



**CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD VENDING TO RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN
THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE IN SOUTH AFRICA**

By

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**A dissertation submitted in fulfillment of the requirements of the Masters in Rural
Development (MRDV) Degree**

Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation

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November 2011

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DECLARATION

I, Mushaisano Agnes Mathaulula, hereby declare that this dissertation for Masters in Rural Development (MRDV) submitted to the Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation at the University of Venda has not been submitted previously for any degree at this or another University. It is original in design and in execution, and all reference material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

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ABSTRACT

Ready to eat foods and beverages prepared and/or sold by vendors and hawkers, especially in streets and other public places are referred to as small-scale foods. Throughout the world small-scale food vending is a common means of earning a living. However, in South Africa information on the contribution of small-scale food vending to the livelihoods of those who practice it is inadequate and unreliable. Thus, this study sought to assess the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province, South Africa. The perceptions of food vendors on the contribution of vending to livelihoods, challenges and related solutions were identified. Qualitative data were collected through administering of a semi-structured interview guide during key informant interviews and focus group discussions. Thereafter, quantitative data were collected using a questionnaire administered to 126 food vendors. All the questions required responses on a Likert-type scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The data were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences ((SPSS) version 19.0, 2011. Mean scores and standard deviations for each perception were computed and used for ranking. Frequencies of the same perceptions were also calculated. The Spearman's rank correlation coefficient analysis was conducted in order to determine if there were any relationships between perceptions of interest.

The study highlighted various ways in which small-scale food vending in Thohoyandou contributed to rural livelihoods. They were of a socio-economic development, family support, growth and development, and service provision nature. Most vendors reported that their businesses contributed towards job creation, public transport fares, fees for education and training, and also purchasing various basic necessities for the household. Its contribution to the reduction of food poverty in rural communities is crucial in development relief. Despite the considerable contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods, food vendors complained about the multiple challenges they faced. These were associated with infrastructure and basic services, legal and policy framework as well as production issues. Among others, food vendors complained about poor sanitation; lack of storage facilities; forced removals by municipal officials, absence of food vending licenses and conflict between municipality and hawking by-laws. In order to address the challenges that the food vendors faced, the following solutions were suggested: municipal officials must desist from forcefully removing of food vendors from their selling stalls; provision of proper sanitation (water and toilets) near the selling

points; allocating proper selling stalls with lockable storage facilities; and municipality must consider issuing vending licences to the small-scale food vendors.

On the basis of the results of this study, it is clear that Thulamela Municipality should explore the possible avenues for supporting small-scale food vending. Also, the municipality should officially recognize small-scale food vending as an economic opportunity for those involved. Furthermore, there is a potential for strengthening the informal sector through implementing pro-small-scale food vending strategies. Further research should be conducted focussing on engaging the customers of the street food vendors to establish their level of satisfaction with the services rendered. Lastly, the real contribution of street food vending will never be known unless there is quantification and interrogation of the various dimensions identified in this study are quantified and integrated.

Key words: Livelihoods; perceptions; rural; small-scale food vending; small-scale food vendors

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank Professor J. Francis and Dr. M. Mwele for their continuous and consistent guidance, constructive criticism, patience and kindness throughout the course of my studies. I am also grateful to all the University of Venda students who served as my research assistants. My gratitude goes to the University of Venda and National Research Foundation (NRF) through the Community University Partnership Programme (CUPP: Grant 71231) for providing financial support.

Thulamela Municipality and the Thotoyandou Hawkers Association granted me the opportunity to conduct my research. Many small-scale food vendors created space in their busy schedules in order to participate in data collection platforms, including completion of the questionnaire. I will forever be grateful for the huge demonstration of support.

A special thank you goes to my husband, Philip and my daughters, Mpho, Ndivhuwo and Maanda for their constant source of inspiration, strength and commitment to completing this study.

To my daughters Mpho Phyllis, Ndivhuwo Mosley and Maanda Rose

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FBI	Food Basket Foundation international
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ILO	International Labour Organization
KFC	Kentucky Food Company
LED	Local Economic Development
LEDET	Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
LISSA	Limpopo Business Support Agency
NRF	National Research Foundation
PSLSD	Project for Statistics on Living Standards and Development
RDA	Recommended Daily Allowance
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SEDA	Small Enterprise Development Agency
SMMEs	Small, medium and micro-enterprises
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SSFV	Small-scale food vending
STATSA	Statistics South Africa
UN	United Nations
UNIVEN	University of Venda
WHO	World Health Organizations
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CASE	Community Agency for Social Enquiry
CUPP	Community-University Partnership Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organizations
FBI	Food Basket Foundation International
IDP	Integrated Development Plan
ILO	International Labour Organization
KFC	Kentucky Food Company
LED	Local Economic Development
LEDET	Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism
LIBSA	Limpopo Business Support Agency
NRF	National Research Foundation
PSLSD	Project for Statistic on Living Standards and Development
RDA	Recommended Daily Allowance
RSA	Republic of South Africa
SEDA	Small Enterprise Development Agency
SMMEs	Small, medium and micro-enterprises
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SSFV	Small-scale food vending
STATSA	Statistics South Africa
UN	United Nations
UNIVEN	University of Venda
WHO	World Health Organizations
WIEGO	Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Since the year 2000, the unemployment rate in South Africa has grown substantially, mainly due to the rationalization policy of many big businesses (Schenck and Blaauw, 2007). This means that more and more people find themselves without jobs. Consequently, there is a growing awareness of the need to create own employment in order to become economically viable (Blaauw, 2005). In turn, this has led to the increased tendency to create various types of small-scale businesses.

People living in rural households engage in various informal activities with the goal of improving their livelihoods (Maxwell and Smith, 1992; Lipton, de Klerk and Lipton, 1996). Slack (2007) singles out informal activities as crucial livelihood strategies for households in rural areas. Presumably, this is due to the fact that most of the rural poor in particular are not sufficiently skilled or educated to help them secure better jobs in the formal sectors of the economy (Levin, Ruel, Morris, Maxwell, Armar-Klemesu and Ahiadeke, 1999; Lalthapersad-Pillay, 2004; Bhowmik, 2005).

Small-scale food vending (sometimes referred to as street food vending) is spreading widely and becoming a distinctive part of a large informal sector. Tambekar, Kulkarni, Shirsat and Bhadange (2011) define small-scale food as that prepared on the streets and ready to eat, or prepared at home and consumed on the streets without further preparation. This definition includes raw materials or ingredients used to prepare meals, snacks, drinks, fresh fruits and vegetables which are sold outside authorized market areas for immediate consumption. There is increasing recognition that small-scale food vending (SSFV) plays a significant socio-economic role in terms of employment creation, providing special income, in particular to those involved in it (Chakravarty, 2001; Omemu and Aderoju, 2008; Chukuezi, 2010; Tamberkar *et al.*, 2011).

Chukuezi (2010) contends that small-scale food vending is a major pillar of the many diverse segments of the informal sector that rural people use to improve their livelihoods. Within Limpopo Province in South Africa, small-scale food vending makes an important contribution to the livelihoods of the poor (Mukhola, 2006). This means that there is a potential for

strengthening the informal sector through implementing strategies that are pro-small-scale food vending. Small-scale foods are an integral part of the cuisine of any society. In addition, they are a treasure house of local culinary traditions; and increasingly play an important role in enhancing tourism throughout the world (Choudhury, Mahanta, Goswami, Mazumber and Pegoo, 2010). Moreover, street foods contribute significantly to the nutrition and food security of those involved, particularly the urban population (Dipeolu, Akinbone and Okuneye, 2007).

Street foods have been considered as a possible vehicle for micronutrient supplementation. Studies undertaken in some parts of Africa (Ohiokpehai, 2003; Mukhola, 2006) support this assertion. It is estimated that street foods supply more than 50 % total proteins, 64 % calcium and 60 % vitamin A to humans (Simopoulos and Bhat, 2000). The latter authors also highlight the fact that street foods provide more than 50 % of minerals (iron) and vitamins (thiamine and ascorbic acid) which are essential for various body functions such as boosting the immune system, apart from promoting normal growth and development.

The evidence presented above highlights the potential benefits that the informal sector and in particular, small-scale food vending might bring to an economy if properly developed. Considering the popularity of street food vending especially in South Africa's rural towns (Emongor and Kirsten, 2009), there is no doubt that this might be a key driver of livelihoods and economies in the countryside. However, there is inadequate empirical evidence that might be used to make informed decisions on how to improve this sector.

This study sought to assess the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province in South Africa, specifically focusing on Thohoyandou. Thohoyandou is a key service centre and the economic hub for the surrounding villages. Given the concentration of economic activities and people, Thohoyandou serves as an important market outlet for manufactured goods produced within the surrounding villages. It is also an employment centre for people who reside in the villages and regularly commute to sell or render services. Thohoyandou, which is the major town in the Municipality, attracts people from surrounding areas, in general, and hosts numerous services that cater for people's needs. These include the University of Venda, street foods, car repair workshops, petrol stations, retail shops, hotels, restaurants and bars.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

In Thulamela Municipality, information on the contribution of small-scale food vending to the livelihoods of those who practice it is inadequate and unreliable. This situation is widespread in the entire Vhembe District of Limpopo Province where Thulamela Municipality is located. Given this situation, it is not surprising that the local economic development (LED) strategies of all the four local Municipalities in Vhembe District are silent on street food vending. Yet, residents of the villages that surround most towns in the District, including Thohoyandou, work within informal enterprises and derive their living as self-employed, micro-entrepreneurs and service providers. This study was conducted with the aim to provide scientifically generated information on the views of small-scale food vendors regarding the contribution of their businesses to the livelihoods of their households, the challenges faced and potential strategies for addressing the former in the Thohoyandou central business area.

1.3 Justification of the Study

In many developing countries, including South Africa, small-scale food vending is widely regarded as an urban economic activity (Kubheka, Mosupye and von Holy, 2001). However, rural areas are experiencing massive growth of small-scale food vending due to increased unemployment and lack of economic growth (Slack, 2007). The sector constitutes a significant component of the economy and contributes considerably to the livelihoods of the poor (Skinner, 2006). Despite the reality articulated above, there is inadequate policy support for small-scale food vending. Empirical information on the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods and consumption is hardly available yet this is a major issue of debate in South Africa. Studies conducted in South Africa have tended to focus mainly on the microbiological quality and safety of small-scale foods (Mosupye and von Holly, 1999), handling practices (Martins, 2006) and nutritional aspects (von Holly and Makhoane, 2006), among others. The lack of scientifically generated information on small-scale food vending justifies research on this issue.

1.4 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study was to assess the contribution of small-scale food vending to the livelihoods of small-scale food vendors in the rural town of Thohoyandou. The specific objectives of the study were to:

- a) determine the perceptions of small-scale food vendors operating in Thohoyandou with respect to the contribution of their businesses to livelihoods; and
- b) identify the challenges and appropriate strategies for addressing the challenges that small-scale food vendors face.

1.5 Research Questions

The research questions that this study sought to answer were:

- a) What is the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods?
- b) What challenges do small-scale food vendors face?
- c) What strategies can be used to address the challenges that small-scale food vendors face?

1.6 Definitions of Key Terms and Concepts

The key terms and concepts used in the study are defined in this section. Livelihoods, small-scale business, street foods and street vendors are the key terms and concepts whose meaning is worth clarifying.

The Chambers and Conway (1992) definition of *livelihood*, namely “the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required in order to earn a living”, was adopted in this study.

Small-scale business means an income generation activity that requires a small amount of capital to establish. As Kirsten and van Zyl (1998) argue, usually this type of business employs a small number of workers or in most cases, is personally handled by the owner.

For the purpose of this study, *street foods* refer to ready to eat foods and beverages prepared and/or sold by vendors and hawkers, especially in streets and similar places for immediate or later consumption without any further processing or preparation (FAO, 1989). In line with this argument, *small-scale (street) vendors* are people who prepare and/or sell ready-to-eat foods and drinks in street and public places within Thohoyandou.

1.7 Outline of the Dissertation

Chapter 1 has presented the background to the study. Also included in the chapter are the statement of the research problem, justification of the study, objectives, research questions, and definitions of key terms and concepts.

In Chapter 2, the informal sector and small-scale food vending, in terms of its definition, situation in South Africa, policy environment, role in the economy as well as nutritional and microbiological aspects of street foods are reviewed. Moreover, space is devoted to explain the strategies, structure and composition of rural livelihoods. A summary of the major issues distilled by the review is presented at the end of the Chapter. Immediately following the review of literature on small-scale food vending is Chapter 3. This chapter describes the research methodology, study area, design, population, sampling procedure, data collection methods and techniques, data analysis and ethical considerations.

In Chapter 4, the results of the study are presented. The results are then explained in Chapter 5. Chapter 5 also covers the major conclusions and recommendations for research, policy and development practice. All the references used to develop this dissertation are presented in full after Chapter 5. Appendices occupy the last part of the dissertation.

CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to present a review of the secondary data related to small-scale food vending. As alluded to in Chapter 1, throughout the world, small-scale food vending is growing at a fast rate in both urban and rural areas. In this Chapter, available knowledge on this subject is interrogated with the aim of establishing how small-scale food vending contributes to the livelihoods of those practicing it in rural areas. In an effort to address this issue various sources of literature were used. The main aspects covered in this chapter include definition of informal sector, description of the informal sector in South Africa and South African government policy on small-scale vending. Also included in this chapter are the role of small-scale food vending in the economy, nutritional aspects of small-scale foods, microbiological quality of small-scale vended foods, role of women in small-scale food vending and challenges faced in small-scale food vending. Literature on the structure and composition of livelihood strategies is also reviewed.

