

## Attitudes towards Footpath Businesses in Nepalgunj

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### Abstract

This research report investigates the attitude towards footpath business and its satisfaction scenario of footpath business of Nepalgunj metropolitan city. The study found that the majority of people have a positive attitude towards footpath business, as it provides a source of income for many people who would otherwise be unemployed. However, there are also some negative perceptions of footpath business, such as that it is unsightly and can be a nuisance. The study also found that the level of satisfaction among footpath businessmen is mixed. Some are satisfied with their income, while others are not. The level of income also varies depending on the type of business and the location. The study concludes that footpath business is an important part of the local economy in Nepalgunj. However, it is important to address the negative perceptions of footpath business and to ensure that footpath businessmen are able to operate safely and legally.

*Keywords:* Footpath business, attitude, satisfaction, challenges, opportunities

### Introduction

Footpath businesses are an important aspect of Nepal's informal economy, contributing significantly to livelihoods and urban liveliness. Several academic publications and reports have thrown light on the attitudes and dynamics that surround these enterprises.

A footpath (also pedestrian way, walking trail, nature trail) is a type of thorough fare that is intended for use only by pedestrians and no other forms of traffic such as motorized vehicles, bicycles and horses. They can be found in a wide variety of places, from the centre of cities, to farmland, to mountain ridges. Footpath business, as an informal form of business, is one that is carried out by people on street, footpath and other public areas. It is mostly done by people who are financially weak. It includes selling of cloths, vegetables, grocery, office supplies, footwear, tea, meat, ice-cream etc. On the public places like road, bus-station and many other congested places. Doing footpath business is not a legitimate one but it has been proliferating day-by-day.

Foot path enterprises play an important role in Nepal's economic environment, contributing to livelihoods and the local economy. Understanding these businesses' beliefs is critical for understanding their social, economic, and cultural effect. The purpose of this literature review is to investigate existing information and views concerning footpath companies in Nepal, with a particular emphasis on societal perceptions, economic ramifications, regulatory viewpoints, and cultural importance.

Owing to the mismatch between growth of population and growth of economic status of the country, there has been high unemployment problem in context of Nepal. Mainly, sky-rocketing unemployment problem of the country seems to be playing a role of driving factor for the increment of pavement business in case of Nepalgunj. In addition to that, illiteracy, catastrophic problems, interest of people, lack of adequate capital, inward migration, sort of professional knowledge for business, non-availability of sound income generating sources and increasing living cost etc. Are also keys to augmentation of footpath business in Nepalgunj.

There are many places in Nepalgunj where footpath business exists. Mainly, Traffic Chowk, B.P Chowk. Pupalal Chowk, Ganeshman Chowk, Tribhuvan chowk, Dhambojhi, etc. Are the major places where we can see footpath business? These places have been better place for doing such business because of high flux of people in those areas. Business around those areas seems to be doing high turnover every day and earning attractive revenue.

Footpath business has been major income source of many people here in Nepalgunj. It has been main business in case of many people who are economically weak and back warded. It sounds that most of people engaged in such businesses are satisfying financial needs of their families and their own with income earned from that business. When we look at the business, we may think doing such business is an easy job. Indeed, it's very tough and challenging to be engaged in such business. One involving in such business has to face legal, reputation, climatic, social, and many other challenges exceptionally.

This research report entitled "Attitude towards footpath business in Nepalgunj" Primarily aims at investigating the attitude towards footpath business and its satisfaction scenario of footpath business of Nepalgunj metropolitan city; therefore, people will come to know how difficult and challenging it is to do footpath business and live a live, and concerned stakeholders will take necessary steps to redress the problems of footpath business and make it more meaningful, organized environment friendly in Nepalgunj.

### **Objectives of the study**

The general objective of this study is to analyze the most challenging aspects of footpath business of people here in Nepalgunj metropolitan city. Besides, specific objectives are as below:

- To know the attitude towards footpath business.
- To analyze the level of satisfaction in footpath business.
- To find out the level of income in footpath business.

### **Literature review**

Footpath businesses, encompassing various enterprises like food stalls and market shops operating on footpaths, provoke divergent views: Some perceive them as disruptive while others recognize their significance in the local economy.

