

A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND
WORKING PATTERNS OF STREET VENDORS IN
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI CITY, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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Abstract

Introduction: Nowadays, the employment plays a very important role in the human society. According to 2011 census total population of India is 1,21,01,93,422. The data shows that around 37% (20, 01,012)¹ was self-employed. Street Vendors constitute 12.5% of the self-employed in Mumbai (Bhowmik. K, 2012). All people want to engage in white collar jobs, but the Government and Non-Government Organization is not ready to give job for all the people. So, the individual and the group of people are involving in the self employment, particularly in the informal sectors. Mainly the people are migrating from rural to urban areas and taking part in the Street Vending. According to Keith Hart 1971; the informal work is a block market. Though the vast majority of the vendors know the Street Vending business is illegal, but they still engage in Street Vending for their livelihood. **Objectives:** the researchers study about the socio-economic status of the respondents and about the working patterns of the vendors. **Method:** there are many Street Vendors working in the Tiruchirappalli Corporation limit, the researchers have to collect primary data through from the respondents in the area of Chattiram bus stand and Palakkarai out of market areas. Hence, the researchers had used convenient sampling method to select 32 respondents for the present study which is in descriptive nature. The findings of this study are elaborated in the full paper. **Conclusion:** The central and the state governments are trying to amend rules in order to protect the Street Vendors. The Ministry of Housing and

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Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA) has passed the 2013 Street Vendor's Bill. This study aims to find out the socio-economic status and their working patterns of their livelihood.

Keywords: street vendors, informal sectors, socio-economic status, working conditions and street vendor policy.

1.0 Introduction

In general socio economic conditions of the Street Vendors are pitiable, even though the law is against them; they acquaint and adjust the laws according to their way of life. A Street is meant only for the pedestrian to walk and to avoid traffic congestion and accidents. But the Street Vendors are illegally occupying the streets and plat-forms for the purpose of purchasing goods at the cheap rate from the vendors who sell on the street. This is one the main causes for the steady increase of Street Vendors.

In most Indian cities the urbanity survives by working in the informal sector. Poverty and lack of useful employment in the rural areas and the smaller towns drive large numbers of people to the cities for work and their employment. These people usually own low skills and lack in the level of education required for the better paid jobs in the formal sector. Besides, everlasting protected jobs in the formal sector are shrinking hence even those have the requisite skills are unable to find proper employment (Alfie, 2014). For such sort of people working in the informal sector are the only means for their endurance. This has led to a rapid increase of the informal sector in most of the bigger cities. For the municipal poor, Street Vending is one of the means of earning livelihood, as it requires minor financial input and the skills involved are low.

A large section of Street Vendors in urban areas are those with low skills and who have migrated to the larger cities from rural areas or small town in such as employment. These people take to Street Vending when they do not find other means of livelihood (Bhowmik.K, 1998). The investment too is low and the people do not require special skills or training. Hence for such people, both men and women, Street Vending is the easiest form for earning their livelihood.

The assessment of street peddling sector is to map the peddling activities across trades and across cities and to capture the socio-economic and business profiles the concept is additionally to grasp varied constraints and problems faced by the Street Vendors and to spot the necessity for biological process interventions (**Soumyananda Dinda, 2010**). The assessment is probably going to allow a perspective that might guide the policy method and implementation structure and the Street Vendors' population calculable through 1st part census was chosen for sample survey.

1.1 Street Vendors and Urban Economy

The total employment provided through street vending becomes larger if we consider the fact that sustains certain industries by providing becomes markets for their goods. A lot of the commodities are sold by street vendors, such as the clothes, fruits, plastic items, flowers, books, news papers, leather and household wares manufactured in small scale or cottage industries (**Bhowmik.K & Saha.D, 2012**). These industries employ a huge number of workers and they rely mainly on street vendors to market their products. In this way street vendors provide a valuable service by helping sustain employment in these industries.

