

**CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN INFORMAL SECTOR OPERATORS IN  
BALANCING CHILD CARING AND PRODUCTIVE ROLES: A CASE OF  
WOMEN FOOD VENDORS IN ILALA MUNICIPALITY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER DEGREE OF ARTS IN  
SOCIAL WORK AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA**

**2015**

**CERTIFICATION**

The undersigned certifies that she has read and hereby recommends for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania dissertation titled ***"Challenges Facing Women Informal Sector Operators in Balancing Child Caring and Productive Roles: A Case of Women Food Vendors in Ilala Municipality"*** in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of Master Degree of Arts in Social Work at The Open University of Tanzania

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Date

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**DECLARATION**

**I, Zahara Amiri Daudi**, do hereby declare that this dissertation is my original work, and that the technical assistance which I have received is detailed in the acknowledgement. No part of this dissertation has been or is being submitted to any other university or institution. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided.

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Signature

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Date

## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to my late parents Mr. and Mrs. Amiri Daudi Mmbaga who laid the foundation of my education and inspired me to work hard. Secondly, I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my beloved sisters, relatives and friends for their tireless efforts in encouraging me to pursue my studies and hence this research.

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### ABSTRACT

This study was designed to assess challenges facing women informal sector operators in balancing their child caring and productive roles, a case of women food vendors in Ilala Municipality. Specific objectives were to determine the duration of time spent by women food vendors in operation of their daily business; to assess challenges facing women food vendors in balancing time for child care and service delivery; and to explore the coping strategies employed by women food vendors to overcome the existing challenges. Quantitative and qualitative primary data were collected by using structured questionnaire and interview guide respectively. Microsoft Excel computer software and content analysis were used to analyze the data. Findings indicated that 8% of the respondents spend 6 hours or more a day to take care of their children; 12% spend 5 hours; 34% reported to spend 4 hours whereas 46% spend 2 to 3 hours. Challenges facing women food vendors in provision of child care include low wage, poverty and fears of child abuse and insecurity. The strategies employed by women food vendors to overcome the challenges include borrowing money from relatives (44%), loans from credit institutions (32%) and using money from personal saving or capital (14%). This study shows that women face problem in balancing their child caring and productive roles. They spend most hours in business than caring for their children. Therefore, the welfare of their children is in jeopardy due to fact that they stand more chances of being at risk of lack of effective socialization. Therefore, review of Child Development Policy, Child Law and enforcement of laws are inevitable to solve the problem. In addition Social Workers should actively engage in advocacy and lobbying, public sensitization and further research to come out with sustainable solution to the problem.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ECA	Eastern and Central Africa
EEOC	Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioners
ERA	Equal Rights Act
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ILO	International Labour Office
MI	Ministry of Industry
NOW	National Organization for Women
MSE	Micro Small Enterprises
SAPs	Structural Adjustment Programs
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMEDP	Small and Medium Enterprises Development Program
TFNC	Tanzania Food and Nutrition Centre
TRA	Tanzania Revenue Authority
TSIDP	Trade's Sustainable Industry Development Policy
WEDGE	Women's Entrepreneurship Development and Gender In Enterprises



## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

This chapter it presents the historical background of the problem, statement of the study, objectives and research questions. Background information regarding challenges facing women informal sector operators in balancing childcare and productive roles is presented.

#### **1.2 Historical Background to the Problem**

Informal work has existed not only on an international scale since 1970s, but also expanded and appeared in new form in the context of globalization, neo-liberalism, cross-border and rural-urban migration, all of which are highly gendered processes (Bach, 2003; Carr and Chen, 2002). While more women now participate in paid employment than at any other time in history, labour markets across all geographical regions are sex-segregated with women being concentrated in lower quality, irregular and informal employment (Heintz, 2006).

Women remain concentrated in invisible areas of informal work such as domestic labor piece-rate homework among others. These occupations offer precarious employment status, low, irregular or no remuneration, little or no access to social security or protection, and limited ability to organize to ensure the enforcement of international labour standards and human rights (Abramo and Valenzuela, 2006). Men and women have had different experiences in all societies throughout history. In many societies women are still expected to be home makers. Even when they are

involved in economic activities outside the home, they still have to handle almost the entire role of maintaining the household and the family in terms of child care, cooking, cleaning and so forth (WHO, 1996).

The history suggests that during World War II, over six million women took an active part in the work force. They filled positions in factories or working on farms. Over three million women worked for the Red Cross and over 200,000 of them served in the military. At the end of the war, women were laid off from the positions they had during the war. Women again were thrown into the life of being housewives. By the late 1950s women were becoming disgruntled with their place in the society and the inability to obtain employment and achieve equality.

As a result, women become very much engaged in the informal sector, food vending being one of their employing sectors. As urbanization increases worldwide, the numbers of people who depend on street food for their nourishment also increase. In terms of cost, street food has been found to be relatively cheaper as compared to food available in formal eating places like restaurants, and is accessible to many people particularly low income earners (Latham, 1997). Preparation and selling of street food provides a regular source of income for men and women with limited education or skills as this activity requires low initial investment (WHO, 1996).

In the African context, women have always been active in agriculture, trade, and other economic pursuits. A majority of them are in the informal labour force. In 1985 women's share in the African labor forces ranged from 17 per cent, in Mali, to 49 per cent in Mozambique and Tanzania (World Bank, 1989). Apart from their

involvement in informal sector activities, African women are guardians of their children's welfare and have explicit responsibility of providing for them materially. They are the household managers, providing food, nutrition, water, health, education, and family planning to an extent greater than elsewhere in the developing world.

Some observers view the informal sector in positive terms, as a pool of entrepreneurial talent or a cushion during economic crises. Others view it more problematically, arguing that informal entrepreneurs deliberately avoid regulation and taxation. Still others see the informal sector as a source of livelihood for the working poor. Each of these perspectives is right with regard to specific components or aspects of the informal sector (Kulindwa, 1996).

In some Sub-Saharan African countries, virtually all of the female non-agricultural labour force works in the informal sector. In many developing countries, more women than men work in the informal economy. Most women working in the informal sector are home-based workers or street vendors. Women's informal sector work contributes substantially to GDP. Though low, women's income from the informal sector works sustains many poor households.

In Tanzania, the economic crises of 1970s and early 1980s and the subsequent structural adjustment programs marked the beginning of a wider women involvement in the informal sector businesses. The number of women and their economic contributions to the sector are likely to be underestimated because they engage in home-based work and street vending activities which are difficult to document (Olomi, 2009). In relation to above, Mwasongwe(2005) and the Labour Force Survey

(LFS) (1991) reported that involvement of women in the informal sector began to be serious in 1990s. Women informal sector operators normally tend to choose business activities which correlate with their reproductive roles and abilities (Rutashobya, 1995 and ILO, 2003a, 2003b). Due to this tendency of making choice of a type of job or business to do by observing the reproductive roles, women who are in the informal sector in Tanzania are largely dealing with work which make it easy for them to combine work with their household responsibilities.

Most of them do business or jobs which are at home or close to home. In some cases these women do own multiple businesses as a solution to a household need. In industry and trade, women have been confined to small-scale operations in the informal sector; however, despite their high level of involvement in informal sector, women's average incomes are relatively low.

### **1.3 Informal Sector Reforms in Tanzania**

Since 1993, the government of Tanzania has certainly begun to look into ways of reforming its economic policies of investment. This resulted in the enactment of the Tanzania Investment Act, 1997 and the establishment of Tanzania Investment Centre. However, first place the focus of the reforms was mainly on creating good environment for foreign investors.

Reforms and efforts to improve the informal sector were not given considerable emphasis. As a result, businesses in the informal sector remained to be operating illegally thus not having contribution to the national economic growth. Nonetheless, changes to promote micro and small firms are already under way. There has been a

significant change in the regulatory environment which has gone largely unnoticed by both institutions and micro and small business operators. For instance, in July 2000 the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) introduced a new simplified tax schedule for small taxpayers as well as simplified balance sheets and tax declaration forms as part of a drive to make it easier for informal sector operators to formalize and start paying taxes (Olomi, D.R (2009).

Another step in the development of the informal sector was the establishment of SME Policy by the government of the URT. The SME Development Policy (SMEDP) states that the government will promote the micro, small and medium enterprises because they account for a significant share of businesses and employment in Tanzania; and because they represent the emerging private sector in the country and form the base for private sector led growth. There is a consensus that this will be achieved by helping them to upgrade by providing support to enable them to grow out of the informality, poor working conditions and low productivity and quality, that have characterized their status and operations (Siem, 1987). Moreover, the government has established Tanzania Women Bank as an organ to support women in need of financial assistance in their businesses or informal income earning activities. It has also allocated specific areas for small business and organizes a number of exhibitions through Ministry of Labor to widen market opportunities for informal sector operators.

#### **1.4 Statement of the Problem**

Although there is an increased participation of women in the micro and small enterprise (MSE) sector and particularly food vending sector over the past few years,

women food vendors are still found predominantly in low growth areas, earning lower revenues than their male counterparts. Several studies on women entrepreneurs have been conducted by a number of researchers. For example, a study by ILO (2010) on women entrepreneurs found that, poor infrastructure, high production costs and non-conducive business environment tend to impact more on business women than men (ILO, 2010). In addition to that, the University of Dar es Salaam Entrepreneurship Centre (UDEC, 2002) highlighted that, human capacity problem, limited access to support services and limited organization and managerial capacity hamper the success and sustainability of food vending business.