Studies by the university of cambridge and the university of oxford illustrate contrasting perceptions. The former reveals public disdain, deeming footpath businesses unsightly yet acknowledging their role in providing affordable goods. Conversely, the latter highlights environmental impacts—pollution but also promoting eco-friendly habits like walking and cycling.

Various factors influence attitudes toward footpath businesses: The business type's perceived intrusiveness, its location in bustling or quieter areas, its environmental impact, and its contribution to the local economy.

Bhattacharya, d., & Sarkar, s. (2019). *Economic affairs*, 64(4), 717-727, "Informal economy in India: A perspective." The importance of the informal sector, including footpath companies, in providing job and income options for marginalized groups is discussed in this article.

Chen, E.M. A., & Snodgrass, d. R. (2018). *Informal workers and collective action: A global perspective*. Routledge. This book investigates the difficulties and opportunities that informal workers, especially street sellers, confront while engaging with authorities and organizing collective action for their rights.

Gupta, a., & Mitra, a. (2017). "Assessment of socio-economic impact of street vendors in Indian cities." *International journal of scientific research*, 6(8), 463-465. This study examines the socioeconomic influence of street vendors on local economies as well as residents' attitudes toward these companies.

Mukherjee, S., & Sinha, a. (2020). "Street vendors, urban public space, and the right to the city in India." *Journal of urban affairs*, 42(6), 884-900. This journal article examines the relationship between street vendors, public space, and the right to the city, with a focus on the socio-spatial processes at work.

Torres et al. (2020). Exploring street vending, Torres et al. Highlight its necessity in Bogotá, Colombia, as the primary income source due to limited job prospects. Similarly, research in Nepal by Kharel et al. (2019) depicts footpath businesses as both convenient and congested, addressing societal sentiments based on geography.

Hui et al. (2018). "Pedestrian traffic in urban and suburban settings is facilitated by footpaths, which link individuals to public spaces, businesses, and amenities." It has been demonstrated that walkways' quantity and quality have a major influence on the survival and prosperity of nearby businesses. Businesses along easily accessible and well-maintained sidewalks had increased levels of foot traffic and client patronage, according to a study by hui et al. (2018). This pattern emphasizes how crucial sidewalks are as both pedestrian infrastructure and as catalysts for business growth and economic activity.

Green et al. (2019). Businesses indicated worries about uneven surfaces, inadequate lighting, and inadequate upkeep in a study performed by green et al. (2019), all of which can dissuade potential consumers and create accessibility barriers. As a result, it is evident that governments and business districts aiming to sustain and grow local trade must prioritize the planning and maintenance of walkways.

Shakya et al. (2020). Studies in different countries emphasize street vending's economic importance for marginalized communities. Shakya et al. (2020) stress its significance despite operating informally. The debate over regulating footpath enterprises in nepal, highlighted by the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) (2021), underscores the need for balanced regulations fostering entrepreneurship while resolving infrastructural concerns.

Cultural research institute Nepal (CRIN) (2018). Highlighting Nepal's cultural heritage, cultural research institute Nepal (CRIN) (2018) notes footpath enterprises' reflection of indigenous arts and crafts, contributing to cultural tourism.

National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) states, "Policy advocacy brief: Street vendors in India." This advocacy brief emphasizes the regulatory issues that footpath entrepreneurs confront and proposes policy actions to help and legalize these firms.

The street vendors (livelihood protection and regulation of street vending) act of 2014. This act attempts to preserve street sellers' rights by establishing a legal framework for their operation as well as protection from arbitrary eviction.

Further studies in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Nepal reveal street vending's reliance as a primary income source, addressing failures in the formal economy. However, challenges like overcrowding and environmental impact require strategies for long-term sustainability, transitioning vendors into the formal sector.

