



Strategy of the Police Civil Servant Unit (Satpol PP) of Polewali Mandar Regency in Regulating Street Vendors: Case Study

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the regulatory strategies implemented by the Civil Service Police Unit in managing street vendors in Wonomulyo District and to examine the factors influencing their effectiveness. A qualitative descriptive approach with a case study design was employed, using data collected through observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The findings reveal that street vendor regulation is carried out through a hybrid approach that integrates organizational enforcement, preventive measures, repressive actions, and post-relocation monitoring. The results indicate that strategies emphasizing dialogue, relocation, and structured organization are relatively effective in reducing conflict and improving compliance. However, their effectiveness is constrained by limited institutional capacity, weak socialization, and the economic dependence of street vendors on informal activities. The study contributes to urban governance literature by proposing a context-sensitive regulatory model and offers practical implications for improving policy implementation in managing informal economies.

INTRODUCTION

Rapid urbanization and population growth have become defining features of socio-economic transformation in many developing countries, including Indonesia. These processes are widely associated with economic expansion, increased mobility, and the concentration of opportunities in urban centers. However, they simultaneously generate structural imbalances, particularly in employment absorption, spatial planning, and public order management. The expansion of urban populations has not been proportionally accompanied by the growth of formal employment sectors, especially for low- and semi-skilled workers. As a result, a significant segment of the urban population relies on informal economic activities as a primary livelihood strategy (Shaw, 2021; Gu et al., 2021; Lorato et al., 2023). This structural shift has been further intensified by technological modernization and industrial transformation, which tend to reduce labor demand in traditional sectors while increasing barriers to entry into formal employment (Sadik-Zada, 2021; Alojaiman, 2023; Zhang et al., 2023; Rehman & Sulaiman, 2025).

One of the most prominent manifestations of informal economic activity in urban environments is street vending. Street vendors play a critical role in sustaining local economies by providing affordable goods and services, facilitating micro-entrepreneurship, and supporting low-income communities (Gandotra, 2023; Anwar, 2024). In many cities, they contribute to economic resilience by filling gaps left by formal markets and retail systems. Nevertheless, despite their socio-economic importance, street vendors often operate in public spaces not designated for commercial use, such as sidewalks, road shoulders, and areas surrounding transportation hubs or markets. This spatial informality creates tensions between economic necessity and urban order, frequently resulting in congestion, reduced pedestrian accessibility, environmental degradation, and declining urban aesthetics (Niyobuhungiro & Schenck, 2021; Mugambe et al., 2022).

The governance of street vending, therefore, represents a complex policy challenge that requires balancing economic inclusivity with spatial regulation and public order. Empirical studies have shown that poorly managed informal trading activities are often associated with waste mismanagement, environmental pollution, and increased pressure on urban infrastructure (Grangxabe et al., 2023; Zean et al., 2023). These challenges necessitate the development of regulatory frameworks that are not only enforceable but also adaptive to the socio-economic realities of informal workers. In this context, urban governance has increasingly shifted from purely coercive approaches toward more integrative strategies that combine enforcement with engagement, negotiation, and institutional coordination (Orkpeh & Adedire, 2024; Kajiita & Kang'ethe, 2024).

In Indonesia, the responsibility for maintaining public order and enforcing local regulations lies primarily with the Civil Service Police Unit (Satuan Polisi Pamong Praja or Satpol PP). This institution functions as the operational arm of local governments, tasked with ensuring compliance with regional regulations, managing public spaces, and maintaining social stability. Despite this formal mandate, the regulation of street vendors remains a persistent and unresolved issue in many regions. Enforcement efforts are often characterized by cyclical patterns, where temporary compliance is followed by the re-emergence of violations, indicating limited long-term effectiveness (Pulliat et al., 2024; Bandauko & Arku, 2025).

A major problem highlighted in the current literature is the focus on enforcement strategies. While enforcement-based approaches like eviction, confiscation, and fines may create immediate compliance, they may not address the underlying issues that contribute to informal economic activities, including poverty, employmentlessness and exclusion from formal markets (Fattah & Walters, 2023). Furthermore, enforcement-based approaches can be counterproductive by fueling social tensions, eroding trust in government, and possibly escalating worker-State tensions. This has prompted calls for more holistic regulatory responses that include preventive measures, consultation and sustainable relocation programs (Sebunya & Gichuki, 2024; Bonnett & Birchall, 2025; Martins et al., 2026).