Despite the existence of abundant scholarly work on challenges facing women food vendors, these studies, overlooked challenges facing women in the informal sector on balancing their reproductive roles of childcare and productive roles in Tanzania. Besides, literatures have generalized the problems to all levels and types of enterprises in the informal sector. In reality the incidence and impact of these constraints may vary significantly from one size and category of entrepreneur and enterprises. It should be noted that the role of childcare in many countries including Tanzania is gendered towards women.

In Africa, Tanzania inclusive, history suggests that, child care is a practice inherited from early traditions which left women with the key role of household and child care management and therefore women food vendors have to play the role of entrepreneurship and child care. Currently the informal sector including food vending in Tanzania is largely dominated by women by more than 50% specifically on the

service sector (ILO, 2010). The predominance of women in the informal economy requires a thorough analysis of the linkages between women's productive work and reproductive work.

Thus, despite the important role played by women in the informal sector particularly in food vending sub-sector in meeting food demand of urban dwellers in developing countries including Tanzania, there is a concern about the ability of those women to balance their involvement in food vending business and provision of child care at home. Hence, the associated risks that originate from vendors who lack appropriate time to provide childcare become more visible to their children. Some of these risks include diseases, lack of family attachment, and decrease in child morals, illiteracy and indiscipline (WHO, 2007a). With few means for representation, informal economy workers have little chance to voice their needs and improve their lives.

It is against this background that, this study was conducted. This study intended to assess how women's role in the informal sector particularly food vending affects their responsibility of provision of childcare and delivery of quality services. It specifically concentrated in the Ilala Municipality of Dar es Salaam with the intent to establish the extent to which their informal activities interfered with their reproductive roles of childcare and productive roles.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is significant because it will help to lay a foundation for provision of evidence that can be useful to support the effort to address challenges facing women

in the informal sector operators in trying to balance childcare roles and productive roles in their businesses.

Moreover, findings of this study will inform other researchers and academicians on specific challenges associated with women involvement in the informal sector operations particularly in the food vending business. The study can also be used as a source of reference for policy reforms processes on matters regarding modernization of the informal sector in Tanzania. It can as well be used as source of information by other members of the community.

## **1.6 Objectives of the Study**

### **1.6.1 General Objective**

The purpose of this study was to assess challenges facing women informal sector operators in balancing their child caring and productive roles, a case of Ilala Municipality.

### **1.6.2 Specific Objectives**

The study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- (i) To determine the duration of time spent by women food vendors in operation of their daily business.
- (ii) To assess challenges facing women food vendors in balancing time for child care and service delivery.
- (iii) To explore the coping strategies employed by women food vendors to overcome the existing challenges.



**1.7 Research Questions**

- (i) How much time do women food vendors use in the pursuit of their business?
- (ii) What challenges do women food vendors face as they strive to balance their time for childcare and service delivery?
- (iii) What are the coping strategies used by women food vendors to overcome the challenges?

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a comprehensive summary of existing information regarding this study. It defines concepts which are related to the subject matter so as to facilitate a clear understanding of the subject under study. Knowledge gap is also presented from which a basis for this study is built.

#### **2.2 Definitions of Key Concepts**

##### **2.2.1 Informal Sector**

This study used a number of concepts that are defined differently by various authors and in different context. In order to enable readers to draw concise understanding of the subject under study, the following definitions shall be adopted for each of the following concepts. The term "informal sector" has been widely applied to describe loosely organized and often non-enumerated economic activities in the rapidly growing cities of the developing world. Actually, the division between the informal and formal sectors is not always obvious (Farbman, 1980).

Keith (1971; 1973), a social anthropologist, was the firstone to bring the term "informal sector" (in a Third World context) into the academic literature. He introduced the concept of the "informal sector" as a part of the urban labor force, which takes place outside of the formal labor market. However, Hart, (1973) considered the "informal sector" as almost synonymous for the categories of small self-employed. This was thereafter typically used to refer to ways of making a living

outside the formal wage economy, either as an alternative to it, or as a means of supplementing income earned with it (Bromley and Gerry, 1979).

In addition, Hart (1973) distinguished formal and informal income opportunities on the basis of whether the activity entailed wage or self-employment, implying that wage-earning employment is a characteristic of the formal sector only. Even though Hart's original notion of the 'informal sector' is limited to the 'self-employed', the introduction of the concept was able to incorporate activities that were previously ignored in theoretical models of development and in national economic accounts (Swaminathan, 1991).

According to Friedrich *et al.* (2010) informal sector or informal economy broadly refers to an economy which is not taxed, monitored by any form of government, or included in any gross national product (GNP), unlike the formal economy. Other terms used to refer to the informal sector can include the Black Market, the Shadow Economy, the Underground Economy and System D. Associated phrases include under the table and 'off the books'. The 90<sup>th</sup> session of the International Labour Conference (ILC) referred to 'informal economy' as 'all economic activities by workers and economic units that are in law or in practice not covered or insufficiently covered by formal arrangements' (Ralf, 2004).

Another meaning of informal sector was that defined by the 15th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in the year 2003 (Ralf, 2004). The definition by ICLS recognizes the informal sector as private unincorporated enterprises owned by individuals or households that are not constituted as separate

legal entities independently of their owners. Such enterprises must not own complete accounts that would permit a financial separation of the production activities of the enterprise from the other activities of its owner (Ralf, 2004).

Based on the above, this study adopted views advanced by Hart, (1973) whose meaning of informal sector comprise of the core terms like irregularities in adhering to government laws, small nature of the enterprises, ownership of the operators being mostly sole proprietorship and urban nature of the informal activities. All this relates to the focus of this study. Food vending business as part of the informal activities referred to in this study bears qualities similar to those listed by Hart (1973) including work being done mostly in unregulated, unhygienic areas, owned in many cases by individuals and being done mostly in urban areas.

### **2.2.2 Food Vending**

Food vending according to Winarno (1986) means a food service that is offered in a housed area, in a truck or a trailer, commonly called a cold truck or a restricted mobile food unit. It is food service which is limited to prepackaged foods from approved sources that require no further preparation except warming for immediate use. According to San Francisco department of health and food safety, food vending is defined as operating ready to eat food business or selling food from a stationary cart, or trailer mounted to chassis, but without an engine for a period not less than 15 days (San Francisco, 2010). However, in this study, I have adapted the definition by Winarno (1986) with modification to include also food service offered in makeshift shelter in streets notwithstanding if it is regulated or unregulated(to suite the Tanzanian situation).

### **2.2.3 Street Foods**

Street food is ready-to-eat food or drink sold in a street or other public place, such as a market or fair, by a hawker or vendor, often from a portable food booth, food cart or food truck (Artemis and Ramesh, 2011). According to Winarno (1986) the term "street foods" describes a wide range of ready-to-eat foods and beverages sold and sometimes prepared in public places, notably streets. Like fast foods, the final preparation of street foods occurs when the customer orders the meal which can be consumed where it is purchased or taken away. Street foods are low in cost compared with restaurant meals and offer an attractive alternative to home-cooked food. In spite of these similarities, street food enterprises differ in variety, environment, marketing techniques and ownership. In this study, the definition given by Winarno was adopted because it was agreed upon by the FAO Regional Workshop on Street Foods in Asia, held in Jogjakarta, Indonesia in 1986 (Winarno, 1986).

### **2.2.4 Childcare**

According to Verhoef (2001) childcare is the action or skill of looking after children by a day-care center, babysitter, or other providers. The care can be provided by the family or the center. Care by the family or home maid include the support which is provided by nannies or friends and family. The center-based care also known as daycares are open for set hours, and provide a standardized and regulated system of care for children (Verhoef, 2001).

Moreover, childcare is also defined as a parental obligation of ensuring that all the child health, safety and security issues are well handled (Sweetman, 2005). This

study adopts the definition of childcare developed by Sweetman, (2005). Mother being one of the parents, is directly considered to be the centre of focus in provision of health, safety and security care to the child.

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

Most research is founded on a question. The researcher or writer of the research report not only questions, but ponders and develops thoughts or theories on what possible answers could be. These thoughts and theories are then grouped together into themes that frame the subject. This is what is known as a theoretical framework. This study is built on two major theories namely; attachment theory and good parent theory.

Good parent theories hold that low income hurts children not because poor families have less money to invest in their children, but because low income reduces parents' ability to be "good parents" (Mayer, 2002). This theory is relevant to the study because it shows that there is a direct relationship between parents' level of economic situation and their ability to care for their children. Based on definition of informal sector adopted in this study it is obvious that women informal sector operators and particularly food vendors have a poor and weak economic situation. Thus, it is asserted that their inferior economic situation is likely to affect their child caring roles.

On the other hand, the study is also guided by attachment theory. This theory was advocated by Bowlby (1951) who claims that during the early years, while the child acquires the capacity for self-regulation, the mother is a child's ego and superego. It

is not surprising that during infancy and early childhood these functions are either not operating at all or are doing so most imperfectly. During this phase of life, the child is therefore dependent on his/her mother in performing a number of roles for him/her. She/he orients him/her in space and time, provides his environment, permits the satisfaction of some impulses, and restricts others. Bowlby (1951) believed that to grow up mentally healthy, the infant and young child should experience a warm, intimate, and continuous relationship with his mother (or permanent mother substitute) in which both find satisfaction and enjoyment.