Footpath firms have been the subject of substantial research, with perceptions ranging from being regarded disruptive to recognized economic contributions. Various university studies and research publications have looked into the diverse character of these businesses. While some studies, such as those conducted by the university of Cambridge, reveal public disdain for their visual unsightliness despite acknowledging their role in providing affordable goods, others, such as those conducted by the university of oxford, emphasize environmental impacts, ranging from pollution concerns to promoting eco-friendly habits. The apparent intrusiveness, location, environmental imprint, and economic benefit of sidewalk enterprises are all factors determining opinions toward them. Footpath enterprises play a critical role in providing job possibilities for excluded people, according to research undertaken by Bhattacharya and Sarkar (2019) and Chen and Snodgrass (2018), and the obstacles these informal workers face in claiming their rights. Moreover, research by Mukherjee and Sinha (2020), Torres et al. (2020), and others highlights the economic necessity of street vending in diverse worldwide contexts, as well as its complicated link with public sentiments and urban dynamics. Despite their enormous economic benefits, regulatory compliance and environmental challenges exist, underlining the necessity for adequate oversight to ensure ethical operation within the confines of current regulations. Ultimately, while footpath businesses bolster local economies, addressing challenges like environmental impact and regulatory compliance is imperative to ensure their continued positive contributions within the formal economy.

## **Research methodology**

### **Population and sample**

The population of the study is not fixed. It might fluctuate time to time. However, population includes footpath businesses that run only in Nepalgunj sub-metropolitan city. The study covers 15 footpath businesses of Nepalgunj. The operators of the business were selected as respondents of the study. Sample of 15 businesses were selected randomly. Sample businesses include business of vegetable, food, cloth, refreshment, home appliances, lather products, etc.

### **Research design**

The study has adopted descriptive research design to carry out overall research study.

### **Methods of data analysis**

In this research study, used frequency, percentage and ranking method to analyze some data. Similarly, pie-charts, bar diagrams and tables have also been used as tools of data analysis. On the basis of frequency, proportions of data have been calculated and percentage of data has been presented in bar diagrams and pie-charts, also ranked data on the basis of their values. Data

having highest value has been ranked 1<sup>st</sup> and data having lowest value has been ranked last one. These are tools and methods that have been used for data analysis.

**Limitation**

- The study was conducted with a small sample size, so the results may not be generalizable to the entire population of footpath businessmen in Nepalgunj.
- The study did not collect data on the long-term sustainability of footpath businesses. It is possible that some footpath businessmen may eventually move on to other types of businesses.
- The study did not collect data on the impact of footpath businesses on the local economy. It is possible that footpath businesses contribute to the local economy by providing jobs and goods and services.

**Data Presentation and Analysis**

Features of sample respondents are presented as below:

**People involved in footpath business**

The research has shown following information regarding to the people involved in footpath business on the basis of age factor:

**Table 1**

*Income of Footpath Businessmen Per Month*

S.N.	Number of people	Percent of people	Income (in 000)
1	2	13.33	Up to 5
2	4	26.67	5-10
3	7	46.67	10-20
4	2	13.33	20-30
<hr/>			
Total	15	100	-

Source: Field survey and questionnaire 2022

The table 1 depicts the proportion of income level of respondents. Among 15 respondents 7 of them earn the highest 10-20 thousand. 2 of them earn the lowest up to 5 thousand. Remaining 4 and 2 of them earn 5-10 and 20-30 thousand respectively.

**Table 2**

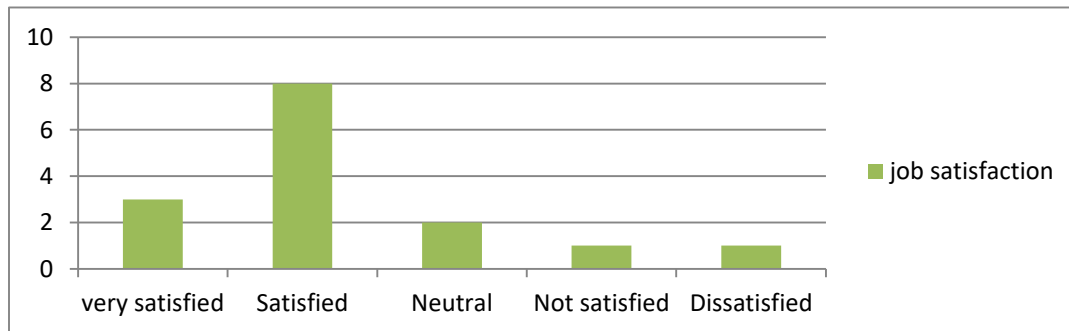
*Level of Job Satisfaction on Footpath Business*

