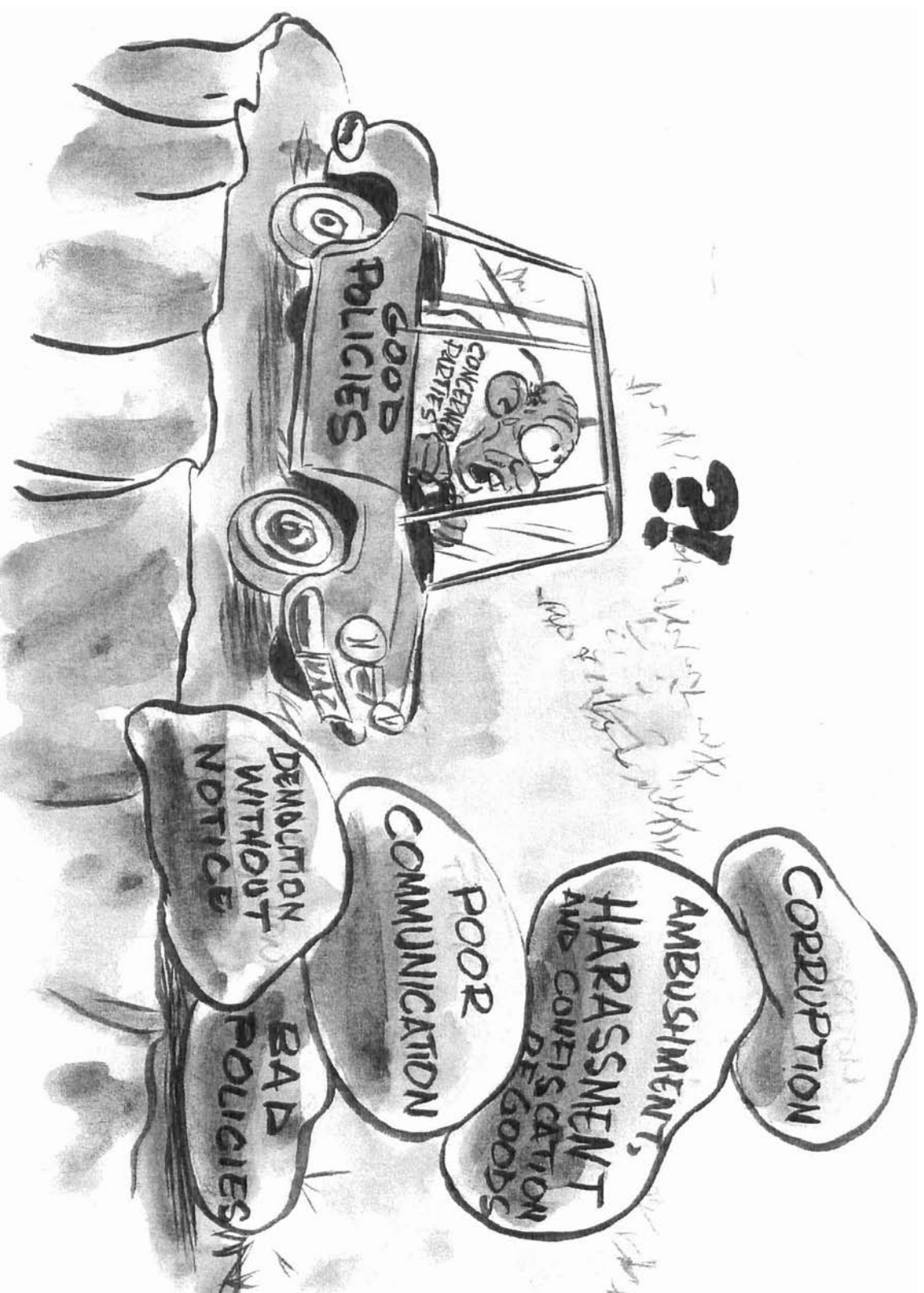
Communication
between Street
Vendors and
the Local Authority
is poor.



Street Vendors and Local Authority Officials do not Understand each Other.