This theory is relevant to this study in the sense that mothers as put in the attachment theory are at the centre of this research. It is important therefore to understand how their roles as food vendors affect their caring role to children and how such roles provide satisfaction and enjoyment to the children. This study adopts the attachment theory as it is directed related to the study objectives and questions. It is as well acknowledges the importance of the other theories as they articulate women and the informal sector behaviors. For instance, the issue of income as stated in the Good Parent Theory directly touches women operating in the informal sector like food vendors whose income is low and sometimes only a small amount of money is spent for childcare.

Therefore, this study will establish whether women informal sector operators find a good balance between the two roles. If not, it will ascertain how their attachment / care to children is affected by their roles. The study also assumes that women's involvement in informal sector affects their ability to provide adequate care to their children.

## **2.4 Women in Food Vending Business in Tanzania**

Street food trade is very much the domain of women in many countries including Tanzania (ECA, 1981). There is generally a shift towards eating foods prepared outside (away) from home (WHO, 2006a). Millions of people use street food daily because they work far away from their homes and the vendors offers a wide variety of foods at a low cost and easily accessible. Street food vending assures food security for low income urban population and offers opportunity for developing small scale entrepreneurs (WHO, 1996).

Economically, street food vending has been an important income generating activity in many developing countries. It is done by predominantly women entrepreneurs who are famously referred to in Kiswahili language as *Mama Ntilie* or of late *Mama Lishe* which can be literally translated in English language as a woman who serve nutritional food. This is a booming business in Dar es Salaam and many other parts of the country. A delicious and balanced meal can be obtained from these food vendors who feed the city at affordable prices (Joyce, 2003; Elvira, 2012).

In a study conducted by Nyaruhucha *et al.* (2007) women predominate in street food vending in Dar es Salaam, representing 82.5 percent of the vendors. This is due to a number of socio-economic factors such as failure to secure formal employment due to lower education and lack of professional skills. Also household work such as childcare may force some women into street food business. This is because street food business would allow a woman to do other household chores besides vending. The third factor is that street food business requires relatively small capital base and hence easier to penetrate by housewives. Majority of the females engaged in street



food vending in order to supplement their husbands' lower wages. However, as the economic crisis deepens, an increasing number of men are engaged in street vending as their sole source of livelihoods.

To hundreds of other women, this business is a means of survival in Tanzania. It is a typical informal sector activity, operating in a perfect competitive market where anyone can get involved with minimum resources. However, frequent harassment from local authorities is common; most of the female food vendors conduct their business in fear of being chased away or their goods destroyed by the city officials. In addition, food vendors are slowly being recognized. The problem remains to be poor adherence to the rules and regulations (Olomi, 2009).

## **2.5 Roles of Women in Families**

Traditionally roles of women in families were to look after the homestead, while men find jobs outside the home. As they strive to look after homesteads, women frequently faced a high amount of work, such as gathering firewood or tending family fields. Because of the huge burden of household chores women's ability to take on paid employment became limited (Hafkin, 2013). Another role that is vested on women is the care of children, the sick or the elderly. Since most families have poor access to childcare facilities or health and support services, caring for family members often take up a lot of a woman's time (Human Development Report, 2012). Adding to that, since some families are large as a result of low utilization of family planning services and the tradition of extended family, the burden of caring for children may become huge, hence limiting women's ability to undertake productive

roles. In rural setting, and peri-urban areas women also are engaged in agricultural activities, gardening, and livestock keeping. Other roles include mending clothes and nursing the sick in the family (Freedom in the World, 2013).

Providing care for the children is particularly difficult for women who are involved in the informal business activities, for which paid childcare is unavailable and/or unaffordable. With no other supports for childcare, these women cope by leaving children home alone, by enlisting the help of an older sibling, or by taking children to work with them. For example, in Nairobi, 54 per cent of poorer mothers were found to bring their babies to work, whereas 85 per cent of better off mothers had house-girls. In Viet Nam and Botswana, one quarter of poorer parents took their children to work regularly; in the informal economy, half of parents brought their children to work with them on a regular basis (Clancy and Tata, 2005).

Leaving children alone or in the care of older siblings has clear implications for the quality of care and the health of young children, and for the long-term educational and employment opportunities of the older siblings who withdraw from school to provide care. For those parents that cope by bringing their children to work, most are likely to find informal economy or agricultural employment among their only options (Kamerman, 2000).

Kamerman, (2000) further postulates taking children to their working place diminish the time and investments that women put into paid work. This, in a long term not only reduces efficiency and productivity but also put children in hazardous environments. Children in the workplace can also contribute to problems of child labor as children in the workplace gradually take on work tasks as they grow.

## **2.6 Empirical study of Women Operating in Informal Sector**

A study conducted by Marcucci, (2001) in different countries in the world has indicated the participation of women in the informal sector and their role in childcare. The study found out that 40 per cent of mothers working informally in the slums of Guatemala City were caring for their children themselves, with lack of childcare. This was cited as a key reason for them not taking formal economy jobs where children could not accompany them. In the same study it was shown that in the Philippines more than two-thirds of all women work in the informal economy, 20 per cent of women cited family responsibilities as the reason they turned to informal rather than formal employment.

The study by Marcucci, (2001) further indicated the key activities which a woman who have a child and is in the informal sector must do to fulfill the role of child care. Also it indicates the legal framework around the world which governs responsibilities of family members in childcare. This study further found out that few women who were engaged in food vending business managed to fulfill their role of childcare. Also the study by Marcucci, (2001) has directly assessed the behavioral effects of the children whose mothers are food vendors and who are either brought to the work place or left home with other care givers.

## **2.7 Research Gap**

A number of researchers (Olomi, 2009, Nyaruhucha *et al.*, 2007; Joyce, 2003; Elvira, 2012; ECA, 1981; WHO, 2006a; WHO, 1996) have come up with findings which to some extent address the problem under this study. The studies has consistently shown that informal sector offer a huge opportunity of employment for women. They

further indicated that informal sector activities, food vending is the main activity which is highly occupied by women. Evidence from these studies shows that, despite their involvement in these activities, majority of women are also overwhelmed by other roles of childcare. Others indicated the challenges for women involvement in business and its impacts to the provision of childcare. However, these studies do not depict a clear relationship between women involvement in informal sector and childcare. Thus, much is yet to be known regarding challenges that women informal sector operators face while balancing their child caring and productive roles. This is the gap that this study attempts to fill.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the research design, explains the study setting and sampling techniques employed. The chapter further defines the sample size, presents data collection and analysis methods and procedures adopted.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

A research design constitutes the blueprint that guides the researcher in the process of organizing, analyzing and interpreting data (Kothari, 2002). Research design adopted by this study was case study. Stake (1994) suggests that a case study research design is useful when opportunity to learn is of primary importance as the case in this study. The choice of this design was based on the fact that the aim of the study was to learn through assessing challenges facing women informal sector operators face while balancing child caring and their productive food vending businesses. The strengths of this design include that it is a fairly exhaustive method which enabled the researcher to study deeply and thoroughly different aspects of the phenomenon; it is flexible and it saves time and costs.

#### **3.3 Area of the Study**

The research targeted a population of women food vendors located at a fish market known as Ferry in Ilala, Dar es Salaam. This is the largest fish market in Tanzania located at Magogoni-Kigamboni, Dar-es-Salaam. FAO (2010) noted that, Ferry is the largest fresh fish market in Tanzania. It receives fresh fish supplies from almost the

country's coastal fishing zones. It is also becoming an important selling point for increasing volumes of imported frozen fish. There are about 2,000 registered and thousands of unregistered traders carrying out a variety of business at the market. It is estimated that over 10,000 people visit the market on a daily basis. The facility receives an average of 4,000 ó 5,000 tones of fish per month, more than half of this being sardines (FAO, 2010). The rationale of selecting Ferry Fish market lies on the fact that it is the largest fish market with a wider interaction of people from different parts of the world. The facilities for food vending business at the market are not properly constructed and hence challenges for women to take care their children and service delivery.

Basically Ferry offers direct and indirect employment to thousands of people including women food vendors who serve over a million customers along the supply chain in the most commercial city of Tanzania. Dar es Salaam itself is estimated to have over 4 million inhabitants. The ferry facility consists of a landing site, an auction area, fish stalls, a frying area, a sun drying area, cold storage facilities, restaurants and a berth for canoes. In such circumstances the researcher had a lot to learn from women food vendors on how they balance the role of childcare and service delivery.

### **3.4 Study Population**

The study population included all accessible women food vendors who possessed some common characteristics. Basically, the study constituted adult women who are dealing with food vending business. Respondents were those who had children and

were working full time in the business either as managers, servants and/or as assistants.

### **3.5 Study Sample**

A sample is a segment of the population that is selected for investigation (Bryman, 2004). The purpose of sample selection in quantitative research is to draw inferences about the group from which the researcher has selected the sample, whereas in qualitative research it is designed either to gain in-depth knowledge about a situation/ event/ episode or to know as much as possible about different aspects of an individual on the assumption that the individual is typical of the group and hence will provide insight into the group.

