

Issues and Challenges of Street Vendors: A Case Study in Aalo Town West Siang District Arunachal Pradesh

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Abstract

The study was carried out at Aalo, west Siang, District to unearth the practical issues income, challenges, socio economic condition of street vendors at Aalo town west Siang district in particular and Arunachal Pradesh in general. To gather or check the ground reality, study was carried out through survey and qualitative questions were prepared and invigilators were deployed to get first hand data. The research aims to systematically examine the vendors profile, business operation and challenges faced by street vendors. During the process of data collection investigator randomly collected information from the 50 street vendors which includes Food and Beverages, Vegetable sellers, fruit sellers, tea stalls, snacks vendors. The study found that street vendors are unaware of basic rights which are provided by the Government of India, Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. Right to Livelihood, Right to Vending Certificate (License), Protection from Eviction, Right to Vending Zones, Right to Participate in Decision-Making, Right to Relocation & Rehabilitation, right against Harassment, Right to Fair Fees, Right to Grievance Redressal, Right to Social Welfare Schemes. The study reveals that all the street vendors are from marginalized economic group and street vending as their primary source of income because of lack of formal education, lack of awareness on social security, lack of basic right, lack of access financial support. This study will highlight and educate awareness to street vendors regarding their basic right, tool to formulation of government policy making, setting up of vital infrastructure for street vendors.

Keywords: Street Vendors, Informal Economy, Socio-Economic Condition, Livelihood. Street Vendors Act 2014, Marginalized Groups, Social Security, Urban Informal Sector, Arunachal Pradesh, Aalo Town.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Aalo is the Headquarter of West Siang District. Aalo Town Situated at confluence of Yomgo River and Sipu River. At Aalo different community of people living together peacefully such as Galo, Adi, Membra, Apatani, Nyishi, non APST etc. Galo is the major community of the West Siang District.

The study will be carried out within the Aalo town because Aalo town is the only main town in the entire West Siang District. The study will carry out to know the issues and challenges of street vendors of Aalo town. The main reason to select this study is that there is no proper research done at Aalo in the context of street vendors. This study will help to understand and explore the different problems faced by the street vendors. This study will inculcate the street vendors who vending different types of commodities.

In Arunachal Pradesh, the number of research carried out in the context of street vendors is very few. Through this study the contribution of street vendors towards the society, economy, household etc will understand. The study will be done with scientifically, logically and with the proper channel. All the research tools will be used and conclusions will be drawn on the basis of fact and finding.

The street vendors are a person who sells commodities in the street, either from a stall or van or with their goods laid out on the pavements. The term 'street vendor' in English is frequently used interchangeably with street trader, hawker'. Street vending is not only a source of self-employment to these poor in the town and cities but also means to provide affordable as well as convenient service to a majority of the rural and urban population. Three Basic Categories of Street Vendors are; a) Stationary vendors carry out vending on a regular basis at a specific location, with implicit or explicit consent of authorities b) Peripatetic vendors are those of vendors who carry vending by walk c) Mobile vendors place to place vending their goods or services on bicycles or motorable vehicle.

The street vendors are considered as the unorganized sector of the economy. The first Indian national commission of labour (1966-69) define 'unorganized sector workforce" as 'those workers who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of their common interest due to certain constraint like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scatter size of establishment'.

The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted to regulate street vendors in public areas and protect their rights. It was introduced in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament of India) on **6th September 2012** by Kumari Selja, then Union Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha on **6th September 2013** and by the Rajya Sabha (upper house) on **19th February 2014**. The bill received the assent of the President of India on **4 March 2014**. The Act came into force from **1 May 2014**. The various features of street vendor act 2014 are such as Forming of town vending committee, Protection from harassment, Grievance redressed mechanism, Surveying of street vendors, Providing of vending zone.

