ABSTRACT

To the street hawker, hawking is a means of making a living, but to the city elites, street hawking is a nuisance that must be stopped either by fair or foul means. These two extremities have led to a game plan tie to the spatio-temporal dis- tant traffic regimes. While authorities plan to evict by all means, hawker game plan is to stay and maximize daily profit by all means, hence the emergence of make-shift hawking patterns and evasion strategies characterized by brutality and prosecution.

The fight of these two giants have put the general public in a fix, the public need to grow resistant and adopt coping strategies to outwit law enforc-

Economic disparities existing between regions have the tendency of creating population drift. The more economically developed countries tend to provide the attraction which pull people from the relatively less developed areas in search of economic opportunities [Dickson and Benneh 1988]. The national economic disparities between towns (cities) in Africa have made these cities centers for economic opportun-
ties and personal fulfillment, hence any countrywide downhill which seeks to better his/her life immediately thinks of moving to the city. However these economic migrants realize in the next day that the big towns and cities do not have ready and awaiting jobs for them as they might have dreamt of. This situation as opined by Bromley [1998] leads migrants and induced some indigenes into creating other forms of livelihood activities in their frigid land to earn a living which includes selling on the streets as a means for survival, often termed street hawking. The activity of street hawking which by all intents and purposes forms part of trade, in recent times serves as a major avenue for income generation for sections of the urban population in Accra and most African cities where the case of urban unemployment is acute [Asiedu and Agyei-Mensah 2008].

In spite of the inherent benefits of the economy of Ghana [Cros 1995; Witt 2008; Chen 2001], street hawking which forms a lion share of the informal sector is considered illegal, unauthorized and constitute an encroachment of public spaces. Its continual existence is a source of worry which creates conflicts and attracts brutalities from city managers who are tasked with ensuring sanity in the city of Accra. Despite the various attempts by city authorities in Accra at halting the proliferation of street hawking, it is interesting to see how thriving it has become in most African cities, including Accra. In the midst of all the threats and intimidations, street hawking has proven to be the most visible spatial manifestation of the urban informal sector of developing countries [Brenkley 1998; Haya-Mitchell 1994].

Asiedu and Agyei-Mensah [2008] mentioned the fact that most investigations into this subject area have been directed at the studies of informal manufacturing whiles there exist a very vast void in knowl-

ded about the spatial dimension and modification of the urban landscape among others by these activities. It therefore makes imperative the need to examine who these hawkers are, where they come from, the spatial dimension of their operation and the problems they pose to the urban landscape Accra.

The questions addressed in details in this study are:

\- What is the geographic pattern of street hawking in Accra Metropolitan Area (AMA)?
\- Why is street hawking endemic in the city of Accra?
\- Is street hawking likely to end; and; why and why not?

Using a combination of GIS and several socio-economic data, this study provided answers to these questions to provide information on the geospatial pattern andodemography of hawkers in the Accra Metropolitan.

INTRODUCTION & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The dynamics of hawker concentration in response to ban on street hawking.

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MAJOR FINDINGS

\- The Ashanti, Central and Eastern had indigenes dominating hawking activities.
\- The Busy Internet area at the Kwame Nkrumah Circle, Nima junction and Lapaz Traffic Light are more favorable hawking location.
\- Hawkers hawking in relation to congestion which changes with the time of the day.
\- Respondents thought that there are no better alternative locations hence their keeping up with the current locations.
\- Street hawkers have become the main bread winners of their families.
\- A majority of respondents had no alternative source of income.

Recommendations

\- Disenrollment of city centers.
\- Assessment and enforcement of the land use plan and code.
\- The need political will and major policy shift beyond the powers of city authorities.

Conclusion

Street hawking has both spatial and temporal dynamics that makes hawking more complex than observed.

\- The spatial pattern has changed since the opening of N1 highway.
\- Street hawking seems more profitable than public sector employ-

- Hawkers are very much concern about the harassment and prosecutions they receive from taskforces.
- The need for survival and to take care of their dependents coupled with the precarious economic conditions of Ghana propel hawkers to grow resistant and adopt coping strategies to outwit law enforc-
- The Ashanti, Central and Eastern had indigenes dominating hawking activities.