

READ THIS FIRST

This file is a **sample synopsis for study reference, not for submission**. It shows how the five components that section 3.5 of the *MEVP-012 Handbook on Project Work* (School of Interdisciplinary and Trans-disciplinary Studies, IGNOU, May 2024) asks for can be laid out in about 1,500 words for the MA (Environmental Studies) project.

- Everything in **[square brackets]** is for your own facts: the place, counts, dates, local records, your supervisor. Nothing in brackets is data, and no finding is stated anywhere in this file.
- Do not submit this text or a reworded copy. Section 4.2 of the handbook says completely identical project proposals and reports will be rejected, and section 5.2 sends plagiarism cases to the IGNOU Unfair Means Committee.
- Choose your own topic with your supervisor. This topic was written fresh for this file to show the structure.
- Your proposal goes with the Annexure I proforma (every box filled, signed and dated by you and your supervisor) and your supervisor's complete signed bio-data to the **Coordinator of your Programme Study Centre or Study Centre**. Keep a photocopy of the whole packet.
- The handbook asks for approximately 1,500 words covering: title; introduction and objectives; methodology and tools; utility or scope; future directions. It prescribes no font, margin or referencing style.

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PROJECT PROPOSAL

MEVP-012 Project Work

Master of Arts (Environmental Studies) (MAEVS)

Heat Exposure and Coping Practices among Street Vendors in [Market Area], [City]: A Descriptive Survey

Field	Entry
Submitted by	[Your name]
Enrolment No.	[As on your ID card]
Programme Study Centre / Study Centre	[Name and code]
Regional Centre	[Name and code]
Supervisor	[Name, designation and address, exactly as on the proforma and bio-data]
Submitted to	The Coordinator, [Programme Study Centre / Study Centre]
Date	[]

Enclosures: Annexure I proforma (signed by student and supervisor); supervisor's complete signed bio-data.

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1. Title of the Project

Heat Exposure and Coping Practices among Street Vendors in [Market Area], [City]: A Descriptive Survey.

The title names the issue (heat exposure and coping practices), the people studied (street vendors), the place ([Market Area], [City]) and the design (descriptive survey). Section 4.2 of the handbook requires the report to carry the same title as the approved proposal, so the wording is settled now with the supervisor.

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2. Introduction and Objectives of the Project

2.1 Introduction

The Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report (IPCC, 2023) records that hot extremes have become more frequent and more intense across most land regions. The burden of heat does not fall evenly. The International Labour Organization treats heat stress as a threat to labour productivity and decent work, with people who work outdoors and informally among the most exposed (ILO, 2019). A review by Kjellstrom et al. (2016) explains how heat lowers the capacity to work and creates occupational health risks.

In India, the National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines for preparing heat-wave action plans (NDMA, 2017), and cities and states prepare their own plans. Ahmedabad's heat-health action plan, described by Knowlton et al. (2014), was the first such plan in South Asia. Street vending is regulated under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, which provides for Town Vending Committees in each local authority.

Street vendors spend long hours in the open, often on paved surfaces with little shade, and their earnings depend on staying at the stall. How they experience summer heat and what they do to cope are rarely recorded at the level of a single market. In [City], [state the local context in two or three sentences from sources you have read: summer maximum temperatures recorded by

the India Meteorological Department station nearest to the market for the last [] years; whether the city has a heat action plan and its year; the number of vendors in the area according to the vending survey or the Town Vending Committee, with the source].

Rationale. The study applies ideas from MEV-025 Climate Change and Society and MEVE-016 Urban Environment, and the survey methods of MEV-019 Research Methodology for Environmental Science, to an issue the investigator can observe directly, as section 3.2 of the handbook advises. [Add two or three local studies or reports you have actually read, with full references, and state what they did not cover.]

2.2 Objectives

- To describe the summer work pattern of street vendors in [Market Area]: working hours, stall type and position, and the shade available.
- To study vendors' self-reported experience of heat-related discomfort and symptoms while working.
- To identify the coping practices vendors use (drinking water, shade, timing of work, clothing, rest) and the constraints they report.
- To examine vendors' awareness of heat warnings and of public measures such as drinking-water points or shaded rest areas in [City].
- To suggest locally feasible measures for vendors, the Town Vending Committee and [the municipal body].

The objectives are worded neutrally: they do not assume what the survey will find.

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3. Methodology and Tools to be Used

3.1 Research design

A descriptive survey of vendors at one point in time, carried out during [month(s) and year] so that the report can be submitted in the [1 July to 30 September / 1 January to 31 March] slot.

3.2 Study area

[Market Area], [City], [State]. [Give the reason for choosing it: size, mix of stalls, access for the investigator.] A sketch map of the market lanes will be placed in the appendix.

