

Bangkok Street Food Vendor Development and Street Consumption Culture

Author: Atjaneeya Wongkitkanvanit and Thayuth Thongpan
Affiliation: King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
School of Architecture and Design
Tel + 662-470-7888 Fax +662-2452-3792

Abstract

This paper presents a study of street food vendor development in some of the streets, alleys, and communities in Bangkok. Urban public space and architecture and social relation that connect street consumption culture also are examined. By examining samples from a group of representative street vendors and buyers to gain an understanding of activities employed, this paper included the research techniques of visual documentation, observation, key informant interviews, and a field survey. The primary information from the field survey was conducted on several places to have an overview of the nature of street vending. The interviews with the vendors and buyers were conducted to reveal attitudes toward urban planning awareness and activities of the vendors as well as their feelings regarding the selective place in which they operate the business. These included the location and type of foods sold and whether the vendors operated in a particular locations or moved from one location to the other.

The result of the study reveals that street vending activities occurred in four spatial patterns including in a cluster around the department stores, shops, in the central business area, around urban architecture in the area of apartments and community, in linear arrangement along pedestrian circulation paths and streets, and in open areas where relatively larger spaces are available.

Preferred considerations of buyers included: cleanliness, appealing aroma, adequate lighting, politeness, and comfortable furniture. Each vendor was found to have a unique socialized, consumerism attitude and identity related to productivity and personal growth, support and networking. Regarding feelings of the spatial environment, there seems to be a positive correlation between vendor's senses of attachment to the place they incorporate with.

Introduction

Urban public space is the spatial environment and social relation that influence the human activity and a fundamental determinant of the character of towns. Urban public space can also be examined and considered as the urban poor for the livelihood where the physical demonstration of the conflicts and contradictions of street food business and the forces of urban administration to eliminate begin. In Bangkok, urban public spaces are reserved and have become assets for living under the complexity of urban architecture and form. In particular, they provides a variety of job opportunities and generate employment for a large number of people, especially rural migrants who have the low skills or the education to enable them to find better paid, and finally forced to join the informal economy. These people take to street vending profession when they do not find other means of living. Though the income in this profession is low, the investment too is low and the people do not require special skills or any training. Hence for these people, men and women, street vending is the easiest form for earning their living in urban public space.

The street food vendor is broadly defined as a person who offers food for sell to the public without having a permanent built up structure but with a temporary static structure or mobile stall. The vendors are the most visible production of the controversial component of the urban economy and vendors operate their businesses in areas that can be classified as urban public spaces and originally intended for trading purpose. The vendors may be stationary by occupying space on the pavements or other public/private areas, or may be mobile in the sense that they move from place to place carrying their food on push carts or in cycles or baskets. They operate on pedestrian walkways and on streets obstructed to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic and causing congestion, especially in the city center. They also relocate in places, exposing their physical characteristic as a subject essential to create urban movement. However, some are fixed retail operations and create a different effect as they relate to the place that generates possible modes of perception in different time sequences to buyer. Today, the vendors form a relationship of many low-income communities and urban form depends on the innovative space utilization, variety of food to be sold to survive and flourish. Although, street vending has presented challenges for urban administrations, there is no shortage of urban public space for trading. And the most profitable locations to trade are at the busiest locations where competition for space is competitive.

However, the existence of street food business in Bangkok caused problems similar to other countries. The presence of street vendors disrupt the environment, then there is an argument about should or should not the vendors be removed from the street. Furthermore, street food is also a risk factor to cause food poisoning, for example, diarrhea from unhygienic food. A report from Health Assembly Resolution Office revealed that diarrhea was the number one of illness in Thailand caused by unhygienic practices. The unhygienic food practices starts from the raw material to serving the food, raw material is not kept in proper temperature condition and the presence of insects and domestic animals that subject to food contamination. Street food is always associated with food borne illness. From the incidents it can be noticeable that the vendors do not pay enough attention to food safety, or they probably are lack of education which influences the lack of sanitary knowledge.

Nevertheless, the problem cannot be solved if it focuses only on street vendor because the buyers also have the role in determining the success of street vendors. The growing of street food purchasing is due to the growth of the urban population, changing lifestyles, and urban development. Therefore, people will not be cooking at home because buying the food from the street vendors is time saving, convenience, and inexpensive when compared to the food that is prepared from the other sectors. Though, the buyers realize that there is high food safety risk of the street food.

