

CHAPTER 2

ACTORS AND FUNCTIONS OF STREET ECONOMY

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ABSTRACT

Street economy (SE) is defined as the exchange of all kinds of goods and services in public areas, streets, street corners and squares. As in all sectors, SE is composed of two main parts as registered and unregistered. Again, it is divided into two parts as legitimate and illegitimate social and economic activities, in the extent of the limitlessness of human needs and the relatively limited resources. SE consists of all kinds of economic, social, cultural and artistic activities that are carried out on the streets. Virtual streets are added to real streets with globalisation and digitalisation. It is observed that the very small-scale street trade, which is expected and predicted to disappear in the last century, has become more widespread and effective in contrast to all these predictions and expectations. In this chapter, it is foreseen that the SE, with all its sub-sectors, has not yet been measured with its sub-sectors, and with its global buyers and sellers having reached the enormous dimensions that affect the daily life of 5 billion people out of the 8 billion world population. Quantitative indicators compiled from databases show that this set of street traders has reached a global trade volume of \$30 trillion under the common denominators. With a volume of \$30 trillion, SE has attracted the attention of the producers and investors of street robots as well as other entrepreneurs and researchers. SE, which has been expected to be eliminated and not seen as worthy by economists and politicians, has been the sole supplier of the needs of the poor, with hundreds of sub-sectors. It is seen as the easiest, most common job opportunity of the unemployed. In this chapter, the functions, its place in the city life, its

added value at the local and national levels and its problems and global solution proposals of the SE, which is expected to become more important in the world agenda, will be discussed.

Keywords: Street economy; street artisan; micro-entrepreneurship; SE entrepreneurship; hawker; open market

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, while there was a very limited literature on street economics and it has a limited place on the global agenda, it has gradually crossed national borders and reached global levels (Iha, 2018). Since the advent of the topic on the agenda, it has been met with a positive approach and active participation of the academics, researchers and practitioners throughout Turkey from various fields such as education, philosophy, painting and design. The local and national boundaries of this subject have been greatly extending by the participation of academicians and researchers from various universities and foundations as well as through the invitations for projects and conferences by city councils, civil organisations and politicians. With this strong participation and acceptance, studies on the subject have the opportunity to move to global dimensions.

From the outset, the work was already taken over with a global vision. The hypothesis of this approach and study in observing and detecting the very small-scale street trade, which was expected and predicted to disappear in the past century, has become more widespread and effective in contrast to all these predictions and expectations.

It is possible to collect all kinds of social and economic benefits on the streets under the title of global street economy (SE). The aim of this approach is to reveal the meaning and importance of streets in contemporary human life more clearly, and to understand the importance of street activities in the daily life of modern society. This approach will also make it possible to see and recognise the crises of the free market economy of capitalism and its own unresolved problems. It is possible to identify and correct the failures of the system, the areas that turn into depressions and to eliminate the failures by identifying these economic activities carried out in the streets which are defined as informal.

In this chapter, it is foreseen that, with all sub-sectors on the basis of these indicators, the SE, with its not yet measured volume, has reached enormous dimensions affecting daily life of 5 billion people out of the 8 billion world population with its buyers and sellers globally. Functionally, with a volume of \$30 trillion, SE has attracted the attention of street robots producers and investors as well as other entrepreneurs and researchers. With this dimension, the SE has even surpassed the US \$24 trillion economy, the largest economy in the \$100 trillion world economy.

Street economics with hundreds of sub-sectors, which is not seen as notable and expected to be disappeared by politicians and economists, has been the sole

supplier of the needs of the poor. Studies on SE have been carried out on global levels from Europe as in First Global Street Economy Conference hosted by Justyne Caruana in Malta, to Africa as in the invitation for observation and joint work by the president of Sierra Leone Informal Employees Union, to India as in the invitation as a representative of global SE for joint work with National Association of Street Vendors India ([Timesofmalta, 2018](#)). The Global Union of Street Workers, whose preparations for the establishment within International Labor Organization (ILO) has been scheduled for 17 June 2019, will become one of the most important achievements of the works on SE on a global scale.

FROM THE FAILURES OF COMMERCIAL CAPITALISM TO THE MONOPOLY CAPITALISM

Capitalism or market economy first appeared in Arabian cities in the sixth and seventh centuries (Koehler, 2014). Parallel to this, the basis for the development of capitalism was prepared in years 1000 and 1500, when the trade in Europe developed rapidly, within the internal contradictions and transformations of the feudal production and consumption society ([William & McNeill, 1967](#) in [Erdendođdu, 2013](#), p. 4). In addition to the feudal structures dispersed by mercantilism starting in the eleventh century, the towns that developed along with the old system have played a conservative role against the development of trade capitalism. More efficient use of productive forces in the sixteenth century reduced the production costs of consumer goods. Overseas trade triggered this. Consumption and living standards began to rise. Capitalist production replaced the traditional production and distribution system. The sixteenth century European trade reached a new stage of growth and international trade was replaced by world trade. This marks the time when capitalist modern globalisation has begun ([Erdendođdu, 2013](#), pp. 9–11).

