

A QUICK STUDY REPORT ON HOURLY SALES AND PURCHASE DURING FREE HOURS OF LOCKDOWN AND COVID PROTOCOLS AND CROWD MANAGEMENT AT VARIOUS MARKETS IN PUDUCHERRY

A quick study on hourly sales/ Purchase and Crowd management during lock down from 6 AM to 12 Noon has been desired by the Disaster Management Authority, Puducherry. As request the study was undertaken on 19/05/2021

Objective of the study

To Observe the

- ✓ Hourly sales/ Purchase of Vendors and General Public,
- ✓ Observation of Covid Protocols by sellers and Public
- ✓ Crowd Management

Sample covered

For urban area Puducherry Big market, Boulevard area, Nellithope Market and for rural areas Ariyankuppam Market , Villianur Market and Bahour market were covered in the survey.

Observations of the survey

Based on the field interactions with wholesale and retail vendors, small traders, vegetable sellers and public, the following findings have emerged.

- ✓ The peak sale/purchase times for Vegetables and fruits were reported from 6 A.M to 7.30 A.M. (mostly wholesale) and 10.00 A.M. to 11.30 A.M. (mostly retail sales)
- ✓ The peak sales/purchases times for Groceries were from 8.00 AM to 10.00 AM (Mostly wholesale) and from 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon (Mostly retail) for purchase by public.
- ✓ Regarding Meat and Egg, no considerable sales/purchases was observed and in the market it was reported that abnormally low turnout in week days. But the same market seems to be at peak sales/purchase throughout from **6.00 AM to 12.00 Noon in weekends days.**
- ✓ Regarding Flower shops, peak sales/purchases time was reported as ideally from 7.00am to 9.00am
- ✓ The fish market is closed.
- ✓ The small eateries, seems to be crowded by the public waiting for their turns from 7.00 AM to 10.00 AM.
- ✓ The peak time with respect to hotel and restaurant was reported as 7.00 AM to 10.00 AM

Covid Protocols

- ✓ The Vendors and the staff in the shops were observed to be not wearing the mask and deliver the goods standing closely with the purchasers at the hands of the purchaser
- ✓ The public were observed to be casual and observed to be not having any much concern towards observing Covid protocols such as properly wearing mask covering nose and mouth and maintain distance with others
- ✓ It was also observed that the Vendors in market not advising or compelling the public towards observing COVID protocols.

- ✓ However it was observed that in Grocery shops spread over area other than big market social distancing norms were followed.

Crowd management

- ✓ It was observed that no proper crowd management was done/ observed in Big Market, Villianur Market and Ariyankuppam Market
- ✓ In small eateries there was crowd and there was no crowd management.
- ✓ In Grocery shops outside the market , good crowd management was observed.
- ✓ The hotel and restaurants were observed to be following Crowd Management properly and were not allowing dine-in facilities.
- ✓ In vegetable shops also overall crowd management was observed to be poor. Many persons selecting vegetables standing closely was observed in many shops.

Responses from public and Vendors

- ✓ The vegetable vendors in general felt that restricting the time to 10 AM from 12 Noon may not affect vendor as well as public.
- ✓ The most of the Grocery shop owners felt that their sale is mainly between 9 AM to 12 Noon and restricting the time by 10 AM will definitely affect the sales and public will also suffer.
- ✓ Public at large felt that restricting the time by 10 AM will not affect their purchases however some public persons at Big market felt that may have come from nearby villages and reduction of free hours by two hours will affect them since they come to market after 10 AM.
- ✓ Most of grocery shop owners felt that restricting the time by two hours is same as closing the shop.
- ✓ As far as animal and fodder shops are concerned it was reported by vendors that restricting the time may not have much impact on sale/purchase

General Conclusion

It is observed that crowd was more during the last one and half hours of the lockdown. If the closing time is restricted to 10 AM, then perfect crowd management strategy needs to be put in place. It was observed on 20/05/2021 there was traffic jam, around boulevard in junction streets hence

- ✓ a strict Crowd Management and Traffic strategy should be in place before restricting the time by 10 AM.
- ✓ The public should be properly educated about maintaining COVID protocols at markets. There should be strict monitoring mechanism in place in all the markets otherwise, there will be Crowd jams during 8.30 AM to 10.00 AM.
- ✓ Most of the traders suggest that "Complete Lockdown" during weekend (Saturdays and Sunday) can be introduced instead of reducing the time to 10 A. So complete lockdown in weekend days may be considered,
- ✓ Strict entry point restriction may be put in place which will definitely avoid unnecessary rush to the big Market and all other market areas.

