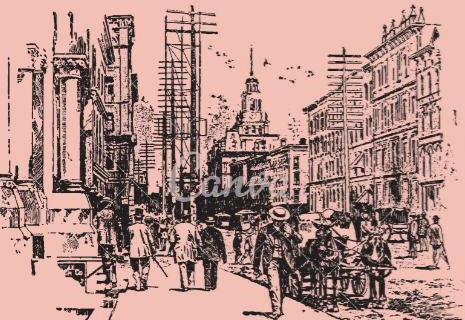


# THE TAPESTRY OF MORALITY IN THE LANES OF RITCHIE STREET

GROUP 7

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# INTRODUCTION

Ritchie Street is a bustling market in Chennai, India, known for its wide variety of second-hand goods, but also for its reputation for selling stolen and substandard items.

- Second-hand Goods
- Settlement
- Revenue Flow
- Moral-Philosophical Issues



# **RITCHIE STREET & IT'S URBAN MORPHOLOGY**

## **1. High Density and Diverse Use of Space**

- Richie Street's high density living is marked by a hodgepodge of small shops and living spaces crammed into narrow lanes, reflecting a chaotic urban tapestry where living and commercial spaces coexist closely.

## **2. Historical Evolution with Cultural Significance**

- The transition from a traditional marketplace to a modern electronic goods hub tells the story of Richie Street's adaptation to economic shifts, while hinting at potential threats to its historical and cultural edifices.

## **3. Socio-Economic Heterogeneity and Challenges**

- Vendors from various backgrounds, including migrants, represent the socio-economic mosaic of Richie Street, highlighting the disparity between the flourishing businesses and those scraping by amidst fierce competition.

## **4. Impact of Policy on Urban Commerce**

- The regulatory landscape, shaped by policies like the Street Vendors Act, critically influences vendor stability and the area's growth, while infrastructure remains a key to sustaining the bustling commercial life here.



# LITERARY REVIEW

## Literature 1

"The Urban Condition" by Gordon: This literature emphasizes the dynamics of space in urban settings, which can be applied to analyze Richie Street's growth in the context of Chennai's urban sprawl.

## Literature 2

"Cities and the Wealth of Nations" by Jane Jacobs: Jacobs' work can offer insights into how the concentration of trade, like that on Richie Street, contributes to the city's economic dynamism and existing spatial inequalities.

## Literature 3

"Planet of Slums" by Mike Davis examines the struggles within informal settlements, offering perspective on Richie Street vendors' fight for survival amid development, highlighting impact of city growth on informal economies.

## Literature 4

The Right to the City" by Henri Lefebvre: Lefebvre's concept of a "right to the city" can be extended to the vendors of Richie Street, arguing for their right to use urban space for economic activity as a form of creating and recreating their urban life.





# ANALYSING SPATIAL SETTLEMENTS - STREET VENDORS AND SHOP OWNERS

## **1. Geospatial distribution**

- Mapping the vendors and shop owners on Ritchie Street reveals a high density along the main road with clusters around high-footfall areas such as intersections and public transport hubs. The uneven distribution suggests an organic settlement pattern.

## **2. Legal Framework and Settlement Patterns**

- The discussion with vendors suggests a disparity between the number of licensed vendors and shop owners and the estimated total number operating. This gap underscores a system that either limits access to legal vending or fails to accommodate the demand.

## **3. Local Economy vs. Regulatory Hurdles**

- While contributing to Ritchie Street's economy through a range of products and services, many vendors grapple with the complexities of regulatory systems, indicating a need for better awareness and simplification of legal processes.

## **4. Negotiating the Use of Public Spaces**

- Ritchie Street exemplifies the classic urban struggle over sidewalks, where the rights and needs of pedestrians, vendors, and shop owners converge and often conflict, calling for nuanced management strategies.

## **5. Hierarchy and Community Among Vendors**

- The social fabric of Ritchie Street reflects a tiered community where the permanence of shops grants higher status over transient street vendors, who are often viewed with skepticism, illustrating the nuanced social hierarchies that exist within the local economic ecosystem.



