



Call for Action !

## Protecting Livelihoods and Regulating Street Vending in India – Widen Scope and Make Process Inclusive!

### EQUATIONS Inputs on the Model Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill 2009

EQUATIONS  
30 June 2011

*The Supreme Court in October 2010 directed the state governments to enact a law before 30th June 2011 based on the Model Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill 2009. EQUATIONS highlights the need to make the Bill more inclusive, contextual and holistic. We recommend an inter-ministerial collaborative approach.*

To,  
Kumari Selja,  
Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Culture  
Nirman Bhawan,  
Maulana Azad Road,  
New Delhi - 110108

30 June 2011

Dear Ms. Kumari Selja,

Subject: EQUATIONS inputs on the Model Street Vendor (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill 2009

Greetings from EQUATIONS!

EQUATIONS is a research, campaign and advocacy organisation founded in 1985 studying the social, cultural, economic, environmental and institutional impact of tourism from the perspective of local communities. A question that has been central to our work and directs much of it is 'Who Really Benefits from Tourism?' ([www.equitabletourism.org](http://www.equitabletourism.org)).

We write to you on the basis of the Supreme Court Judgment dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010 directing the state governments to enact a law on the basis of the Model Street Vendor (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 which was developed by Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India.

EQUATIONS has engaged and worked with street vending issues over last few years. Based on our learning, we write to you our concerns and comments, which we would like to bring to your attention.

Please find attached our detailed comments on the Model Street Vendor (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Bill 2009. There are many other movements and groups more competent to comment on critical aspects and provisions of the model bill and we are in solidarity with those concerns.

Some of our key concerns are as follows:

- **Inclusion of Rural Vendors:** The Bill has covered only urban street vendors, and does not include the vendors in rural areas. In rural areas, weekly bazaars are an age-old practice where vendors from nearby places come and sell their wares. Presence of mobile vendors has been of utmost significance to women in

rural areas given their restricted access to the market. Tourism, a source of employment and a revenue generating sector for the local authorities, is an added factor. It becomes more important given the focus of the Ministry of Tourism on 'Rural Tourism' that intends to provide livelihood opportunities. Therefore, it is pertinent to recognize the context of rural areas, trends of tourism development and the corresponding demand of rural vendors and therefore include them under the ambit of the Bill.

- **Lack of Associations:** The Bill has ensured the representation of association of street vendors through Town Vending Committees (TVCs). However, there is inadequate organization among street vendors with a few big organizations/ unions/ associations being present. Considering the fact that mobilizing and organizing is already a challenge due to the daily wage earning nature of the occupation, lack of resources and supporters, forces the existing organizations to work within limited time, space and conceptual boundaries. In this situation, it is difficult to ensure the representation of unorganized street vendors, who forms a large part of the group, in the TVCs. The Bill remains silent on this very important issue of inclusion.
- **Inter-Ministerial Collaboration:** To make the policy inclusive, there is a need for a collaborative approach between Ministries such as Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Ministry of Rural Development as vendors are not only confined to the urban areas. Along with these two ministries, there are other departments / sectors like the railways and panchayats which have their own governance mechanisms for street vending. Therefore, we suggest that the Ministry identify all the departments/ministries who govern aspects of street vending and make an attempt to work together towards a comprehensive street vending policy.

We hope that M/o HUPA will take our inputs into consideration to secure the protection of street vendors and their rights and livelihoods.

We look forward to the opportunity to engage with the Ministry further on the issue.

Sincerely,

Surabhi Singh  
Programme Coordinator  
Women and Tourism Programme  
EQUATIONS

**Copy to:**

1. Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of Rural Development & Minister of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Shri A.N.P.Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Panchayat Raj
3. Ms. Kiran Dhingra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
4. Shri Rajen Habib Khwaja, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
5. Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council

**Encl:**

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