Recent research underscores the need for integrated governance strategies using a mix of policy instruments. For example, relocation schemes offering dedicated trading zones are effective when complemented with infrastructure, accessibility, and engagement of stakeholders (Niyobuhungiro & Schenck, 2021; Lozzi et al., 2026). Likewise, proactive measures like early engagement, education and policy socialisation can improve compliance and minimise resistance from street vendors (Grangxabe et al., 2023). Moreover, monitoring and supervision after relocation are critical for sustaining regulatory outcomes, as informal vendors may continue to operate in their original spaces if enforcement is lax (Abid et al., 2023; Ni'am et al., 2024; Sepadi & Hutton, 2025).

Institutional capacity and coordination is another crucial element highlighted in the literature. To effectively regulate informal sectors, not only regulatory frameworks but also institutional support, human resource capacity and inter-agency coordination are essential (Sager & Gofen, 2022; Gasco-Hernandez et al., 2022). Poor collaboration between enforcement departments and other government institutions (such as market authorities or administrative divisions) can lead to weak policy implementation and effectiveness (Rufini et al., 2025; Zolak Poljašević et al., 2025). As such, regulatory approaches are dependent on the coordination of institutions within a system.

Notwithstanding these developments, there are still many research gaps. First, existing studies are either macro-level analyses or normative policy proposals, with little focus on the micro-level dynamics of implementation. Second, there is a paucity of empirical research on the implementation of regulatory strategies in specific socio-spatial settings, especially in smaller urban districts and regencies. Third, little research has been conducted on the effectiveness of combined strategies (preventive, repressive, and post-relocation). These research gaps suggest that context-specific studies are needed to better understand the complexities of policy implementation.

This research fills these gaps by focusing on the regulatory strategies employed by the Civil Service Police Unit to regulate street vendors in Wonomulyo District, Polewali Mandar Regency. This study takes a more integrated approach by examining the interaction between the role of enforcement, prevention, socialization, and post-relocation monitoring, rather than focusing on individual policy instruments in isolation as has been done in other studies. It also investigates the internal and external constraints that influence policy effectiveness, including institutional capacity, resource limitations, and the socio-economic characteristics of street vendors.

The novelty of this study lies in its integrative evaluation of multi-dimensional regulatory strategies at the operational level of local governance. By combining empirical insights from field-based qualitative research with contemporary theoretical perspectives on urban governance and policy implementation, this study offers a nuanced understanding of how regulatory strategies are designed, adapted, and executed in practice. Furthermore, it contributes to the literature by highlighting the importance of balancing coercive and participatory approaches in managing informal economies.

Accordingly, the objectives of this study are threefold: (1) to analyze the strategies employed by the Civil Service Police Unit in regulating street vendors; (2) to identify the internal and external factors affecting the implementation of these strategies; and (3) to assess the extent to which these strategies contribute to sustainable public order. Through this approach, the study aims to provide both theoretical contributions to the field of urban governance and practical recommendations for improving policy implementation in similar contexts.

METHODS

Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative research approach with a descriptive case study design to explore the regulatory strategies implemented by the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP) in controlling street vendors in Wonomulyo District, Polewali Mandar Regency. A qualitative approach is particularly suitable for capturing complex social phenomena, institutional practices, and actor interactions within their natural contexts. The descriptive case study design enables an in-depth examination of policy implementation processes, allowing the researcher to understand how

regulatory strategies are formulated, operationalized, and experienced by different stakeholders.

The choice of this design is grounded in the study's objective to generate contextualized insights rather than generalizable statistical conclusions. It allows for the exploration of meanings, perceptions, and institutional dynamics that cannot be adequately captured through quantitative methods. Furthermore, this approach facilitates the identification of patterns, relationships, and underlying mechanisms that shape the effectiveness of street vendor regulation at the local level.

Research Context and Location

The study was conducted in Wonomulyo District, located within Polewali Mandar Regency, Indonesia. This area was purposively selected due to its high intensity of street vending activities and the active involvement of Satpol PP in managing public order. Wonomulyo represents a dynamic urban-commercial setting where informal economic activities coexist with formal market structures, making it an appropriate site for examining regulatory practices.

The primary research locations included the Office of the Civil Service Police Unit of Polewali Mandar Regency and Wonomulyo Central Market. These sites were chosen because they constitute the main arenas where regulatory strategies are designed and implemented, as well as where direct interactions between enforcement officers and street vendors occur. The study was conducted over a two-month period, from July to September, allowing sufficient time for data immersion and repeated observations.