Similarly, the determination of sample size in quantitative and qualitative research is based upon the two different philosophies. In quantitative research the researcher is guided by a predetermined sample size that is based upon a number of other considerations in addition to the resources available. This study covered a sample of 46 women working in food vending business was selected for quantitative data. These were women who are mothers and directly involved in the food vending business.

In addition to this, key informant interviews for qualitative data collection was done to 4 women food vendors leaders who deemed to have detailed information relevant to this study. The calculation of sample size of women food vendor to be included was done in two stages (Creative survey systems, 1982). The first stage was based on

assumption of infinite population of women food vendors and the application of the following formula with parameters explained below the formula:

$$ss = \frac{Z^2 \times (p) \times (1 - p)}{c^2} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Where:

- Z            Z value for 95% level of significance which is 1.96
- p            Percentage picking a choice (50%), expressed as decimal as 0.5
- c            Confidence interval of the survey set by the researcher to be  $\pm 9.78$
- ss           Sample size for infinite (unknown) population of women food vendors

By applying this formula, the sample size for infinite population obtained was 95.6484. The second stage was to adjust this sample size for finite population of 84 women food vendor that were available at the site during the survey planning period so as to obtain the final sample that was used in the study. The formula for this adjustment is given below.

$$n = \frac{ss}{1 + \frac{ss - 1}{Pop}} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

- PoP            Survey population which was 84 individuals
- ss            Sample size for infinite population which was calculated as 95.6484
- n            Sample size for finite population of 84 individuals

The final sample size for the known population of women food vendors was 44.5 individuals. This was adjusted to 46 individuals who were included in the final sample that were interviewed to obtain the data.



### **3.6 Sampling Procedures**

Sampling procedure is the process of selecting a sub-set of people or social phenomena to be studied from the larger universe to which they belong, in one of several ways so as to be either non-representative or representative (Kothari, 2004). This study employed simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques.

#### **3.6.1 Simple Random Sampling**

In order to ensure that all individuals in the target population have an equal and independent chance of being included in the sample, this study adopted simple random sampling technique to select 46 respondents. This sampling technique ensures representation of the sample and is efficient and allows for generalization of findings (Frankel and Wallen, 2000). It is a cheaper sampling method for large surveys (Powell, 2004).

In the actual process of sample selection, the researcher at the beginning obtained a sampling frame which was a list of all 84 registered women food vendors from Ward Executive officer of Magogoni .The names of all women food vendors were written in the small folded pieces of paper which were then drawn randomly under lottery method with replacement until the required 46 women food vendors were obtained.

The replacement method was useful because of the need to maintain the same probability of being selected throughout the sampling process. Therefore, once the first respondent was selected, she was not used to influence the next person who was to be selected.

### **3.6.2 Purposive Sampling**

Purposive sampling is a type of sampling in which the researcher chooses subjects with specified characteristics (Kothari, 2001). This sampling involves use of own judgment or intuition to identify a sample unit and sample out of it. Purposive sampling was applied to select key informants who participated in the study. The use of this technique was necessitated by the fact that these key informants were the appropriate persons with rich information that is relevant to the research questions because they were leaders of women food vendors. They have vast experience accumulated over years of working in this sub-sector. The researcher purposively selected four (4) women food vendors' leaders from their association to participate in the study. An in-depth interview was conducted with these leaders based on their experience, knowledge and skills in running food vending business.

## **3.7 Data Collection Procedures and Tools**

### **3.7.1 Data Collection Tools**

This study used two types of data collection tools namely structured questionnaire and interview guide. Kothari (2008) suggested that structured questionnaires are simple to administer and relatively inexpensive to analyze. Under this study the original questionnaire was designed in English, administered in Kiswahili before answers being translated back to English for recording. All questions of the structured questionnaire were closed ended. The questionnaires were self administered to all 46 respondents. It was a convenient tool because many women food vendors had extended work schedules therefore giving them questionnaires to fill at their convenient time was expected to create inconvenience and likely cause

loss of some questionnaires. Another tool that was used to collect data was interview guide for key informants. This tool was administered to four key informants who were women leaders of food vendors at the study area. The aim of using this tool was to collect in-depth information and insight relevant to the study.

### **3.7.2 Data Collection Procedures**

The procedures for data collection are as explained below.

#### **3.7.2.1 Primary Data Collection Procedures**

Primary data is information and data that are collected at the time of the study (Kothari, 2008). Kothari (2004) defined primary data as those which are collected a fresh and for the first time and thus happen to be original in character. Primary data was collected by administering the structured questionnaire to sampled women food vendors. It was also collected by administering interviews to key informants. This is a qualitative research technique that involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to explore their perspectives and views on a particular idea, program, or situation (Boyce and Neale, 2006).

The main reason for use of in-depth interview method is that it provides much more detailed information than what is available through other data collection methods. Also the choice of key informant interview method in this study was based on its usefulness for enabling the researcher to probe deeper into the given situation. In addition to that, it also provides a more relaxed atmosphere for collection of information and people may feel more comfortable having a conversation with the researcher about their program as opposed to filling out a questionnaire. The third

approach of primary data collection was observation. Information from observation was used to substantiate answers from respondents. Field observations were conducted to observe the time use for preparation and delivery of food to customers and how this affected their role in childcare.

### **3.7.2.2 Secondary Data Collection Procedures**

According to Kothari (2008) secondary data means data that is available. It includes data which have already been collected and analysed by someone else. The strengths of using secondary data are that they are cost-effective way of gaining a broad understanding of research questions and is also helpful in designing subsequent primary research as well as can provide a baseline with which to compare primary data results. Reviewing of secondary data is important to set the background of the problem, formulation of problem statement, research questions and gap of knowledge.

In this study secondary data were derived from the findings of published documents and literatures related to the research problem so as to back up primary information and relate the findings to other approaches already in existence. In this study secondary data was based on recent literatures related to women food vendors including textbooks, newspapers, journals and internet. The reviewed documents include both governmental and non-governmental documents including: the Law of the Child Act No.21/2009, Child Development Policy (1996) and empirical Reports and Surveys relating to challenges facing women food vendors in child care and service delivery.

### **3.7 Data Analysis**

According to Hatch (2002) data analysis is a systematic search for meaning. Saunders, *et.al* (2009) indicated that data is of no greater value, if not processed and analyzed. Therefore in this study, all filled questionnaires were rechecked for completeness every day after fieldwork. Manual data cleaning was done to check accuracy and completeness of the questionnaires. Quantitative, data was entered in the computer and data cleaning was done using Microsoft Excel Software for computation of frequencies and percentages. Subsequently, data was summarized and presented using frequency distribution tables, pie charts and histograms using Microsoft Excel software.

In addition to that, qualitative data was subjected to thematic analysis. The researcher analyzed data based on themes (objectives) under the study. Thematic analysis approach involved reading through the transcribed texting of each key informant interview and identifying responses relevant to the main questions asked by the researcher. The approach involved reading through the data, coding the data, shortening of the text, creating categories and finally interpretation of data.

### **3.9 Reliability and Validity**

Validity refers to the extent to which the tools used to measure a phenomenon are able to measure that phenomenon accurately (Sirkin, 1995; Kirk and Miller, 1986). In this study, validity was ascertained by means of pre testing of the data collection tools prior to the actual data collection exercise. Pre-testing exercise was conducted so as to ensure that the collected information is adequate to answers the research questions accurately. Through the pre testing exercise the researcher was able to

make some amendments and enhance clarity of posed questions. Reliability on the other hand refers to the ability of the tools used to consistently measure a phenomenon and come up with the same results when it is applied again and again. In this study reliability of the results was enhanced by means of the use of different approaches of data collection such as key informant interviews, structured interviews, and observations. This approach of triangulation in data collection enhanced the consistency since there was a pattern of similar responses when the tools were applied repetitively to various respondents at different times (Silverman, 1993).

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents analyses and interprets the study findings. It is divided into four sections. Section one presents demographic characteristics of respondents, ownership status of vending services, description on registration status of business and the experience of women food vendors in operating their business. Section two presents responses regarding time spent by women food vendors in operation of their business in a day, and the impact business in child care. Effects of having children at work are also presented. The third section presents challenges facing women food vendors in provision of childcare. The last section present respondents' responses on coping strategies employed by women food vendors to overcome challenges they face.

#### **4.2 Social Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

##### **4.2.1 Descriptive of Socio-Demographic Characteristics**

Table 1 presents the profile of the 50 women food vendors who participated in the study. Based on findings presented in Table 4.1, the majority 33 (66%) of women food vendors were aged between 19-35 years. Based on these findings it is clear that majority of women food vendors are at the productive and child bearing age. However, the study discovered that some of the women (6%) of age below 18 years were also involved in food vending and were already parents to at least one child. About 18% of the women were aged above 36-45 years old. These were found to

have more than one child and had been in business for not less than two years. Respondents aged between 46 - 60 were only 5 which is equivalent to 10% of the total sample size studied. The respondents in this group are senior parents and are aware of the issues related to childcare. This makes a population being well-represented age wise and thus making a study to bear valid facts about how informal sector activities affects women's role of childcare.