The Department of Town Planning and Urban Local Bodies, Government of Arunachal Pradesh has drafted the Arunachal Pradesh Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation Street Vending) Scheme 2018. Where issue of vending certificate, Renewable, Suspension and Cancellation of Certificate Vending, categories of Street vending, relocation and eviction of Street Vending, Seizure of Goods and Social audit, all are thoroughly discussed and enacted. Which was passed on the last day of the 15th session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Street vendors are a very important topic for research, at least in the Indian context. A review of literature available in the field reveals the following observations as well as potential gaps, which further underline the importance of research in this regard;

Harlan Dimas (2008), study discussed the roots of the street vending phenomenon and suggested several street vending management solutions from best practices followed around the world. The paper revealed that street vendors were big challenges for urban management. Street vendors were considered as source of waste pollution and negatively affect the beautification of city, The papers suggest changing the mindset of the urban decision makers and administration body.

Dube Godin, Sibongile Mkhize and Caroline Skinner (2013)', his research revealed household characteristics suggested that profit from vending is the key source of income of the household. Its enlighten the vital role of street vendors in supplying goods and services and also revealed the moving of informal sector to formal sector by providing employment to at least one person at own vending place, Research also enlighten significant of civic amenities such as toilets and drinking water facilities, where as in the area of study it was found that 56% of vendors do not avail toilets and 21% of street vendors do not avail drinking water facilities. The harassment of police personnel is common phenomena in every place especially towards the street vendors. Through finding various policies were recommended that police harassment should stop, provide business support and training, and strengthen vendor organization. It is suggested the participant of NGO's and other organization can bring ray of hope for the welfare of street vendors.

Borah Annesha (2014). The very research revealed that street vending provides employments to the urban poor. The study done on the social characteristics of street vendors of Shillong such as gender composition, age structure, marital status, religious composition and migration status of street vendors. The economic characteristics of street vendors are such as household income, daily income of street vendors, saving of street vendors etc. The researcher enlighten that the income of street vendors is very low due to lack of entrepreneurship capabilities, absence of financial assistance lack of the support of local authorities. More study can be done regarding street vendors of Shillong especially on laws and right of street vendors, government welfare scheme related to street vendors and civic amenities.

Karthikeyan. R and Mangaleswaran, R. (2014)', in these study researchers unearth the living condition and working patterns of the street vendors of Tirucharappali city, Tamil Nadu, India. Researcher's use some of the important methodology for the study such as face-to-face interview, discussion with the street vendors, prepared questionnaire and other qualitative and quantitative tools. The research done on various burning issues of street vendors are such as health, social relation, socio- economic status, living conditions, and wording condition of street vendors. Researchers also furnish various suggestion to the government in favour of street vendors i.e., providing of identity card for street vendors, conduct of awareness, punishment should be award for misbehaviour against street vendors (especially police) The scope of further research on street vendors especially in various fields such as, to identify advantages and disadvantages of policy provided by the government, to investigate the psychology problems of street vendors and to identify daily activities of street vendors in municipalities, district, state and nation as well.

Mody, Philip & Kamsi Rini (2014)', "This study focusses on the local women street vendors of four circle of west Siang i.e. Aalo, Basar, Bagra and Likabali of undivided west district then. The various methodologies used for research such as field survey, personal interview, questionnaires, telephonic contact, and observation method etc, are used. Top ten commodities sold, working hours, source of finance, monthly gross income, education profile of women street vendors and age profile of street vendors are taken for study. The issues and challenges prevail and faced by the women street vendors such as lack of storage facilities, toilets, drinking, lack of proper implementation of vendors right, transportation problems, insufficient seating space and lack of source of finance are find out. The research gap is including all the street vendors irrespective of confine women street vendors, fail to mention authority who provide shed for vending, fail to study the numbers of register street vendors and its register authorities, fail to mention market welfare and fail to provide awareness on the government scheme related to the street vendors.

