

# **Abstract: How to Plan and Manage Street Vending Activities in Central Division of Kampala City – Uganda**

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This was an investigation into how street vending can be planned for, practiced and managed in Central Division of Kampala city. It was inspired by the unending conflicts arising from actors on street spaces. The actors comprise mainly street vendors, motorists, pedestrians, street shoppers, agencies of government such as Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), civil society organizations such as Platform for Vendors in Uganda and politicians. The conflicts especially between street vendors and KCCA have led to skirmishes, some fatal. There is no substantive solution to the current impasse between street vendors and KCCA. Kampala city has not had a comprehensive research, based on empirical evidence, to inform management strategies, policies and legislative frameworks to guide street vending. This study seeks to fill that gap.

Studies were conducted on selected streets from central division of Kampala city, based on land use zones and the intensity of street vending. Respondents to the study were street vendors, technocrats from government agencies and street space users such as pedestrians, merchants, cyclists and motorists. Being a largely qualitative study, the concept of saturation was used to obtain an appropriate sample size, which enabled respondents to be selected through a cross-sectional survey research design. Thus, 98 street vendors were selected based on gender, age, size of space occupied, streets occupied, time of vending, type of goods and services sold, mode of vending and the distribution of spatial location. Similarly, 38 street space users were selected based on the intensity of their presence on the street and activity type.

The aim of this research was to contribute solutions that would generate an enabling environment for street vendors to work with minimum conflict with other actors in the city economy. The objectives were to investigate the spatial and temporal characteristics of street vending, how street vendors perceive street spaces and their location, the actors that influence street vending, in order to contribute proposals to inform a feasible planning, design, policy and management framework for street vending. Data were generated using observations, interviews, photography, measurements and mapping. In addition, secondary literature were used. Similarly, theoretical frames for qualitative data analysis were mainly used. They included demand and supply side theories of street enterprises, the modernization theory, the neo-liberal theory, the structuralist theory and the post modernization theory of street enterprises. Other decision making models such as SWOT analysis and the morphological box and scamper checklist were used.

Key findings indicate that street enterprises took place on all roads in Kampala city during day and night, vendors valorized streets depending on the human traffic, street vending activities are affected by actors with competing interests and that street vending is driven by the context. The study contributed two new theories to existing literature on street vending; “the spontaneous location theory” and the “Moralist theory”. In addition, “a theory of ethical being” was proposed as a contribution to ethical paradigms during research. The research concludes that it requires concerted efforts from all stakeholders to manage street vending. This is because street vending is an important employment option that sustains many households and feeds both the formal and informal economies. The study recommends that street vending be legalized and harmonized with existing formal enterprises. Subsequently, the study provides several design, policy and management measures to manage street vending in Kampala city.