Completion Report

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Subject of Research Project:: Practices from yatai model in Japan: Implications for upgrading street food vendors in Vietnam

There is a lack of studies on upgrading the street food vending activity. Based on yatai model in Japan, this research provides the benefit and cost that food vendors in Vietnam may get if they upgrade or formalize their model. This research aims:

(i) Examine whether and the extent to which the street food vendors are willing to upgrade;

(iii) Examine which types of supports they need;

(iv) Imply bottom-up policies to enhance the feasibility of the policies in practice.

Research activities

Primary data were collected in Hochiminh City, Vietnam. Final sample includes 129 street food vendors. We conducted face-to-face interviews using semi-structured questionnaires to collect quantitative and qualitative information. First, the vendors were introduced about yatai model (its benefit and cost). Second, they were asked about whether they would be willing to upgrade, and what supports that they might need.

Main findings

_After watching a clip introducing about the benefits and costs based on yatai model, a large proportion (57.3 %) are willing to upgrade. In particular, only around 14.7% are willing to accept all costs/barriers, while 42.6% accept some costs/barriers.

_Regarding vending location, under the condition that their business will be allowed, around 45% of the vendors are willing to relocate to designated places that are equipped with basic facilities (e.g., water, electricity).

_Regarding vending time, under the condition that their business will be allowed, nearly half of them (48.8%) are willing to register their vending time at their free choice, while 41.9% are willing to do their business at a designated time.

_Regarding food hygiene, almost all vendors (96.9%) are willing to adopt food hygiene. An explanation for the high proportion is that vendors are aware of the importance of food hygiene in sustaining their business. However, due to resource constraint, only a low number of them are willing to join food safety training.

_Regarding registration and tax, a large proportion are willing to register (66.7%), and pay registration-related fee (74.4%) and tax (60.5%) under the condition under the condition that their business will be allowed. Many (33.3%) are still unwilling to register due to the fact that they think the registration procedure will be complicated. While many (39.5%) and a moderate number (25.6%) are respectively unwilling to pay for tax and registration related fee as these will cause them some burdens due to their low income.

Policy implications

_Government should establish regulations related street vendors. The regulations should be transparent and simple, and contain less text and more visual information to avoid their misunderstanding or misinterpretation, and capture their high attention.

_The governments should establish designated vending sites equipped with basic facilities in many places so that vendors can be easy to access these sites.

_Registration procedure should be simplified. Related fees and taxes should be carefully designed to both ensure tax revenues for government and support less advantaged vendors.

_Vendors should be provided with free access, or subsidized for access, to food safety training, entrepreneurship, and basic technology skill training course.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.) *Not yet available. Under preparation to be submitted.*
Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)
Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.) *Not yet available. Under preparation to be submitted to journals related to urban studies and development*