Chakraborty Parikshit and Koley Samarpita (2018), this research is to understanding and analysis the socio and economic status of the street vendors of Jamshedpur. The study found that the most of the street vendors were came from nearby rural area and most of them were unskilled Jamshedpur skilled labour were engaged in the industries and factories and unskilled Labor engaged in street vending The research paper revealed the unhealthy working condition, lack of security from government, lack of implementation of street vendor's law, absence of financial aids from the movement ill behaviour of police personal and the local authorities. The study street vendors. The awareness should be done among all the street vendors through government and suggests implementation of policy and programmed for better livelihood and working condition of NGOs

Kiran Narendra, P.B, and Babu G.N.P, (2019), Over the last few years, studies on street vendors regarding the problems, prospects, challenges etc. are enlighten through the research. The reason of unable to get job for street vendors is because of low level of education and lack of skill. Deprivation of the government law enforcement is also one of the main determinants of the problems of street vendors The role of police acts as a problem for the street vendors because of corruption practice of police in the form of bribe. As per study, street vendors play a vital role in the economy for household income, employment and day to day livelihood in the urban and the rural area. it inculcates the various hypothesis on the significant storage facilities, economics and finance issued of street vendors, working environment of market vending operation, social security issues of street vendors and awareness on street vending, very study need to suggest and find various schemes for the welfare of street vendors.

Thaman Tacha, (2025) conducted a study title "A study on the street vendors in Deomali Town, Tirap, District of Arunachal Pradesh". The study was done to reveal the socio-economic condition of street vendors of Deomali Town, Tirap District, Arunachal Pradesh. The study unearths the working condition, prevalence of social right, financial assistance among the street vendors. Study put forth various suggestion and findings on infrastructure and government support, business characteristics, seasonal impact, income and livelihood.

The Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Department of Town Planning & Urban Local Bodies (2018), issued a public notice regarding the draft of the Arunachal Pradesh Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Scheme, 2018. The draft scheme was prepared in alignment with the provisions of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act,

2014, enacted by the Government of India. The notification, dated 21st September 2018 from the Arunachal Pradesh Civil Secretariat, Itanagar, highlighted the state government's initiative to regulate street vending activities while simultaneously protecting the livelihood rights of street vendors. The draft scheme aimed to provide a structured mechanism for vendor registration, formation of Town Vending Committees (TVCs), demarcation of vending zones, and prevention of arbitrary eviction. The scheme emphasized participatory governance by involving local bodies and vendor representatives in decision-making processes. It also intended to create a balance between urban planning, public convenience, and the economic security of vendors operating in urban areas of Arunachal Pradesh. This initiative marked a significant step toward formalizing the informal sector within the state and ensuring that street vendors receive legal recognition and protection under state-level regulatory mechanisms.

3. OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

The study is aimed to examining the issues and challenges prevail and faced by the street vendors of West Siang District. The key objectives of this study, therefore, would be as follows:

- To identify the problems faced by the street vendors within Aalo town.
- To understand and educate the legal rights prevail for the street vendors.
- To examine and aware the working of various scheme of government enacts for street vendors.
- To unearth the grievances of street vendors in the area of study.
- To examine working hours, gross monthly income and civic amenities of street vendors.
- To throw the light on vending place and vending condition of street vendors.

4. METHODOLOGY:

The study will base on the field survey. The personal interview, internet and social networking site, telephonic contacts, interaction and observation methods will be used during the field survey. Structure schedule, camera, paper and pencil and other stationary items will be used for the field survey. The entire study data will be collected on both the ways primary and secondary sources. The secondary data will be acquired from published books, articles, journals, reports (official & non official), records, newspapers, internet etc. On the other hand the primary data will be collected from the field through forming of questionnaire. The entire data will be collected from using of sampling techniques divided into different groups.

For the purposes of the present study, random sampling technique will be used. The study will be carried out within the Aalo town on the different vending activities of street vendors. The data were collected through face-to-face interaction to local vegetable sellers, fruit sellers, tea stall operator and street food vendors.