2.2 Definition of Informal Sector

Castells and Portes (1989:12) define informal work as “a process of income generation characterized by one central feature: it is unregulated by the institutions of society, in a legal and social environment in which similar activities are regulated”. On the other hand, Statistic South Africa (STATSA) (2003) regards the informal sector as unregistered business, run from homes, street pavements or other informal arrangements. Tickamyer and Wood (2003) reveal that informal activity is defined by what it is not: it is not part of the formal economy; it is not regulated; it is not counted in official statistics and national accounting schemes. Blaauw (2005) expands the argument about the informal sector and defines it as unorganized, unregulated and mostly legal but unregistered economic activities that are individually or family owned and uses simple labour-intensive technology.

Based on the definitions presented above, the following key features of the informal sector seem to prevail: participation in the informal sector is permanent, and people do not traverse

between the formal and informal sectors. The activities of the informal sector are highly survivalist in nature. This means that people involved in the sector are unable to find a job or to get into the economic sector of their choice. The people generate income which usually falls short of a minimum income standard. They invest little capital and often do not have skills in the particular field. The business does not grow into a viable business. Apart from this, the sector involves long working hours, low levels of income, lack social security and employ inadequate safety measures, all of which economically marginalize its participants. Although it generates income, it cannot sufficiently reduce poverty and address the associated low standards of living. In addition, Table 2.1 presents the attributes of the informal business sector as identified by Muzaffar, Huq and Mallik (1998).

2.3 The Growth of the Informal Sector

Most unemployed people are engaged in self-employment activities in the informal sector due to high levels of poverty and joblessness. The informal sector offers a second best alternative to formal sector employment. Muller (2003) asserted that individuals, particularly Africans in most cases, who were unable to secure employment in the formal sector were forced to resort to informal means of employment in order to lead an existence of survival in one of a range of low income marginal informal sector activities. Lalthapersad-Pillay (2004) reported that informal sector employment accounted for 50-75 % of non-agricultural employment in developing countries. Earlier, Charmes (2000) had reported that the informal sector contributed 57 % of non-agricultural employment in Latin America; 78 % in Africa and 45- 85 % in Asia. In South Africa, STATSA (2002) revealed that there were 1.8 million people in the country's informal sector. Also, it is worth pointing that the growth of the informal sector was tied to the state of the formal labour market in South Africa. South African labour market witnessed high levels of unemployment in the post-apartheid era as a result of the restructuring of the public sector and poor economic growth rates (STATSA, 2002). There were considerable job losses during the period 1994-1998 when about 284, 840 people lost their jobs in the formal labour market (Bhorat, 2002). The latter author further revealed that many African women were seriously affected as 140 000 females lost their jobs in the service sector, where they were mostly employed. As already allude above, most people created themselves employment opportunities in the informal sector particularly in small-scale food vending (Tamberkar *et al.*, 2011).

Table 2.1: Attributes of informal business sector

Market Structure	Characteristics of the informal sector business
Output market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) No barriers to entry; b) Competitive firms; and c) Non-standard, unregistered products.
Factor market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Easy access; b) Competitive; c) No compliance to labour legislation; and d) No access to credit, self-finance bodies.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Adapted traditional technology; b) Relatively labour intensive; c) Domestic inputs; and d) May not need formal education.
Industrial organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Small, unincorporated; b) Unregistered/unregulated; c) Not counted in official statistics and national accounting schemes; d) Small-scale operation; e) Non-remunerated family works; f) Seasonal part time occupation; g) Generalized tax evasion; and h) Unlimited risks.

Source: Adapted from Muzaffar, Huq, and Mallik (2009:86)

2.4 Definition of Small-scale (street) Foods

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), (1989) of the United Nations (UN) defined small-scale foods as the ready to eat foods and beverages prepared and/or sold by vendors and hawkers especially in streets and other public places. The distinguishing characteristics of small-scale food are that they are sold on the street; prepared in small-scale factories and brought to the street food stall for sale or that they are prepared at the home of the vendor (Martins, 2006). Globally, small-scale food vending is a common activity whereby people earn a living by selling various goods and services on the street (Lalthapersad-Pillay, 2004). Women are mainly involved in small-scale vending. According to the Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), (2001) small-scale vending is sometimes the only occupational option for many poor people. In South Africa, small-scale food vending differs from that in other African countries, especially in terms of the goods traded (Lund, 1998). Most vendors in South Africa sell fresh produce, clothing and cosmetics. Furthermore, the majority of vendors sell goods they do not produce. A study conducted in the Durban Metropolitan Area (Lalthapersad-Pillay, 2004) revealed that only 3 % of women were selling goods or food they produced themselves. The study revealed that only limited range of goods in particular fruits and vegetables or meats and poultry was sold. A similar trend was observed in an earlier Community Agency for Social Enquiry (CASE), (1995) study. In the latter study, the most common goods sold were observed to be: food, fruits and vegetables and clothing. Similar results were also found in a survey on informal sector development conducted in Thohoyandou (Thulamela Municipality, 2010). The large number of people involved in small-scale vending is indicative of the importance of this activity in the local economy and sustaining livelihoods of local households.

2.5 Small-scale Vending in South Africa

Small-scale vendors are the most visible part of the informal economy. Some vendors earn well and some earn little money which assists them and their families to survive. The International Labour Organization (ILO) (2004) revealed that there were about half a million small-scale vendors in the year 2000 in South Africa. The ILO further indicated that in Durban Metropolitan Area there were 20 000 vendors. Furthermore in central business district of Johannesburg there were between 3000 and 7000. In addition, ILO (2004) also noted that there were between 12 000 and 15 000 in Greater Johannesburg. More than 70 % of all small-scale vendors in the

country sell food. A survey conducted in Thohoyandou revealed that there were 1133 vendors (Thulamela Municipality, 2010). Most of the small-scale vendors are the main breadwinners for their families with no other people earning money in their households.

2.2 South Africa's Government Policy on Small-scale Vending

The number of small-scale traders has been growing rapidly in South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994. According to ILO (2004), the number has increased for two main reasons. Firstly, the new government is less repressive, and does not prevent small-scale vending in the same way as the apartheid government. Secondly, the shortage of formal job opportunities has forced people to try to earn money through small-scale vending. Dardano (2002) also argued that easy accessibility, variety in taste, low cost, fresh and nutritious as well as support system for the under-privileged rural and urban population are the major reasons why street food vending is gaining popularity. In addition, food vending is often seen as a relatively quick and easy avenue to raise funds to assist with education, medical expenses and to supplement family income (Dardano, 2002). Many temporarily unemployed persons resort to street vending in order to maintain their standard of living. The significant role of street food is to offer employment, activating market economy of the countries and enriching food supply to communities and government workers (Dardano, 2002). Further, street food supply convenient food to pupils and students in all the surrounding communities.

Martins (2006) regarded those who manufacture and/or sell street foods as small-scale operators or micro-entrepreneurs who form part of the so-called informal sector. This is different from the formal sector food industry in a number of ways. Many people in the developing countries have taken up a range of self-employed, small-scale, income-generating activities, both legitimate and illegitimate, which form the informal sector. According to Bhowmik (2005), there are three main categories of street food vendors namely 'mobile' vendors, 'semi-mobile' vendors who may be stationary or move from one site to another and 'stationary' vendors who sell their food at the same site every day. Most small-scale food enterprises are made up of a single person or are household-based, with family members helping to make or sell the products. Some vendors also employ paid assistants. Foods that are sold in the street include: noodles or rice based meals, fried snacks, cakes and pastries, soups, maize-meal porridge, drinks, fruits, vegetables, poultry, beef, sea foods, eggs, cereals. These add variety in the diet and enable the customers to meet their recommended daily allowances (RDA). Various

methods of preparation are employed to cater for personal preferences such as frying, roasting, baking, boiling and steaming as well as serving raw products.

2.6 South Africa's Government Policy on Small-scale Vending

Prior 1994, apartheid government did not allow people to live and work in urban areas unless they were working in the White-owned factories, mines, offices and homes (ILO, 2004). The then local government passed bylaws which made it difficult for small-scale vendors to operate. For example, "Move On" law required vendors to move their position every half hour (ILO, 2004). In 1980s more Africans migrated to urban areas and the government could no longer control this movement like it used to do. The government began to relax the laws on small-scale vending. In 1991, the national government passed the Business Act which recognized small-scale vendors as business people (ILO, 2004). License was no longer a prerequisite for one to enter into small-scale vending. However, in 1993 the local government amended the Business Act. The local government was given more power to limit street trading. Municipalities made the bylaws and regulations about where and how the small-scale vending must happen. In 1995, the national government published a White Paper on small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) (ILO, 2004). The White Paper spoke about the "survivalist" business people but could not suggest strategies in which the government could assist the survivalists. The constitution of South Africa says that the local government is responsible for local economic development. Therefore, most municipalities have paid more attention to small-scale vending than to other segments of the informal economy.

2.7 Small-scale Food Customers

Customers from various strata benefit from small-scale food vending. Small-scale foods account for an important part of the expenditure of the poor. The World Health Organization (WHO), (2006) revealed that almost 40 % of the total food budget goes to purchasing small-scale foods in the lowest expenditure quantile. People from both low income and higher income groups represent a significant percentage of regular small-scale food customers. A study conducted in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, revealed that 38 % of the small-scale food customers were from the low-income groups while 62 % of them came from affluent segments of the population (Codjia, 2000). The author further revealed that "White collar" workers represent 14 to 43 % of the consumers while "labourer" represented 7 to 48 % of consumers depending on

the location. In addition, Cohen (1986) indicated that, urban households spend 15 to 50 % of their food budget on small-scale food in Africa and Asia. The study conducted in South Africa on “Improving Street Foods in South Africa” showed that customers of street food vendors were generally male (88 %) and came from all walks of life (Martins and Anelich, 2000). Children constitute an important segment of small-scale food consumers. Food vendors frequently establish themselves near schools so that they are readily accessible to the students. According to Codjia (2000), students in Ziguichor, Senegal represent 35 % of small-scale food consumers. The author further indicated that 96 % of the elementary school children in Nigeria, bought breakfast from food vendors. In addition, WHO (2006) revealed that more than 90 % of school children in Benin were regularly given pocket money by parents. The money was mainly used for buying food from vendors inside or near their schools.

2.8 The Role of Small-scale Food Vending in the Economy

Small-scale food trade is vital for the economic planning and development of many towns. For example, in Indonesian, Bongo annual sales of small-scale foods amount to US\$67 million (Cohen, 1986); in Malasia the annual food sale was US\$2.2 billion (Allain, 1988). Small-scale food vending plays an important economic role in Africa in terms of employment potential. For example, 2003 census of street vendors in Harare, Zimbabwe showed that about 8631 people were involved in the business of street food vending (Mwangi, 2005). Most of these vendors employ others to assist with the business. A similar census conducted in Lusaka, Zambia in 2003 recorded 5355 food vendors with further 16 000 people employed by the business owners. The WHO (2006) also revealed that, in Accra, Ghana annual turnover was over US\$ 100 million, with annual profits of US\$ 24 million.

2.10 Microbiological Quality of Small-scale Vended Foods

The research conducted in South Africa on the economic impact of small-scale food vending revealed that small-scale food vending in South Africa contributes greatly to the economy (Martin and Anelich, 2000). The latter authors revealed that in 1994 an estimated 44.7 million Rand was spent on street food outlets in the Gauteng Province, while in the Western Cape over 8 million Rand was spent. In addition, in 1998 over 18 million Rand was spent on street-vended foods in Durban metropolitan area (Martin and Anelich, 2000). In 1999 private households in South Africa spent about 4.3 million Rand on food bought for consumption away from home and more than 47 % of that amount was spent on meals and snacks bought from hotels, restaurants

and street vendors (Chakravarty, 2001). Therefore the government has a responsibility to ensure that food sold on the streets or any other public places are safe and are of high quality.

2.9 Nutritional Impact of Small-scale Vended Foods

Small-scale foods have significant nutritional implications for consumers. They provide a source of readily available inexpensive and nutritious meals (von Holly and Makhoane, 2006). A study conducted by Codjia (2000) in Bangkok revealed that street foods contributed up to 80 % of the energy, protein, fat and iron intake of 4-6 years old children. Codjia (2000) further indicated that on average, 40 % of total energy intake, 37 % of protein intake as well as 40 % of iron intake originated from street foods. The choice of small-scale food by the consumers is influenced by the factors such as cost, convenience, type of food available, the individual taste and the organoleptic qualities of food (smell, texture, colour, appearance and taste). The nutritional value of small-scale foods depends on the ingredients used as well as how they are prepared, stored and sold. Therefore, use of appropriate technologies to preserve nutrients is highly recommended. Small-scale food vendors should provide variety of foods for the consumers to provide them with adequate opportunity to meet their nutritional requirements at a reasonable price. In contrast to these potential benefits, it is also recognized that small-scale food vendors are often poor and uneducated and lack appreciation for safe food handling (WHO, 1996). As a result, street foods are perceived as the major risk for public. Therefore, for the community to have the full benefits of street-vended foods government intervention is required to ensure that the standard of safety for such foods is the best attainable in the context of the prevailing local situation (WHO, 1996).