Street vendors are mainly those who are unsuccessful or unable to get standard jobs. This section of the urban poor tries to solve their problem through their own meager income. Different other sections of the urban residents they do not demand that government create jobs for them, or hold in begging, pinching or extortion. They are trying to live with dignity and self-respect through hard work. The study on street peer vendors in seven cities shows that the average earning ranges between Rs.100 and Rs 200 per day (**Debdulal Saha, 2011**). Women vendors earn even less. These people work for over 10 hours in day under grueling conditions on the street and are under constant threat of eviction. A study of street vendors in Mumbai conducted by SNDT Women's University and ILO showed that an overwhelming majority of them suffered from ailments related to stress hyperacidity, migraine, hypertension, loss of sleep etc.

1.2 Working and Living Conditions of Street Vendors:

The operating conditions of the vendors square measure as powerful. Most of them (90%) leave their home between 6a.m. and 7 a.m. and come back late at nighttime. Around two- thirds of

hawkers (65%) reside 10kms. or additional from their places of working area. They use the residential area trains for commutation. Therefore the researcher discovered that the operating day of street vendors, no material her / his financial gain is quite 12 hours.

The hard conditions of labor embrace being exposed to sun and rain on the streets. They are additionally exposed to fumes from vehicles each day. This ends up in metabolism diseases and alternative ailments. Women vendors' square measure additional exposed to ailments due to lack of toilet facilities on the streets. The researcher tend to found that every one woman vendors tend to coated on Dr. Ambedkar Road, Parel, suffered from excretory organ issues. Selling on street is of course a tedious job. Turning the attention of the customers is not an easy task. They do not have any particular timing for their work. They come at 7am and remain there till they get customers. Most of the vendors take away the things when they see police coming near to their shop. They do not find any clashes with permanent shop owners. Their working condition is quiet good. The only problem is that they do not have a permanent place for selling their goods and most of the vendors are satisfied with their business because they are satisfied with the products they sell and the area where they sell (Bhowmik, k, 2000).

Street vendors work for a long time under harsh conditions. They mostly purchase from wholesale dealers and resell their products for a meager profit. Only some of the street vendors sell their own products. Some vendors sell their products at the door steps.

1.3 Street Vendors in Tiruchirappalli

Tiruchirappalli is a central part of Tamil Nadu. Trichy have an airport, railway Junction and two major bus stands namely Central Bus Stand, Chattiram Bus Stands. Here daily 20,000 new passengers are crossing this city. This city is a well attracted tourist centre. Trichy is also called as an industrial town of Tamil Nadu, since the major industries like BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited), OFT (Ordnance Factory Tiruchirapalli), HAPP (Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project), the Golden Rock Railway Work shop etc are situated here. The main landmarks are central bus stand (heart of city), Railway Junction, Thillainagar, Subramaniyapuram, Market, Palakarai and Chatram bus stand. The population of Street Vendors are expected to be around 3500 (Mr.Maheshwaran, secretary of Tamil Nadu, NASVI, Trichy, said that all of the 3,500-odd

vendors who operate within the 65-ward corporation limits). The researchers selected street vendors at Chattram bus stand and Palakkarai areas. (**Karthikeyan.R & R.Mangaleswaran, 2013**).

2. Review of Literature

Owen, N and Hussain. N, (1984), conducted a study on food vendors in the Philippines located the potential role of this type of economic activity in providing relatively good income opportunities, and absorb substantial quantum of agricultural produce (Barth, G.A. 1983). Owen and Hussain analysed a yet another important aspect of street vendors. Taking a sample of 550 vendors, the authors show that food selling is a major source of income for those engaged in such activities and in 45 per cent of the cases the only source. The vendors comprise at least 6 per cent of the workforce in the municipality town of Maniganj in Dhaka district of Bangladesh. The study suggests a number of measures to improve the incomes of these vendors. More importantly it points to the needs for making land available in appropriate locations and urges the local government to the needful.

Hans F.Iily, (1986) in his study on street vendors in manila advocates a more positive approach towards street vendors combining minimal regulations with measures of encouragement and public assistance. According to the study, the compliance of the regulatory measures of Street vending is minimized if they ignore the harsh socio-economic realities of a particular cultural environment. In such the situations the regulations remain not only purely symbolic and ineffective but also allow a climate of harassment and extortion.