5.ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF STREET VENDORS

5.1 Lack of Legal Protection

Survey reveals that many street vendors operate without proper licensing or vendor certificate. No proper knowledge and awareness on street vendors act,2014, Arunachal Pradesh street vendors (Protection and Regulation of street vending) 2018. Lack of knowledge on access of vending certificate, identity card, paying of vending fees, social audit, renewable of vending licence etc. Vendors often face the problems of eviction without notification, harassment and confiscation of goods by authorities

5.2 Inadequate infrastructure facilities.

The street vendors of Aalo town faced inadequate infrastructure facilities which create problems of unhygienic and proper vending place. Street vendors do not have proper vending place, lack of storage facilities, clean drinking water, lack of sanitation place, lack of protection from rain and sun and also lack of sophisticated storage place.

5.3 Lack of access to the institutional credit.

Absence and lack of institutional facilities often result in borrowed from the local money lenders and informal borrowing institute at high rate of interest. Lack of awareness and knowledge of Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) which provide loans to street vendors at 7% rate of interest per annum. Due to lack of formal institutional financial credit street vendors fall in the grasp of debt trap.

5.3 Absence of Social Security

Various type of social security such as Health insurance, pension, maternity benefits and accidental coverage is absence which makes street vendors economically vulnerable during illness and emergency.

5.4 Irregular and Low income

The income of street vendors is irregular and low. Maximum number of street vendors are selling perishable goods Due to absence of cold storage facilities and storage facilities the goods do not last in long run. The involvement of third person called Jarson in local vegetable sellers.

5.5 Limited vending shed

Street vendors of Aalo town do not have proper and permanent vending place. Lack of proper vending shed result of vending in the road side which welcome the possibility of road accident, traffic problems and health hazard.

6. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF COLLECTED DATA

The data are collected through the direct personnel interview as per the questionnaire to 50^t street vendors of Aalo market. The collection of data was focused on the age group, infrastructure availability, government scheme. Finding is represented in table and percentage

6.1 Working Pattern of Street Vendors

Table .1 showing working pattern of street vendors Aalo Town (n= street vendors)

Sl.no	Type of activity	Number of vendors	In percentage (%)
1	Local vegetable sellers	25	50%
2	Tea stall operators	10	20%
3	Street food vendors	10	20%
4	Fruit sellers	5	10%
Total (n)		50	100%

The above data shows that majority of data are collected from the local vegetable's sellers, who came from different circle of west Siang district. The stall operator, fruit sellers, street food vendors are from other state of India.

6.2 Infrastructure availability

Table 2. Infrastructure availability for street vendors

Sl.no	facilities	Yes /No	No of facilities	Condition (Good/Bad)
1	Vendors shed	Yes	1	Bad
2	Sanitation	No	0	
3	Cold Storage	No	0	
4	Goods storage	No	0	
5	Electricity in shed	Yes	10 unit	Bad
6	Water connection	No	0	
7.	Garbage Disposal	No	0	

The above table shows that in Aalo town market only one vendor shed is available with depilated condition. Table shows the absence of sanitation facilities, cold storage, goods storage, water connection and Garbage disposal. Only few units of electricity connection are done in vending shed.

6.3 Social security measures

Table 3. Government social security scheme

Sl.no	Measures	Vendors avail
1.	PM SVANidhi scheme	Yes
2.	Ayushman Bharat PMJAY	No
3.	PMJJBY	No

4.	PMSBY	No
5.	APY	No
6.	e-Shram portal	No
7.	NULM	No

Abbreviation: PM SVANidhi scheme (Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi), Ayushman Bharat PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana), PMJJBY (Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana), APY (Atal Pension Yojana), NULM (National Urban Livelihood Mission)

6.4 Seasonal Impact of Season

Table no 4. Depict the impact on business as per season

Sl.no	INTERVIEW	RESPONSE
1.	Worse vending season	Rainy and summer season
2	Reduce sale, few customer	Rainy season
3.	Winter and Festive Season	High Sale
4.	Business shutdown	1 day in a week.
5.	Goods demand	As per season
6.	During summer	Low sale in noon