2.10 Microbiological Quality of Small-scale Vended Foods

Until the late 1990s there was limited scientific data on microbiological quality and safety of small-scale vended food especially in South Africa. As a result, it was generally perceived that food produced and sold on the street in an informal setting was not safe. Studies which looked at the microbiological safety of ready-to-eat street vended foods were conducted (Mosupye and von Holy, 1999; Mosupye and von Holy, 2000). These studies revealed that the production of relatively safe street-vended foods, with low bacterial counts, was possible even under improper hygiene conditions and lack of basic sanitary facilities. However, several studies on the similar issue elsewhere have reported high levels of microbiological contamination and presence of

pathogenic bacteria such as *Salmonella spp.*, *Staphylococcus arias*, *Clostridium Perfingins* or *Vibrio cholera* (Codjia, 2000). For instance, a study “to evaluate the role of street food vendors in the transmission of diarrhoeal pathogens” in Ghana revealed that 38 % of the vendors harboured at least one enteric bacteria (Tomlins, 2000). The study further indicated that, in about 35 % of the vending sites, food was exposed to flies.

Factors that contribute to the outbreak of foodborne diseases amongst others are humans, failure to cook food thoroughly, rodents and flies, cross contamination of cooked food from raw foods, adulterants as well as the presence of environmental contaminants (Codjia, 2000; Kidiku, 2001; WHO, 2006). Prevention of foodborne diseases can be achieved through food hygiene practices. Food hygiene is necessary to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of food at all stages from growth, production or manufacture until the final consumption of food (Kidiku, 2001). The following are the food hygiene requirements which must be observed:

- a) Food must be obtainable from an approved source particularly products of animal origin;
- b) Food must be stored in appropriate containers and at the right temperatures before and after preparation; and
- c) Proper hygiene practices which entail amongst others use of clean utensils; avoid placing fingers in the hair, smoking, coughing or sneezing while handling or preparing food (Kidiku, 2001).

The Department of Health (2000) noted that food vendors must also practice good personal hygiene to protect their own health as well as the health of their customers. Kidiku (2001) further indicated that food vendors should also be aware of environmental hygiene practices. Clean environmental hygiene practices require amongst others:

- a) Potable water supply;
- b) Accessibility to toilet facilities;
- c) Waste water disposal facility;
- d) Refuse storage and regular removal;
- e) good housekeeping to prevent fly and other insect breeding and rodent infestation; and

f) Lockable storage facilities for equipment and utensils.

2.11 Participation of Women in Small-scale Food Vending

Small-scale food vending has become an inherent part of urban informal sector and it is mainly African women that operate as street traders. This is due to the fact that majority of them have lowest activity rates, are the least likely to be employed in formal employment and have lower levels of formal education and skills. Throughout the world, participation of women in the small-scale food vending is high (FAO, 1997). The latter author revealed that 59 % of women were involved in small-scale food vending in Colombia. The FAO further indicated that in Peru, 64 % of women were involved in small-scale food vending. Other studies in Africa also noted a predominance of women vendors (FAO and Food Basket Foundation International (FBI) 1990; Nasinyama, 1992; Korir 1994). Furthermore, a study in Burkina Faso identified women to be predominately representing 75 % of the vendors (Barro, Bello, Savadogo, Quattara, Ilboud, and Traore, 2002). In Senegal women represent 63 % of small-scale food vendors (WHO, 2006). A study conducted in South Africa also revealed that 91 % of women were involved in street vending (Martins and Anelich, 2000). From the evidence revealed above, it is clear that, small-scale food vending can be regarded as a significant income-generating strategy for women in urban and rural context. Moreover, it gives a measure of economic independence to women who have many significant positive social implications.

2.12 Challenges faced in Small-scale Food Vending

Small-scale food vendors face various challenges on their day-to-day operation. Street foods businesses involve huge amounts of capital and yet millions of people are often not given official recognition they deserve (Winarno and Allain, 1991). In many countries the vendors are considered as impediments to urban planning and hazards to public health due to the fact that they are not systematically coordinated (Mosupye and von Holy, 2000; Martins and Anelich, 2000). Street food vendors received negative attitudes from government officials in many countries (Winarno and Allain 1991). Usually, the officials are concerned about poor hygiene and spread of diseases due to the lack of access to collective sanitation facilities such as toilets, water taps and waste disposal systems. Winarno and Allain (1991) revealed that small-scale food businesses are a hindrance to the modernization of the traditional food distribution system because they compete with licensed eating establishments that have considerable high

operating cost. They further argue that small-scale food businesses may obstruct traffic in the centres of increasingly congested cities. Due to this reason some governments attempted to remove vendors from certain sections of a city, usually without a success.

A study conducted by Draper (1996) in Bogor revealed the following challenges that are faced by vendors amongst others: lack of capital; less access to formal credit facilities; lack of management skills as well as lack of ethical behavior. The WHO (1996) pointed that small-scale foods may pose significant public health problems. This is due to lack of basic infrastructure and services, such as potable water supplies. The latter author further indicated that, it is difficult to control the large numbers of street food vending operations because of their diversity, mobility and temporary nature. There are insufficient resources for inspection and laboratory analysis. Generally, vendors lack factual knowledge about the microbiological status or the precise epidemiological significance of many street-vended foods (WHO, 1996). Above all, vendors have poor knowledge of basic food safety measures and inadequate public awareness of hazards posed by certain street foods (WHO, 1996). All the challenges alluded above, therefore, make the vendors to lose interest in their endeavour to invest in their businesses.

2.13 Understanding Rural Livelihoods

Strategies with livelihoods perspective on poor rural people's situations have gained increasing popularity since the early 1990's. Livelihood strategies refer to the range and combination of activities that people undertake in order to achieve their livelihood objectives (Timmermans, 2004). Timmermans further noted that the livelihood options that are available to people are influenced by many factors such as the vulnerability context, the extent of livelihood assets and the nature of transforming structures and processes. The concept of livelihood strategy has become central to development practice in recent years. However, livelihood can be confined relatively to the parameters of production, employment and income to the household (Lipton *et al.*, 1996), or take a more holistic view which unites the concepts of economic development, reduced vulnerability, and environmental sustainability, whilst building on the strengths of the rural poor (Chambers and Conway, 1992; Titi and Singh, 1994; Kepe, 1997; Carney, 1999). Lipton *et al.*, (1996) defined livelihood as a 200 day working year, sufficient to produce enough income to keep a worker. Lipton *et al.*, (1996) further recognizes livelihood as more complex than a job and that it may consist of several part-time occupations, for one or more household members, derived from a variety of sources including farming, rural non-farm work and seasonal

migration to urban centres. On the other hand, Chambers and Conway (1992:7) defined “livelihood as comprising the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living”. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resources base. Carney (1999) identified five different types of assets upon which individuals and households draw up to build their livelihood (Table: 2.2).

2.14 Structure and Composition of Rural Livelihoods

People living in poor households are engaged in a wide range of activities in order to generate a livelihood which they are able to achieve food security among others (Maxwell and Smith, 1992; Lipton *et al.*, 1996). Some of these activities may involve an exchange process whereby services are performed or goods are produced (May, 2000). These goods may be exchanged for a cash income or for recipient goods and services. Literature further revealed that other livelihood options may include the consumption of self-produced goods, or items obtained through foraging/hunting and gathering. Some activities are based upon a transfer of income or resources. Lawrence and Singh (1997) indicated that the asset base of the poor counters vulnerability to poverty and the management of their complex assets portfolio represent a way in which sustainable livelihoods could be generated.

May (2000) has also identified other livelihood strategies from which rural households in South Africa are able to generate income. These include agriculture from which people produce products for own consumption or for sale; Small and micro enterprise activities such as hawking and petty commodity production such as making of clothes and handicrafts. Also included are niche markets in the service sector such as child-minding, money lending and contract agricultural services, wage labour, including migrant labourers, farm workers and commuter labourers. The South African government has further initiated the social grant system which has a high coverage amongst the elderly in rural areas (Hajdu, 2006). Another form of government grant is the disability grant, given to the people with disability. People in the villages can also apply for child grant. Claiming these rights from the state in the form of pensions and disability grants has been shown to be of critical importance to household incomes (Ardington and Lund, 1995).

Table 2.2: Description of livelihood assets

Livelihood capital	Description
Human capital	The skills, knowledge, ability to labour and good health important to the ability to pursue different livelihood strategies
Physical capital	The basic infrastructure (transport, shelter, water, energy and communications) and the production equipment and the means that enable people to pursue livelihoods;
Social capital	The social resources (networks, membership of groups, relationships of trust, access to wider institutions of society) upon which people draw in pursuit of livelihoods
Financial capital	The financial resources which are available to people (whether savings, supplies of credit or regular remittances or pensions) which provide them with different livelihood options; and
Natural capital	The natural resources stocks from which resources flow useful for livelihoods are derived (e.g. land, water, wildlife, biodiversity, environmental resources).

Source: Modified from Carney, 1999

Migration for employment is and remains a significant aspect of many rural people's lives although this process has led to high levels of poverty in rural areas (Oberhauser, 1998). Usually, women are left to maintain households and oversee agricultural production in the rural areas. The prevalence of female-headed households in rural areas affects household and community livelihood strategies (Oberhauser, 1998). Rural households rely upon a share of migrant's income in the form of remittance. Claiming of the remittance is viewed as an important livelihood strategy. Table 2.3 presents the importance of different income generating activities for African rural households. The Table clearly indicates that 39 % of all households made claims against the non-resident (migrant) household members; 37 % of the households were employed in the secondary labour market and 36 % of the households were engaged in agricultural production. Remittances from migrant labour are not reliable and are frequently controlled by the males. Therefore, rural women are often engaged in informal activities such as crafting and street vending to improve their livelihood Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit 1993).

2.15 Summary of Review of Literature

The review of literature highlighted the important contribution that the small-scale food vending made to the vendors, customers and government in particular. Small-scale food vending was seen as a significant vehicle that offers employment, enriching food supply to communities and government workers while contributing to the economy of the country. The literature also revealed that women participation in food vending is high compared to their male counterparts. The reasons for this was said to be that majority of women have lowest activity rates, are the least likely to be employed in formal employment and have lower levels of formal education and skills. By being involved in small-scale businesses, people are in a way responding to the government's call for the people to create their own jobs to become economically viable. Therefore, this study sought to assess the contribution that the small-scale food vending make to rural livelihoods by obtaining the views of those involved in it in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province in South Africa.

Table 2.3: Income generated and claiming systems in South Africa

Activity	% Households engaged in activity	Rand earned per month (households engaged in activity)	Mean	Median
Claims against household members	39.0	267	267	200
Wage labour in the secondary labour market	37.4	582	582	500
Agricultural production (sold and consumed)	34.6	91	91	31
Claims against the state	32.4	396	396	320
Wage labour in the primary labour market	22.1	1445	1445	1132
Small and micro-enterprises	10.4	392	392	200

Source: Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit, 1993

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The study was designed to explore the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province in South Africa. In this Chapter, a comprehensive description of the research methodology is provided. Research methodology refers to a study process in all its broadness and complexity; the various methods and techniques that are often used; influence of the methodological preferences on the types of data analysis adopted and subsequent interpretation of the findings (Mouton and Marais, 1994). The following components of the research methodology are presented: description of the study area, research design, population and sampling, data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations.

3.2 Description of the Study Area

The study was conducted in Thulamela Municipality of Vhembe District in Limpopo Province of South Africa (Figure 3.1). Thulamela Municipality is one of the four local municipalities that make up Vhembe District Municipality. It is the eastern-most local Municipality in the District. The Kruger National Park forms the boundary in the east, while sharing the borders with Mutale Municipality in the north east; Greater Giyani Municipality in the south and Makhado Municipality in the west.

Thulamela Municipality was established in the year 2000, in terms of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act 177 of 1998 (Thulamela Municipality, 2008). Currently, there are 40 wards in the Municipality. The Municipality covers vast tracts of land in rural areas, which are mainly under the leadership of traditional leaders. Thohoyandou is its political, administrative and commercial centre. The Municipality covers an area of 2 966, 411 970 km² and is home to approximately 537 450 people, which are estimated to be respectively 14 % and 50 % of the total area and population of Vhembe District Municipality (Thulamela Municipality, 2008).

Vhavenda and Shangaan people are the dominant inhabitants of the Municipality. According to Statistics South Africa (STATSA, 2001), the average growth rate between the years 2001-2010 was 1 %. This is slightly above the anticipated provincial average population growth rate of 0.96 %. Approximately, 55% of the people in Thulamela Municipality were said to be female (STATSA, 2001). A large portion of Thulamela Local Municipality's 200 427 people (37 %) was reported to be in the economically active age group of 20-60 years. Informal street trading was one of the most popular business ventures in the Municipality. Fruit and vegetable sellers constituted the largest proportion of informal traders, followed by clothing retailers and small-scale food vendors, respectively (Thulamela Municipality, 2010). Other activities were glazing, car washing, fashion jewellery, dry foods, street nurseries and radio repairs.