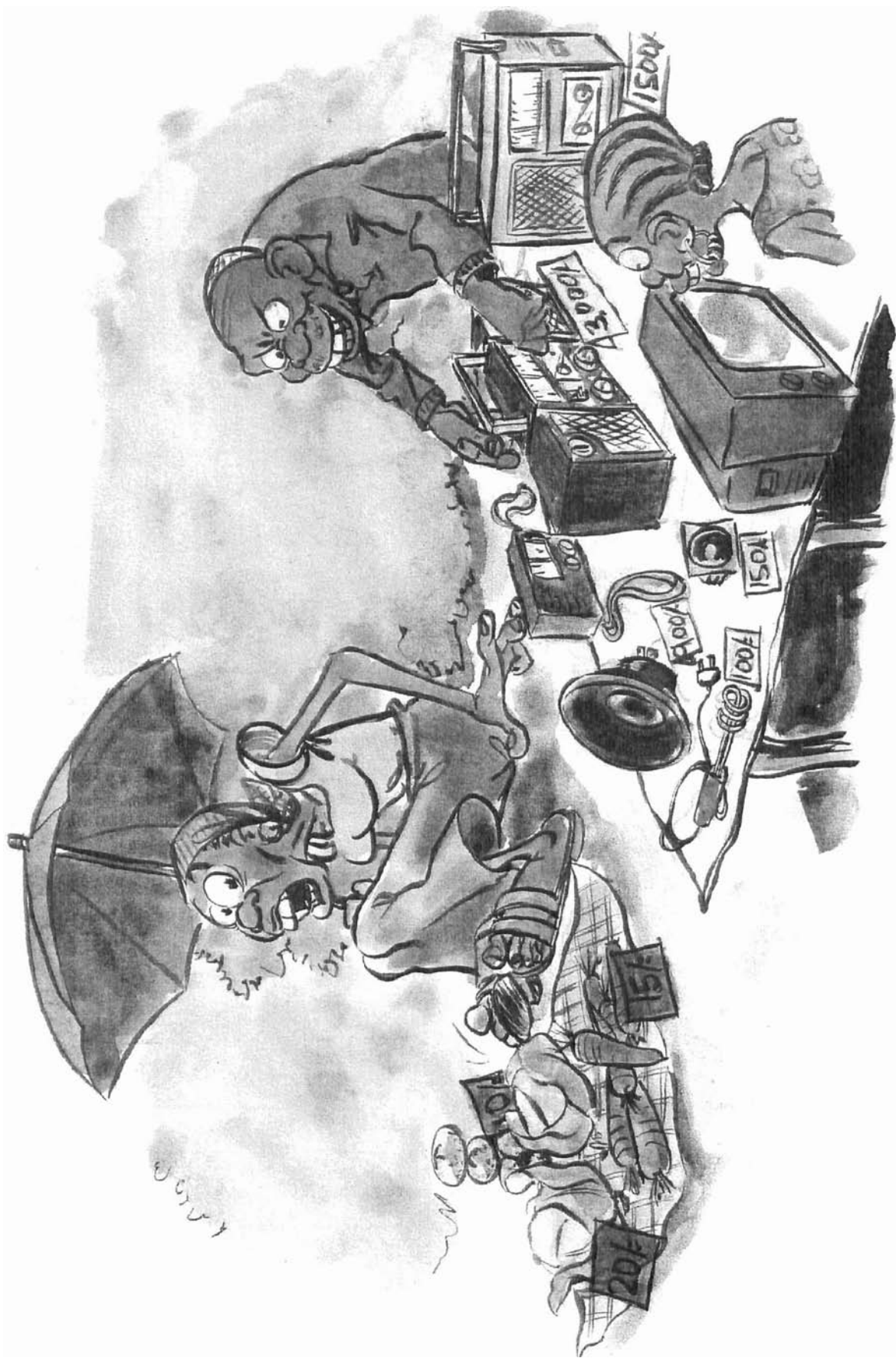
LACK OF UNDERSTANDING LEADS TO CLASHES BETWEEN VENDORS & L.A. OFFICIALS



EXISTENCE OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS IS GENERALLY POOR IN KENYA