On the other hand, the number of the unmarried women was large as compared to the married ones. Basing on findings in Table 4.1, 16 (32%) of women food vendors are not married while 15 (30%) are married. This means that food vending is not only a business for the unmarried women but for married women as well. In addition to that, the 18 (36%) of women food vendors have more than three (3) children, meaning that they have multiple roles to play as parents and as business operators. This also can explain why they have decided to engage in business. In terms of levels of education, the majority 32 (64%) of women food vendors are only standard seven and none of them was a graduate.

**Table 4.1. Socio Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

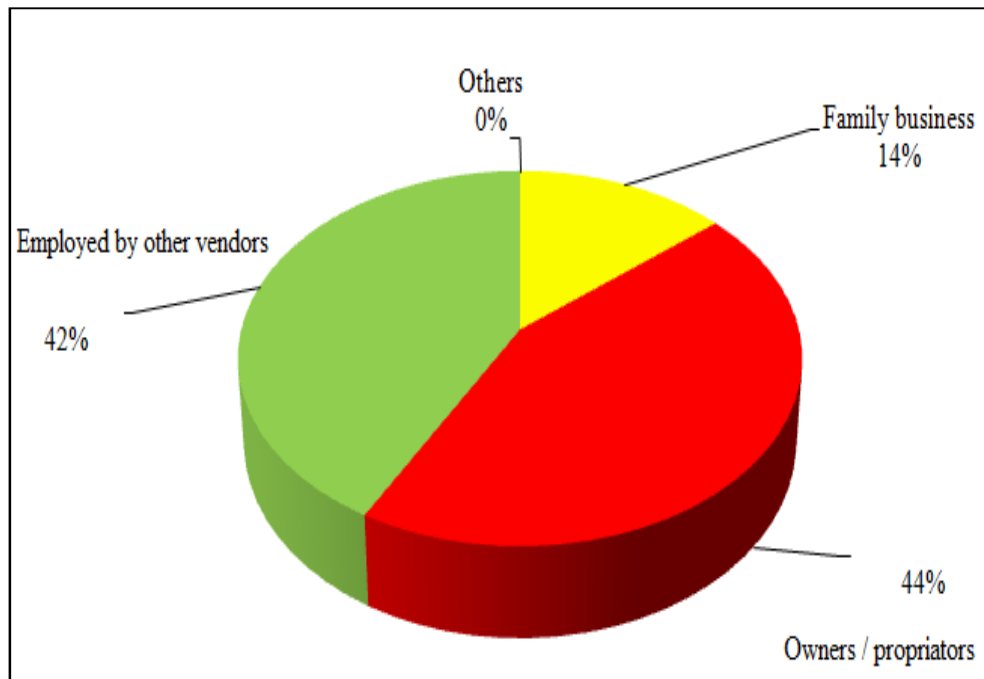
<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
<b>Age of Respondents (Years)</b>		
15-18	3	(6%)
19-35	33	(66%)
36-45	9	(18%)
46-60	5	(10%)
61+	0	(0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>(100%)</b>



<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
<b>Marital status</b>		
Not married	16	(32%)
Married	15	(30%)
Divorced	8	(16%)
Widow	10	(20%)
Separated	1	(2%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
<b>Number of children</b>		
1child	9	(18%)
2children	16	(32%)
3children	7	(14%)
More than 3 children	18	(36%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>(100%)</b>
<b>Education Level</b>		
Not educated	13	(26%)
Adult education	0	(0%)
Primary	32	(64%)
Secondary	05	(10%)
Technical education	0	(0%)
Certificate level	0	(0%)
Degree level	0	(0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>(100%)</b>

#### **4.2.2 Ownership of Vending Services**

The researcher intended to understand ownership status of women food vendors of their businesses. Figure 4.1 summarizes the distribution of by ownership status of their businesses. Findings revealed that the simple majority (44%) of respondents are owner of business, followed by 42% who are employed by other vendors and 14% whose businesses are owned by their family (family property).



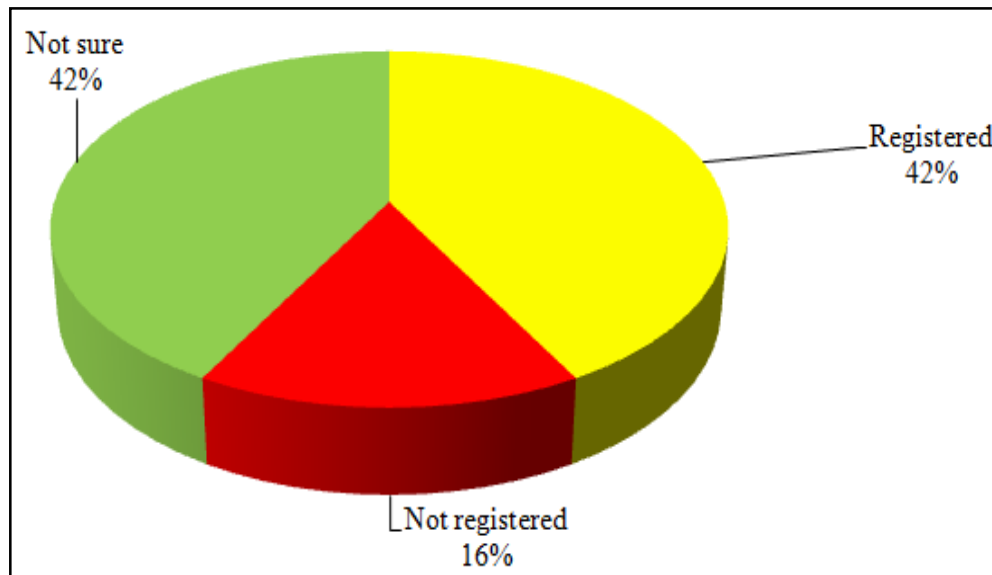
**Figure 4.1: Distribution of Women Food Vendors based on Business Ownership**

#### **4.2.3 Registration Status of Food Vending Businesses**

The study seeks to understand the registration status of businesses owned by women food vendors. Figure 4.2 provides a summary of responses from the field. Findings summarized in Figure 4.2 signify that there were various responses from the women food vendors towards the registration of their businesses. 42% said that their businesses were registered and another 42% stated that they were not sure about whether their businesses were registered or otherwise and the remaining 16% were not registered.

The results suggest that little has been done to improve the informal sector and especially the food vending sector among women in terms of education and that is why a big percentage (42%) of respondents are not sure whether their businesses are registered or not. This is a threat to success of business because there is a possibility

of loss of capital in case the respective authorities make regular follow ups. Along with such explanations, Nkonoki (2010) pointed out that running informal or unregistered businesses is the factor limiting small business growth. Running unregistered/ illegal or informal businesses prevents it from benefiting from government SMEs packages catered to develop the sector. Also there are difficulties of getting finances from financial institutions and the incapability to create and enjoy customer loyalty; all these constraining a particular business from growing.

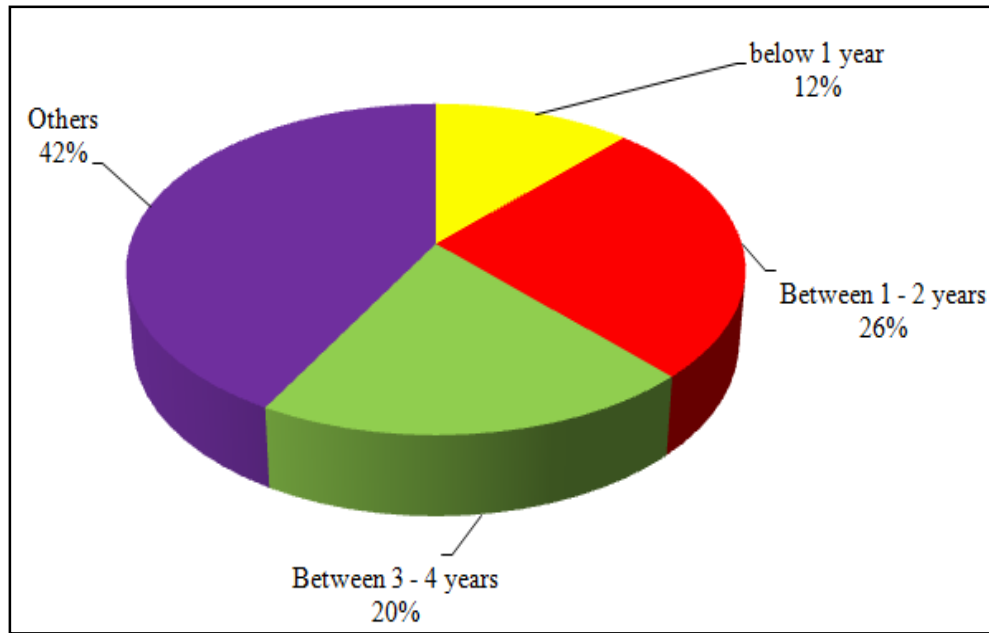


**Figure 4.2: Responses Regarding Registration Status of Food Vending Businesses**

#### **4.2.4 Experience of Women Food Vendors in Operating their Business**

It was important for the researcher to collect information related to the experience of women food vendors in operating their businesses because this can tell why some

operators were more successful and others not. Figure 4.3 summarizes results from the respondents as collected from the field.