Bhowmik.K, (2000) stated that the fall in self employment and the stagnation or even relative decline in formal working arrangements indicate the great and growing significance of wage dependency in informal sector employment. With the actualization of the masses of the workers at the bottom of the economy migration to seasonal or semi-permanent work sites becomes a necessity thereby nomadism becoming a striking characteristics of the pattern of work and life for major segments of the population (Bremar, J. 1995). In Mumbai, 20% of the hawkers were earlier employed as workers in organized sector but had lost their jobs due to closure of the mills.

Irine Tinker, (2003) conducted an action research projects focused on poor women; both collect information and design interventions to improve their livelihood. This study focused on illustrated street food vendors in Iloilo, Philippines. Findings of this paper the values of street foods as a source of income and of food. Interventions to improve both safety foods handling and income were anticipated and tested in Iloilo and Manila. The conclusions challenge theoretical assumptions held by economists concerning the informal sector and by feminists regarding the family.

Helen R. Sekar, (2004) conducted a study to capture and better working conditions and other characteristics related to street vending in the city of NOIDA. The broad objective of the study is specifically to identify and highlight the special needs of vendors, especially women and child vendors, with a view to advice possible stratagem to address their vulnerabilities and insecurities, as well as needs for support in the area of market access, vocational and life skills development for the enhanced employability, improving working conditions. The study made an attempt to capture the perceived skills of street vendors. A similar proportion of respondents felt that they should not only respect the customers but also be patient with them. Numerical ability is another skill located by a large number of street vendors surveyed.

Karthikeyan.R & R.Mangaleswarn, (2013) conducted the study of the quality of life among the street vendors, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. This paper attempts to study of the socio-economic status and quality of life among the Street Vendors in Tiruchirappalli City. Therefore the researchers used convenient sampling technique to pick out fifty six respondents for this study and also the study is descriptive in nature. Conclude there is need for revision of their psychological health and physical health area unit appear to be taken care of their business at the moment they are swollen their environmental factors, and social relationship to develop their Quality of Life.

3.0 Methodology

Statement of the problem: The informal sectors are thought-about to be a crucial issue of the trade association within the world. The Street Vendor's productive and working patterns are through their occupation; as a result of that they are not improved in their conditions of life. The

factors that are enjoying necessary roles enhancing Street vendors are Social, Ethical, Legal, and Economic. The current study is addressing varied aspects of Street Vendor's socio-economic status and working patterns within the Tiruchirppalli district.

3.1 Objectives

1. To learn about the socio-economic status of the street vendors in Tiruchirappalli city.
2. To study about the working patterns of street vendors.
3. To know the respondent's perceptions and awareness on street vendor's policy.
4. To study how the people participate in the street vending for buying goods.

3.2 Methods and Respondents: The researchers used convenient sampling method to select 32 respondents for the present study from Chattiram bus stand and Palakkarai out of market areas, this study is descriptive in nature. This study was conducted during January and February 2014.

Tools for data collection: The information related to the present study was collected through structured interview schedule. The interview schedule consists of different parts namely, socio demographic profile, the personal information which includes age, gender, marital status, caste, educational qualification, occupation, year of experience, income, savings, type of house and ownership of house. The working pattern of the street vendors was measured using structured questions formulated for this study. It consists of 27 questions.

4.0 Result and Discussions

The primary data has been calculated in SPSS 20.0 version using descriptive statistics for social-economic status and working conditions.

4.1 Socio-economic status of Street Vendors

Age

The socio-economic status explain that the street vendors age group of more than one third of the (34.4%) respondents are age group 29-38, more than one fourth (21.1%) of the respondents are in the age group of 18-28, less than one fourth (18.8%) of the respondents are in the age group of 39-48 and very few per cent (6.2%) of the respondents' age group of 59-68, the Mean Age: 2.53, Std. Deviation: 1.218.

Sex

More than half (62.5%) of the respondents are male and more than one third of (37%) the respondents are female.

Marriage

This study identify the vast majority (78.1%) of the respondents are married. Hence, 34 per cent of the vendors are in the age group of 29-38years. So all are the respondents are young and middle age. Less than quarter (21.9%) of the respondents are unmarried.

Family Type

Nowadays in urban cities, majority of the people are living in the nuclear (single) family system. This is due to the reason that many people are migrated from rural to urban for their business/job. This study reveals that nearly half of (53.1%) the respondents are living joint family and less than half of (46.9%) the respondents are living the nuclear family.