3.3 Research Design

This case study was exploratory and to a limited extent evaluative, implying that a mixed methods design was used. This study sought to fill gaps in information and knowledge relating to the socio-economic features of small-scale food vending. Thus, it was exploratory and descriptive. Also, quantitative research was carried out using closed-ended questions. In Figure 3.2 and Table 3.1, the summary of the research process is presented.

3.4 Population and Sampling Procedure

Population refers to a group of people with a shared interest or a particular population that the researcher would like to study and be able to generalize the results (Bless and Higson-Smith, 2000). In this study, purposive sampling was adopted to investigate small-scale food vending. This was done in order to obtain the opinions of the target population. The study population included small-scale food vendors in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province in South Africa. One hundred and twenty-six (126) small-scale food vendors were drawn from informal trading areas within Thohoyandou. The vendors operated around the Venda Plaza, at the commuters' bus rank, Mvusuludzo taxi rank, the passage running along the Kentucky Foods Company (KFC) to Eskom and the Eskom taxi rank.

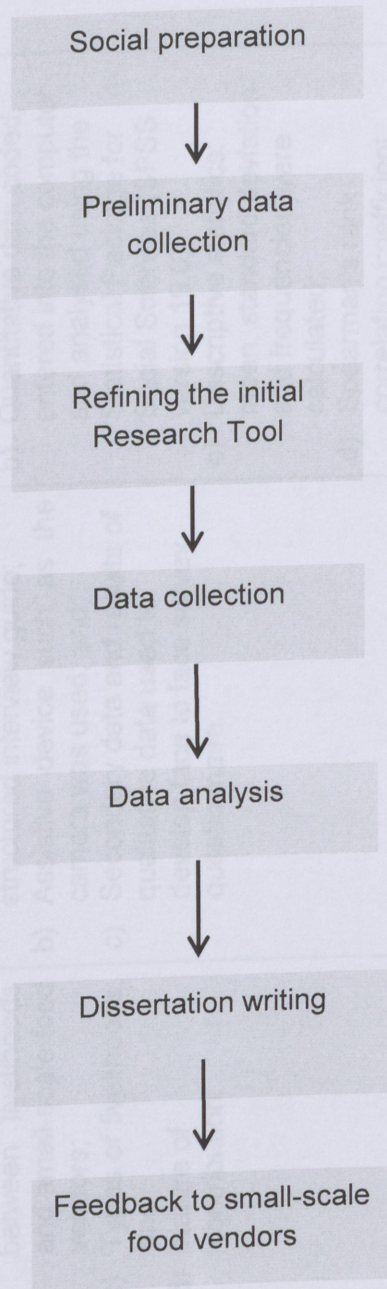


Figure 3.2: Step by step approach used to plan and carry out the study on the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province

Table 3.1: Research questions, Data collection and Data analysis

Research Questions	Data collected	How was data collected?	Data analysis
1) What is the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Biographical information; b) Relationship between livelihoods and small-scale food vendors; c) Types of livelihoods; and d) Nature of contribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>Qualitative data</i>: Key informant interviews and focus group discussions using semi-structured interview guide; b) Assistive device such as the camera was used; and; c) Secondary data and results of qualitative data used to develop face to face survey questionnaire. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Qualitative data organized into distinct themes through content analysis; b) Quantitative data coded, entered into the computer and analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 19.0); c) Descriptive statistics: mean, standard deviation and frequencies were calculated; d) Spearman's rank correlation coefficient analysis conducted.
2) What challenges do small-scale food vendors face?	Biographical information; and Perceived challenges	As in question 1	As in question 1 with the exception of d.
3) What strategies can be used to address the challenges that small-scale food vendors face?	Biographical information; and perceived strategies for addressing the challenges food vendors faced.	As in question 1	As in question 1 with the exception of d.

3.5 Data Collection Methods and Techniques

Both primary and secondary data were collected. Secondary data on small-scale food vending were obtained from various sources including journals, books, occasional publications, government documents and reports as well as credible sources on the internet. Primary data, which were both qualitative and quantitative, were collected. For the qualitative research, data were collected through key informants interviews and focus group discussions. Key informant interviews were conducted with the following stakeholders: Thulamela Local Economic Development (LED) manager, Local Economic Development (LED) officer and Limpopo Economic Development Environment and Tourism (LEDET) manager. The key informant interviews preceded focus group discussions. The focus groups were constituted as follows: 10 members of the Hawkers' Association Committee and two focus groups each with seven small-scale food vendors. The following set of questions was used to guide the focus group discussions as well as key informant interviews:

- a) What are rural livelihoods?
- b) What is small-scale food vending?
- c) What does small-scale food vending contribute towards the livelihoods of street food vendors?
- d) What challenges do small-scale food vendors face?
- e) What can be done in order to solve the challenges that the small-scale food vendors face?

The principal researcher led the data collection through focus group discussions and was supported by five research assistants, all of whom were university students. They were recruited and trained to administer the data collection tools. During the training, the principal researcher orientated the assistants on the objectives of the study and also their specific roles. In addition, each question in the data collection tool was explained, including the rationale for its inclusion. The training helped the research assistants to become familiar with the techniques of data collection.

The data were imported into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19.0. Members of each focus group wrote their perceptions on flipcharts using markers whenever there was consensus on any issue they discussed. The perceptions of key informant interviews

were also written on flip charts. All the flip charts were labelled correctly showing each group identification details and composition. The research assistants collected the flipcharts and stored them for further processing of the qualitative data. Qualitative data obtained through the focus group discussions and key informant interviews were translated into English since some of the participants responded in Tshivenda. The results were further summarized, tabulated and organized into subthemes. Consolidated data were used to give feedback to the respondents, namely Hawkers' Association Committee and food vendors who were organized in focus groups. This was desirable as confirmation and priority ranking were important in building a clearer understanding of the perceptions of the food vendors.

The data obtained through the confirmatory focus group discussions were used to construct a face-to-face interview questionnaire (Appendix A). In the questionnaire were mainly closed-ended questions that required responses on a 5-point Likert-type scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The following variables were included in the small-scale food vendors' questionnaire: demographic information, general business information, features of small-scale food vending, the meaning of rural livelihoods, contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods, challenges faced and suggested solutions to the challenges that small-scale food vendors faced. As already reported above, the questionnaire was administered to 126 randomly selected small-scale food vendors. One hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires had been prepared and ear-marked for completion, implying that 84 % of the sampled small-scale food vendors were interviewed. It took at most 45 minutes to administer each questionnaire to each respondent.

3.6 Data Analysis

The quantitative data obtained through administering the questionnaire was cleaned, coded and entered into the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Since the data were categorical and nominal, they were nonparametric. For example, in the case of sex, two options were given whereby the respondents were expected to indicate whether they were male or female.

The data were imported into the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 19.0, 2011 for analysis. First, descriptive analysis was carried out. This involved calculating the frequencies of occurrence of responses for each question. Thereafter, Spearman's rank test (r)

was used to determine the degree of correlation among variables relating to the contributions of small-scale vending to rural livelihoods. Means for scores for each of the perceived definitions of rural livelihoods, contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods, challenges small-scale food vendors faced and suggested solutions to the challenges that small-scale food vendors faced were calculated.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

Brynard and Hanekom (2006) define ethics as practice which is morally justifiable. In research, ethics relate to what is wrong and right when conducting scientific studies. According to MacMillan and Schumacher (1993), ethics dictate that researchers should minimise the risks to participants, colleagues and society while attempting to get the quality information required without compromising their health, dignity and life.

It is imperative to observe ethics when conducting research because this helps to protect the participants. In this study, informed consent and the right to participate were adhered to. Ethical clearance was sought from the University of Venda Ethics Committee (Appendix B). Permission to interview street food vendors was sought and granted by the Municipal Manager of Thulamela Municipality (Appendices C and D). Written consent of the street food vendors was sought, meaning that only those who volunteered to participate were engaged. Before using a camera, consent of the participants was secured. This was important in order to ensure that the participants were acquainted in advance with every aspect of the study. For this reason, the participants were assured that the information collected would be used for the sole purpose of this study. The participants were also assured that photographs taken during the interviews would be stored in a safe place. All of them were given the opportunity to ask questions and decide whether to participate or not.

It was anticipated that there might be difficulties in comprehending questions asked in English. Most of the street vendors were said to be not literate enough to engage in lasting conversations conducted in English. In order to minimize the possibility of either research assistants or respondents misinterpreting the meanings of the questions in the questionnaire, all the data collection tools were translated into Tshivenda, which was the language most commonly spoken in Thohoyandou.

CHAPTER 4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the findings of the study on the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province in South Africa are described. This includes the perceptions of small-scale food vendors on the contribution of vending to vendors' livelihoods; the challenges faced; and suggested strategies for addressing them.

4.2 Demographic Information

Out of the 126 food vendors who participated in this study, 92 % were females. Forty-one percent of the respondents were married, 38 % single, 11 % divorced and 8 % widowed. Most respondents (73 %) were 21-39 years old followed by 14 % who were aged 15-20 years. Slightly more than a tenth (12 %) of the small-scale food vendors was 40-59 years old. Seventy-one percent of them had attained secondary school education, with 18 % having completed primary schooling. Only 8 % of the vendors had tertiary education qualifications. The remaining 3 % of the vendors had never been to school. Less than half of the small-scale food vendors (44 %) indicated that there were 1-3 members in their families. This contrasted with about 33 % who reported that their families had 4-5 members. Less than a third (28 %) of the vendors were staying alone. Eight percent indicated that there were 6-9 members in their families. An almost insignificant number of small-scale food vendors (2 %) belonged to families with 10-12 members.

4.3 Definition of Small-scale Food Vending

As shown in Figure 4.1, 75 % of the respondents defined small-scale food vending as an informal small-scale survivalist business specializing in selling food to customers. A similar proportion (75 %) of the respondents defined small-scale food vending as self-employment business ventures. Also, 62 % agreed that small-scale food vending was applicable to any venture "when a person is involved in the business of selling food without paying tax". The least held view was that small-scale food vending meant "selling food along street sides but without any savings bank account" (40 %).

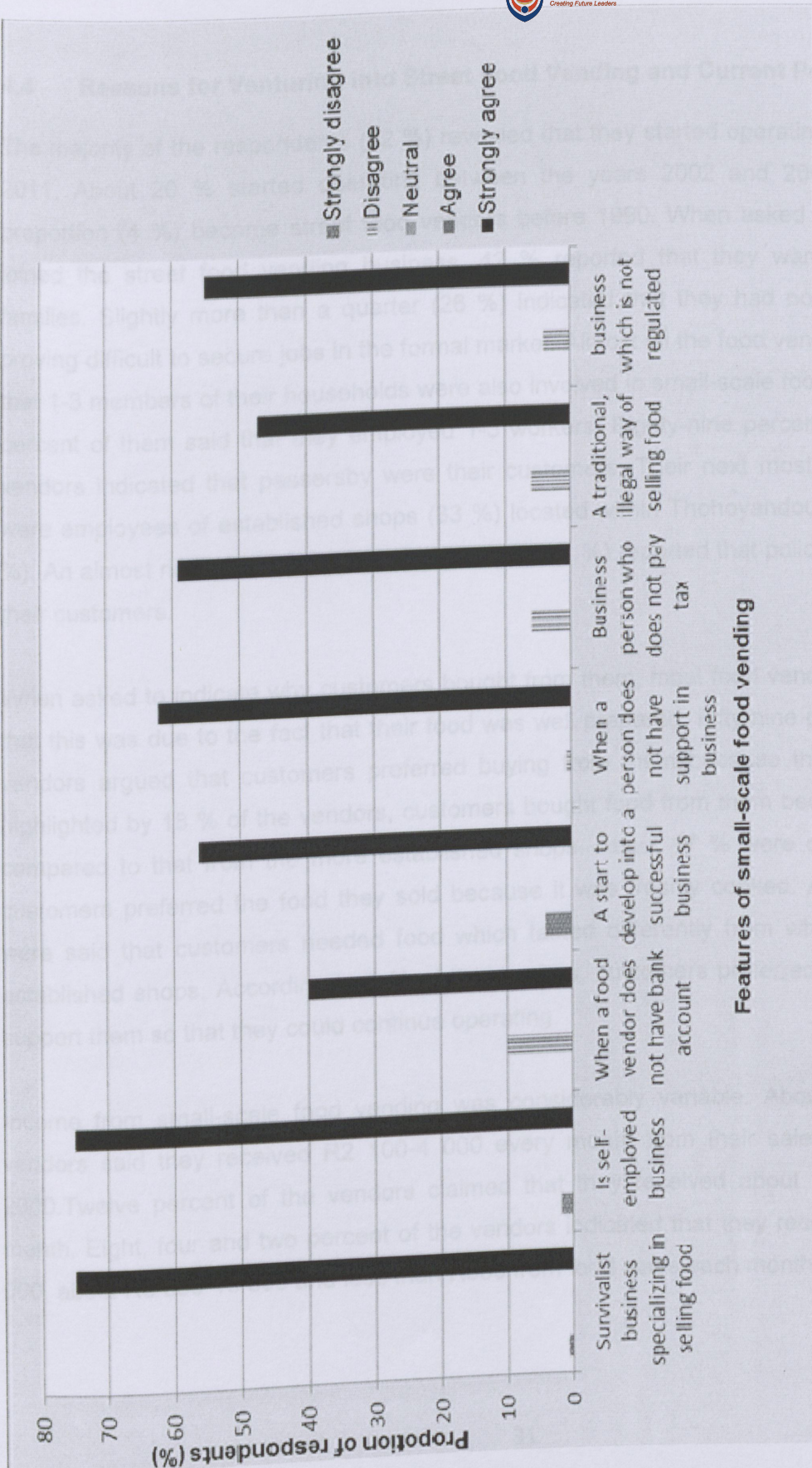


Figure 4.1: Features of small-scale food vending as perceived by vendors in Thohoyandou

4.4 Reasons for Venturing into Street Food Vending and Current Performance

The majority of the respondents (42 %) revealed that they started operating between 2007 and 2011. About 20 % started operating between the years 2002 and 2006. A much smaller proportion (4 %) became street food vendors before 1990. When asked to indicate why they joined the street food vending business, 42 % reported that they wanted to support their families. Slightly more than a quarter (26 %) indicated that they had no choice since it was proving difficult to secure jobs in the formal market. Almost all the food vendors (99 %) revealed that 1-3 members of their households were also involved in small-scale food vending. Forty-one percent of them said that they employed 1-3 workers. Eighty-nine percent (89 %) of the food vendors indicated that passersby were their customers. Their next most common customers were employees of established shops (33 %) located within Thohoyandou and taxi drivers (32 %). An almost negligible proportion of the vendors (1 %) reported that police/traffic officers were their customers.