The dominance of the central militant empires until the eleventh century, which were suppressed by the forces of production and consumption, with the city states of the early ages, have started to change. With the Magna Carta, which was signed between the King John of England and the churches and barons at the beginning of the thirteenth century, commerce gained legal freedom; and it will reach monopoly in the last 350 years. Privileged Russian troupe in 1553 and Turkey troupe was established in 1581. These foreign trade companies, which had a monopoly license, collected lucrative jobs in the hands of elite people. Monetary restrictions were imposed on craftsmen producing goods for these companies. In 1881, an edict issued in France restricted the excessive spending that poor craftsmen had to achieve to achieve mastery, or they were asked to travel for five years to advance mastery in some German cities. This hard fight in the guilds suited big companies, since they were able to press them to buy goods at lowered prices. This process has created a growing class of wage servants and masters. Until the end of the sixteenth century, the possibility of earning capital and accumulating capital by investing in wage labour, even if not significant, began to appear ([Erdendođdu, 2013](#), pp. 9–11).

EXTERNALITIES OF CAPITAL ACCUMULATION

The global trade-based market economy and capitalism reached a global dominance in the sixteenth century at the end of a six-century development and maturation process. In those years, a significant rural population was not included in the exchange and distribution relations of the market, especially the unemployed within world population up to half a billion. The world population has now increased 15 times. A 500-year trade and market economy model has not been a solution to humanity's problems as alleged (Yücel, 2006, p. 27).

Before moving to market economy, wars, hunger, poverty and misery were still in the world. The market economy and its magical hand would put an end to these problems. But it didn't happen. These dreams have not become a reality for 150 years. It failed. Neither the wars ended nor hunger diminished. Nor the people escaped from poverty (Arpacioğlu & Yıldırım, 2011, p. 60).

The capital accumulation indexed market model has made a handful of wealthy richer by the day. It has sentenced billions of people to poverty while sweeping all material wealth into a very small minority. The market economy showed them as the cause of poverty. It blamed them, marginalised them and despised them for not benefiting from the environment of competition and opportunities. It justified to exploit them. These unequal conditions and emerging opportunities were seen as justified grounds of abuse (Sambur, 2011).

Well, what fell on the share of the poor? First, they waited with great enthusiasm. They were disappointed when their expectations didn't happen. They didn't sulk. They didn't give up. They looked for solutions. They created a beautiful future like a lotus flower from the swamp of this exploitation and crisis for all of us. They fought with their own resources, with their own talents, to make this life liveable. They are the ones, who turn the waste in the streets into the food on the table. They are the ones who produce solutions to the failures of the market economy.

THE DEFINITION OF SE

SE is defined as the exchange of all kinds of goods and services in public areas, streets, sidewalks, corners and squares (Bhowmik, 2013, pp. 31–33). The insertion and extension of fixed spaces on the streets is outside the scope of SE. As in all sectors, there is both a registered part of the SE and there is also an unregistered part. There is also a portion of social and economic activities which are legitimate in terms of the limitation of human needs and relatively limited resources. SE encompasses real and virtual activities that produce all kinds of economic, social, cultural and artistic benefits carried out in the streets (wiego, 1997).

SE offers commercial, artistic goods and services on the streets, sidewalks and public areas, without being in a fixed space, standing or walking. SE is a micro-scale business. It produces economic and social benefits. It encompasses physical and mental activities. Investment capital is micro-scale. It includes registered or unregistered activities, which sometimes require permission and sometimes not. Street jobs require education, knowledge and skills at a limited level or are based on skills and expertise in areas such as handicrafts.

It is estimated that 2 billion people in the world are working in the streets. SE includes the production of goods and services to meet a wide range of basic needs in developing countries. In addition, in the central market economy countries, the street market has been extended to include street music and all kinds of activities carried out in the streets from visual arts to other artistic activities.

Food sector is one of the main sectors of street activities in advanced and developing countries. The food sector is also divided into various sub-sectors. It is seen that the durable consumer goods sector follows the food sector. Textile products sales have an important place in street activities.

In countries such as India, which has a very large population, it is seen that a wide variety of sectors ranging from street logistics to street tailoring to street ironing, which are not seen in developed countries, find a place in the streets.

EVOLUTION OF SE

SE is the part of modern urban life that is neglected, ignored, despised, underestimated and looked at with prejudices. On the surface, it is generally stated by the city dwellers that it is not desired to benefit from the products and services offered on the streets as well as mental and artistic activities, neither we see street activities as a business for ourselves or our children.