**Figure 4.3: Respondents Duration of Experience in Operating their Business**

Most of the women(42%) food vendors said that they had experience of other forms of business before they started operating their food vending businesses. This shows that there is growing rate of women involvement in business. Nandonde and Liana (2013) noted that there is a growing interest in women participation in business ventures in Africa. The move has seen huge endorsements of capital from donors, governments and private sector to entrepreneurial development among women. Despite these efforts business growth among women entrepreneurs seems to be slower than is the case with their male counter parts. Several initiatives have been under taken to support women endeavors of becoming entrepreneurs in Tanzania.

Some of the significant initiatives included the establishment of women banks, loan schemes and agro processing clusters specifically for women under various organizations such as Small Industry Development Organization (SIDO). Donor agency and NGO have been supporting the informal sector for over 30 years; over these years the growth and transition of most micro-to- small-scale enterprises have been realized (Rugimbana and Spring, 2008).

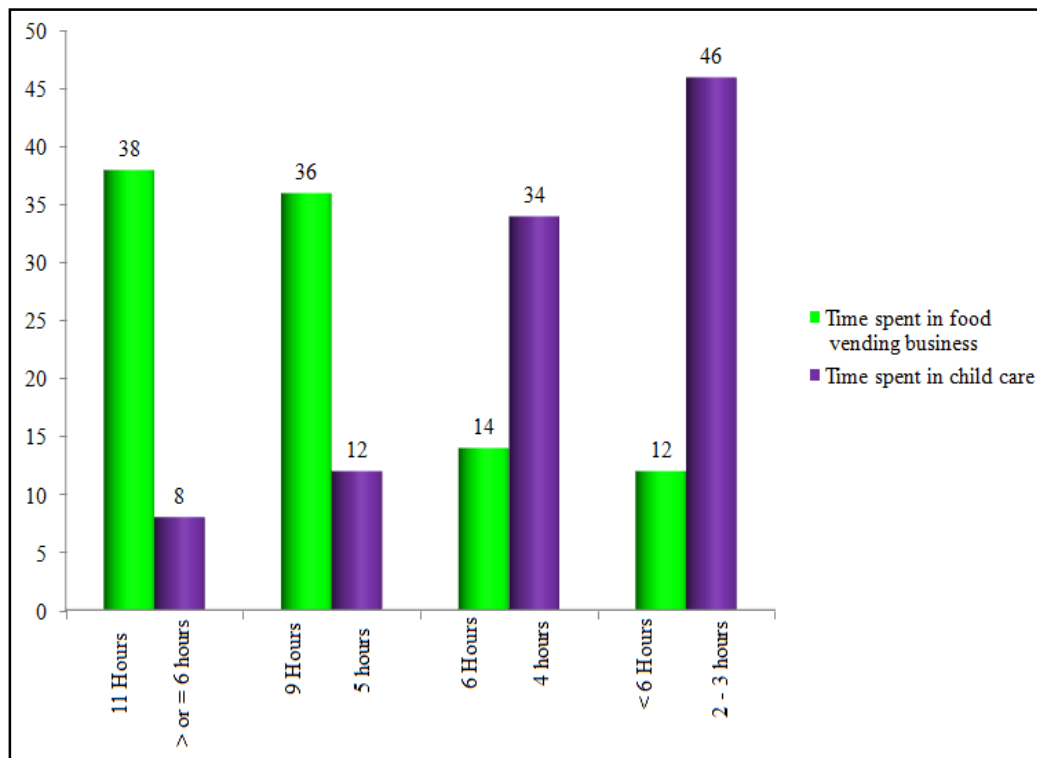
In Tanzania, programmes have not been introduced to support women entrepreneurs at various levels but the growth of their businesses seem to be slow (Maziku, 2012; Makombe, 2006). On the other hand, entrepreneurship and gender emerged to be the main focus research in Africa. Scholars have been more concerned about the factors that hinder performance of women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs in Tanzania faced a number of challenges including access to finance (Maziku, 2012; Rutashobya, 1998), lack of business skills (Kamuzora and Kamuzora, 2003), and limited support from spouses (Mbwambo and Tundui, 2003).

### **4.3 Time Spent in Child Care and Food Vending**

The researcher wanted to know how women food vendors balance the time between childcare and business. This is important because it helps to establish how much this has an impact to the welfare of their children and service delivery. Figure 4.4 provides a summary of respondents' responses. The majority (38%) of respondents spend 11 hours a day followed 36% who spend 9 hours a day on work. Only 14% and 12% of respondents said that they spend 6 hours and less than 6 hours a day on work respectively. In contrast, Figure 4.4 shows that only 8% of the respondents

spend 6 hours or more to take care of their children. Those who spend 5 hours a day to care for their children were 12% whereas other 34% reported to spend 4 hours to care for their children.

Further results show that majority of women food vending service providers (46%) spend only 2 to 3 hours a day to care for their children (Figure 4). The implications of these results are that majority of the interviewed women lack adequate time to provide care for their children because they are overwhelmed by their productive role. Information collected in key informant interviews indicate that women who do not own the food vending business leave their children at home since they are not allowed to work with their children on their backs. Sometimes they are obliged to leave their children with their neighbors, their sisters or grandparents.



**Figure 4.4: Responses on Time Spent in Work and Childcare**

#### 4.3.1 Effects of Having Children at Work among Women Food Vendors

The researcher gathered information from the respondents regarding effects caused by going to work place with children. Table 4.2 summarizes the findings. The majority 49 (98%) of respondents did not indicate whether childcare has impact on work performance in terms of food sanitation and delay on services to customers. Only 1(2%) of all respondents indicated that childcare among women food vendors has an impact on work performance. These results are in contrary to the findings of the study conducted by Lamontagne *et al.*, (1998) which found that mothers who work may lack the time to adequately breastfeed or prepare nutritious meals for their young children, or to make use of public services designed to improve child nutrition. Working women may rely on other members of the household to provide childcare, but the quality of care provided by these substitutes, especially if they are older children, may be poor.

**Table 4.2: Respondents' Views on the Effects of Having Children at Work Place**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Poor service delivery	0	0%
Delayed services to customers	1	2%
Others	49	98%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **4.4 Challenges Facing Women Food Vendors in Provision of Childcare**

##### **4.4.1 Childcare Challenges**

The researcher wanted to find out the challenges facing women food vendors in taking care of their children. According to the data collected during key informant interview, the challenges facing women food vendors in provision of childcare are multifaceted. They range from poor low wage, poverty and fears of child abuse and insecurity. One key informant aged 34 years has this to say:

*“This business is not always booming. There are good season when we get higher revenues and there are some seasons when we get losses. This means that we have to pay our employees very low wages during bad season. Therefore most of our employees are women as they have no other economic alternative to sustain their livelihood and feed their children. If they were not poor they could not come to work with us here. What they earn from this business enable them to at least afford some food and other costs of living in this city, but prospects of graduating out of poverty are slim”* (Female key informant aged 34 years, 2014).

Another key informant aged 42 years had this information reflecting the challenges facing women food vendors in provision of childcare:

*“Last year one woman food vendor left this job and chose to find another type of employment so that she can be closer to her children. She couldn’t make a living out of the new job that she had. She is now*



*returned to do this job of selling food. She has a feeling that working here means that she have abandoned her children because they are alone at home without proper supervision of an adult. Working here is not an easy choice because they have to endure the psychological effect of leaving their children at home with someone else”* (Female key informant aged 42 years, 2014).

Another key informant aged 34 years mentioned that raising children while working away from them is very hard experience.

*“You should hear it from others. It’s hard to raise a child. I love my children but raising them is long process and a big responsibility. I wish my children would grow up quickly and become independent because caring for them properly with this job of selling food away from home is a big responsibility”* (Female key informant aged 34 years, 2014).

While the above information portrays serious challenges, another challenge facing women food vendors in provision of childcare is that of child labour. Some key informants in this study reported that most of the women food vendors depend on their older children to look after their younger siblings. This fact is supported by information obtained from key informant aged 37 years:

*“I raise my children so that they become independent of me. The older children of mine have no time to play because they are responsible for providing care to their siblings. My eldest is 10, already she can cook, clean, look after the little ones and can feed her sister after school when*

*I'm working at the food vending stall. Another one is 8 and he can wash his clothes” (Female key informant aged 37 years, 2014).*

When children are not supervised by adults another challenge emerges and that is risk of poor performance in school. This fact was mentioned by all key informant interviewees. One of the responses from key informant aged 37 years regarding this challenge is presented below:

*“In most days I'm away from home and can't supervise my children properly including ensuring that they attend school and tuition. I have four children and one of them is in standard 6. I can't help them with their school work, I am not sure if they attend school properly as per the school time table. There are video show premises in the street where we are living and they often go to watch some movies. I am not sure if they can do better in school because I am busy. I don't like to see them fail in examinations but what else I can do” (Female key informant aged 37 years, 2014).*

Another challenge is the fear of risks of child abuse when children lack supervision of adults. This was revealed by one participant of key informant interview aged 42 years who had this to say:

*“It's up to God to protect our children especially adolescent girls from sexual abuse. This is my worst fear because it happened in our neighborhood that some adolescent girl was sexually molested while her parents were at work. Another child escaped to be raped by a neighbor by sheer luck because her mother came back early from work*

*on that day. I don't know how this happens, but I think that there are shameless men in the neighborhood who know all the girls whose mothers are working away from home for long hour"* (Female key informant aged 42, 2014).