6.5 Monthly Income

Table no.5 Range of monthly income of 50 street vendors of Aalo Town

Sl. No	Street vendors	No of street vendors	₹5000 - ₹10000(in monthly)	₹10000- ₹15000	₹15000- ₹20000
1.	Local vegetable sellers	25	25		
2.	Tea stall operator	10		10	
3.	Street food vendors	10		10	
4.	Fruit seller	05			05

7. FINDING

Based on the data collected and analyses from 50 number of street vendors at Aalo town following finding were reveal:

7.1 At Aalo market the number of street vendors are more than the 100 street vendors. For data collection sample survey of 50 number of street vendors were taken into consideration. 50 number street vendors comprised of Local vegetables vendors, tea stall operators, street food vendors and Fruit sellers. Out of 50 number of street vendors 25 street vendors are local vegetable sellers, 10 vendors are tea stall operator, 10 vendors are street food vendors and 5 vendors are Fruit seller. It is found that all the local vegetables

vendors are local women from the nearby villages of Aalo Town, who sale local product in a market such as local vegetable, Bambo product, local dry fish, wild potato and perishable product. Fruit seller sell fruit regularly at permanent place. Local fruit seller sells the fruit as per the season example selling of orange during orange season, selling pineapple during pineapple season. Tea stall operator and street food vendor vending at road side without safety and hygiene. There is no proper designated place for vending.

7.2 Study reveal that the street vendor of Aalo town market do not have vital infrastructure facilities. Local vegetable vendors have old and dilapidated vending shed which was constructed by the Panchayat Raj institute of Aalo town. Street vendors of the region do not able the basic amenities such as electricity connection, water connection, sanitation facilities, cold storage and storage facilities. Due to lack of basic amenities street vendors of the region gone through the situation of decay of goods, eaten by rodent and health hazard.

7.3 Study reveals that street vendors of Aalo town market have lack of awareness and knowledge regarding the prevail of significant social security scheme prevail for the street vendors such as:

Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi) launched in the year 2020 to support the street vendors by providing capital loan after COVID-19 lockdown. Through this scheme government provide capital loan of ₹10000 in initial stage at the rate 7% per annum. more loan will be provided after repayment of initial loan. Maximum street vendors are not aware of Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PMSVANidhi).

SVANidhi se Samriddhi: The government launched SVANidhi se Samriddhi in January 2021 for socio-economic upliftment of street vendors. It was started in 125 urban local bodies in 2021-22 and then 126 additional cities in 2022-23 having provision of following eight government of India schemes:

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) launched in the year 2015. An accident insurance scheme which covers accidental death, permanent disability and partial disablement providing a coverage of ₹2 lakh for annual premium of ₹20.

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) launched in the year 2015. A life insurance scheme coverage an amount of ₹2lakh, death due to any reason annual premium of ₹436. Age ranges from 18-50 years

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) launched on 2014, ensuring that every household has access to basic banking facilities such as saving account, credit, insurance, and pension. Provide accidental insurance of ₹2lakh.

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana (PM-SYM) launched in the year 2019. It is a pension scheme for unorganised workers to ensure old age protection with minimum assured monthly pension of ₹3,000 after 60 years of age.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) it was launched in September 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, providing health coverage to 10 crores households or 50 crores Indians, providing a cover of ₹5 lakh.

National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) launched in the year 2013. main objective was to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor by providing self-employment opportunities, skill development, financial assistance and institutional support.

7.4 Study reveal that street vendor of area of study always fluctuate as per the season. During the rainy and summer season sells of goods reduce. Sells of goods of street vendors increase during the festive season.

7.5 As per data collected from the 50 number of street vendors of Aalo Town Market, the Monthly income of local vegetable sellers ranges from ₹5000 to ₹10000. ₹10000 - ₹15000 of tea stall operator and street food vendors. ₹15000-₹20000 of fruit sellers.