- ✓ Putting more check points around the boulevard area may also be considered
- ✓ Two Wheelers restrictions inside the Big Market area by fencing the entry points to big Market at Anna salai, Gandhi street, Needarajapayyar street and other small street junctions will also be considered.

Annexure

Analysis of Crowd

Taluk	Number of Households (Approx)	No of shops functioning in lockdown (Approx) Vegetable	No of shops functioning in lockdown (Approx) Grocery	No. of Person per day/shop if one person per household visit everyday	No of person/hour on 3 day basis Vegetable	No. of person/Hour on 7 day basis Grocery
Puducherry	85000	300	150	283	16	7
Ozavarkarai	75000	250	125	300	17	7
Villianur	50000	175	100	286	16	7
Bahour	30000	100	60	300	17	7
Total	240000	825	435	Average	17	7

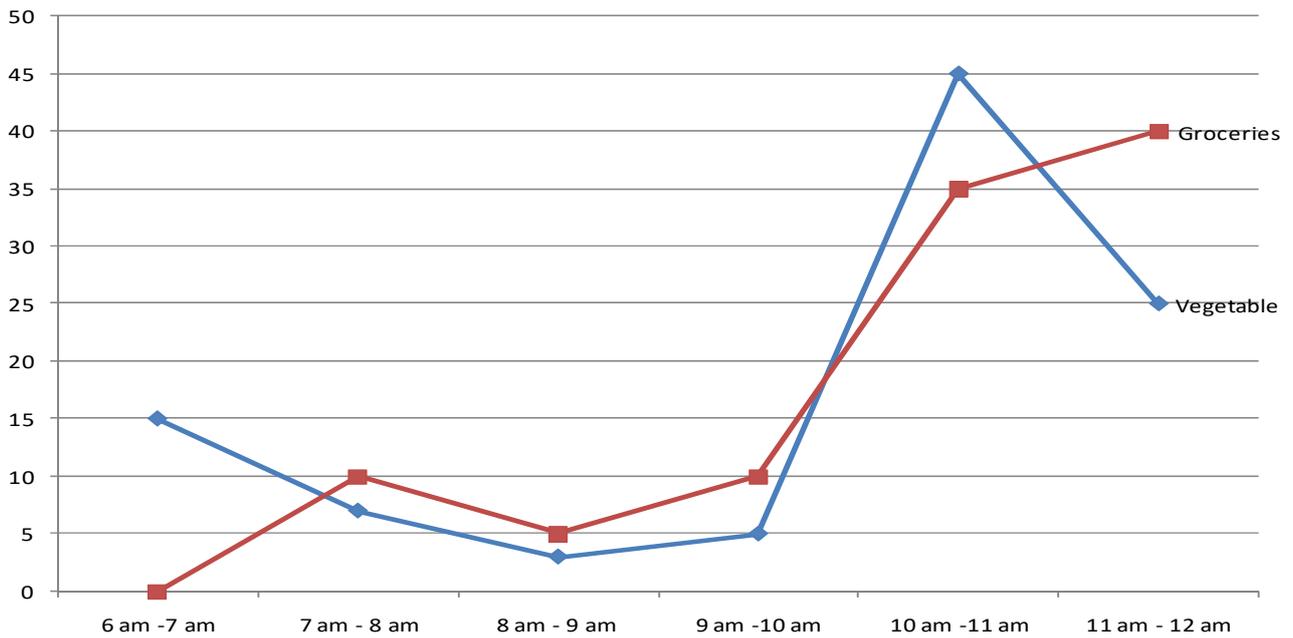
Shops	Total visit per day/per shop	Number of people per day / all shops
Vegetable shop	102	84150
Grocery shop	42	18270
Expected number of turnout per day		102420



Analysis of turnout

Based on the survey **Percentage** of turnout on hourly basis

Shops	6 am -7 am	7 am - 8 am	8 am - 9 am	9 am -10 am	10 am -11 am	11 am - 12 am
Vegetable	15	7	3	5	45	25
Groceries	0	10	5	10	35	40



Based on the survey **Number** of turnout on hourly basis

Shops	6 am -7 am	7 am - 8 am	8 am - 9 am	9 am -10 am	10 am -11 am	11 am - 12 am
Vegetable	12623	5891	2525	4208	37868	21038
Groceries	0	1827	914	1827	6395	7308