Interviewed respondents also came up with various challenges as it was quoted from a 26 years old female respondent:

*"...Our bosses do not allow us to come with our babies and they say it is none of their business and this makes us uncomfortable because we feel sorry for our babies"*(A female ,aged 26 at Ferry fish market, 2014).

Such statements confirm that there are challenges facing women food vendors and especially those with babies because they have to play multiple roles as parents and as food vendors. The situation has health implications to both the child and the parent as well.

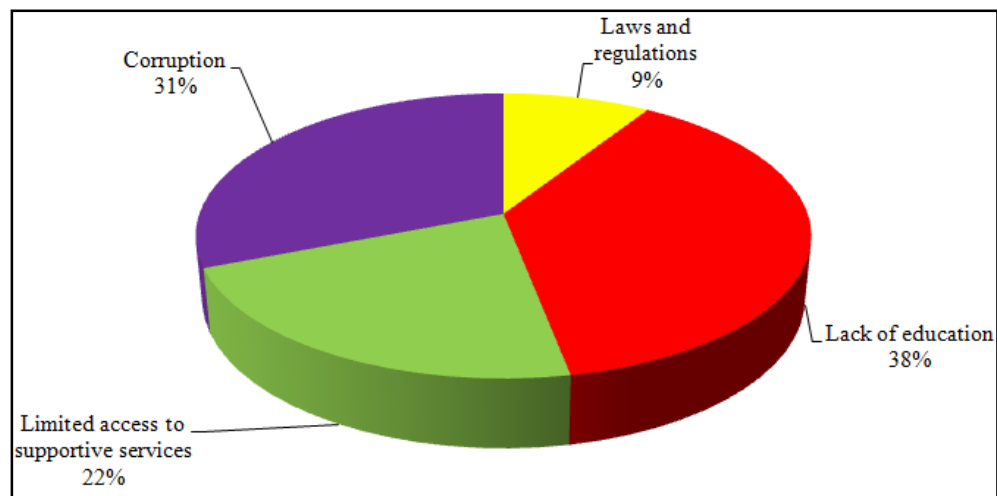
These findings as reported by women food vendors are similar to that obtained by Kamerman (2000) who found out that leaving children alone or in the care of older siblings have negative consequences on the future socio-economic situation of the children and also causes psychological trauma to women. The uncared children suffer in terms of the quality of care and the health, and in the long-term their educational development diminishes with consequential negative impact later in life.

These findings also correlate with those of Marcucci, (2001) who have shown that participation of women in the informal sector diminishes their ability to care for the

children. In his study of mothers working informally in the slums of Guatemala City he found out that majority of these children were lacking optimal care; the children were unable to accompany their mothers to their working areas, and a significant number of the women in the informal economy cited family responsibilities as the reason they turned to informal rather than formal employment (Marcucci, 2001). Its dismay that through this system these children are inheriting nothing but bigotry.

#### 4.4.2 Regulatory and Environmental Challenges

The study also wanted to understand regulatory and environmental challenges facing women food vendors in service delivery. This information was important since the success and failures of many women food vendors have been affected by various factors, hence there is a need to know them. The distribution of the respondents views are presented in Figure 4.5.



**Figure 4.5: Responses on Regulatory and Environmental Challenges**

Thirty eight (38%) of the respondents said that lack of education is one of the structural factors facing women in their business; 31% indicated that corruption is a

structural factor contributing to failure of their business. On the other hand, 22% and 9% stated that limited access to supportive services, laws and regulations are structural challenges affecting food vendors in their daily activities respectively. In support of these findings an interview with women food vendors was conducted to get an insight of their views. One of the interviewees aged 46 years said:

*“....as you know most of us are not educated so we are despised as we are powerless. We face police brutality everyday and this is because we don't know how to get business permits and we cannot change the type of business because it is the only one that we have knowledge about ....”(46 female,2014).*

The implications to the above quotations are that, it is true that low level of education is a challenge facing the majority of women food vendors. This again has led them being in quarrel with City Authorities and police due to failure to have business permit and adhere to business regulations. The findings are supported by those of Amha and Ademassie (2004) who believed that more than half of all women entrepreneurs face gender-related challenges in establishing, operating and expanding their entrepreneurial activities.

Such factors include: patriarchal beliefs, lack of education and limited access to supportive services. In addition to that, Richardson (2004) also observed that gender has an impact on women's activities. Women often have fewer of their own resources and/or poorer access to resources than men; and they have less control over their own time, labour and mobility, and less access to formal education and skills training.

Moreover, ILO (2003) stressed that there are different factors hampering the performance of women entrepreneurs at different levels. For instance, at the micro level, the main challenges are limited education, skills and business experience. At the meso-level, the main constraints are limited access to support services, including loan levels suited to their business needs, technical and management training, advice and marketing. These problems arise from the limited capacity and outreach of existing institutions as well as the women entrepreneurs' inability to afford to pay for the services. In the case of micro-finance, the problem is mainly limited to lack of access to substantial loans and businesses laws and regulations (including licensing procedures). Other factors include corruption and cultural environment that makes it more difficult for women to start and run enterprises due to their perceptions about traditional reproductive roles.

#### **4.6 Coping Strategies used in Addressing the Challenges Facing Women**

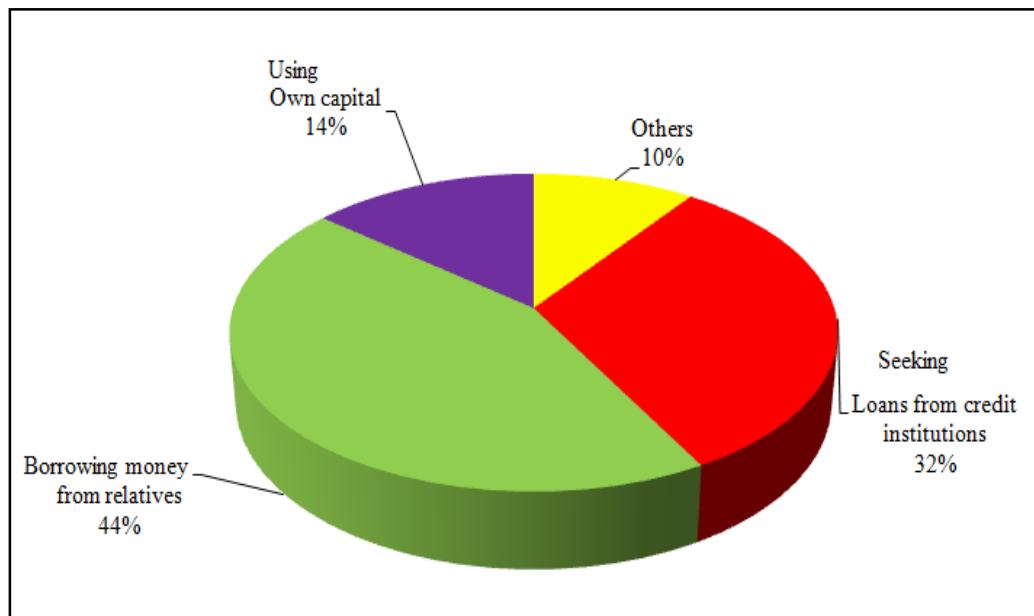
##### **Food Vendors**

The researcher wanted to know how women food vendors cope with different challenges facing them in their business. Figure 4.6 presents findings regarding that. Forty four percent (44%) of respondents said that women food vendors normally borrow money from relatives during the time of financial bankrupt.

Other 32% of respondents said that women food vendors acquire loans from credit institutions while 14% take advantage of their own capital as a result of saving and the remaining 10% get capital from other sources. In connection to these findings,

Tillerman (2012) in a study conducted in Dar-es-Salaam in “Exploring the Livelihoods of Women in the Urban Food and Beverage Vending Sector in Tanzania” indicated that coping strategies are adapted in order to make ends meet.

These coping strategies are mostly directed at reducing expenditures and utilizing social assets as a substitute for the lack of financial resources primarily through loan or credit taking. However, most of the coping strategies are informal rather than formal and are rooted in social support. Common coping strategies include asking relatives or neighbors for food to invest in the business and borrowing money. The reason why social capital is vital in this context is because it is made on good terms and not accompanied by interest rates.



**Figure 4.6 Respondents' Views on Coping Strategies**

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter summarizes the main findings, states the major recommendations and draws conclusions of the study. It is hoped that the recommendations presented here will contribute in making policies geared towards combating the problem and challenges faced by women in the informal sector operators in balancing childcare and productive roles.

#### **5.2 Summary**

The overall objective of this study was to assess challenges facing women informal sector operators in balancing their child caring and productive roles, a case of Ilala



Municipality. Specifically the study intended to realize three (3) specific objectives from which the respective research questions were formulated. Firstly, the study was intended to determine the duration of time spent by women food vendors in operation of their daily business. It was found that 38% of women food vendors spend eleven (11) hours a day, followed by 36% who mentioned that they are spending nine (9) hours a day. In contrast only 14% of respondents said that they spend six (6) hours a day and those who reported to use less than six (6) hours were 12%. In contrast, 8% of the respondents spend 6 hours or more to take care of their children; 12% spend 5 hours a day; 34% reported to spend 4 hours a day whereas 46% spend only 2 to 3 hours a day to care for their children. The implications of these results are that majority of the interviewed women lack adequate time to provide care for their children because they are overwhelmed by their productive role.