At present, the vendors play a powerful role ranging from spatial environment to urban and city development. The street food vendors in Bangkok are in the state of chaotic situation and mainly cause the urban development. Many of the vendors, both stand-alone and movable have increased in number in recent years. Streets are the major mode of vendors and sidewalks are replaced by commercial kiosks to generate more economic benefits. In this context, it needs an incorporate of framework and process that includes street culture, socio-economic values, and urban planning. To the worst case, most of them are trying to transform themselves into tourism spots in response to the growing trend of cultural tourism.

Objectives

- (1) The study intends to understand the street food vendor culture regarding the urban public space and architecture issues; how they compromise in urban public space and architecture physically within the context of people and place.
- (2) The study intends to explore the spatial patterns of street vending as a human activity toward street consumption culture.

Study Method

The primary source of information was gathered from the literature and research papers. The secondary was the field survey and observation where there is substantial information regarding street vending, spatial pattern, and people. The third was interview with the representative of vendors and buyers to understand current situation and problem toward issues of consumerism and urban awareness. The selective areas of study were conducted in 3 business district areas in Bangkok metropolitan.

Bangkok Street Vendor

The street vending in Bangkok appeared before Ratanakosin era and it was a traditional livelihood and had value in both local economic and cultural tradition of trading. People brought agricultural product, vegetable, or snack to sell in the market or community putting in stall and walking to alley, street yelling in distance and exact time. The buyer knew when it came and be ready to buy product or food. The vendors walked until no more products or food to be sold and walked back home. They did repeatedly as daily activity.

Before the infrastructure development during King Rama 4 reign, most trading and industries of Thai and Chinese people were characterized as the floating market and boat market. After the development of streets, alleys, and sidewalks, there were urban public spaces where street vendors started from small-scale operatives or micro-entrepreneurs. Most vendors were operated by a single, usually female with no employees or household-based. The vendors were characterized by the small scale of the operation, used of traditional food,

low costs, and low income. The vendors in Bangkok was resources for every class of people because Bangkok metropolis people liked convenience and simple ways of consumerism making vendors remain for so long in business and profession.

The vendors have been found and developed closely to Bangkok metropolis people for long time and continuously evolved and improved thoroughly changed by the context of economic and social issues. The development of vendor and street consumption had been changed by type of food, buyers, and consumption. The feature of vendors has also been modified and updated depend on food and products. At present, vendors therefore act as the designer, seller, economist, cook, public relation, negotiator, investor and businessman. This is the social science phenomenon that relied on mutual reliance in such certain environment.

Bangkok street food vendors create spaces within existing buildings, sidewalks and streets to establish their territoriality and sell their food. The result is a tapestry of informal architecture set on the existing built-environment infrastructure. The future of Bangkok street food vendor development is therefore interested to follow up and study. Several vendors develop to own permanent shops and businesses. Moreover, the food are more different by change of environment, society and subject to the fluctuated economic and politic whereby all of these are all interested factors to be followed up.

Street Food Consumption Culture

The street food vendor involves positively experienced bonds to customer and Thai eating lifestyle are simple developed over time from the behavioral, affective, and cognitive ties between individuals and/or groups. As a result, street vendor have prolonged live with Bangkok society. The most observable fact about Bangkok is street eating. Almost every street has people enjoying a wide variety of cooked and raw food. In fact the food is known for its cheap but nutritious low. For the local population, the street food consume is an integral part of life in Bangkok. Hundreds of people rely on street food for a good meal at low costs. Eating circles of Thais is day and night due to Bangkok metropolis people Lifestyle that works as shift throughout 24 hours. As the developing country, industrial business is therefore operated at all times. People have thus relied on street eating that is 24 hours affordable, cheap, convenience and available near the communities, hospital, industrial factories, entertainment areas and academies.

There has been a tradition among the population of eating out recently. Street food in Bangkok is trend and has gain interest from the people due to the changing of lifestyles. There still demand enhances the number of street vendors in the Bangkok. Hence food vendors form a part of the cultural traditions of the urban population.

Rapid urbanization as a result of population and migration from rural areas and the long hours of work for the low paid workers in the informal sector often leave the urban poor with little time to cook proper meals. They thus depend on street food vendors to provide them with cheap but nutritious meals. Most of people do not cook anymore as a result to number of buyers who eat out increased, thus this has benefit the street food vendors that are expanding in most all urban public places around the city.

Food vendors also attract the tourists who are on the lookout for local variety of food. Street food is more attractive to them than a formal restaurant because the location of street

food business is located beside the road that buyers can purchase food easily, especially around the hotel nearby.