Total Family Members

Total family members of this data explain more than half (53.1%) of the respondents have 5-7 members in their family, they are living in the joint family system and less than half (46.9%) of the respondents having 2-4 members in their family.

Number of Children's

Half of the respondents (50%) are having 2 children's in their family. Less than one fifth (18.8%) of the respondents are having 3 children's. Less than one fifth of the respondents (3.1%) are having 4 children. Less than one fifth of the respondents (18.8%) are having no children.

Education of the Respondents

This study clarifies that vast majority (81.2%) of the respondents studied below 5th standard. Hence, most of the respondents are coming from rural background. So they are studied below primary level school. Less than one fifth (12.5%) of the respondents have studied 6-8 standard.

Very few (3.1%) of the respondents studied 9-10 standard and same per cent (3.1%) of the respondents have competed 11-12 standards.

Religion of the Respondents

More than half (68.8%) of the respondents belong to Hindu religion. Less than one fifth (18.8%) of the responses are from Christian religion and 12 per cent of the respondents belong to Muslim religion.

Community of the Respondents

Nearly half (53.1%) of the respondents are from Backward Community (BC). One fourth (25%) of the respondents are Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribes (SC/ST). Less than one fourth (18.8%) of the respondents belong to the Most Backward Community (MBC) and 3.1 per cent of the respondents are from Other Community (OC).

House Status of the Respondents

More than half (62.5%) of the respondents are having own house. Less than one third (31.2%) of the respondents are living in the rented house and 6.2 per cent of the respondents are taken a house of lease.

Type of House

More than half (68.8%) of the respondents are living Tin houses. One fourth (25%) of the respondents are living concrete houses and 6.2 per cent of the respondents are living in Hut.

Pay the Money for Rented House

More than half (62.5%) of the respondents are having in their own houses. Less than 10% of the respondents (9.4%) are paying Rs.500-1000 for rented houses, 9.4 per cent of the vendors are paying Rs.1001-1500 as their rent. Less than 10% of the respondents (9.4%) are paying amount of Rs.2001-2500 for rents. Very few (6.2%) of the respondents are paying amount of Rs.2501-3000 and 3.1 per cent of the respondents are paying Rs.1501-2000 as rental for their house.

Family Income

The respondents total family income shows that more than one fourth (28.2%) of the respondents family monthly earning ranges from Rs.4000-5000. One fourth (25%) of the respondent families are earning between Rs.7001-8000. Less than one fifth (15.6%) of the vendor's families are earning ranging between Rs.5001-6000 and 15.6 per cent of the respondent's family earning Rs.6001-7000. Less than 10% of the vendor's families are (9.4%) earning monthly Rs.8001-9000 and very few per cent (6.2%) of the respondents family earning monthly is between Rs.9001-10000.

Monthly Family Expenditure

One fourth (20%) of the respondents' monthly expenditure per month are Rs.3000-4000. One third (20%) of the respondents are spending Rs.4001-5000. Less than one fifth (15%) of the respondents are spending Rs.5001-6000. Less than one fourth (12%) of the respondents' monthly expenditure is Rs.6001-7000 and 8.2 per cent of the respondents are spending Rs.8001-9000 per month.

4.2 Working Conditions

The cross table computed in the SPSS 20.0 version. The male and female working conditions were cross calculated through the percentage viz. the present study was carried out of Male 25.6 per cent and female 9.37 per cent are selling Fruits. Number of male and female 15.6, 9.37 per cent are Vegetables seller. 15.6 per cent of male and 18.7 per cent of female are selling Flowers. 6.2 per cent of male are only selling the food items. Less than one fifth of the male respondents are permanent vendors and 12.5 per cent of seasonal vendors. 9 per cent of the females are permanent vendors and 3 per cent of them are seasonal vendors. 43 per cent of the male respondents are having 1-5 years of experience and 15 per cent are female having the same experience. 6 per cent of the male respondents and 5 per cent of female are having 6-10 years of experience. 9 per cent of male respondents are working for 26-30 years in the same field. This data reveals that male respondents are having more experiences in the field. 37 per cent of the male are sitting the public place (near in bus stands) selling their goods and 31 per cent of the female vendors are selling the goods by sitting in a place. Only 3 per cent of the male respondents are using bicycle for their business. 21.8 per cent of the male respondents and 6 per

cent of women vendors are using the Trolley vehicle for selling their goods. Selling patterns of respondents are following the two types of way i.e., namely Bus Stands and Public Places. 25 per cent of the male respondents and 15 per cent of the female vendors are selling in Bus stands sides respectively. 37 per cent of the male vendors and 21 per cent of the women vendors are selling in Public places (temples, schools and college sides).