While the perceptions change in the process, a street musician is seen as a fugitive beggar, as in 15–20 years ago, graffitiers were perceived as anarchists and terrorists. However, in small and big urban life where all the rural areas are emptied and 55% of the 7.6 billion world population is gathered, these billions of people do not have the same purchasing power. In other words, millions of city dwellers in fact, provide a wide variety of goods and/or services from the streets.

In the developed metropolitan cities of the world from Japan to America, mega shopping malls meet the needs of middle- and upper-income groups. However, the street entrepreneurs, or street economists as they also called street tradesmen, meet the needs of the large neighbourhoods, where the poor people who have doubled the population of the cities live.

This low-income people spend a significant part of their time in the streets, at the bus stops, in buses and subways from very early in the morning until the late hours of the day as cheap labour of urban centres. The daily needs of this low-income cluster from nutrition to dressing are met by street vendors, who stand in the front and end doors of subways, tunnels, bridges, in front of big business places, schools, bus stops and parks (Firat, 2010, p. 164).

The increasing importance of the streets also affected and changed the consumption habits of the cities. In many countries and also in Turkey, it is seen that almost 30% of the population engaged in street activities such as peddling, bagel salesman, newspaper salesman at one time in their lives (Gündoğan, 2019; Kühn, 2018). As mentioned in some examples and interviews, there are executives of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce, managers of taxpayers and five-star hotel managers, some of whom wipe out these street activity sections from their past, where these kind of activities are underestimated, whereas some others tell

their street vending stories when they are young with pride. Although there are countless examples like this, we are confronted with the fact that the potential of this reality, in which millions of people are employed and the added value of the billion-dollar value is produced, is not wanted to be understood.

FUNCTIONS OF SE

It can easily be seen that SE is not as insignificant and marginal sector as it is undermined in classical economics books and courses. Especially street activities, which are expressed as informal sectors, are not negligible enough to be underestimated (Açıklan, 2010, p. 607).

For example, employment in the streets is estimated to have reached 6 million people in the Republic of Turkey with a population of 82 million (Ağbaba, 2019, p. 3). According to surveys conducted by us in recent years, at least 70% of respondents are buying their needs from street vendors. In another example, in a country that has a population close to one and a half billion, such as India, it is estimated that the middle- and low-income populations buy around 30% at least one meal a day from vendors (Amit & Rajul, 2015, p. 11).

SE is an integral part of daily life and future. It is the externalised basic functions of the market economy. It is the repairer of the troubles of the market economy, the remedy of its deficiencies. It is the only supplier of low-income citizens. It is the safeguard of the market economy and the guarantee of its extended life. It is the servant of market economy and its automatic motivator.

SE is the largest social, global product and service sector. It is a guarantee of natural micro-scale agriculture. SE is a low-cost, primary source of employment. It is the warranty of low cost, micro-scale, mass production and distribution of goods and services. Street economics turns the benefits and support to the benefit. It is the most common entrepreneurial school. SE is the easiest entrepreneurial sector with zero bureaucracy in the free market. It is the birthplace and living space of entrepreneurial climate.

SE AND INFORMALITY

SE, which includes the employment of millions of people and billions of pounds of value-added, but in the daily language called unregistered employment or economy and seen as something to be eliminated, must be seen as an inseparable part of modern society, not an external phenomenon (Little, Milgram, & Hansen, 2013, pp. 1–3).

SE is an inseparable part of the neglected and ignored urban life. In fact, even though it is launched as the problem, it is a spontaneous solution to the problems produced by modern society. It is a national value that is pushed out of the mainstream, marginalised and wasted. It is a socioeconomic and political wealth. In the face of all these negativities, it is a statelessness that is pushed out of the mainstream and out of law.

The eeriness of the bureaucracy and the complexity of information have made it impossible to apply the concept and application of the ‘Tradesman Exemption’ to this one million set of mini-scale traders, who can benefit from the advantages that the law provides them. (*Gelir Vergisi Kanunu, 1961*, pp. 4–5). Therefore, tradesmen whose status cannot be defined, cannot benefit from the advantages of being registered, recognised and accepted (*gib, 1999*, p. 1).

As seen in [Table 2.1](#), even though a total population of 5.66 billion working-age population is available in the global range, only 3.3 billion of this total population can find employment, and 62% of that is unregistered. The situation is not much brighter in Turkey. The working-age population is 61.7 million, of which only 31 million are seen as employed.

According to TUIK data, as 19.5 million are registered, only 28.2 million can work. Working-age population complies with world average, however, while 43.3% of the total world population is working in the world average, only 34.3% of the ‘hardworking’ country people seem to work. About 40.8% of the population do not seem to work together with job seekers. This situation leads to ignore the country’s realities with the concern of producing a statistically positive table. All activities that create value-added of the working population can be measured and taken into account, regardless of their return.