Secondly, the researcher wanted to assess challenges facing women food vendors in balancing time for child care and service delivery. Challenges facing women food vendors in provision of childcare are multifaceted including low wage, poverty and fears of child abuse and insecurity. In addition there is a challenge of child labour whereby some key informants reported that most of the women food vendors depend on their older children to look after their younger siblings. When children are not supervised by adults another challenge emerges and that is risk of poor performance in school. Another challenge is the fear of risks of child abuse when children lack supervision of adults.

Thirdly, the researcher intended to explore the coping strategies employed by women food vendors to overcome the challenges. The strategies mentioned include

borrowing money from relatives (44%), loans from credit institutions (32%) and using money from personal saving or capital (14%).

### **5.3 Conclusion**

In light of the findings, it can be concluded that in Tanzania women informal sector operators and especially food vendors lack adequate time to care for their children. Furthermore, as they strive to balance the role of caring for their children and productive roles women food vendors face numerous challenges including poor social esteem, psychological feeling of deprivation, fears of child abuse, child labor, risk of poor performance in school.

Regulatory and environmental challenges facing women food vendors include lack of education, corruption, limited access to supportive services and laws. Moreover existing laws and policies are not effective enough in protection of women food vendors as one of the marginalized population. Less has been done to address the problem facing women food vendors. The problem is seen as the responsibility of the individual and not the socio-economic and political environments. As a result, it is left on the hands of voluntary organizations to take initiatives to support women food vendors.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on findings the following recommendations are made to different stakeholders in order to improve the situation.

#### **5.4.1 Family and Community**

It is hereby recommended that:

- (i) Families should be helpful to women food vending so that they can be able to strike a balance between their roles in the family and work.
- (ii) Community members with financial capabilities should offer soft loans to women food vendors and advise them the best techniques of running businesses successfully.

#### **5.4.2 Non-Governmental Organizations**

It is recommended that NGOs should:

- (i) Advocate for change of laws and policies governing small scale business to fairly include matters related to food vending sector.
- (ii) Conduct training to women food vendors on entrepreneurship skills and the best approaches to be adopted in business.

#### **5.4.3 To the Government**

It is recommended that the Government should:

- (i) Train women food vendors on entrepreneurship and provide elementary knowledge of legal compliance in business matters
- (ii) Raise awareness and sensitize food vendors on the importance of balancing their reproductive roles in their family and productive roles in income generating business.
- (iii) Create, adopt and enforce legislations on the food vending sector focusing on monitoring of vendor practices, improvement of working conditions and food handling in close partnership with consumer associations.

- (iv) Encourage women to form social economic groups that can enhance access to social support like day care services for children.
- (v) Adopt participatory approaches in policy formulation by engaging with food vendors in national policy formulation processes.
- (vi) Create enabling environment for strengthening microfinance institutions targeting informal micro and small enterprises of street food.
- (vii) Channel government investment into food vending sector in line with commitments to urban food and nutrition security, poverty reduction and employment creation.

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## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1: Questionnaire for Women Food Vendors**

Dear Respondent,

My name is Zahara Amiri Daudi a student currently pursuing a Masters Degree Course in Social Work at the Open University of Tanzania. As part of my academic requirement I am now conducting a research on Challenges facing Women Informal Sector Operators in Balancing Child Caring and Productive roles. Therefore, this questionnaire is presented to you so that you can help in providing the information required as stipulated in each respective question.

Thank you for accepting to provide information for this study. Please be assured that, all the information you provide shall be used for the academic purpose of this study and neither shall your names nor any other personal identification be indicated in the report.

**Questionnaire Number.....**

### **SECTION 1: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

QN 1	Number of children	1. One 2. Two 3. Three 4. More
QN2	How old are you? (Age in complete years)	Years í í í í í í í í í í í í ...
Qn3	Highest level of education	1. None 2. Adult Education 3. Primary Education 4. Secondary Education

		5. Vocational 6. College 7. University
Qn4	Marital status	1. Single 2. Married 3. Divorced 4. Widowed 5. Separated
Qn5	Ownership of vending service	1. Owners/Proprietors 2. Employed by other vendors 3. Family business 4. Others specify <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> .
Qn6	How long have you been operating food vending business?	1. Less than a year 2. 1-2 years 3. 3-4years 4. Others: specify <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> .

## SECTION 2: MEASURING BALANCE OF TIME FOR BUSINESS AND FOR CHILD CARE

Qn7	Is your business registered?	1. Yes
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		2. No 3. Not Sure
Qn8	How many hours do you spend in your business in a day?	1. Half a day 2. Nine hours 3. Twelve hours 4. Fourteen hours 5. Others: Specify í í .....
Qn9	Do you carry your children to work?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn10	If the answer to question 9 is no, to whom do you leave your children?	1. Childcare Centre 2. Care givers 3. Elder children 4. Neighbors
Qn11	If the answer to question 9 is yes, how do children affect your performance?	1. Poor Sanitation of food 2. Delayed services 3. Others; Specify.....
Qn12	Had you any report of your child safety mismanagement? while she/he is with you at work?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn13	If Yes, what kind of incident that occurred?	
Qn14	Are customers happy with you	1. Yes

	when serving them with a child demanding your attention?	2. No  3. Somehow
Qn15	How much time do you personally spend for child care in a day?	1. Less than an hour  2. Less than three hours  3. Half a day  4. No time at all.  5. Others; í í í í í í í .....
Qn16	Do you think your job affects care of your children?  Does the business also affect the behavior of your children?	1. Yes  No   2. Yes  No
Qn17	If Yes, what kind of behaviors do your children adopt?	.....  .....  .....  .....

**SECTION 3: ASSESSING THE CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN FOOD  
VENDORS IN PROVISION OF CHILD CARE.**



Qn18	How do you handle your child when brought at work?	1. Carrying her on a back while serving. 2. Leaving her aside while serving. 3. Hiring somebody to care for the child while you are at work. 4. Nothing is specifically set for the child care at the workplace.
Qn19	Does having a child cause any disturbance in doing business of selling food?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn20	If yes, what disturbances do you specifically face?	í í í í í í í í í í í í í í  í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ..
Qn21	Do you take your children to any child care facility?  If yes , do they well manage them?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn22	Is the business environment favorable for child growth.	1. Yes 2. No
Qn23	If No, what are the unfavorable conditions?	í í í í í í í í í í í í í .....
Qn24	What are the environmental challenges which hinder your role	1     í í í í í í .í í í ..... 2     í í í í í í í í .....

	for child care	3    í í í í í í í í í .....
Qn25	How do your children feel about your job.	1. Happy 2. Sad 3. Satisfied 4. Unsatisfied
Qn26	Do you believe that your children morals are affected by the job you are dealing with?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn27	If Yes, How?	í í í í í í í í í í í í í í  í í í í í í í í í í í í í í

**TO COMBAT CHALLENGES OF CHILD CARE FOR WOMEN IN THE  
INFORMAL SECTOR**

Qn28	Do you know any law associated with childcare	1. Yes 2. No
Qn29	Did you ever get problems from authorities for bringing a child to work?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn30	How many child care centers that you know are in Dar es Salaam?	1. One 2. Two 3. More than three

		4. I don't know 5.
Qn31	Had you ever sent your child to the care centers?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn32	How much do you pay for your child care?	1. Less than 50,000 per month 2. More than 50,000 per month
Qn33	Do you have time to follow-up on your child behaviors?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn34	Name any child care assistance centre or authorities in Dar es Salaam that you know	1. í í í í í í í í í í í .. 2. í í í í í í í í í í í .. 3. í í í í í í í í í í í ..
Qn35	Does your job allow you to build good relations with neighbors and relatives?	1. Yes 2. No
Qn36	What would you recommend to improve the situation of child care for mothers working in the informal sector activities?	1. í í í í í í í í í í í 2. í í í í í í í í í í í 3. í í í í í í í í í í í 4. í í í í í í í í í í í

## Appendix 2: Semi-Structured Interview

1. What is your name?
2. Are you married or single?
3. Do you have children? How many?
4. What academic qualification/level do you have?
5. Do you own the food vending place?
6. For how long have you been doing the food vending business?
7. Is your business registered? (YES) or (NO)
8. How long do you work in a day?
9. Do your children accompany you to work? (YES) or (NO)
10. Who else do you rely on to take care of your children? (Friend), (Neighbour), (Child Centre) or (School)
11. How does bringing children to work affect your job performance?
12. Did you ever have a case of your child being mismanaged? NO, if YES mention.
13. What incidence do you recall to have affected your child when you brought him/her at work with you?
14. Do you afford to satisfy customers and your child at same time while you are at work? YES or NO
15. How many hours do you spend for childcare in a day?
16. What affects the other between your children and your business?
17. What are the behaviors your children possess which have been acquired by just being close to your work setting?
18. What disturbances does a child bring to the job when brought to work with you?

19. Have you ever sent your child to the childcare centre? YES or NO
20. What can you say about the childcare facilities around your area?
21. Can you mention some of the environmental challenges affecting childcare in your area?
22. Are there any childcare centers that you personally know? Name them.
23. Can you mention any law associated with childcare?
24. What legal or regulatory problems did you ever experience for bringing a child at work with you?
25. What do you have to say about the costs of childcare services in Dar es Salaam.