Table: 1 Cross Tabulation of Males and Females Working Conditions

S.No	Variables	Male	Female
1	Working Times		
	5pm-11pm	2 (6.25%)	2 (6.25%)
	6pm-10pm	12 (37.5%)	5 (15.6%)
	7am-11am	1 (3.12%)	0 (0.00%)
	8am-9pm	2 (6.25%)	2 (6.25%)
	6am-9pm	3 (9.37%)	3 (9.37%)
2	Safety Equipments		
	Plastic Covers	17 (53.12%)	12 (37.5%)
	Stored Water	13 (40.62%)	11 (34.37%)
	Frame Glass	4 (12.5%)	6 (18.75%)
	Umbrella	14 (43.75%)	11 (34.37%)

The table (**Table: 1**) shows that male and female working times and their using the safety equipments for their business. The 6.25 per cent of the males are working in the time of evening between 5pm-11pm and 6.25 per cent of female are selling during the same period. 37 per cent of male and 15 per cent of women are working between 6pm-10pm. Very few per cent of the male respondents are working in the time of 7am-11am. 6 per cent of the males and women vendors are working between 8am-9pm. The same per cent of the male and female vendors (6%) are working between 6am-9pm. The street vendors are using the several equipments for their business. The panel 2 explains the 53 per cent of males and 37 per cent of the female vendors are using the plastic covers. The 40 per cent of the males and 34 per cent of the females are using stored water. The 12 per cent of the male vendors and 18 per cent of the female vendors are

using the frame glass. 43 per cent of the male vendors and 34 per cent of women vendors are using umbrella for the climate changing times.

Table: 2 Cross Tabulation of Males and Females Opinion on their Business

S.No	Variables	Male	Female
1	Want Change Your Business		
	Yes		
	No	3 (9.37%) 17 (53.25%)	2 (6.25%) 10 (31.25%)
2	Your Business Block Market		
	Yes		
	No	16 (50%) 4 (12.5%)	11 (34.37%) 1 (3.12%)
3	Jointly Vendor Association		
	Yes	17 (53.12%)	6 (18.75%)
	No	3 (9.37%)	6 (18.75%)
4	Know Street Vendor Policy		
	Yes	16 (50)	12 (37.5%)
	No	4 (12.5)	0 (0.00%)

The table (**Table: 2**) shows that the male and female Street Vendors opinion of their business. 9.37 per cent male and 6.25 percent of the female respondents wants change in their business. Reasons: they have lack of interest in work and business. More than half of the (53%) male and 3.12 per cent of the female respondents did not like any changes in their business. The panel 2 shows that exactly half (50 per cent) of the male and 34.37 per cent of the female respondents know about that the street vending is a black market. 12.5 per cent of the male and 3.12 per cent of the female respondents did not know that Street Vending is an illegal business. The panel 3 explains the more than half of the (53.12%) male and 18.75 per cent of the female respondents are jointly in Street Vendors association (**Anna Tholil Sangam** and **Puspan Veyaparikal Sangam**). 9.37 per cent of the male and 18.75 per cent of the female respondents do not belong to any vendor association. The panel 4 clarifies that half of the (50 %) respondents are male and

37.5 per cent of the female vendors are well aware about the Street Vending policy. 12.5 per cent of the male vendors are not interested to know about the Street Vendor's policies.