# ETHICS AND MORALITY OF SETTLEMENTS

## Right to Livelihood

Street vending is a crucial survival strategy for those blocked from formal jobs by educational, skill, or socio-economic hurdles, embodying the fundamental right to earn a living using public spaces.

## Right to the City

Henri Lefebvre's "Right to the City" advocates for urban dwellers' deep engagement with their cities, including participation in urban planning, legitimizing street vendors' presence as an essential aspect of urban life.



# ETHICS AND MORALITY OF SETTLEMENTS



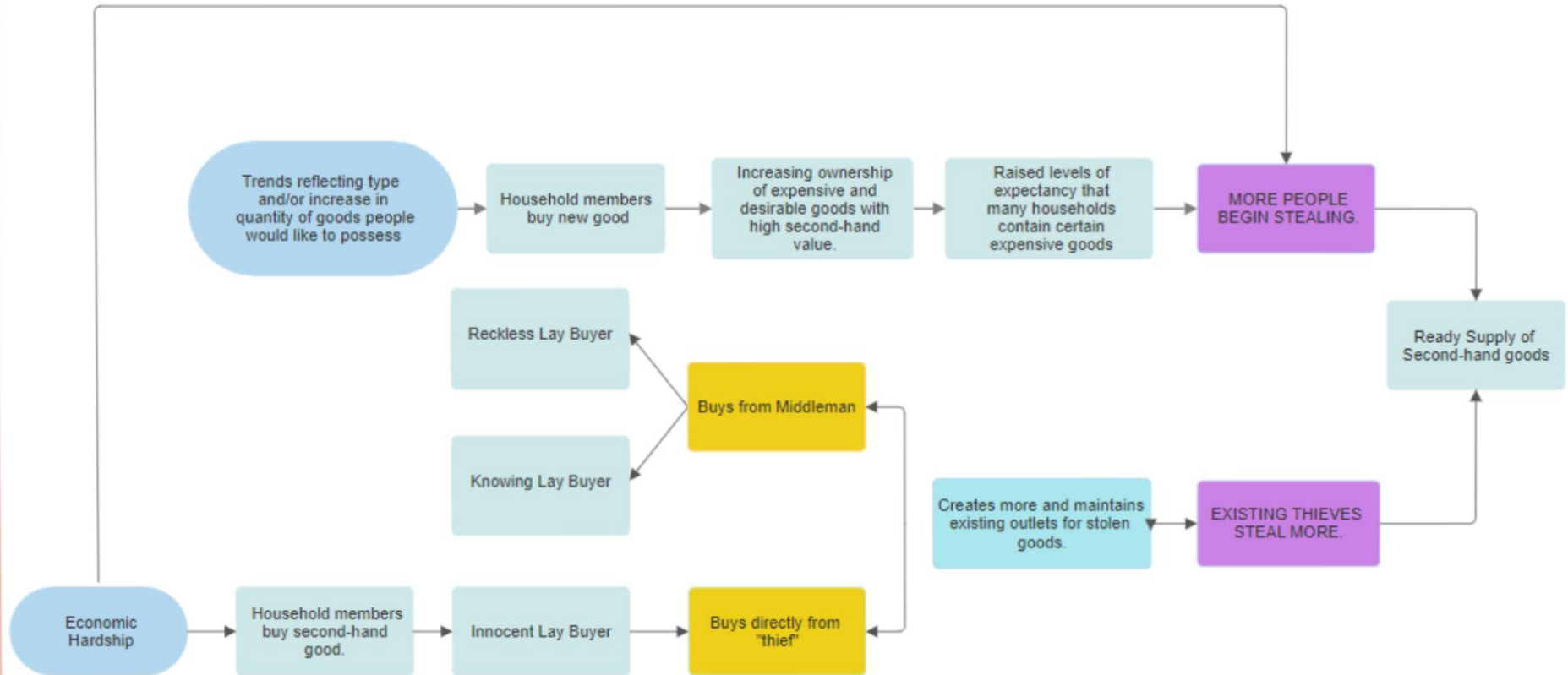
## Equity and Social Justice

Street vendors' fight for urban space is a battle against socioeconomic exclusion, demanding equitable access to public areas for livelihood as a matter of social justice.

