

Abstract

This is a study on “Problems and Obstacles Faced by Vendors at Bang-kae Market”. The objectives of the research were to study the opinions of vendors at the Bang-kae market on the work of the municipal police or the district office concerned and to study the perceived impacts of mega stores. The tool used to collect data was a questionnaire while the sample consisted of 77 vendors at Bang-kae market.

There were more female than male samples, aged between 38 and 47 years, with education qualifications ranging from no education or lower than grade 6 to a diploma or equivalent level. With Bangkok as their domicile, the samples were residents of other districts near or adjacent to Bang-kae district. They had made their living by selling goods since the beginning, working for 6-8 hours a day, starting at 07.00 hours, earning a monthly income of 5,000-10,000 baht, selling from fixed regular location, with the type of goods or services sold being ready-made food.

The samples did not agree with the no-sale-on-Monday order, because it stopped them from earning income and caused much inconvenience in re-setting and putting away their wares. Most were unsure about the legitimacy of the arrest, seizure of goods and fine imposition by the municipal police.

Very few were aware of the impacts on major retailers whether about higher costs involved in enhancing the quality of the goods or reduced sales volume.

The researcher suggested that the public authorities should revoke the order prohibiting sales on a specific day. The authorities should make sure that the public workers understand their roles and duty, especially regarding arrest, fine imposition and seizure of goods. The responsible persons should ensure that every vendor displays the price tag and the place is clean. No less important is that the authority should be serious about arresting and putting an end to the mafia.

On the impact of the expansion of big department stores, the authorities should exercise control over major retailers through tax measures and over business operation by aliens so as to provide increased opportunity for local vendors. At the same time, the

authorities should launch a publicity campaign to encourage the public to use the service available at the market rather than at major departmental stores.