7.6 Street vendors of Aalo town market, West Siang, Arunachal Pradesh are unaware of various Government act which play vital role for the safeguard of street vendors. Street vendors are unaware of act such as: The street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of street Vending) Act 2014 and Arunachal Pradesh Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2018. The Act of the Government plays a safeguard and shield for street vendors which include Legal recognition, formation of Town vending Committee (TVC), Issue of Certificate for Vending, Protection from eviction, declaration of vending zone etc.

7.7 At Aalo town market street vendors especially local vegetable sellers faced problem from the Jarson. The Jarson are the middle man who takes the vegetables from farmers and distribute them to market sellers. Jarson regularly buy vegetables from the farmers at low cost and distribute them to the shop of every colony of Aalo town. The very act of Jarson result the hindrance of flow of buyers directly to the farmers or real local vegetables sellers and create the income instability. Jarson are considered as illegal by the Bazar Regulatory committee of Aalo Market.

8. SUGGESTIONS:

The suggestion will be placed after detail working on the proposed research. The following suggestion will be place;

- Significant legal rights and law should be enacted for welfare of street vendors.
- Laws should be made stricter against the abuse of street vendors,
- Government should initiate awareness and education on legal right for the street vendors.
- The infrastructure development and Government support should introduce in providing proper vending place, proper water and electricity connection, proper storage and cold storage facilities, garbage disposal and sanitation facilities.
- The researchers, Student from college and university should initiate the awareness for street vendors regarding their Legal right and to avail the benefits of Government scheme.
- Efforts must be made to set up proper financial credit institution where rate of interest should be low and affordable for street vendors. The proper financial credit institution safe guard the street vendors from debt trap.
- Good and efficient vending welfare committee should be formed for the street vendors. Which can fight for the right of street vendors.

- All the street vendors should register at Bazar Regulatory committee.

CONCLUSION:

The study will be carrying out on the context, issues and challenges of the street vendors of the Aalo town West Siang District Arunachal Pradesh. All the research will be executed through the proper channel and methods of research. Method of the study will be carrying out without compromising the research ethics. The result of the research will be on the basis of finding and fact prevails in the research area. Through the details studies of literature review the various types of research gap will bring the light and strive to execute for future research.

The study found that street vendors of the Aalo town working and earning without the proper support from the government. All the market setup are from their own financial. The street vendors facing the problems of basic civic amenities which include toilet, drinking water, electricity connection, storage facilities, garbage dumping place. Selling of the goods of street vendors fluctuate as per season and weather. Street vendors are unaware of the right which are prevail for the street vendors. The maximum street vendors of area study do not have the knowledge and avail the benefits of government scheme. This study can fulfil various research gap and make awareness to the government and people about issues and challenges of street vendors.

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APPENDIX

- Are you aware of any government schemes related to market activities?
- What is your age?
- What is your gender?
- What type of goods do you sell?
- What is the ownership structure of your business?
- Do you have any legal licenses or health permits for your stall?
- Would you be interested in attending a free training/workshop on hygiene, business growth, customer service?
- Which season affects your business operations the most?
- How does the rainy season affect your daily business?
- During extreme heat in summer, how does your business get impacted?
- Do you experience lower sales during any specific season?
- How do you protect your stall/business setup during the rainy season?
- In which season do you observe the highest sale?
- Have you ever had to shut your business for multiple days due to bad weather?
- Do seasonal illnesses affect your business?
- Would better infrastructure (drainage, shelters, stalls) help your business during seasonal changes?
- What is the biggest challenge currently faces in Aalo Market?
- Is the rise of online shopping platforms affecting your business?
- How often do infrastructure problems (e.g., roads, electricity, and drainage) disrupt your business?
- What mode of transportation do you primarily use?
- How long have you been operating as a vendor?
- What is your main product or service category?
- Do you have a fixed place of business or vending?
- What is your business operating hours?
- What is your average customer volume per day or per month?
- What issues and challenges do you face most often?

- How do you dispose of leftover food or waste?
- How do customer preferences affect your product/service offerings?
- What type of support would help your business the most in Aalo Market?
- What is your primary source of goods?