Street Vending is Generally Marginalized
in Comparison to Other Businesses



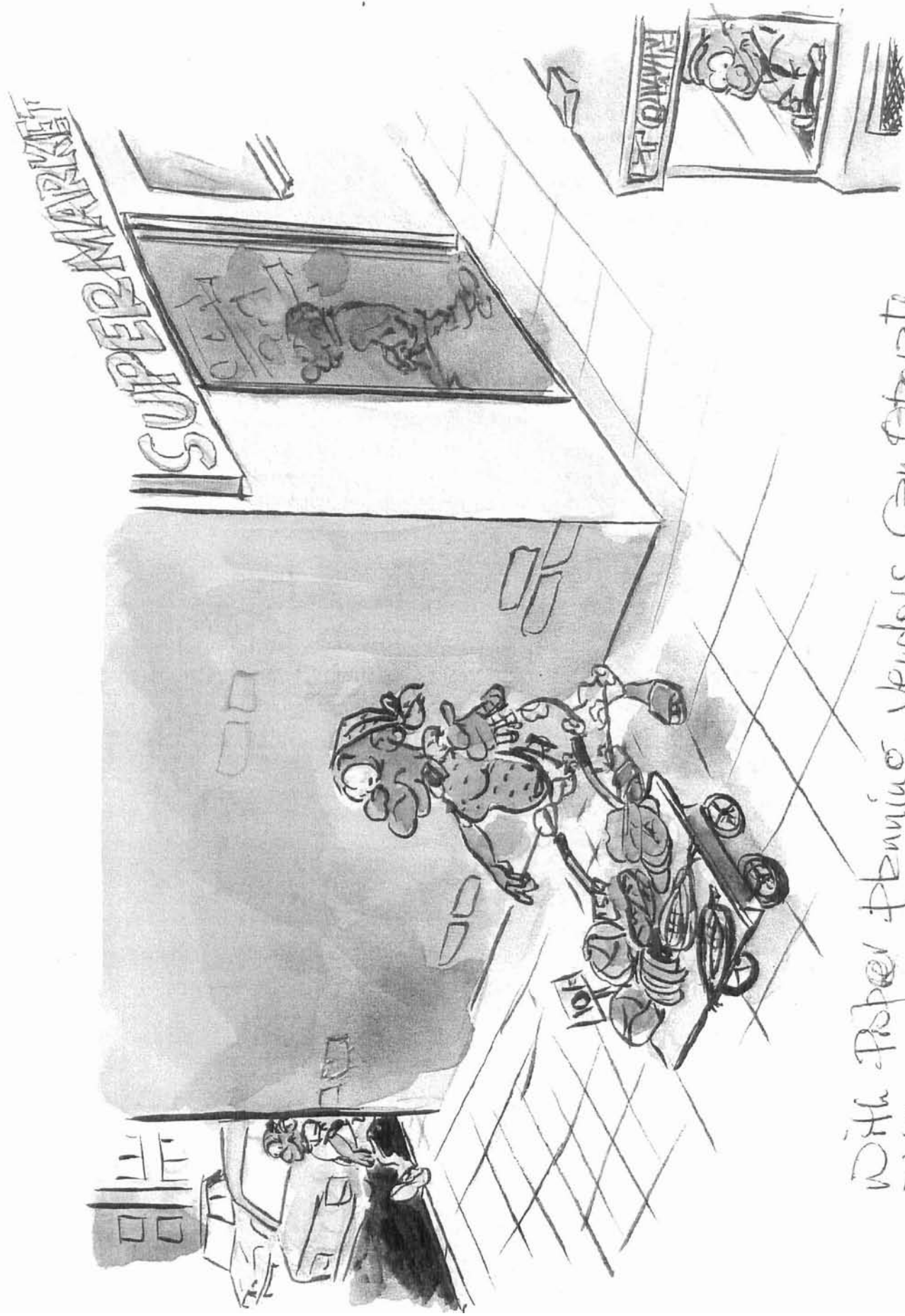
WOMEN STREET TRADERS HAVE LIMITED COMMODITIES & EARN LESS INCOME

I DON'T KNOW WHY
THE LOCAL AUTHORITY
OFFICIALS WON'T LEAVE
US ALONE TO CONDUCT
OUR BUSINESS IN PEACE!!





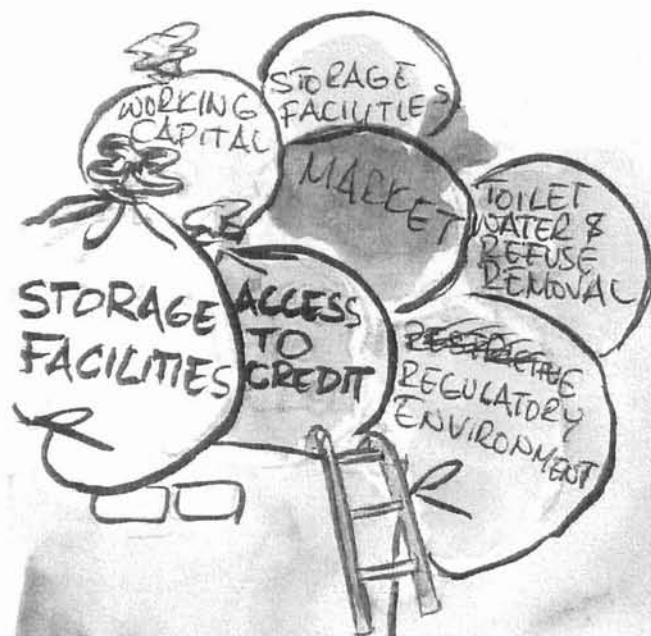
I DON'T KNOW WHY
THESE LOCAL AUTHORITY
PEOPLE WON'T LEAVE
US TO CONDUCT OUR
BUSINESS IN PEACE!



With Proper Planning, Vendors Can Operate
Within Central Areas Of Cities



URBAN COUNCILS SHOULD ALLOCATE VENDING SITES COMPLETE WITH BASIC FACILITIES TO STREET TRADERS



STREET TRADERS
HAVE LIMITED
ACCESS TO BASIC
FACILITIES



STREET VENDORS HAVE TO OBSERVE HYGIENE



