

Street-food Vending: Training Directed at Better Food Handling and Associated Environmental Issues

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KEYWORDS Street Food. Poverty. Harassment. Environment. Sustainability

ABSTRACT Street vending provides a means of economic development and provides jobs which help alleviate poverty. An advantage of street-food vending is that it may be a source of inexpensive nutritional food while it is also a source of income for the poor. However, if this enterprise is not handled correctly it may have dire consequences in terms of health and hygiene. For instance, without proper guidance to food vendors this may result in food poisoning for the consumers. This study was intended to recommend ways in which street-food vendors could be assisted in order to understand the health aspects of handling food as well as business issues. To accomplish this, focus group interviews were conducted amongst 29 respondents of whom 26 were Black female and 3 Black males. The results revealed that mainly women use street-food vending as a means to earn a living to alleviate poverty. Also, the street-food vendors identified issues related to health and hygiene, customer care as well as skills for developing a business as important to them. It is recommended that the training of street-food vendors be a priority for city officials. Furthermore, it is recommended that street-food vendors be trained on customer care. Finally, it is recommended that street-food vendor should be trained in money management.