When asked to indicate why customers bought from them, most food vendors (65 %) indicated that this was due to the fact that their food was well prepared. Fifty-nine percent (59 %) of the vendors argued that customers preferred buying from them because they were friendly. As highlighted by 18 % of the vendors, customers bought food from them because it was cheaper compared to that from the more established shops. About 17 % were of the view that their customers preferred the food they sold because it was freshly cooked. A few vendors (7 %) were said that customers needed food which tasted differently from what they bought from established shops. According to 5 % of the vendors, customers preferred their food merely to support them so that they could continue operating.

Income from small-scale food vending was considerably variable. About 41 % of the food vendors said they received R2 100-4 000 every month from their sales; and 17 %, R500-2000. Twelve percent of the vendors claimed that they received about R4 100-6 000 every month. Eight, four and two percent of the vendors indicated that they received more than R10 000, about R8 000-10 000 and less than R500 from food sales each month, respectively.

4.5 The Meaning of rural livelihoods

Table 4.1 presents the definitions of rural livelihoods as perceived by the small-scale food vendors. The definitions were loosely classified into employment and microfinance subthemes.

Employment

Most vendors (56 %) defined rural livelihoods as being involved in the supply of goods and services to the government and other stakeholders in order to make a living. An almost equal number of respondents (54 %) said rural livelihoods meant cooking and selling food to customers (street food vending). Involvement in construction work, specifically building other people's homes, constituted another form of rural livelihoods. Out of all the small-scale food vendors who participated in this study, 28 % perceived being employed as house maids as a crucial dimension of rural livelihoods.

Microfinance

Fifty-one percent (51 %) of the respondents classified being involved in stokvels and savings clubs as forms of rural livelihoods. Another recognized form of rural livelihoods was involvement in informal micro-lending (popularly known as "matshonise").

Small-scale food vendors were further requested to indicate the extent to which they agreed with the 17 definitions of rural livelihoods they identified. The mean score on a 5-point rating scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) was considered in ranking the perceptions (Table 4.1). Out of all the sources of livelihoods, "involvement in stokvels and savings clubs" ranked first. Out of the definitions included within the employment class, "cooking and selling food to customers" was regarded as the top most source of livelihoods. The other major dimensions of rural livelihoods were "supplying goods to government departments and other stakeholders"; "constructing other people's homes"; "selling goods in spaza shops" and "earning income through small-scale farming." The rest, although important, were regarded as minor.

Table 4.1: Ranked means for definitions of rural livelihoods in the Thohoyandou area of Limpopo Province in South Africa

Perceptions	Mean	Standard deviation	Ranking
Employment			
a) Cooking and selling food to customers (food vending)	4.10	1.264	1
b) Supplying goods to government departments and other stakeholders	4.00	1.351	2
c) Constructing other peoples' houses (building)	3.98	1.359	3
d) Selling goods in spaza shops	3.79	1.141	4
e) Earning income through small-scale farming	3.73	1.359	5
f) Brewing and selling indigenous food	3.58	1.422	6
g) Brick making (for sale)	3.53	1.500	7
h) Being employed as house maid	3.30	1.376	8
i) Selling air time	3.27	1.490	9
j) Selling clothes	3.14	1.490	10
k) Harvesting and selling fire wood	2.98	1.418	11
l) Selling pottery and crafts	2.73	1.488	12
m) Selling traditional brooms	2.67	1.470	13
n) Engaged in tourism at a minimal level	2.56	1.690	14
o) Selling paraffin	2,29	1.315	15
Microfinance			
a) Involvement in stokvels and clubs	4.17	1.064	1
b) Engagement in micro-finance (<i>matshonise</i>)	3.90	1.413	2

4.6 Contribution of Small-scale Food Vending to Rural Livelihoods

The perceived contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality could be categorized into the following subthemes: socio-economic development; family support, growth and development; and service provision. The most commonly identified contribution of small-scale food vending was said to be socio-economic development. Most of the street food vendors (83 %) reported that their businesses created jobs for themselves and others. A considerable proportion of the food vendors (81 %) also reported that they managed to raise rental fees to pay for storage facilities for their cooking equipment such as stoves, tables and chairs.

With respect to family support, growth and development, more than three-quarters (79 %) of the respondents indicated that money generated through the street food vending business was used to meet transport costs for travelling to and from work. About 76 % of the respondents pointed out that they used the money they generated to meet relatives' funeral expenses. Three-quarters (75 %) claimed that small-scale food vending improved food security in rural households. A similar proportion (75 %) of the respondents indicated that money generated from food vending was used to pay fees for education and training. Slightly more than two-thirds (71 %) of them strongly agreed that money generated through the food vending business was used to pay electricity bills. An equally large number (70 %) of the vendors claimed that the money they earned was used to buy clothes for their families. About 46 % indicated that the proceeds from the food vending business enabled them to purchase household furniture and related goods. Approximately, 40 % of the vendors reported out that their work contributed to the gross domestic product of the country. However, they did not elaborate how this was so.

Table 4.2 presents the ranked mean scores of the 12 perceptions regarding the contributions of street food vending to rural livelihoods. The top ranked contributions of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods were: "job creation for sellers and their workers", "improve food security in rural communities", "money received from small-scale food vending is used for transport to and from work", "money is used to pay rental fees", "meet funeral expenses", "pay electricity bills", "buy clothes for food vendors' families" and pay fees for education and training". Other contributions were regarded not so important.

Table 4.2: Ranked means for contributions of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods

Perceptions	Mean	Standard deviation	Ranking
a) Job creation for sellers and others	4.74	0.698	1
b) Improved food security in rural communities	4.66	0.671	2
c) Generate money for transport to and from work	4.65	0.823	3
d) Generate rental fees	4.63	0.909	4
e) Meet funeral expenses	4.57	0.950	5
f) Pay electricity bills	4.45	1.048	6
g) Buy clothes wear for vendors' families	4.45	1.009	7
h) Pay fees for education and training	4.38	1.258	8
i) Contribute to gross domestic product	3.47	1.608	9
j) Buy household furniture	3.43	1.736	10
k) Build own house	3.36	1.695	11
l) Pay water bills	3.25	1.806	12

All the coefficients of correlation between the pairs of the 12 variables shown in Table 4.2 were statistically significant except for the relationship between “pay for water bills” and each one of the following: “improve food security in rural communities”, “generate money for transport to and from work” and “generate money for use in construction of own houses” (Table 4.3). As shown in Table 4.3, the highest correlation relations were observed to be between “generate money for use in the construction of own houses and “buy household furniture” ($r = 0.71$; $P < 0.001$); “buy clothes wear for vendors’ families” and “Pay fees for education and training” ($r = 0.57$; $P < 0.01$); “buy household furniture” and “buy clothes wear for vendors’ families ($r = 0.56$; $P < 0.01$). The lowest correlations were found to be between “pay for water bills” and “Job creation for sellers and others” ($r = 0.18$; $P < 0.05$); “generate money for use in construction of own houses” and “improve food security in rural communities” ($r = 0.18$; $P < 0.05$); “generate rental fees” and “Generate money for use in construction of own houses” ($r = 0.19$; $P < 0.05$). Although the correlation between “pay for water bills” and “small-scale food vending contributes towards job creation of the sellers and their employees” ($r = 0.18$) was the lowest, still it was significant ($P < 0.05$).

4.7 Challenges Faced by Small-scale Food Vendors

The challenges that small-scale food vendors faced predominantly related to infrastructure, working conditions, legal and policy frameworks, and production. There were also financial and socio-economic challenges. Each one of these categories is described below.

4.7.1 Infrastructure and basic services

Most vendors complained about water shortage (81 %); absence of proper selling stalls (80 %); overcrowding or competition from other vendors over limited operational space (71 %); lack of storage facilities (68 %); poor access to sanitation facilities, viz. water and toilets (63 %). Table 4.4 presents the ranked mean scores of the 32 perceptions regarding the challenges that small-scale food vendors faced. The challenges relating to infrastructure and basic services were ranked in the following descending order of importance: “absence of proper selling stalls” and “shortage of water and overcrowding/competition over limited operational space”. The least ranked challenges under this category were: “no storage facilities” and “sanitation is difficult to reach”.

Table 4.3: Correlations between the perceptions of small-scale food vendors with respect to contributions of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12
C1	1.00											
C2	.21*	1.00										
C3	.40**	.34**	1.00									
C4	.29**	.24**	.41**	1.00								
C5	.27**	.22*	.35**	.51**	1.00							
C6	.21*	.24**	.36**	.40**	.41**	1.00						
C7	.33**	.37**	.44**	.57**	.45**	.43**	1.00					
C8	.23**	.29**	.28**	.54**	.27**	.36**	.56**	1.00				
C9	.33**	.30**	.42**	.48**	.31**	.42**	.54**	.41**	1.00			
C10	.21*	.32**	.18*	.46**	.21**	.28**	.48**	.71**	.46**	1.00		
C11	.18*	.22*	.15	.27**	.16	.18*	.29**	.16	.34**	.15	1.00	
C12	.25**	.24**	.48**	.39**	.37**	.40**	.40**	.24**	.41**	.19*	.25**	1.00

* = correlation is significant (P < 0.05), **= correlation is significant (P < 0.01)

Key: C1= Job creation of the sellers and others; C2= Contributes to gross domestic product; C3= Assist rural communities with food security; C4= Money received from food vending is used towards education of vendors' children; C5= Money is used for transport to and from work; C6= Money is used towards burial/funeral contribution; C7= Money is used to buy clothes for vendors' families; C8= Money is used to buy household furniture; C9= Pay for electricity bills; C10= Build own houses; C11= Pay for water bills; and C12= Pay rental fees

4.7.2 Working conditions

Eighty-six percent (86 %) of the respondents agreed that “food vendors experienced problems associated with harsh weather, especially during rainy and windy days”. Almost three-quarters (73 %) complained about harassment by municipal officials. A considerable proportion of them (56 %) claimed that “bad smell around the selling areas resulted in air pollution”. Sixty-eight (68 %) strongly disagreed that the “owners of established shops are concerned that food vendors obscured their businesses”. As shown in Table 4.4., the working conditions-related challenges that were ranked highest were: “food vendors experienced problems associated with harsh weather especially during rainy and windy days”, “owners of the established shops throw refusals on hawkers selling stalls” and “bad smell which resulted in air pollution”.

4.7.3 Legal and regulatory frameworks

The major challenge that the majority of the food vendors (84 %) raised was “municipal officials forbid food vendors from using open fires”. Coming a close second (82 %) was the fact that “the municipality does not issue and renew food vending licenses”. More than three quarters (77 %) of the vendors were concerned about municipal officials who always forcefully removed them from their business stalls. About 68 % of the food vendors complained about the conflict between municipal and hawking by-laws. Another major issue (58 % of vendors) was the absence of a regulatory authority on small-scale food vending. Similarly, 58 % of the vendors were worried about the owners of established shops who always complained that food vendors obscured their businesses. Another burning issue (51 % of vendors) was the dirt which established shops threw on vendors’ selling stalls. The challenges falling in this category that were ranked highly were: “municipality does not issue licenses for small-scale food vending”; “municipality forbids the use of open fires” and “forceful removal of food vendors by municipal officials” and “lack of recognition by municipality” (Table 4.4).

4.7.4 Production issues

Small-scale food vendors also encountered production-related challenges, with the most common (78 %) being the “hikes in inputs or ingredients affect profit”. About half of the food vendors (51 %) were of the view that “sometimes the food vending business is very low”.