It is inevitable to include all kinds of activities that generate social and economic benefits and regardless of type, time or place of the activity generated with dependent or independent with full or part-time classification scales, in the employment data.

LABOUR MARKET ON GLOBAL STREETS

The ILO’s report states that global unemployment will remain at last year’s level in 2018, as while the global economy is getting better, and the labour force is growing. According to ILO General Director Guy Ryder,

while global unemployment has stabilized, **a decent job gap remains widespread**. The global economy is still **not creating enough employment**. Further effort is needed to improve employee work quality and ensure fair share of growth returns. (*UN News, 2018*)

Table 2.1. Global Employment and SE.

(1000)	World		Turkey	
	Population	%	Population	%
Population	7.637.740		82.280	
Can work (15+)	5.662.773	74.1	61.789	75.1
Working	3.310.465	43.3	28.249	34.3
Unemployed registered	188.182		3.542	
Not working – not included	2.164.126	28.3	29.998	36.5
Registered unemployed + Not included	2.352,308	30.8	33.540	40.8
Street worker	2.000.000	26.2	6.000	7.3

According to ILO economist Stefan Kühn, unprotected employment is increasing and the rate of decline in working poverty is decreasing. Considering 1.4 billion workers in unprotected jobs in 2017, this means that 35 million people will join them by 2019. In developing countries, unprotected employment affects three of every four workers. The report states that the number of working very poor people will reach 176 million in 2018, that means, 7.2% of all employees.

In developing countries, progress in reducing employee poverty is weak in meeting the growth of the labor force. The number of working poor is expected to remain over 114 million in the coming years, affecting 40% of all employees in 2018. (Kühn, 2018, p. 4)

Women's labour force participation rates are much lower than men and at the same time, they work with lower quality jobs and lower wages than men. In the future, structural changes and aging will increase pressures on the labour market.

LEGAL STATUS OF STREET TRADES

The fact that SE is an integral part of modern society and urban life has been understood. What is missing is the legal integration of the SE to the city life by putting an end to keeping SE outside of the law and its illegal position. To restore its legal status is urgent.

In this context, in recent years in Turkey, the organisation of self-employed people in the public domain, in TESK as their independent 'Street Chamber of Craftsmen' as 'street tradesmen' has gained widespread acceptance. It is also stated that there are possibilities of being organised under the name of 'Street Workers Union' as 'public employees', who work almost like public service, unidentified, but de facto have the public responsibility (Türk Ticaret Kanunu, 2011, p. 6).

In addition, organisations such as local associations and cooperatives established by the employees of various sectors of the SE, which have already existed for years, continue to be the representative institutions of the sector.

India SE councils such as TVC, SVA 2014 bear similarities with Turkey and has produced unique solutions to similar problems (Ministry of Justice and Legality, 2014, pp. 1–3). In addition, examples of good practice in various countries (Gazette of India, 2014, pp. 2–3) can play a facilitative role in gaining status in Turkey's SE.

The streets have an important place in the maturation of democracy due to the fact that there are free living spaces offered to millions. A legitimate legal order and the state of social law that do not include the streets cannot be expected to mature. Therefore, the activities that generate economic social benefits in the streets should be legalised.

TWO BILLION EMPLOYMENT IN GLOBAL SE

According to the data of the World Labor Organization (ILO), despite the billions of dollars of support and incentive packages, the free market economy models provide employment opportunities to only 3.5 billion of the world's population, which is close to 8 billion in the 150-year sovereignty. The poor and the hungry

people of the world, who find themselves in the failures and externalities of the market economy, develop solutions to their problems with their own methods and opportunities. Both the ghettos of the world and the low-income people of the cities maintain their lives by utilising the services and products of the new street shopkeepers who grow up with small opportunities and financial supports among themselves to meet their immediate needs.

Two billion street shopkeepers, who meet the needs of 5 billion of the world's population, provide an added value of \$100 billion to the daily world economy on the assumption that they earn an average of \$50 gross income per day. Two billion street shopkeepers, who are assumed to work 300 days a year, provided 33% of the world's national income approaching \$90 trillion in 2018 and added \$30 trillion annually to the world economy (see [Table 2.2](#)).

While the world's 250 gigantic retail chains face a turnover of \$4.5 trillion, adding new profits to their high profits ([Deloitte, 2019](#), p. 9), the street workers, world's silent heroes, by contributing to the increase of the purchasing power of the world poor by exhibiting social solidarity, have reached a volume of \$30 trillion worldwide.