Level of satisfaction	No of respondents	Percentage	Rank
Very satisfied	3	20%	2
Satisfied	8	53.33%	1
Neutral	2	13.33%	3
Not satisfied	1	6.67%	4
Dissatisfied	1	6.67%	4
Total	15	100%	-

Source: Field survey and questionnaire 2022

**Figure 1**

*Job Satisfaction on Footpath Business*

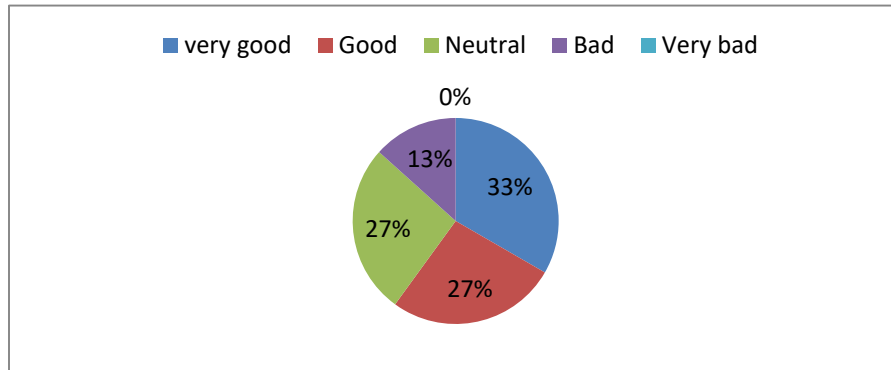


Source: Field survey and questionnaire 2022

The figure 1 represents the job satisfaction condition of people. It seems that satisfied and very satisfied people are prevalent in footpath business. Whereas there are less respondents who are not satisfied and dissatisfied with their job.

**Figure 2**

*Attitude towards Footpath Business*



*Source: Field survey and questionnaire 2022*

The figure 2 shows the perception of businessmen, it was found that people responding very good doing footpath business are 33%, similarly, 27% think that it is good work to do footpath business. There are 13% people who respond neither bad nor good to do footpath business. It shows that 13% of them are in favor of bad to do it and there are 0% people who thing doing footpath business is very bad. Generally, people were found to have good perception towards this business.

**Table 3**

*Reasons of Doing Footpath Business*

Reasons	No of respondents	Percentage	Rank
Lack of money	15	100%	1
Self-interest	5	33.33%	3
Tax concern	3	20%	4
Flexibility	10	66.67%	2
Avoid rent	2	13.33%	5

*Source: Field survey and questionnaire 2022*

The table 3 shows respondent responding lack of money as a reason for doing it were 100%. 33.33% respondents responded that reason for footpath business was also self-interest of them. 20% respondents replied that tax concern was also a reason for footpath business.

Flexibility or freedom was also a cause and 66.66% replied that reason. Likewise, 13.33% people replied that avoiding nuisance of rent was their reason to do footpath business.

**Table 4**

*Rank of Challenges of Footpath Business*

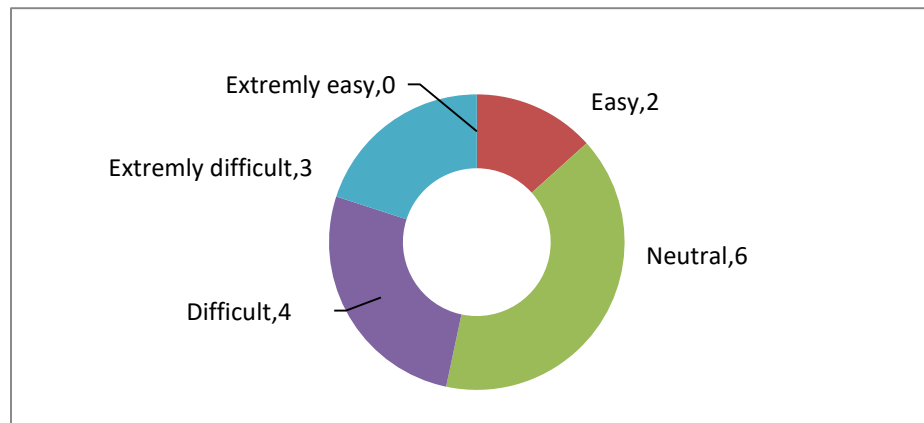
Type of challenges	Rank
Climate	Second
Pollution	Forth
Competition	Fifth
Government rules	First
Non-availability of requisites	Third