Table 4.4: Ranked means for challenges small-scale food vendors faced

Perceptions	Mean	Standard deviation	Ranking
Infrastructure and basic services			
a) Absence of proper selling stalls	4.56	1.016	1
b) Shortage of water	4.52	1.108	2
c) Overcrowding/competition for limited operational space	4.41	1.119	3
d) Sanitation is difficult to reach (water and toilets)	4.30	1.213	4
e) No storage facilities	4.19	1.349	5
Working conditions			
a) Food vendors experienced problems during harsh weather conditions	4.72	0.786	1
b) Owners of established shops throw refusals on hawkers' selling stalls	4.28	1.354	2
c) Bad smells which results in air pollution	3.90	0.515	3
d) Harassment by drunkards	2.95	1.701	4
e) Hawkers disposes refuses in drainages resulting in blockages	2.87	1.638	5
f) Harassment by municipal officials	2.59	1.808	6
g) Harassed by owners of established shops claiming that food vendors obscure their businesses	2.40	1.725	7
Legal and regulatory framework			
a) Municipality does not issue licenses for food vendors	4.62	0.982	1
b) Municipality forbids the use of open fire	4.60	1.052	2
c) Forceful removal of food vendors by municipal officials	4.53	1.001	3
d) Lack of recognition by municipality	4.52	1.010	4
e) Conflict between municipality and hawking by-laws	4.42	0.991	5
f) There is no regulatory authority which regulates food vendors business	4.00	1.397	6
Production related issues			
a) Price hikes of inputs and ingredients by suppliers	4.43	1.007	1
b) Sometimes the business is very low	4.10	1.12	2
c) Theft of resources (chairs, tables, buckets, etc)	3.08	1.709	3
d) Some customers fail to pay for the services (food consumed)	2.09	1.465	4
e) Sometimes is difficult to pay employees	2.03	1.438	5
f) Poor food preparation skills	1.86	1.384	6
g) Customers complained of poor quality food	1.79	1.163	7
h) Lack of customer care service	1.68	1.2358	8
Financial issues			
a) Lack of financial support	4.33	1.200	1
Socio-economic issues			
a) Harsh economic realities that cannot be controlled	3.31	1.000	1

The ranking test also identified “hikes in input or ingredients affect profit” first as an issue that needed to be attended to (Table 4.4). This was followed by “sometimes the business is low”. The least ranked production-related issues were: “lack of customer care” and “customers complained about poor quality food”.

4.8 Perceived Solutions to the Challenges Small-scale Food Vendors Faced

Small-scale food vendors suggested various possible solutions to the challenges they faced. About 92 % of the vendors indicated that “municipal officials must stop forcefully removing food vendors from their selling stalls”. An almost similar number (91 %) of the vendors were of the view that “proper sanitation (water and toilets) facilities must be provided.” Also, regarded important (84 %) was “provision of proper selling stalls with lockable storage facilities.” Knowledge and skills-related solutions were regarded central to the issues that small-scale food vendors faced. This was confirmed by the fact that 80 % of the vendors identified “provision of training in areas such as business management, financial management, catering skills as well as health and safety issues” as desirable.

Almost three-quarters (74 %) of the vendors suggested that “hawkers must be assisted with improving their hygiene standards.” “Hawkers must be assisted with the registration of their food vending businesses” was also recommended (71 %). Most small-scale vendors (82 %) reported that the “municipality must issue small-scale food vending licenses” and “municipality must support food vending”. Apart from this, there was the suggestion (76 % of the vendors) that “government must intervene in the food vending business both at local government and provincial levels”. A significant proportion (75 %) of the respondents also indicated that “the quality of water that is used by food vendors must be tested.” Possible solutions to the financial challenges that food vendors in Thohoyandou faced were: “municipality must liaise with companies for donations (73 %)” and “financial institutions must provide funding to support small-scale food vending”.

Table 4.5: Ranked means for perceived solutions to the challenges that the small-scale food vendors faced

Perceptions	Mean	Standard Deviation	Ranking
Infrastructure and basic services			
a) Municipality must stop removing hawkers from the selling stalls	4.87	0.506	1
b) Provision of sanitation (water and toilets)	4.87	0.496	2
c) Provision of proper selling stalls with lockable storage	4.68	0.891	3
d) Keeping the selling stalls clean	4.63	0.809	4
Knowledge and skills training			
a) Provision of training in areas such as business management, catering and food preparation skills, financial management, health and safety issues	4.64	0.899	1
b) Assist hawkers with hygienic standard	4.53	0.985	2
c) Hawkers must assisted to register their businesses	4.43	1.120	3
Legal and regulatory framework			
a) Issuing and renewing of food vendors licenses	4.64	0.082	1
b) Support of food vendors by municipality	4.60	1.031	2
c) Government must intervene to food vending both locally and at provincial level	4.50	1.056	3
d) Facilitation of the regulatory body by the municipality	4.25	1.331	4
e) Hawkers must abide by municipality by-laws	4.02	1.323	5
f) Hawkers must operate in the space provided by municipality	3.86	1.604	6
g) Municipality must remove bottle stores from town	2.18	1.562	7
Financial issues			
a) Municipality must liaise with companies for donations for food vendors	4.54	0.960	1
b) Funding of hawkers' businesses by financial institutions	4.44	1.135	2
Working conditions			
a) There must be a good relationship between food vendors and established shops	4.36	1.194	
Quality issues			
Water used by food vendors must undergo testing	4.39	1.271	

Table 4.5 shows the mean scores and rank orders for the 19 solutions suggested as solutions of the challenges that small-scale food vendors faced. With respect to infrastructure and basic services, the following perceptions were ranked high: “municipality must stop forcefully removing hawkers from selling stalls”, “provision of sanitation (water and toilets)” and “provision of selling stalls with lockable storages”. Regarding knowledge and skills training “provision of training in areas such as business management, catering and food preparation skills, financial management, health and safety issues” was ranked first. The perceived solution which was ranked second was “assist food vendors with hygienic standards”. The least ranked solution falling under this category was “municipality must remove bottle stores from Thohoyandou town”. Lastly, the first ranked among financial issues was the “municipality must liaise with companies for donations for street food vendors”. As illustrated in Table 4.5 there were many more issues cited as solutions to the challenges that food vendors in Thulamela Municipality faced.

Demographic Information

The small-scale food vendors who participated in this survey were predominately women. This concurs with the results of a study in South Africa in which Martins and Anelich (2000) observed that women constituted 91% of the people involved in food vending. In Nigeria, Dipeolu, Akinbode and Okunye (2007) found that all food vendors in their study area were women. The fact that traditionally, cooking is the main domain of women makes it not surprising that these were results of all these studies, including the current one in Thulamela Municipality. Apparently, women find it easier to venture into street food vending business because they become involved in food preparation for the family at an early stage. Thus, they have considerable experience in it.

In this study, 41 % of the respondents were married. This was a sharp contrast to the findings of Dipeolu et al., (2007) who found that almost all food vendors (97 %) they interviewed were married. Linked to this was also the fact that most respondents (73 %) tended to be middle aged. The majority of the research participants were between 31 and 39 years old, which was in line with the findings of a study conducted in Gauteng whereby most of the vendors (96 %) were 21-40 years old (Martins, 2008). In Ghana (Mensah, Manu, Darko and Abiodun, 2002) the average age of most of the street food vendors was 30-39 years. It can be concluded that street food vending is a common business for youth and middle aged women.

5.1.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of the findings of the study on the contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of Limpopo Province in South Africa. The perceptions of small-scale food vendors operating in Thohoyandou with respect to the contribution of vending to livelihoods, challenges and possible solutions to the challenges small-scale food vendors faced are explained. Finally, the chapter covers the conclusions derived from the study as well as recommendations for further research, policy and development practice.

5.1.2 Demographic Information

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In this study, it was observed that most vendors had attained secondary education. Other studies in South Africa and Nigeria revealed a similar education profile (Lalthapersad-Pillay, 2004; Chukuezi, 2010; Campbell, 2011). According to Levin *et al.*, (1999), women who are not well educated do not have the skills or access to training and opportunities to obtain higher wage earning jobs or better paid professional positions. Presumably, Lalthapersad-Pillay (2004) argues that there is a link between poor education and participating in the survivalist sector.

5.3.1 Definition of Small-scale Food Vending

In the present study, small-scale food vending was defined as an informal survivalist business specializing in selling food to customers who needed simple food. This definition resonates well with the Ntsika Enterprise Promotion Agency's (NEPA) explanation of small-scale business as a survivalist business. According to Ntsika Enterprise Promotion Agency (NEPA) (1997), a survivalist business is one in which the income generated is less than the minimum income standard or poverty line. Economic activity in the survivalist business is mainly directed at providing a minimal means to keep unemployed people and their families alive. According to Bromley (2000), street vending is an ancient and important occupation found in virtually every country and major cities around the world. The latter author also views vending as the retail or wholesale trading of goods and services in streets and other related public places such as alleyways, avenues and boulevards. The typical features of street food vending are: small-scale, labour-intensive, low fixed costs, use of simple technology, reliance on family labour, use of personal or informal sources of credit, non-payment of taxes, relatively easy to establish and exist (Fidler and Webster, 1996; Hope, 2001; Jimu, 2004; Maligalig, 2010). Clearly, the definitions of street food vending distilled by the current study confirm these perspectives.

Small-scale food vending was described as self-employed business. Martins (2006) supports this finding by pointing out that many individuals in developing countries have taken up a range of self-employed, small-scale, income generating activities, both legitimate and illegitimate, which collectively constitute the informal sector. As is already revealed by other authors above, food vendors in the study area agreed that small-scale food vending referred to "when a person is involved in the business of selling food without paying tax". The least held view was that small-scale food vending meant "selling food along street sides but without having any savings bank account. Given the fact that street food vendors cited involvement in savings clubs

(stokvels) was a major livelihoods strategy, it is important to investigate the magnitude of its contribution to people's standards of living and household investment.

Livelihoods can be defined as people's capacity to maintain a standard of living by surviving shocks and stress and enhancing their quality of life on a long-term basis without jeopardizing the livelihood options of others (Chambers, 1987; Wanmali, 1997; Bastidas, 2001). In this study in Thulamela Municipality, the most commonly perceived definition of rural livelihoods was being involved in the supply of goods and services to the government and other stakeholders in order to make a living. This could be based on the fact that after 1994, the government procurement system in South Africa was granted constitutional status and also recognized as a means of addressing past discriminatory policies and practices (Bolton, 2006). Prior to 1994, the procurement system favoured large established businesses that were owned by Whites. According to Bolton (2006), it was very difficult for newly established businesses to penetrate the procurement system. It is important to recognize that livelihood strategies are important aspects of economic development in marginal areas. Momsen and Kinnaird (1993), Agarwal, (1994) and Oberhauser (1998) noted that women's exclusion from many economic activities, especially in rural areas, had contributed to their involvement in casual or unregulated labour as a means of coping with economic hardships. The recent global economic recession forced some people in rural areas to engage in nonfarm activities such as cooperatives, networks, waged work and in self-employment so as to generate income for rural households (Oberhauser, 1998; Davis, 2003). Although livelihood improvement has become a topical issue in development discourse, it is relatively confined to the parameters of production, employment and income channeled to the household (Lipton *et al.*, 1996). In the current study, most food vendors further unpacked rural livelihoods as cooking and selling food to customers. Involvement in construction work, specifically building other people's homes constituted another form of rural livelihood.

Provision of microfinance was also regarded as strategy for enhancing rural livelihoods. Fifty-one percent (51 %) of the respondents classified being involved in rotating stokvels and savings clubs as forms of rural livelihoods. Another recognized form of rural livelihoods was being involved in informal micro-lending (commonly coined "*matshonise*"). This is a plausible strategy, which Lakwo (2006) believes leads to increased income, control over income and resources, as well as yielding better well-being and ability to transform social and political changes. The

author further argues that microfinance helps alleviate poverty and vulnerability thereby leading to improved wellbeing. As Davis (2003) points out, the expansion of microcredit has allowed many amongst the rural and urban poor to engage in non-farm income generating activities. Microfinance offers money to very poor people who do not have collateral for them to start and grow small businesses. It addresses the shortage of physical capital amongst the poor. Its aim is to provide a broad range of financial services such as deposits, loans, payments services, money transfers, insurance to poor and low-income households and their micro-enterprises. Based on the results of this study, supply of goods and services to the government and the provision of microfinance were perceived as strategies for enhancing rural livelihoods.

5.3.2 Reasons for Venturing into Street Food Vending and Current Performance

It was found that the majority of respondents went into street food vending because they wanted to support their families. Unemployment is one of the developmental problems that face every developing economy in the 21st century (Akintoye, 2008), including South Africa (Schenck *et al.*, 2007) and Limpopo Province (Kyei, 2011). International statistics reveal that industrial and service workers in developing regions account for about two-thirds of the unemployed (Akintoye, 2008). Unemployment is one of South Africa's most pressing socio-economic challenges, affecting a quarter of the workforce (Davies *et al.*, 2009). Job creation in the formal sector has failed to keep pace with the participation of an expanding labour force. Based on this fact, the unemployed seek job opportunities in the informal sector. This argument confirms the conclusion that the informal sector accounts for most of the job creation (Davies *et al.*, 2009). Street foods provide employment for both men and women who cannot secure employment elsewhere (Canet and N' Diaye, 1996; Ohiokpehai, 2003; Dipeolu *et al.*, 2007). In this study, 26 % of the food vendors were said to be turning to food vending because they could not secure jobs. In a study conducted in Johannesburg, Campbell (2011) observed that about 77 % of food vendors entered the business due to the failure to secure jobs. Therefore, it can be concluded that lack of job opportunities and the desire to earn a decent living forces some unemployed people to become food vendors.