EMPLOYMENT FUNCTION OF SE IN TURKEY

In the SE, which reached a total of 6 million people over the years, however, it is understood that those who create their own employment are not taken into consideration in labour statistics, labour economics and labour market discourse and literature. According to TURKSTAT Reports ([Tüik, 2019](#), pp. 1–2), 29.5 million people, 19.5 million of whom are under Social Security, and 10 million are unregistered, appear to be working. Based on the data collected from the field and TUIK reports, it is clear that hawkers, street vendors, paper collectors and those engaged in similar jobs, especially child workers, are or may not be within this unregistered figure of 10 million. These statements are consistent in itself.

Considering 10 million unregistered workers, including a relatively limited number of workers, such as bagel sellers, National Lottery sellers, neighbourhood marketers, who were part or full time registered at the time, it can be said that only 500,000 of the cluster estimated to be 6 million people, or with a more optimistic estimate, 1 million are included in the employers' cluster provided by TURKSTAT.

However, when we take into account the remaining 5 million, which consists of mainly Syrian migrants, but also African or from other countries of Asia, living in our country and working in the streets as peddlers, street vendors registered

Table 2.2. Selected Countries and Global SE.

Current Prices – 2018	GNP (\$)	%
Turkey	909 billion	
Turkey SE	75 billion	8
United States	21 trillion	
World	90 trillion	
World SE	30 trillion	33

Source: Created by Osman Sirkeci from ©IMF, imf.org, 2019.

or unregistered, it will be seen that we are facing a huge cluster, only 10% of whose is partially registered. These clusters are not numerically included in our employment tables for various reasons (Lagarde, 2019, pp. 4–7). But in a world where Germany even includes workers, who are employed in mini-scale jobs in its employment reports, whether they are secure or insecure, or whether they are registered or unregistered, it is inevitable that these 6 million workers should be evaluated as mini-scale, micro-scale job and employment position holders.

SECTORAL FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF SE

Acting on the principle of meeting the customer, supplier and manufacturer under the most favourable conditions with very small scale capitals such as 500 liras, 1,000 liras, zero (0) bureaucracy, reacting very quickly against market fluctuations, without the need of any special consultancy service, any service and infrastructure services, street entrepreneurs, who do not require very high education, arise only with the skill and courage of street entrepreneurship and take advantage of these advantages, fulfil the role of the rescuer and resource of the poor, low-income and middle-income urban population.

Street economists, street entrepreneurs, against a gigantic social state apparatus that can only provide employment opportunities for 29.5 million people registered and unregistered, with its huge organisations, huge budgets and investments, by combining the social communication and sharing power of the streets in the smart society denominator without the need of any institution and institutionalism, they create part-time or full-time jobs for 6 million people in the world of poor, which is 20% of total employment in the global streets of limited or scarce resources. At the same time, the collective actors of the SE add 180 billion Turkish liras (TL) annually to the country's gross national product (GNP), whether or not it is estimated within the GNP. They provide goods and services below the prices to 50 million people, who are outside of 29.5 million employees in TURKSTAT data and who do not have any direct income, and also to people, who are employed, but who have to live only at minimum wages, who cannot reach in boutiques, shopping malls and supermarkets (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3. SE Micron Initiatives – Street Vendors.

Turkey General Total and Sectoral Examples						
SE		No/Person	Daily Revenue	Annual Revenue	Annual	
		organisation		(300 days)	Earnings	
		Initiative	TL	Billion TL	Billion TL	
		Peddler–Street Vendor et al.	6.000.000	100	180	90
1		Home works	700.000	50	10.5	8.4
2		Begging	100.000	50	1.5	1.2
3		Waste and paper collector	200.000	50	3.0	2.7
4		Other street works	5.000.000	100	150	75

Source: Compiled by Osman Sirkeci from 1980 to 2018 data on street workers (4 November 2018).

As a result of the data obtained from the face-to-face interviews and surveys, the results of the other studies and the comparisons with the figures reflected in the media and the groupings made on the lowest, highest and average values, assuming that 6 million people work 300 days a year and earn 100 pounds daily, GNP has reached 180 billion annual turnover. When average of 50% of the various costs are deducted, it is evident that the annual income has reached 90 billion TL.

In this respect, street entrepreneurs close the deficits of the state, social state and organised society and complete their deficiencies. They make poverty unbearable. This cluster prevents the deepening of poverty by carrying out the function of delivering goods and services to the low income and the poorest at the lowest cost, at the most affordable price, without causing market changes such as official salary increase and trade income, independent from inflation. With this specificity, they assume an anti-inflationary position and role. They perform a function to reduce the reflection of the unjust burden of indirect taxes, which is one of the most important indicators of the failure to achieve tax justice, especially on the poor- and low-income groups. With their indirect role in the fair distribution of the tax burden, they contribute positively to tax justice.