*Source: Field survey and questionnaire 2022*

The table 4 shows that the respondents were asked to provide the rank from 1 to 5. Rank 1 is the most frequent challenge they face and 2, 3, 4, 5, are the less frequent challenges they face. The most frequent challenge they face is government policies receiving rank 1. Climate, non-availability of requisites, competition and pollution are ranked 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.

**Figure 3**

*Difficulty / Easiness for Doing Footpath Business*



*Source: Field survey and questionnaire 2022*

The figure 3 shows, among the 15 respondents, 13.33% replied that it was easy for them to do such business, 40% of them were neutral. They replied that it was neither easy nor hard to do footpath business. Similarly, people who found it hard to do such business are 26.67% and 20% thought that it was extremely difficult to do such business.



The research made on the topic attitude of footpath business in Nepalgunj shows the following scenario.

- i. Analysis of satisfaction level: There are 20% people who are very satisfied with their job. Satisfied footpath businessmen are 53.33% and 13.33% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. There are 6.67% people who are not satisfied with their job and 6.67% of them are dissatisfied.
- ii. Attitude towards footpath business: Regarding to the attitude of businessmen, it was found that people responding very good doing footpath business are 33%, similarly, 27% think that it is good work to do footpath business. There are 13% people who respond neither bad nor good to do footpath business. It shows that 13% of them are in favor of bad to do it and there are 0% people who thing doing footpath business is very bad. Generally, people were found to have good attitude towards this business.
- iii. Average income per month: It shows that 13.33% of respondent earn up to 5000, 26.67% people earn 5000-10000, 46.67% people earn 10000-20000 per month. Similarly, there are 13.33% people earning 20000-30000 per month.
- iv. Analysis of reasons for doing footpath business: There are five general reasons of doing footpath business. Respondent views regarding to reasons are different. Respondent responding lack of money as a reason for doing it were 100%. 33.33% respondents responded that reason for footpath business was also self-interest of them. 20% respondents replied that tax concern was also a reason for footpath business. Flexibility or freedom was also a cause and 66.66% replied that it was also a reason. Likewise, 13.33% people replied that avoiding nuisance of rent was their reason to do footpath business.
- v. Rank of challenges of footpath business: The respondents were asked to provide the rank from 1 to 5. Rank 1 is the most frequent challenge they face and 2, 3, 4, 5, are the less frequent challenges they face. The most frequent challenge they face is government policies receiving rank 1. Climate, non-availability of requisites, competition and pollution are ranked 2, 3, 4 and 5 respectively.
- vi. Analysis of difficulties / easiness: Among the 15 respondents, 13.33% replied that it was easy for them to do such business, 40% of them were neutral. They replied that it was neither easy nor hard to do footpath business. Similarly, people who found it hard to do such business are 26.67% and 20% thought that it was extremely difficult to do such business.

### Conclusion

The study on the attitude of footpath business in Nepalgunj shows that the majority of footpath businessmen are satisfied with their job (53.33%). They have a good attitude towards this business (33% think it is very good and 27% think it is good). The average income per month of footpath businessmen is 10000-20000 (46.67%). The most common reason for doing footpath business is lack of money (100%). Other reasons include self-interest (33.33%), tax concern (20%), flexibility or freedom (66.66%), and avoiding nuisance of rent (13.33%). The most frequent challenge faced by footpath businessmen is government policies (rank 1). Other challenges include climate (rank 2), non-availability of requisites (rank 3), competition (rank 4), and pollution (rank 5).

In conclusion, the study shows that footpath business is a popular choice for many people in Nepalgunj. The majority of footpath businessmen are satisfied with their job and have a good

attitude towards this business. However, they also face a number of challenges, such as government policies, climate, and competition. Overall, the study provides some insights into the attitude of footpath businessmen in Nepalgunj. However, more research is needed to understand the full impact of footpath businesses on individuals, businesses, and the local economy.

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