There is also the influence of location that make people always rely on street food vendor in daily life. For example, an illustration of this is some vendors who sell in front of schools early in the morning and in the evening. Between those times the sellers visit or relocate in other places where buyers are plenty, such as markets, residential areas, and office complex. Also, location like hospital area, there are many food vendors spread out through the entire area. This makes people always buy food for visiting purpose. And also vendor around the temple, in Thai culture people usually enjoy food after going to funeral to have a conversation for a reunion or talking about politics. Vendors therefore become choices of food people seeking for.

The growing of street food purchasing is due to the growth of the urban and population and changing lifestyles. Therefore, people will not be cooking at home because buying the food from the street vendors is time saving, convenience, and inexpensive when compared to the food that is prepared from the other sectors. Street food in Bangkok is essential for the people due to the changing of lifestyles. Most people hold positive images of street food vendors and they do not cook anymore. Due to the rush of today living and lifestyle, people tend to change their eating activity. Many of them rely on street food because it is affordable and convenient. Furthermore the vendors include a variety of choices such as ready-to-eat, instant, vegetable, and seasonal fruit. Street vendor can eliminate time consuming and cost because they can be reached and spread out in any alleys and streets especially in the community where the connected area from workplace to living area is.

As a matter of fact, some people can have a feeling of food addiction and place attachment. They usually go the same place order the same thing. They usually have and enjoy their meal with movie or face book. This can be seen almost everywhere in Bangkok. Also, Thai people like to have drink after work and they drink so much and after that they went to street food vendor to finish their meal at the day. Some go earlier before going for drink. But no matter what, they like to eat street food vendor and that because Bangkok lifestyle is eating. Television program tries to sell their cooking equipment and that does not work for real life because people buy food on street most of the time. And to support this idea, since women changes to work as men, therefore, no one cook at home anymore. Also in school not anyone teach us how to cook, so how come Bangkok people can cook? This can proof that it is the habit of Bangkok people that they enjoy street food then that become their consumption culture and this can be adapted from one generation to another and it is true to say that this habit will never change.

People like street food and it become their habit because it's delicious. Street food contain good taste and fresh, ready cook, fast cooking, so that Bangkok people who work so hard in every day just really want something like this before going home in every day.

Findings

Urban public space and architecture toward street vendor

The urban area that hold vendors businesses are varied, interesting and indicative of socio-economic factors. For example, the vendors who have established their territories for many years are located in spaces that are mostly flat and have high pedestrian traffic. Relative newcomers are left with secondary spaces in minor streets with moderate foot traffic. Vendors select their spaces based on the type of food and products sold, friendships and ethnic affiliation. Fruit vendors tend to settle in places adjacent to eateries while those selling hard goods like t-shirts, DVDs and household products are found close to banks and retail outlets.

However, most, if not all, vendors use a part of the physical environment as a basis for their location decisions. The urban architecture found in Bangkok is characterized by diverse building types, uses and forms. Four- to five-storied modern designed buildings frame the main street. Other buildings are modest, with only three stories with ordinary architecture. Building architecture impacts on the quality of vendor sites. For example, only 25% of vendors are located under building overhangs that span the entire sidewalk.

In fact, about 32% of vendors are in sites that are not under any overhang. They are exposed to climactic elements like the monsoon rains and cold mountain air. Integral to urban architecture is the presence of sidewalks fronting the buildings.

As the owners have responsibility for constructing and maintaining sidewalks, the infrastructure is included in the overall design of the property. This results in varying heights, widths and quality of sidewalks throughout the central business district. Sidewalk widths vary from seven to 16 feet⁶. Sidewalk density, as measured by pedestrian counts and sidewalk widths, has an effect on health conditions. Higher sidewalk densities create environments that encourage the spread of communicable diseases like influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia, especially during the monsoon season.

Street vendors soften and personalise the existing architecture by creating work spaces made of simple materials to display their products and work 'comfortably' for ten hours a day. Cartons and cardboard boxes make up fruit stands and tarps are used to display special items. Other vendors use building walls as stands for posters and magazines. The colourful array of products contributes to the finer textures of urban places.