These millions of people who earn their livelihood on the streets also protect the urban inhabitants and nature from the non-social consequences of the current social life, urban life, local government understanding, industrialisation, consumption-indexed, wasteful life habits and activities that harm the environment and nature, almost unconsciously cleans and recycles. It is possible to reach the estimated results about the sector by benefiting from the data obtained from the interviews with recycling employees, sector employees and association representatives, whose numbers and rights are not sufficiently informed. These data indicate that this cluster, which is estimated to be 500,000 in various sources, defines themselves as volunteer environmentalists and is qualified as free street workers, recycles 1.98 million tonnes of waste paper and 330,000 tonnes of pet and plastic for recycling (Table 2.4).

Data on paper waste recycling show that approximately 3 million tonnes of waste paper is recycled in Turkey, where there are 6–7 million tonnes of annual paper consumption. In this context, volunteer environmental recycling employees perform a very important task in bringing about 70% of this national value back into the economy. At the same time, they contribute to GNP with an added value of 1.2 billion annually as an important component of the SE. Together with their family members, they generate employment and earnings for tens of thousands of people and generate added value from waste.

The wastes in the streets as a waste of natural resources, which are left out of use by the rich-, middle- and upper-class citizens of the cities consciously and unconsciously as part of a waste culture, are converted to added value by

Table 2.4. Share of Recycling Employees in Waste Collection.

Paper Recycling (Year/Ton)	Waste Collector (Year/Ton)	Total Share in Recycling (%)
3.000.000	1.980.000	66

Source: Compiled from 2018 TURKSTAT and Sector Employee Data.

hundreds of thousands of, so-called volunteer environmentalist, recyclers. This enormous externalised resource of raw material is brought back to nature and environment by these voluntary environmentalists who have not received any education or have no information about environmental responsibility, environmental awareness, environmental education and environmental culture.

200 BILLION TL VALUE ADDED FROM STREETS TO NATIONAL ECONOMY

The world of the poor and low income, which provides 6 million unemployed, young people and the poor with new jobs on the streets with their own scarce resources, also adds significant added value to the GNP. This 6 million street entrepreneur, such as hawker, bagel seller, balloonist, fortune teller, marketer, violinist, eases the difficult life of the poor against inflation and costly life. It brings low-cost goods and services to the gates of the suburbs.

It is frequently mentioned in the surveys and daily media that street workers as SE actors operating in nearly 200 sectors provide an average daily income of 100 TL (turnover, total revenue and revenue). Another aspect of the fact is that the streets are full 365 days a year. Assuming the relatively quiet 52 Sundays as half-days, total income is calculated over 330 working days per year, a street shopkeeper makes a turnover of 33,000 TL per year with a daily gross of 100 TL. When this is calculated on 6 million street shopkeepers, the figure reaches approximately 200 billion TL.

Although there are many differences, the fact that street workers do more labour-based or long-hour jobs ensures the cost of the goods sold low. Therefore, profit rates are calculated around 50%.

PROBLEMS IN THE SE

SE and actors are despised, scorned and excluded from all urban life. Authenticated education is one of the most important problems of the child workers of the SE. The value of labour in the SE is less than its value in the market economy. The SE lacks all kinds of trust and security.

In addition, defining and characterising the activities carried out in public spaces with approaches that do not reflect facts such as unauthorised, unregistered, unlicensed and unqualified, causes uncertainties and chaos in the streets. This chaotic and uncertain environment leads to the formation of the unwritten ethics and law of the street other than legitimate law and the establishment of unlawful organisations fed by this uncertainty.

The fact that the local and central administrations cannot implement the legal and administrative arrangements simultaneously in the face of the developments that arise according to the conditions of the millennium and the fact that the streets and public spaces offer their own solutions according to the changing needs accelerate the growth of the problem.

One such example is the serious contradictions and struggles between the smaller scale peddlers and the marketers clustered around the relatively streamlined neighbourhood markets. Another example relates to waste collectors. In the last decade, various changes in the laws on environmental pollution and waste collection were put into effect by the central government in the Republic of Turkey. Before it came into force, it turned out that the laws and regulations in question had been regulated without taking into account the interests and opinions of all stakeholders in the field, and as a result, they were still born because they would not put into effect. As the issue was not analysed correctly, the problem became more enlarged rather than producing solutions.

The free market economy has been centralising and reaching mega scales for 150 years, and it is often said that today is the most advanced period of monopoly capitalism. SE with its different components has been perceived as a field of activity that should be deleted from the market in the process besides large-scale production and distribution networks. However, it is understood that the free market economy, which proclaims world sovereignty with its global dimensions, has not been able to cover totality of the world's population approaching 8 billion, despite the fact that almost all its competitors have been eliminated. The simplest indicator of this is the SE, which includes street activities that are of increasing importance in terms of content, quality and function. At the same time, increasing number of street entrepreneurs, craftsmen and artists preferring the streets, shows that the works carried out in public spaces are becoming widespread.

