



Beedhi Vyaparigala Okkuta <bvokkuta@gmail.com>

## Regd. Support to Street Vendors in Bangalore

1 message

Beedhi Vyaparigala Okkuta <bvokkuta@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 15, 2020 at 6:41 PM

To: Comm@bbmp.gov.in

Bcc: Vinay Sreenivasa <vinay@altlawforum.org>, maitreyi.ml@gmail.com, clifroz@gmail.com, lekha adavi <lekhaadavi@gmail.com>

Dear Sir,

The Bengaluru Jilla Beedhi Vyapari Sanghatanegala Okkuta is a registered federation of street vendor unions across Bangalore city, and our member unions include Vijayanagar, Jayanagar, Whitefield, Yeshwantpur, Koramangala, among others.

We write to you in the context of the lockdown implemented by the Government of Karnataka to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, where street vendors have been badly affected as a result of this lockdown as their sole means of livelihood is that of street vending. The vendors who are dependent on the day's earning to sustain their families are under duress given that they are unable to sell their wares due to the lockdown<sup>[1]</sup>.

While several fruits, vegetables and greens are being sold on the streets, food vendors have not been permitted since the lockdown. No street vendor was allowed to carry out their vending activities until the relaxation was made from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, vide letter to Principal Secretaries of all States/UTs dated 03.04.2020 bearing file no. K-13011(11)/123/2017-UPA-II-Section (FTS-1344546), where it was stated in Para 2 that the urban street vendors are facing the risk of losing their livelihoods during the period of lockdown and they play an important role in supply of essential items to the citizens at affordable prices. Despite these directions, street vendors have not been able to sell their wares. In view of this, our Federation would like to make a few suggestions to ensure the safety and protection of livelihoods of street vendors who come under the jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). They are as follows:

1. **Community kitchen:** Food vendors who have been carrying out their livelihood activity of street vending across the 198 wards must be employed in community kitchens that must be setup by the BBMP. This way, the food is

- fresh and street vendors also get an income. The proposal to setup community kitchen to tackle the COVID-19 crisis is attached as Annexure – 1.
2. **One-time Financial Grant:** A one-time financial grant of an appropriate sum must be paid to all existing street vendors in the jurisdiction of the BBMP, to aid and support them to restart their businesses. Such a grant shall be paid to all those street vendors, irrespective of whether they have been issued ID cards by the BBMP. This is due to the fact that not all existing street vendors were covered during the survey which was conducted over two years ago, and street vendors require State support in this time of crisis. The financial grant can be derived from the already existing grant of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihood Mission (Support for Urban Street Vendors segment) provided for by the Government of India. The payment can be done through cash or direct-bank-transfer. The same can be extended as per Section 32 of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulating Street Vending) Act, 2014, wherein it is stated that the appropriate government may, to the extent of availability of financial and other resources to organize capacity building programmes to enable the street vendors to exercise their rights contemplated under the abovesaid Act.
  3. **Markets in Open Spaces:** While maintaining social distancing and other required guidelines to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, street vendors must be allowed to resume their livelihood activities in open parks, below flyovers and metro lines, sports stadiums and other open spaces which can be easily identified. Vending spots can be designated at each of these open spaces by marking in paint, as well as marking spots for customers to maintain the one-metre social distance.
  4. **Door-to-door delivery of essentials:** In an article appearing in *The NewsMinute*<sup>[2]</sup>, it has been stated that the BBMP has announced that it will not allow city residents to go out to buy groceries unless there is an absolute emergency, and instead, a helpline will be doled out to coordinate home delivery services for groceries and medicines, which will be rolled out as soon as possible. In this context, street vendors must also be taken into confidence and allowed to register to be a part of this helpline, whereas now the option to register is only for shop-owners, for door-to-door delivery of vegetables, food, and other essentials as part of this initiative.

We request that the BBMP acts on the abovementioned recommendations and support street vendors who are otherwise deprived of State-led benefits.

Thanking you

Yours Sincerely,

**S. Babu**  
**President**

---

[1] Article appearing in Citizen Matters authored by Puja Guha on April 2nd, 2020, available at: <https://bengaluru.citizenmatters.in/bengaluru-covid-lockdown-street-food-vendors-impact-cholera-eviction-street-vending-act-43897>

[2] Article appearing in The NewsMinute authored by Theja Ram dated April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, available at: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/bbmp-says-bengalureans-should-get-groceries-home-delivered-starts-helpline-122620>

---

 **Annexure - 1.pdf**  
406K