Table: 3 U-test between the Genders of the following variables

Respondents= 32					
Variables	Sex	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Rank	Statistical Inference
1. Year of Experience	Male	20	16.32	326.50	U=116.500 Z=-.147 df=32 p(.883)>0.05 No Significant
	Female	12	16.79	201.50	
2. Working Time	Male	20	16.02	320.50	U=110.500 Z=-.403 df=32 p(.687)>0.05 No Significant
	Female	12	17.29	207.50	
3. Street Vendor Policy	Male	20	17.70	354.00	U=96.000 Z=-1.630 df=32 p(.103)<0.05 No Significant
	Female	12	14.50	174.00	

The table (**Table: 3**) depicts the results of (Mann-Whitney) U test for the Street Vendors of different variables viz., years of experience, working time, and know about the policy between the male and female. For years of Experience of Street Vendors, the mean rank was recorded 16.32 for 20 male and 16.79 were found for female. By computing the statistical inference, it is found that the variable did not show any significant difference ($Z=-.147$; $p(.883)>0.05$). The panel 2 explains that for the working times of the Street Vendors the mean rank was recorded 16.02 for male and 17.29 were found for 12 females. The statistical inference shows that there is a no significant difference of the gender ($U=110.500$, $Z=-.403$, $p(.687)>0.05$). The panel 3 found

there is a statistically difference between the gender, and Street Vendors knowing about the Street Vendors policy and the mean rank shows 17.70 for male and 14.50 for females. This statement is 'p' value ($p = 0.883, 0.687$ and $0.103 > 0.05$) is greater than 0.05 levels. Hence, there is no significant difference between the male and female.

5.0 Major Findings

1. The age is the main criteria for doing potential job. This study reveals that 6% of the people belonging to the faces more health problems age group of 59 -68. This age will be faced more health problems. So the old age people must be prevented from this type of business. (Mean Age: 2.53, Std. Deviation: 1.218).
2. More than half of the respondents (53%) are living in the joint family system. This family system is good for their caring of their life and this type of family is facing the financial crisis.
3. Nearly half (51%) of the respondents are having 2 children in their family. This is good for their future life.
4. Vast majority (81%) of the respondents are studied below primary school level education. But they have more awareness and accounting of their business.
5. More than half (62%) of the respondents are living in their own house. So, this is much comfortable in facing their socio-economic status. Although their house is Tin type.
6. Nearly one fourth of the respondents have monthly earning between Rs.7000-8000. But 25 per cent of the respondents are monthly expenditure amount between Rs. 5000-5500.
7. The cross table explains the overall difference between the working conditions of male and female. It is point out that working condition the male is good compared to the female.
8. Mann-Whitney Test (U-test) between the Gender of the years of experience, working times, and know about the policy. The result found there is no significant difference between the male and female.

6.0 Suggestions

1. The majority (51%) of the Street Vendors are not having awareness about the Street Vendor's policies. But the social media and news papers are keenly concentrating on the

Street Vendor's protections measures. So, the municipal corporation has to conduct the awareness campaign to street vendors in the city.

2. The Street Vendor's monthly income is higher. But they are not saving for their future. The saving habit is very essential part of their life.
3. The Street Vendors are working in the open places, hence they are affected by more health problems. So they must have monthly checkup in the hospital.
4. The majority (57%) of the people like the Street Vending goods. So, they are to distribute and sell good things in the market.
5. The working patterns of the Street Vendors are using the various types of safety equipments that are developed for their business.
6. Vast majority of the respondents are working in the business is whole day so local government can suggest uniform for the vendors.
7. The police personnel are booking two cases on the Street Vendors in a month. Few police officials collect money between Rs.200-300 per month for evading cases against them.

7.0 Conclusion

The Street Vendor Bill 2013 aims to protect and promote a conducive environment for the street vendor's activities and livelihood. Indeed, the Tiruchirappalli Corporation limit street vendor's of yet to follow the street vending Bill. The street vendors are in need of the support in the area of market access, vocational and life skills development for the enhanced employability and improving working conditions. The researchers found that the street vendors working long hours in a day and are affected by some diseases and their health condition are getting deteriorated day by day due to skin allergy and stomach diseases. Hence, they require immediate treatment and the researchers recommend the local vending committee and local government authority to create the uniform system for the permanent vendors. It is necessary that the Street Vendors should get license and therefore the researchers suggest them to register for the same. Forty per cent of the respondents are selling their goods nearby bus stand which is an air polluted area. Therefore, they have to use the safety equipments like covers, stored water and frame glass in order to preserve the products. This would improve the street vendor's livelihood and their working patterns.

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