SPONTANEOUS SOLUTIONS OF SE

As the SE was predicted to disappear with the transition to large-scale production and distribution networks, for decades, it was anticipated that the streets would be cleared of peddlers and Street workers by police measures and laws. However, it has been understood in many countries of the world that the streets cannot be cleared of this huge group by police measures for the last 150 years.

It is another reality that the global monopoly capitalism the state and the public sector that surrender to the increasingly cumbersome bureaucracy cannot offer the desired solution to the 8 billion world population in either developed or developing countries. In the areas where the public sector and large-scale production and distribution sectors cannot find a solution and where this market is hampered, the districts and areas that contain the middle- and low-income population produce their own solutions with their own limited opportunities.

This spontaneous solution, of course, arises with the limited possibilities and resources of both the poor masses who need a solution and the street entrepreneurs who produce this solution. For this reason, it is another aspect of the reality that these self-shaping distribution and small-scale production of goods and services on the streets do not or cannot comply with the health rules and regulations set by law.

In particular, the activities related to the production and distribution of goods and services produced on the streets also emerge as the easiest field of entrepreneurship since they do not require intensive costs and also

registration and bureaucracy which take too much time and effort. This positively enhances the competitiveness of street activities against small-scale activities carried out in accordance with classical legal regulations. These street activities, which can be started very easily without being attached to bureaucracy and other formalities, also emerge as an effective entrepreneurship school. Considering the large number of successful entrepreneurs who grow from the streets, it can be said that street activities also play the role of nurseries of successful entrepreneurship.

A unique training programme should be offered to the actors of the SE. Child and women's labour in the SE must be urgently protected. SE actors should be provided with health and social security. The product and service quality should be improved by the effective integration and social internalisation of the actors of the SE into the city life. SE actors should benefit from specific financial incentives and advisory incentives. SE entrepreneurship should be rewarded and encouraged. Virtual or real chambers, associations and associations of SE should be established. Street entrepreneurs must unite for peace, tranquillity, trust and a liveable world!

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In accordance with the spirit of the new era, local government approaches are among the main stakeholders and interlocutors of all street employees, whether they are immigrants or locals. It is only possible with the responsibility and initiative of local administrations that street entrepreneurs get the status they deserve considering their contribution to the economy, working and sociocultural life. It is an undeniable need to provide physical security opportunities along with the social security of the street. Local social and financial support and incentive programmes for the street workers should be established. Integration with urban life should be ensured by legal arrangements and physical security and education opportunities appropriate for alternative work and life opportunities should be provided urgently. Every positive step in this direction will increase the success of local administrations.

GLOBAL SUGGESTIONS

- The aim of this study is to make this material reality visible, as well as to bring hidden employment figures into the working statistics.
- Currently, street entrepreneurs, street artists, street vendors, bagel sellers, fortune-tellers, etc. are addressed as a result of the prevailing understanding of the streets, by condemning, ignoring, scorning, marginalising and trying to destroy with insufficient power laws and regulations with approaches to clean the streets. However, this phenomenon should be defined on the basis of the role that street entrepreneurs play in urban life, the responsibilities they undertake, the contributions they offer to the city life, the problems they face, solutions to their marginalisation and the optimal benefit of all stakeholders.

- Since where legitimate law cannot be extended, illegitimate law and non-written street law apply, street entrepreneurs should be given legal status appropriate to their situation.
- Street entrepreneurs, despite their important contributions to urban life, are subjected to intense abuse and are condemned to illegitimate rules of law as a result of this illegality. This abuse is more intense when it comes to women's labour, child labour and refugee labour.
- The state of law should also include this cluster, which is a part of the society with its own means and scarce resources on the streets, within the context of their own living conditions, and provide them with the human values they deserve.
- If in this persistent economic and social crisis, the persecution and oppression of these people, which they undeservedly face, is not ended, the bottom-up democracy can neither encompass the whole society nor encompass the peace and tranquillity we desire in the world and on the streets actualised.
- The establishment of security and peace in the streets is only possible with the inclusion of these masses who live on the streets into the city life in a social law state.
- Therefore, with the participation of all policymakers, professional organisations, trade unions, lawyers, academicians, related ministries, the associations or unions of those people who spend their lives in the field or directly themselves, panels should be made where, problems will be expressed, presented and analysed, and solutions will be presented.
- In these panels, working groups should be formed on the basis of thematic, sectoral or specific problems in the second part of the activity by selecting the priorities of the issues discussed and with all stakeholders in the first session.
- These working groups should evaluate legal aspects of the case with lawyers, political aspects with politicians, economical aspects with labour economists and lawyers, and in terms of organising with the participation of association presidents, union presidents and international organisations.
- Results-oriented work should be carried out with other street entrepreneur groups such as food vendors, solid waste collectors and other main actors of the streets.
- The results of these studies should be considered as solution steps by government representatives, parliamentarians, political parties, trade unions and related ministries.
- Subsequently, the main actors of the streets should fulfil the decisions taken together with their own associations, institutions and organisations that will support them around the solutions they have developed against the specific problems of their sectors.