## Landholding Rights and Public Space

The debate on landholding rights for street vendors centers on balancing their traditional, cultural, and economic stake in public spaces with the necessity to keep streets and walkways clear and usable for everyone.

## Ethics (and Efficiency) of Low Prices: Supply of Theft





# Richard Sennett and the 'Closed' City

The Open City	The Closed City
<p>This is the <b>visible, bustling, and legal</b> aspect of the market where legitimate businesses thrive, and the exchange of goods is conducted openly.</p> <p>This open city mirrors Sennett's idea of urban spaces designed for <b>public engagement, community interaction, and economic activity</b>.</p> <p>It is a space where customers freely navigate the stalls, vendors negotiate deals, and transactions take place openly.</p>	<p>This hidden, secretive world exists beneath the surface, away from public scrutiny. This is where stolen goods are traded discreetly, <b>beyond the reach of legal regulations and moral norms</b>.</p> <p>Idea of urban spaces that are <b>exclusive, secretive, and hidden from public view</b>.</p> <p>In the closed city of Ritchie Street, only a select few are privy to the illicit transactions, and it operates on a different set of rules and values, often divorced from the open city's norms.</p>

Public engagement vs Exclusivity

Visibility vs Hiddenness

Norm-Bound vs Unregulated

Social Capital vs Exclusion

# The Moral Quandary of Street Hawkers

**Contextual Morality:** Street hawkers often operate in the grey areas of legality and morality, balancing survival in a stratified economic system against conventional norms of honesty.

**Justified Deception?:** The ethical dilemma emerges when hawkers feel that deception is a necessary tool to counterbalance the disadvantages imposed by systemic inequality.

**Philosophical Perspectives:** The debate centres on whether hawkers have a moral obligation to be truthful to consumers who are part of a privileged class that perpetuates background injustice

**Relativistic Ethics:** This situation raises questions about the universality of moral principles such as honesty, especially when the social contract is skewed in favor of certain groups.



# Consequences of Justified Dishonesty

**Erosion of Trust:** When deceit becomes a justified means of self-help, it can lead to a broader erosion of trust within society.

**Crime and Cohesion:** The normalization of dishonest behavior as a legitimate response to injustice could impact crime rates and social cohesion negatively.

**Political Implications:** Such justifications may also influence political leanings, potentially fostering support for movements that aim to rectify perceived injustices.

**Social Indicators:** We must consider the long-term effects on various social indicators, including the legitimacy of institutions, the rule of law, and the fabric of civil society





## **Second-hand Market Influence:**

Analyzes how the demand for second-hand goods may affect crime rates, especially theft, to meet this demand.

Relationship between Demand and Crime: Explores the potential link between the market demand for used items and the perpetuation of theft or criminal activities to satisfy that demand.

Investigates whether the availability and demand for second-hand goods correlate with higher crime figures and if there's a causal relationship.

Dynamics of the second-hand market and its role in either fostering or curbing criminal behaviour, highlighting the influence of supply and demand on crime rates.

Considers potential policy or regulatory implications to address any observed relationship between the second-hand market and crime figures, discussing how interventions could potentially mitigate criminal activities associated with this market.



## Understanding Ritchie Street

The geographic location of Ritchie Street. A hub for second-hand electronics, gadgets, and components.

Vibrant trade and consumer demand for affordable, second-hand items in the area. Highlights the bustling atmosphere and the range of available products

Sutton's study suggests that the demand for second-hand goods might potentially relate to higher crime rates in areas like Ritchie Street. Explores the possible correlation between the market dynamics and any observed criminal activities in the vicinity

## Implications and Recommendations

Examines the potential influence of second-hand market dynamics on crime rates. Considers if the demand for affordable electronics leads to theft or illegal activities in the area.

Discusses potential regulatory or policy interventions. Considers strategies to mitigate any criminal activities associated with the market without hampering the economic viability of second-hand markets like Ritchie Street.

**Thank You!**