The result of the study reveals that street vending activities occurred in four spatial patterns including in a cluster around the department stores, shops, and malls in the central business district that initiates and expands the urban dimension. There are the development of configurations have been arise and transform the urban form to be an eating urbanism within and between contemporary architecture and built environment. People gather and like to have conversation over the table while enjoying eating. Some sit alone tight and keep calm to enjoy their meal. The space between each of street vendor is very little and they have known each other. The vendors try to do business peacefully among themselves and buyers. When approaching to this kind of spatial pattern, it is full of light, noise, people, and liveliness. The items to be sold in this pattern are mixed with food, products, clothes, CDs, snack, and all the things that are common use in daily life. However, the place where many street vendors situated has various patterns both organized and disorganized. Smell is always spurred in this area. Many department stores and malls always have unoccupied area closed to their stores. Information from survey has showed that there is always empty space around the departments

stores and malls and that influence the trading activity to be occurred. This could be long alleys close to the banks or the major streets closed to the market create the urban form and configuration dramatically. Some open at noon and close in the evening. Some open in the evening and close at night. The urban form also responses to street trading by reshaping and defining the street vendors into group to be easy for visualizing and searching. It is a space compromise between commercial sector and people-environment.

Street vending activities also occurred in the area of apartments and community. This is similar to the cluster one but different in terms of urban dimension and form. It is a little small than the first one and has fewer products to be sold. Food and beverage are the main course of this kind of pattern. Almost every apartment and community, there are ready food such as rice and noodle easy to at serve in all places. They usually open in the evening and close in the early morning. This is because they support people who also work at night and come back home late or people who just got back from entertainment place and need something to eat so they can have it right away. Nothing is much according to the urban influence the trading activity. It is just stand alone kiosk full of food to be ready to serve. The urban form does nothing to do with them. No urban dimension or expansion occurred. The distance between streets vendors also have more gaps compared to the first one. Urban responses to street trading occurred very little in this kind of pattern. To take over the urban public space on one hand is illegal, but to incorporate and extend the limitation and balance to seek the possibility of urban form is the most interesting observation. The urban form and configuration have been changed according to many circumstances such as time sequences, activity, sociability, and consumerism. As a matter of fact, new planning policy has been created without consideration to integrate an area for street vendor into urban public space. People with business mind with no conscious design therefore inspire the relationship between their idea of vendor and urban place. Truly said that, this is architecture that places fundamentally opposition ideas into conflict and brings about an artistic equilibrium from their opposition is the source of inspiration. This is how vendor plays with the built environment and urban planning.

Street food vendors can be found in spatial pattern of linear arrangement along pedestrian circulation paths and streets. This can be seen as a eat scape pattern where some area the consumer just park their vehicles in front of food stall and purchase food along the pedestrian paths. The local spaces that hold vendors' micro businesses are varied, interesting and indicative of socio-economic factors. For example, the vendors who have established their territories for many years are located in spaces that are mostly flat and have high pedestrian traffic. Relative newcomers are left with secondary spaces in minor streets with moderate foot traffic. Vendors select their spaces based on the type of products sold, friendships and ethnic affiliation. Fruit vendors tend to settle in places adjacent to eateries while those selling hard goods like t-shirts, DVDs and household products are found close to banks and retail outlets.

However, most, if not all, vendors use a part of the physical environment as a basis for their location decisions. The urban architecture found in central Baguio City is characterised by diverse building types, uses and forms. Four- to five-storied modern designed buildings frame the main street. Other buildings are modest, with only three stories with ordinary architecture.

Building architecture impacts on the quality of vendor sites. For example, only 25% of vendors are located under building overhangs that span the entire sidewalk.

In fact, about 32% of vendors are in sites that are not under any overhang. They are exposed to climactic elements like the monsoon rains and cold mountain air. Integral to urban architecture is the presence of sidewalks fronting the buildings.

As the owners have responsibility for constructing and maintaining sidewalks, the infrastructure is included in the overall design of the property. This results in varying heights, widths and quality of sidewalks throughout the central business district. Sidewalk widths vary from seven to 16 feet⁶. Sidewalk density, as measured by pedestrian counts and sidewalk widths, has an effect on health conditions. Higher sidewalk densities create environments that encourage the spread of communicable diseases like influenza, bronchitis and pneumonia, especially during the monsoon season.

Street vendors soften and personalise the existing architecture by creating work spaces made of simple materials to display their products and work 'comfortably' for ten hours a day. Cartons and cardboard boxes make up fruit stands and tarps are used to display special items. Other vendors use building walls as stands for posters and magazines. The colourful array of products contributes to the finer textures of urban places.

There is some urban public space in open areas in the community which is larger spaces are available. In side community is the street vendors that are spread out individually. They are just stall or cart and can be move around as they can be.