Passersby were said to be the major customers of street food vendors in Thohoyandou. It seemed that this was due to the fact that most food vendors operated near taxi or bus ranks, on pavements and along road sides frequented by people. It was reported that the customers appreciated the services they received from the food vendors. Almost two-thirds of the street

food vendors mentioned that customers like buying from them because their food was well prepared, tasty and cheaper compared to that available in established shops. Similar results were obtained in a study conducted in Gauteng, where 100 % of the customers cited tastiness of street food as the main reason for buying it (Martins and Anelich, 2000).

In agreement with the findings of this study, Muzaffar, Huq and Mallik (2008) confirm that street food vendors provide goods and services at relatively low prices. This might result from not incurring overhead expenditures to the same extent as those in the formal sector. It is also worth pointing out that income from small-scale food vending varied considerably. A relatively large percentage of food vendors received between R2100-4000 every month. This seems to suggest that it is low and might put them at the risk of becoming net borrowers. There is need to establish why the street food vendors continue to operate when they receive such low incomes. Also worth investigating is the relationship between street food vending and remittances from relatives.

5.3.3 Contribution of Small-scale Food Vending to Rural Livelihoods

Worldwide, the important contribution that small-scale and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) can make to employment and income generation is recognized (Mutezo, 2005). In South Africa, the contribution of SMMEs is significant, particularly when the fact that almost 500 000 jobs were lost in the non-agricultural formal sectors during the first quarter of 2011 (STATSSA, 2011). In the present study, job creation for food vendors and other people in need was perceived to be the most common contribution of small-scale food vending. A large proportion of food vendors revealed that they employed 1-3 workers. Ohiokpehai (2003); Chukuezi (2010) and Rane (2011) report similar results in their own studies. All the authors state that street food vending provides employment and income for many people, including economic support to small entrepreneurs. However, the observations are at variance with those of Martins (2006) who reports that out of 200 food vendors only one of them employed eight employees and 33 % operated one person businesses. The fact that about 81 % of the food vendors indicated that through food sales, they managed to raise rental fees to pay for storage facilities where they stored their equipment is worth applauding. This justifies providing support for the growth and development of street food vending.

Through street food vending, vendors sustain themselves and their dependents. Bromley (2000) believes that if food vendors could not sell on the streets, some would be unemployed, destitute and might even turn to crime and rioting, among others. In this respect, street food vending should be viewed as a social safety net. With respect to family support, growth and development, more than three-quarters of the respondents indicated that money generated from the street food vending business was spent on transport to and from work. This finding confirms what was highlighted in Chapter 1 that the majority of food vendors in Thohoyandou came from adjacent villages and commuted on a regular basis to sell or render various services.

Another contribution of street food vending to rural livelihoods was that money generated from the business was used to meet expenses associated with relatives' funeral expenses. Added to this was the contribution to improved food security in the rural communities. Ohiokpehai (2003) supports this assertion by pointing out that street foods have been regarded as a way of reducing problems associated with food insecurity and a possible vehicle for micronutrient supplementation. Street foods are essential for maintaining the nutritional status and provide affordable nutrients to the majority of people especially those in the low-income group in developing countries (Dardano, 2002; Muzaffar *et al.*, 2008; Tambekar *et al.*, 2011). These results indicate that street food vending contributes to a multiple range of aspects of rural livelihoods, which highlights the need for devising a comprehensive strategy for strengthening it. This argument finds support in more evidence made available in the sections presented below.

Food vendors in Thohoyandou further revealed that this business enabled them to pay fees for education and training, pay electricity bills and to buy clothes for family members. Martins (2006) support these findings. He points out that most of the 229 food vendors interviewed in his study on "socio-economic and hygiene features of street food vending in Gauteng, South Africa" said that they were able to support their families and children in respect of their basic needs such as education, household goods, clothing and food.

In the current study in Thulamela Municipality, 40 % of the vendors pointed out that their work contributed to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. It is estimated that there are 1-2.3 million informal businesses which contribute up to 7-12 % to South African's GDP (Dewar, 2005). These facts seem to lend weight to the view that street vending is a potential source of government tax revenues through licensing fees, sales and value-added taxes charged by vendors and subsequently paid to the government (Bromley, 2000). Bromley (2000) goes further

to point out that street vending helps reduce the dependence of those involved on government or other external support.

5.3.4 Challenges and Possible Solutions to the Challenges Small-scale Food Vendors Faced

In this study, small-scale food vendors complained of various and varied challenges that predominantly related to infrastructure, working conditions, legal and policy framework, and production-related matters. Most of the infrastructure and basic services challenges related to shortage of water. In most cases, running water was said to be not available at the vending site. The unavailability of water implies that hand and dishwashing were usually done in buckets. It is important to point out that limited infrastructure and restricted access to potable water, toilets, refrigeration and washing and waste disposal facilities might result in the contamination of food, which is a major contributing factor to food-borne diseases (Mosupye and von Holly, 2000; Martins 2006; Dipeolu *et al.*, 2007). The findings of the current study are similar to those of King, Awumbila, Canacoo and Ofofu-Amaah (2000). Working in Ghana, these authors found that out of the 136 food vendors they interviewed only 15 % had access to potable water directly from the tap. The remaining 85 % bought water from vendors while 6 % used water directly drawn from ponds. However, the above finding was in sharp contrast to those of Martins (2000) in his study on "Improving street foods in South Africa." In the latter study, the latter author reports that 80 % of the 160 food vendors interviewed had access to water near their trading outlets.

Eighty percent of food vendors complained about the absence of proper selling stalls. Food vendors used temporary structures. This was due to the fact that their businesses were situated on street sides, at taxi or bus ranks, and along pavements. Chukuezi (2010) confirms this finding by indicating that in the study conducted in Owerri in Nigeria, most food vendors (29 %) used wooden stalls, 29 % were domiciled under canopies and 19 % used old containers as makeshift stalls. In the current study, 68 % of food vendors were worried about lack of storage facilities while 86 % complained about problems associated with harsh weather, especially during rainy and windy days. Lalthapersad-Pillay (2004) raises the same challenge and concludes that the working conditions of street traders are precarious as they endure harsh

physical environments, limited or no infrastructure, and they have no shelter against adverse conditions such as bad weather.

Most food vendors in Thohoyandou were concerned about competition from other vendors over limited space to operate from. Apparently, this was based on the fact that most people turned to the informal sector due to easy of access. Easy of access rests on the fact that not much start-up capital is required. Jimu (2004) and Tambekar *et al.*, (2011) argue that it is difficult to control the large numbers of those involved in street food vending because they are diverse, mobile and their work is of a temporary nature. More than half of the food vendors complained about the bad smell around the areas they operated from and believed that it resulted in air pollution. This is not surprising as Tambekar, Murhekar, Dhanorkar, Gulhane and Dudhane (2009) believe that wastewaters and garbage are discarded nearby. These provide nutrients for insects and rodents, which may carry food-borne pathogens. In order to address the above mentioned challenges, about 92 % of the food vendors believed that “municipal officials must stop forcefully removing food vendors from their selling stalls”. However, given the fact that municipal and hawkers by-laws were said to be in conflict, it seems unlikely that this solution is viable. What is clear though is the need for continuous engagement among the parties so that amicable solutions can be found.

Approximately, 91 % of vendors suggested that “proper sanitation (water and toilets) facilities must be provided”. Also regarded important was “provision of proper selling stalls with lockable storage facilities”. Food vendors further complained about challenges relating to the existing legal and regulatory frameworks. The most commonly perceived challenges were: “municipality officials forbid food vendors from using open fires”; “municipality does not issue and renew food vending licenses”; “forceful removal from selling stalls by municipal officials”; “harassment by municipal officials” and “conflict between municipal and hawking by-laws”. Winarno and Allain (1991) argue that street food business involves huge amounts of capital and millions of people yet they are often not given the official recognition they deserve. Similar problems were experienced in Nigeria (Chukuezi, 2010). The latter author reveals that food vendors in Nigeria experienced problems from government agents. The arguments that are often highlighted are: obstruction of the street (38 %); tax (33 %); sanitation levies and capitation levies (19 %) (Chukuezi, 2010). Lack of legal status makes it impossible for food vendors to secure credit from financial institutions. Creditor finance is not possible because in general, it requires a buyer

to be a legal entity. In addition, small-scale food vendors cannot get into any formal relationships with suppliers. Registration of food vending businesses, issuing of relevant licenses, support of this type of business by local, provincial and national government are possible solutions that might help promote the growth and development of the street food sector.

Lack of financial support was identified as an important challenge that food vendors faced. Possible solutions to the financial challenges were the “municipality must liaise with companies for donations” and that “financial institutions must provide funding to small-scale food vendors.” Knowledge and skills-related solutions were regarded central and should be in the form of “provision of training in areas such as business management, financial management, catering skills as well as health and safety issues as desirable”. The need for improving hygiene standards was cited. In India for example, Rane (2011) describes an initiative introduced to create awareness among consumers and street food vendors through issuing a simple checklist of hygienic practices. The intervention emphasizes the implementation of good hygiene standards by the street vendors to ensure that customers are protected against the risk associated with street food vending. It is possible that a similar programme might help improve hygiene standards in the Thohoyandou area.

In addition to the challenges described above, small-scale food vendors encountered others that were production-related, with the most common being hikes in inputs or ingredients which directly affected profit margins. Ngiba, Dickson and Whittaker (2009) report about their study on “dynamics of trade between the formal sector and informal sector traders: the case of fruit and vegetable sellers at Natalspruit market, Ekurhuleni.” They conclude that, in general informal traders buy stock at higher prices than large-scale buyers, mainly due to the pricing structure that offers the latter discount. About half of the food vendors were of the view that “sometimes the business is very low especially during Wednesdays”. This study revealed that most of the food vendors’ customers were passersby who came to the Thohoyandou complex to do other business. According to small-scale food vendors, such people preferred the beginning of the week, especially Mondays and Tuesdays as well as Fridays and Saturdays to do such businesses. This was suggested as the main reason why small-scale food business was low on Wednesdays.

5.3.5 Conclusions

The current study highlighted various ways in which small-scale food vending in Thohoyandou contributed to rural livelihoods. Among these were socio-economic development; family support, growth and development, and service provision. Most vendors reported that their businesses contributed towards job creation for themselves and others. Also, the money generated from food vending was used for transport, to pay fees for education and training and also purchasing various household basic services. Its contribution to the reduction of food insecurity in rural communities is crucial in development relief.

Despite the considerable contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods, those operating in Thohoyandou complained about the multiple challenges they faced. The challenges related to infrastructure and basic services, legal and policy framework as well as production issues. Among others, food vendors complained about the shortage of water; lack of storage facilities; poor sanitation facilities; harsh weather; and forced removals by municipal officials. Other problems that were raised were “municipality forbids the use of open fires”, “municipality does not issue licenses for food vendors” and conflict between municipality and hawking by-laws. Hikes in inputs or ingredients and low business were also issues of concern.

In order to address the challenges that the food vendors faced, the following solutions were suggested: “municipality officials must stop forcefully removing food vendors from selling stalls”; “provision of proper sanitation (water and toilets) near the selling points”; “allocating proper selling stalls with lockable storage facilities”; and “municipality must consider issuing vending licences to the small-scale food vendors.”

5.3.6 Recommendations

On the basis of the results obtained in this study, it is clear that Thulamela Municipality should consider issuing food vending licences and allocate operational space to the vendors. For this to happen, the Municipality should officially recognize street food vending as an economic opportunity for those involved. Given the diverse contribution it makes to people’s livelihoods, the Municipality should consider ways of exploring possible avenues for supporting it. Linked to this is the need for engaging with the leaders of the street food vendors and develop an intervention plan. The intervention plan should encompass the following aspects: health and

hygiene management; education and training; infrastructure provision and maintenance; harmonisation of policies on hawking and municipal by-laws. In order to find solutions to the challenges that the street food vendors encounter, the local Municipality should mobilize the participation of other stakeholders such as Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA) and Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) so that they spearhead the registration of small-scale food businesses, including training. This would enable them to supply goods and services to government and other interested parties, thereby growing and developing them. Another critical partner in this work would be the University of Venda (UNIVEN)'s Departments of Consumer Sciences, Management Sciences, Accounting, Tourism, Food Science and Technology, Microbiology, Environmental Sciences, Nutrition and Public Health. Bringing these together would help adopt an integrated improvement plan that responds to the challenges faced by the street food vendors. As envisaged in the institution's mission statement, the University must respond to the developmental needs of the local and regional communities. The success of the local food street vending (through the assistance of the various stakeholders including UNIVEN) can be used as a model for reproduction by similar communities elsewhere in the region.

Also recommended in this study is proper consultation between the Municipality and relevant stakeholders such as the School of Law at UNIVEN to address issues relating to by-laws. The need for the Municipality to facilitate the establishment of a regulatory body that deals with small-scale food vending is evident. Since it is difficult for small-scale food vendors to secure financial assistance from formal institutions, there is need to introduce an assistance programme that addresses this issue. In addition to all this, the LED strategy for Thulamela Municipality needs to be revamped.

Apart from the development practice-related recommendations there are many areas that require elucidation through empirical research. Further research should be conducted that engages the customers of the street food vendors. The study must focus on the level of satisfaction with the services rendered to them as customers of the street food vendors. The real contribution of street food vending will never be known unless there is quantification and interrogation of the various dimensions identified in the current study. As already highlighted above, the need for developing an improvement plan that most of the stakeholders own is of paramount importance. Associated with this is the nature and form of the by-laws that might create an enabling environment for the street food vendors to operate. Also, what type of

curriculum would help strengthen street food vending? If microfinance and taxation systems are to be introduced, what would be their principal elements? How would the operations of the street food vendors be monitored and evaluated?