3.3 Population and sample

Population: street vendors working in [Market Area] (approximately [N], source: [vending survey / Town Vending Committee list / the investigator's own count on [date]]). Sample: [n] vendors, chosen by [systematic sampling, taking every k-th stall along the main lanes, where $k = N / n$] or [stratified sampling by type of goods: cooked food, fruit and vegetables, non-food]. Inclusion: aged 18 or above, vending at the site on at least [] days a week, and willing to take part. The sample size is fixed with the supervisor; the handbook does not prescribe one.

3.4 Tools

- Interview schedule (structured, in [language]) with five parts: profile, work pattern, heat experience, coping practices, awareness of warnings and public measures.
- Observation checklist for each stall: type of shade, surface, access to drinking water and to a toilet.
- Temperature record: daily maximum temperature on survey days from [the IMD station or official city source]. [If a thermometer is used at stalls, name the instrument and how readings will be taken.]
- Pre-test of the schedule with [five] vendors outside the sample, and revision before fieldwork.

3.5 Data collection

Face-to-face interviews at the stalls during [time slots], timed so that trade is not disturbed. Consent is taken before each interview and no names are recorded. A letter of authorisation from the supervisor or the Study Centre will be carried during fieldwork (handbook section 3.4).

3.6 Analysis

Objective	Data	Analysis
1. Work pattern	Schedule part B, observation checklist	Frequencies, percentages, bar chart
2. Heat experience	Schedule part C	Frequencies; cross-tabulation by stall type
3. Coping practices	Schedule part D	Multiple-response table; ranking of constraints
4. Awareness	Schedule part E	Percentages; cross-tabulation by [education / years of vending]
5. Measures	Objectives 1 to 4	Synthesis; no statistical test

A chi-square test of association will be used only where cell sizes allow and the supervisor agrees. Software: [MS Excel / other].

3.7 Ethics and safety

Participation is voluntary, answers are anonymous, and symptoms are recorded as reported, not as medical diagnoses. Fieldwork will avoid the hottest hours for the safety of both respondents and investigator.

3.8 Time plan

Stage	Months
Literature and tool preparation	[]
Pre-test and revision	[]
Fieldwork	[]
Data entry and analysis	[]
Writing, supervisor review, binding, CD	[]
Submission slot	[1 July to 30 September / 1 January to 31 March]

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4. Utility and Scope of the Work

Utility. The study will document heat exposure and coping for one market in a form that vendors' associations, the Town Vending Committee and [the municipal body] can use when

deciding on shade, drinking water or work-timing advice. It also connects global evidence on heat and work (ILO, 2019; Kjellstrom et al., 2016) with a local setting, and relates to Sustainable Development Goals 3 (good health and well-being), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (climate action).

Scope and delimitations. One market, one season, and a sample of [n] vendors. Symptoms are self-reported. The results will describe this market and will not be generalised to all vendors in [City].

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5. Future Directions and Perspectives

- Repeat the survey in another season or in two or more markets to compare conditions.
- Use measured heat-stress indices at stalls in place of the nearest station temperature.
- Study women vendors separately, including access to toilets and rest.
- Evaluate a simple local measure, such as shared shade or a water point, before and after it is introduced.
- Compare vendors' practices with the advice in [City]'s heat action plan, if one exists.

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Tentative Chapter Plan of the Report

Following the contents list in section 4.1 of the handbook, with a review of literature added because the evaluation scheme in Annexure IV gives it 10 marks: Introduction; Review of Literature; Objectives; Methodology; Results; Analysis and Interpretation; Conclusions; Recommendations; Summary; Bibliography; Appendices (interview schedule, observation checklist, map, photographs with consent).

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References

Government of India. (2014). *The Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014* (Act No. 7 of 2014). New Delhi: Ministry of Law and Justice.

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Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (2023). *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Geneva: IPCC.

International Labour Organization. (2019). *Working on a warmer planet: The impact of heat stress on labour productivity and decent work*. Geneva: ILO.

Kjellstrom, T., Briggs, D., Freyberg, C., Lemke, B., Otto, M., and Hyatt, O. (2016). Heat, human performance, and occupational health: A key issue for the assessment of global climate change impacts. *Annual Review of Public Health*, 37, 97-112.

Knowlton, K., Kulkarni, S. P., Azhar, G. S., Mavalankar, D., Jaiswal, A., Connolly, M., et al. (2014). Development and implementation of South Asia's first heat-health action plan in Ahmedabad (Gujarat, India). *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 11(4), 3473-3492.

National Disaster Management Authority. (2017). *Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan: Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave*. New Delhi: NDMA, Government of India.

[Add the local studies, the city heat action plan and the vending survey you actually read, in the same style.]

Referencing style is not prescribed by the MEVP-012 handbook; use one style consistently, as agreed with your supervisor.

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