Street vendors choose their locations for a variety of reasons and, from the point of view of urban planning, it is important to understand why they choose the sites or locations where they operate their enterprises. The failure of urban planning and management systems to address this has resulted in a haphazard and scattered location pattern of informal economic units within the urban built environment. In Ghana, the location and site selection of the street vendors is at the core of the accommodation issue. It is customary to understand this through the application of normative models of industrial location. In the light of this, it found that a number of factors were identified as influencing the choice of sites by the operators. The attraction of customers was considered the factor that most influenced site selection. This was followed by the availability of access road and the lack of suitable alternative sites. The least important was plot allocated by municipal authority. The results of interview revealed that, although street vendors were widespread in many different places, their locations always reflected their reliance on economic activities either located on, or affected by the street. It is highlighted the sensitivity of market locations to concentrations of pedestrian traffic and they promote a policy of intervention which recognizes that markets operate best around commercial centers, public transport termini, or other areas with high pedestrian flows. There is a conceptual framework adopts a perspective on the understanding of poverty and how to intervene to improve the conditions of the poor. Broadly, a Sustainable Livelihood (SL) is a means of living which is resilient to shocks and stress and which does not adversely affect the environment. The 'livelihoods framework' aims at understanding and addressing the causes of poverty, the vulnerability of poor people and their multiple and resourceful efforts to survive, based on a mix of strategies. In the framework, it is essential to consider public space as a physical livelihood asset and identify how conflicts with other uses can be resolved. The

livelihood analysis emphasizes the importance of political institutions and processes in framing the vulnerability context of the poor, official structures and organizations in the government and private sector, and processes defined in laws, policies, culture and institutions. Evidence from survey indicates that the street economy is no longer small-scale or marginal, but is in some cities, a major employment sector catering for diverse and mobile city populations.

Place Identity

Street vendors also make the identity to the city and the existing vendors and extension is the result of the factor in the national level including consumerism culture, way of city and country development, urban development and plan of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, municipal governments, national and local policy. All makes Street vendors in Bangkok existed and extended. Street vendors can be defined as place identity as the individual's incorporation of place into the larger concept of self. Proshansky et al. (1983) suggested that one of the important components in developing a sense of place attachment is place identity, which can be seen as a substructure of self-identity. These authors stated that to develop a sense of self, people must learn to distinguish themselves from others. They also felt that self-identity is not just limited to distinguishing the self from others, but also from things and the spaces in which things are found. The sense of self is defined by the relationship to others and the various physical settings that are part of everyday life. Place identity is defined by the cognitions people have about the physical world in which they live. "These cognitions represent memories, ideas, feelings, attitudes, values, preferences, and complexity of physical settings that define the day-to-day existence of every human being" (p. 59). They suggested that place-identity should not be seen as a coherent and integrated substructure of self-identity. It is best thought of as "a potpourri of memories, conceptions, interpretations, ideas, and related feelings about specific physical settings as well as types of settings" (p. 60). Place identity provides a sense of continuity, self-esteem, self-efficacy, and a sense of distinctiveness (Twigger-Ross & Uzzell, 1996). Hummon (1992), in his writing on community attachment, said that by researching place and identity, people can better understand the way places are imbued with personal and social meanings and that those places serve as an important sign or locus of self. Relph (1976), felt that places can be seen as an integral part of the human experience. He said, "there is for virtually everyone a deep association with and consciousness of the places where we were born and grew up, where we live now, or where we have had particularly moving experiences" (p. 60). Buttimer (1980) emphasized the importance of balancing home and the "horizons of reach" and says it is necessary for the maintenance of the self-identity and emotional well-being. Cooper (1974), in her self-described "think piece" *The house as a Symbol of Self* stated, it seems as though the personal space bubble which we carry with us and which is an almost tangible extension of our self expands to embrace the house we have designated as ours. She felt people tend to find solace and protection in spaces, particularly their homes. People may see themselves as fragile and vulnerable and desire a house that is "familiar, solid, inviolate, and unchanging". These environments give information back to the person that reinforces their self-identity. French philosopher, Gaston Bachelard (1964), author of *The Poetics of Space*, said, "the house shelters daydreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in