GLOBAL RESULTS

One of the indirect and important results of these studies and the global vision to be established is that the sustainable global-oriented solution proposals applicable to different countries and sectors in an international level, which are specific

for Turkey but bearing similarities to other countries, are known by the relevant institutions and organisations and lead the implementation in other countries.

In addition, the proposals of implementing ‘Mediterranean Basin Countries Street Economy Congress’ with the initiatives of various institutions in Mersin, ‘Black Sea Basin Countries Street Economy Congress’ in Giresun by Giresun University and with Berlin Turkish German Businessmen Association and GRU – FEAS cooperation ‘Migrant Entrepreneurship and Street Economy’ in Berlin are the most important indicators of the sustainability of the project.

The ‘Street Economy and Insecurity Panel and Workshop’ held on 15 February 2019 in Ankara, which continues to be one of the most important issues on the agenda for many months in the national and local media, is another indicator of the problem being an important and crucial issue.

In addition, the adoption and establishment of a sector-specific institutional structure under the name of Self Worker Global Union within the ILO is another important global outcome.

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SUPPLEMENT 1. SE SECTORS

Profession	Meslekler	Profession	Meslekler
Coachman	Arabacı	Baker	Ekmekçi
Scrivener	Arzuhalci	Essential dealer	Esasasnçılık
Shoe Painting	Ayakkabı Boyacılığı	junk	Eskici
Shoe repair	Ayakkabı Tamirciliği	Prostitution	Fahişelik
The painter/Painter	Badanacı/Boyacı	Fortune telling	Falçılık
Fisherman	Balıkçı	Photographer	Fotoğrafçı
Balloon Seller	Balonculuk	Crispian/Bretzel seller	Gevrekçi/Simitçi
Barmaid	Bar Kadınları	Invisible Entrepreneurs	Görünmez Girişimciler
Grinder	Bileyici	Hijamat	Hacamatçı
selling in a bundle	Bohçacılık	Kupacı	Kupacı
Pie	Börekçi	Leecher	Sülükçü
Boza	Bozacı	Hallacı	Hallaç
Lighter	Çakmakçılık	Hambali	Hambal
Acrobatics	Cambazlık	Junkman	Hurdacı
Performance	Performans	peddle	İşportacılık
Tea server	Çaycı	Paper Scrapper	Kağıt Hurdacı
Core	Çekirdekçi/Çerezci	Tinsmith	Kalaycı
Celep/Cambaz	Celep/Cambaz	the Cassette	Kasetçilik
çerçi	Çerçici	Ceramic maker	Keramikçi
Flower seller	Çiçekçilik	Chestnut	Kestaneci
Liver caterer	Çiğerci	Bookselling	Kitapçılık
Gin/Sorcery	Cincilik/Büyücülük	Osteopath/masseur	Kırıkçı/Çıkıkçı
Euphoric	Efsunculuk	Köfteci	Köfteci
Scavenger	Çöpçü	the Kokoroçç	Kokoroçci
the destance	Destancı	Hostess	Konsomatris
Beggary	Dilencilik	Peasant	Köylü
Dentist	Dişçi	the Kumpirc	Kumpirci
iceman	Dondurmacı	Blatter tige	Lahmacunculuk
pasty	Macuncu	Sandwich shop	Sandviççi
Manici	Manici	Sorbet seller	Şerbetçi
Masseur	Masör	Silent Trade	Sessiz Ticaret
Manager	Menajer	Street Vendor	Seyyar Satıcılık
the Mendile	Mendilci	Magic	Sihirbazlık
Midyeci	Midyeci	Bretzel seller	Simitçilik
National Piyangocular	Milli Piyangocular	Street Musician	Sokak Müzisyeni
Mısırcı	Mısırcı	Street Painter	Sokak Ressamı
Muhabet Tellali	Muhabet Tellalı	Street Arts	Sokak Sanatçılığı
Muskacılık	Muskacılık	Water seller	Sucu
Cotton/Wool Shooting	Pamuk/Yün Atıcılık	Circumciser	Sünnetçi
pazarçılık	Pazarçılık	Table seller	Tablacılık
Pizza seller	Pideci	Weigher	Tartıcı
Rise seller	Pilavcı	Chicken seller	Tavukçu
Rukyecilik	Rukyecilik	Bandana Seller	Tokacı/Bandanacı
Dreaming	Rüya Tabirciliği	Toast seller	Tostçu
Watchmaking	Saatçilik	Salamur seller	Turşucu
Gun seller	Sakızcı	Web designers	Web tasarımcılar
Salat seller	Salatacı	Circumciser	Sünnetçi
Şambalı sweet	Şambalici	Table seller	Tablacılık