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UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

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Strictly Confidential

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Street Food Vendors

Name of business: _____

Business address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

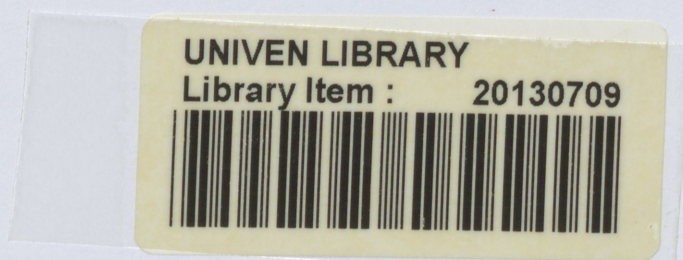
Cell Number: _____

Respondent remarks: _____

Interviewer's remarks: _____

Interviewer: _____

Date completed: _____



APPENDICES

Appendix A: Small-scale food vendors questionnaire

Questionnaire number:-----

CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Private Bag X 5050

Thohoyandou

0950

Telephone number: 015 962 8000

Strictly Confidential

This information is confidential and the name and address of the respondents will not be divulged for any purpose other than for this study.

Street Food Vendors

Name of business: -----

Business address: -----

Telephone Number: -----

Cell Number: -----

Respondent remarks: -----

Interviewer's remarks: -----

Interviewer: -----

Date completed: -----

SECTION A

1. Background Information

NB. Please circle (O) or tick (✓) in the correct space.

1.1 Gender

Male	1
Female	2

1.2 What is your highest level of education attained?

None	1
Primary	2
Secondary	3
Tertiary	4

1.3 What is your age group?

15-20 years	1
21-29 years	2
30-39 years	3
40-49 years	4
50-59 years	5
60-69 years	6
70 Years and above	7

1.3 What is your marital status?

Never married	1
Married	2
Living together	3
Divorced	4
Widowed	5
Single	6

1.4 How many members are there in your immediate family?

None	1
1-3	2
4-5	3
6-9	4
10-12	5
Other, specify	6

1.5 What is the total number of your family members who are involved in the small-scale food vending?

None	1
1-3	2
4-5	3
6-9	4
10-12	5
Other, specify	6

1.6 How many people are employed by the small-scale food vending business?

Number of employees	Male	Female
1-3		
4-6		
7-10		
Other		

1.7 When did you start this business?----- (year)

1.8 Why did you start this business?

Reason	
a) To increase income	1
b) Unemployed (for more than six months)	2
c) To support my family	3
d) Couldn't find a job	4
e) Husband unemployed	5
f) Sickness or death in the family	6
g) Other, specify	7

1.9 How much money do you get from the sales per month?

a) Less than R500.00	
b) R500.00- R2000.00	
c) R2100.00- R4000.00	
d) R4100.00- R6000.00	
e) R6100.00- R8000.00	
f) R8100.00- R10 000.00	
g) R10 000.00 and above	
h) Other, specify	

SECTION B

1.9 Who are your customers?

a) Passerby	1
b) Employees of established shops	2
c) School learners	3
d) University students	4
e) Social grant earners	5
f) Teachers	6
g) Municipal workers	7
h) Other, specify	8

1.10 What are the reasons for customers to buy from vendors?

a) Because we are friendly to the customers	1
b) Because the food is well prepared	2
c) Because customers need fresh cooked food	3
d) The customers need food which is cheap in terms of the price	4
e) Customers need food that taste different from what they buy from established shops	5
f) Customers prefer to buy food from the survivalists as a way of motivating them	6
g) Customers prefer food which is traditionally prepared	7
h) Other, specify	8

1.11 How much money do you get from the sales per month?

a) Less than R500.00	1
b) R500.00- R2000.00	2
c) R2100.00- R4000.00	3
d) R4100.00- R6000.00	4
e) R6100.00-R8000.00	5
f) R8100.00-R10 000.00	6
g) R10 000.00 and above	7
h) Other, specify	8

Microfinance

- a) Involvement in stocks and shares
- b) Engaged in microloans (interest-free)

SECTION B

2. Rural Livelihoods

To what extent do you agree with the statement? (Fill in the most appropriate box)

Table 2.1: Perceived definition of livelihoods

Definition of Rural Livelihoods	Level of Agreement				
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Self-employment					
a) Is a way of earning a living through small- scale farming i.e agriculture (crops and livestock)					
b) Harvesting and selling fire wood					
c) Making bricks for sale (both mud and cement)					
d) Selling traditional brooms					
e) Cooking and selling food to the customers					
f) Catering and supply of goods to the government and other stakeholders					
g) Selling goods in a spazashop					
h) Brewing and selling indigenous beer					
i) Selling air time					
j) Selling clothes					
k) Selling paraffin					
l) Building other people's houses (Builders)					
m) Pottery and crafts					
n) Engaged in tourism at a minimal level					
Employment					
a) House maid					
Microfinance					
a) Involvement in stokvels and clubs					
b) Engaged in microloans (matshonise)					

Table 2.2 Characteristic features of small-scale food vending

Small-scale food vending (SSFV)	Level of Agreement				
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
a) Informal business specializing in selling food at a small-scale as a means of survival to the customers who need simple food					
b) Is self-employed business					
c) Is when SSFV does not have a bank account					
d) A start to develop into a successful business					
e) When a person do not have support in doing his or her business					
f) When a person is doing a business of selling food without paying tax					
g) Is a traditional and illegal way of preparing food outside which is being applied in the proclaimed area					
h) Is a small business which is not regulated					

Table 2.3 Contribution of small-scale food vending to rural livelihoods

Contribution of small-scale food vending to Rural Livelihoods	Level of Agreement				
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
a) Is a way of creating jobs for the sellers and their employees					
b) It contributes to gross domestic product					
c) The sellers are able to go back to rural communities with economic muscle or buying power					
d) Assist rural communities with food security					
e) Received from vending is used towards education of vendors' children					
f) Vendors are able to support their families					
g) Use money for transport to and from work					
h) Money is used for burial/funeral contributions					
i) We are able to buy clothes for our families					
j) We are able to buy household furniture					
k) We are able to pay electricity bills					
l) We are able to build our own houses					
m) We are able to pay water bills					
n) We are able to pay rental to where we are storing our cooking items i.e stoves, tables, chair, pots, plates, buckets)					

Table 2. 4: Challenges that the small-scale food vendors faced

Challenges	Level of Agreement				
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Infrastructure					
a) Absence of proper stalls for SSFV/infrastructure					
b) No storage facilities					
c) Overcrowding/competition for a limited space					
d) Sanitation is difficult to reach (toilet, water)					
e) Shortage of water					
Working conditions					
a) Owners of the established shops throw dirt on the space that we use to sell our products.					
b) Food vendors experience problems during harsh weather conditions because the shelters are made out of plastics i.e during rainy, windy and sunny days					
c) <u>Bad smells which results in air pollution</u>					
d) Low hygienic standard					
e) Hawkers dispose their refuses in drainages which results in drain blockage					
f) Working conditions are not favourable					
g) Harassment by the municipality					
h) Removals by established shops, indicating that we are obscuring their businesses					
i) Harassment from the drunkards					
Legal and Regulatory Framework					
a) Municipality does not issue licenses for small-scale food vendors					
b) Conflict between municipality and hawking by laws					
c) Lack of recognition by the Municipality					
d) Enforcement of by-laws by municipality					
e) Removal by the municipality from their selling stalls					
f) Municipality forbids the use of open fire for food preparation					
g) Lack of organized approach to do this kind of business					
h) There is no regulatory authority					
Product related issues					
a) Sometimes the business is very low					

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
b) Price hikes of ingredients by suppliers					
c) Lack of customer care service					
d) Difficult to pay employees					
e) Poor food preparation skills					
f) Sometimes customers do complain that the food is of poor quality					
g) Failure of customers to pay for the food already consumed					
h) Theft of resources e.g chairs especially in storage facility					
Financial issues					
a) Lack of financial support					
Socio-economic issues					
a) Harsh economic realities that cannot be controlled					

Table 2.5: Suggested solutions to the challenges that the SSFV faced

Suggested solutions to the challenges that the SSFV face	Level of Agreement				
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree
Infrastructure					
a) Provision of proper selling stalls with lockable storage					
b) Provision of sanitation (tap water and water)					
c) Municipality must stop removing the hawkers from the selling stalls					
d) keeping the stalls clean					
Knowledge and skill training					
a) Provision of training in areas such as Business Management, catering and food preparation skills, financial management as well as health and safety issues.					
b) Hawkers must be assisted with hygienic standard					
c) Hawkers must be assisted to register their SSFV businesses					
Legal and regulatory issues					
a) Facilitation of the regulatory body by the municipality					
b) Hawkers must abide by the municipality bylaws					
c) Issuing and renewal of licences					
d) Enforcement of the bylaws by the municipality					
e) Government intervention from both local and the provincial level					
f) Hawkers must operate on the space which is allocated to them by municipality					
g) Municipality must remove the bottle stores from the town					
h) Support of the small-scale food vendors by the municipality					
Financial issues					
a) Funding of the hawkers businesses by financial institutions					
b) Municipality must liaise with companies for donations.					
Working conditions					
a) Good working relationship between the SSFV and the owners of the established shops					
Quality issues					
a) Testing of water that the hawkers use for cooking					

Appendix B: Ethical Consideration Certificate

APPENDIX B

Ethical Clearance certificate

**SEARCH AND INNOVATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

**NAME OF RESEARCHER/INVESTIGATOR:
MATHAULULA M.A.**

PROJECT TITLE: RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD VENDING TO RURAL LIVELIHOODS IN THULAMELA MUNICIPALITY OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA.

PROJECT NO: SHS/11/PH/002

SUPERVISORS/ CO-RESEARCHERS/ CO-INVESTIGATORS

NAME	INSTITUTION & DEPARTMENT	ROLE
Prof. J. Francis	University of Venda, Centre for Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation	Supervisor
Dr. M. Mwale	University of Venda, Centre for Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation	Co-supervisor
M.A. Mathaulula	University of Venda, Centre for Rural Development & Poverty Alleviation	Student

**ISSUED BY:
UNIVERSITY OF VENDA, HEALTH, SAFETY AND RESEARCH ETHICS
COMMITTEE**

Date Considered: 31 May 2011

Decision by Ethical Clearance Committee Granted

Signature of Chairperson of the Committee:

Name of the Chairperson of the Committee: Prof. C.V. Nikodem



UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

PRIVATE BAG X5050, THOHOYANDOU, 0950, LIMPOPO PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA
TELEPHONE (015) 962 8504/8484 /8313 FAX (015) 962 8439

"A quality driven financially sustainable, rural-based Comprehensive University"

Appendix C: Letter of Permission for Thulamela Municipal Manager

APPENDIX C

Application letter for permission to carry out research in Thohoyandou area
The Municipal Manager
Thulamela Local Municipality
Thohoyandou
0950

24 May 2011

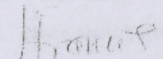
Dear Sir

REQUEST TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH TOWARDS MASTERS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEGREE DISSERTATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

This communication serves to confirm that Mrs M.A. Mathaulula (11534210) is our Masters in Rural Development student who intends carrying out research entitled *Contribution of Street Food Vending to Rural Livelihoods in Thulamela Municipality of South Africa*. She plans to interview the leadership of the Hawkers' Association, street food vendors and their customers, and Municipal officials in the Local Economic Development Unit. It is anticipated that the results of this study will provide empirical information that might help inform policy on this popular means of earning livelihoods by a considerable segment of the Thulamela Municipal population.

The University of Venda Ethics Committee has already granted her permission to undertake this study. Through this letter the Centre for Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation humbly requests your office to grant approval for this study to be carried out.

Sincerely


Joseph Francis (Prof)
[Director]



Mathaulula M.A 0765352313

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

PRIVATE BAG X505 V, THOHOYANDOU, 0950 • LIMPOPO PROVINCE • SOUTH AFRICA
TELEPHONE (015) 962 8680/8052 FAX (015) 962 8859
E-MAIL: francis@univen.ac.za

Appendix D: Permission letter from Thulamela Municipal Manager

APPENDIX D

Permission letter from Thualmela Municipal manager



Private Bag X5066
Thoheyandou
0950
Limpopo Province
Tel: 015 962 7500
Fax: 015 962 4020
015 962 5328

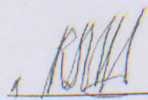
Ref : 13|9|1
Enq : Mphanama A.W
Tel : 015 962 7569
Cell : 073 684 3352
Date : 15 June 2011

To : **UNIVERSITY OF VENDA**

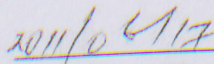
Att : Mrs M.A. Mathaulula

Re : Request to carry out research towards masters in rural development degree
dissertation with University of Venda : Yourself

1. Your letter dated the 24th of May 2011 has reference.
2. Note that your application has been approved.
3. Again our business relations with the University during the past years have been excellent and we trust that the satisfaction derived from our dealing is mutual.
4. Hoping that you will find the above to be in order.



MUNICIPAL MANAGER



DATE

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No: 47851