peace” (p. 6). He adds, “therefore, the places in which we have experienced daydreaming reconstitute themselves in a new daydream, and it is because our memories of former dwelling places are relived as daydreams that these dwelling places of the past remain in us for all time” (p. 6). One of the particularly interesting aspects of place identity is that at some point our place experiences become memories. Proshansky et al. (1983) found our memories tend to be thematic and stylized, similar to memories of our social situations. Once they become part of our memory these place experiences are often modified and transformed by cognitive processes and the ongoing experiences we continue to have with the physical environment. For many, the physical setting may often seem more like a backdrop to life than part of the actual experience. The person is likely more aware of the people than the physical setting. Psychologists have traditionally paid more attention to the impact of social roles on the development of self-identity. Proshansky et al. stated, “the places and spaces a child grows up in, the spaces he or she comes to know, prefer, and seek out or avoid also contribute significantly to self-identity” (p. 74). Rubinstein and Parmelee (1992) stated, “while attachment to place may be lived either currently or as part of memory, it exists within the larger context of the events of the life course, how they are interpreted, and the need to maintain a coherent sense of self over time” (p. 139). Most physical environments are also social environments with norms regarding acceptable behavior. Many cultures clearly define how spaces are to be used. Spatial meaning is culturally transmitted and is integrated into the place identity of the individual through his or her experiences with the world (Proshansky et al., 1983). There are social definitions of settings that consist of norms, behaviors, rules and regulations that define the use of various spaces. These definitions are not universally shared, but are part of the socialization process. People learn space and behavior norms early in life and develop coping mechanisms for creating privacy and managing territories, personal space and crowding. Even groups within a culture may attach different values and meaning to spaces that define the unique qualities of their group.

Proshansky et al. (1983) introduced three important skills reflecting an individual’s ability to successfully interact with the environment. The first skill, *environmental understanding*, means knowing a physical setting, being able to detect changes in it and to understand what has to be done about changing it. *Environmental competence*, the second skill, reflects the person’s knowledge of how to behave in relation to the physical setting. The last skill, *environmental control*, is the ability to change either the setting, the behavior of those in the setting, or ones’ own behavior to accommodate the situation. These skills allow the user of the space to reduce discrepancies between place-identity and the physical environment, which might inhibit their ability to use the space to the fullest.

It is important to remember that attachment to place and place-identity are dynamic and influenced by changes in society, changes that occur in individuals in various stages of life, and the changing social roles people may play throughout their lives (Proshansky et al., 1983). These social roles are integrally tied to self-identity and the roles and social attributes that define the person. Place identity will vary as a result of the social roles and attributes that distinguish different groups in a culture. These roles influence what people do, think, and believe and effect the preferences for spaces and the way those spaces are used (Waxman, 2004).

Characteristic of Buyers

There were the three groups of consumers: first group was students who studied in school aged lower than 20 years old, second group was consumers age range were between 20 to 60 years old, and the third group was consumers aged more than 60 years old. Most of consumers were residents in Bangkok and their age range was between 20 to 60 years old. It was also found a few of tourists who purchased street food because their accommodations were located in the down town area and surrounded with several food stalls; however, the street food in Bangkok was not a famous tourist destination like other provinces, so the group of tourist was not the main group of consumer here.

Reason for consumption

The main reason that the consumers' chose street food was convenient. Some respondents mentioned street food could be the place for relaxation and entertainment; for instance, visiting the tea-coffee vendors in the evening. In summary from the interview, they expect vendor to be cleanliness, appealing aroma, adequate lighting, politeness, and comfortable furniture.

Street Vendor Traders

90 % of traders have immigrated from North East regional part of Thailand. 35% have lived in Bangkok since 1998. Poverty and lack of gainful employment in the rural areas and in the smaller towns drive large numbers of people to the capital city for work and livelihood. 90 % of traders come from agriculture family and only 10 % are in commercial business. One fourth of all traders used to be in food business. Men and Women in this business are almost the same number that is 50.8 and 49.2 respectively. These people generally are 30-50 year old. 4% is more than 60 year old. 80% of traders have been in school less than 6 years. Both level of education and age can be showed that street vendor traders are the better paid jobs in the job employment. The income of the family comes from food business and one fourth of all traders have income from other resources such as rice or fruit farming. These people become trader just because they want budget for maintaining agriculture business. The income of traders estimates about 25,000 baht and household expenses not more than 10,000 baht. Traders include those who have debt and saving.

The traders work every day for 12-14 hours including preparation and sell. 90 % of traders buy materials since 5 p.m. in the morning. Some buy materials since 1.00 p.m. They buy materials from local market every 2 days or 3-4 days per week or 2 weeks.

The traders have distance to walk less that 2 kilometer per days. Many of them walk more than 5- 10 kilometers. The location is up to the density of population in community. The equipment for traders is stall, vendors, and small van.