Research Informants and Sampling Technique

Informants in this study were selected using purposive sampling, a technique commonly employed in qualitative research to identify individuals with relevant knowledge and direct experience related to the research problem. The selection criteria emphasized authority, involvement, and experiential relevance to street vendor regulation.

The primary informants consisted of key officials within the Civil Service Police Unit, including the Head of Satpol PP, the Head of the Operations and Control Division, the Commander of the Street Vendor Control Unit, and several field officers. These actors were selected due to their strategic roles in policy formulation, coordination, and operational enforcement.

To complement institutional perspectives, secondary informants were drawn from street vendors operating in Wonomulyo District. Their inclusion was essential to capture the perspectives of the regulated group and to understand how regulatory strategies are perceived, negotiated, and responded to at the grassroots level. This dual-informant structure enhances the comprehensiveness of the analysis by incorporating both top-down and bottom-up viewpoints.

Data Collection Techniques

Data were collected through a combination of library research and field-based methods, ensuring both theoretical grounding and empirical richness. The use of multiple data sources enables methodological triangulation, which strengthens the credibility of qualitative findings.

First, library research was conducted to review relevant literature, including academic journal articles, books, policy documents, and regional regulations related to public order management and informal economy governance. This provided a conceptual framework for interpreting the empirical findings and situating the study within broader scholarly debates.

Second, field data were gathered through direct observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Observation was conducted at Wonomulyo Central Market and surrounding areas to capture real-time interactions between Satpol PP officers and street vendors, as well as to understand the spatial dynamics of street vending activities. This method allowed the researcher to record behavioral patterns, enforcement procedures, and situational contexts that might not be fully articulated in interviews.

In-depth interviews were conducted using semi-structured interview guides to ensure consistency while allowing flexibility for probing emerging themes. This approach facilitates deeper exploration of participants' experiences, perceptions, and interpretations. Interviews with Satpol PP officials focused on regulatory strategies, operational challenges, and institutional coordination, while interviews with street vendors explored their responses to regulation, compliance behavior, and socio-economic considerations. Documentation was also utilized to support and validate the data obtained from observations and interviews. Relevant documents included official reports, internal records, photographs, and regulatory texts. These materials provided additional evidence and helped contextualize the findings within formal policy frameworks.

Data Analysis Techniques

Data analysis was conducted iteratively throughout the research process, following the interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña (2014), which consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. This analytical framework is widely used in qualitative research to ensure systematic and rigorous interpretation.

The first stage, data reduction, involved selecting, focusing, and simplifying the raw data obtained from various sources. This process included coding and categorizing data into themes related to regulatory strategies, implementation processes, and influencing factors. The aim was to identify patterns and eliminate irrelevant information while preserving essential insights. The second stage, data display, involved organizing the reduced data into coherent narrative structures and thematic matrices. This step facilitates the identification of relationships between variables and enhances the clarity of interpretation. In this study, thematic analysis was used to compare perspectives across different informant groups and to examine the interaction between policy design and implementation.

The final stage, conclusion drawing and verification, involved interpreting the data to generate meaningful findings and ensuring their validity through continuous comparison and re-examination. This process included checking for consistency, identifying alternative explanations, and confirming interpretations with the available evidence. The iterative nature of this analysis ensures analytical rigor and reduces the risk of premature conclusions.

Validity and Trustworthiness

To ensure the validity and trustworthiness of the findings, this study employed several qualitative validation strategies. First, source triangulation was applied by comparing data obtained from different informants, including officials and street vendors, to assess consistency and reliability. Second, method triangulation was conducted by cross-checking findings from interviews, observations, and documentation. In addition, credibility was enhanced through prolonged engagement in the field and repeated observations, which allowed the researcher to develop a deeper understanding of the context and to verify emerging patterns. Dependability was ensured by maintaining a clear audit trail of data collection and analysis processes, enabling transparency and replicability (Lincoln & Guba, 1985).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section presents the empirical findings of the study concerning the regulatory strategies implemented by the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP) in controlling street vendors in Wonomulyo District. The results are organized into two main analytical dimensions. First, the study examines the strategic framework of street vendor regulation, which includes enforcement (order), preventive measures, repressive actions, post-relocation monitoring, and socialization practices. Second, the study identifies the factors influencing the effectiveness of these strategies, categorized into internal and external constraints. All findings are derived from field observations, document analysis, and in-depth interviews with key informants, including Satpol PP officials and street vendors.

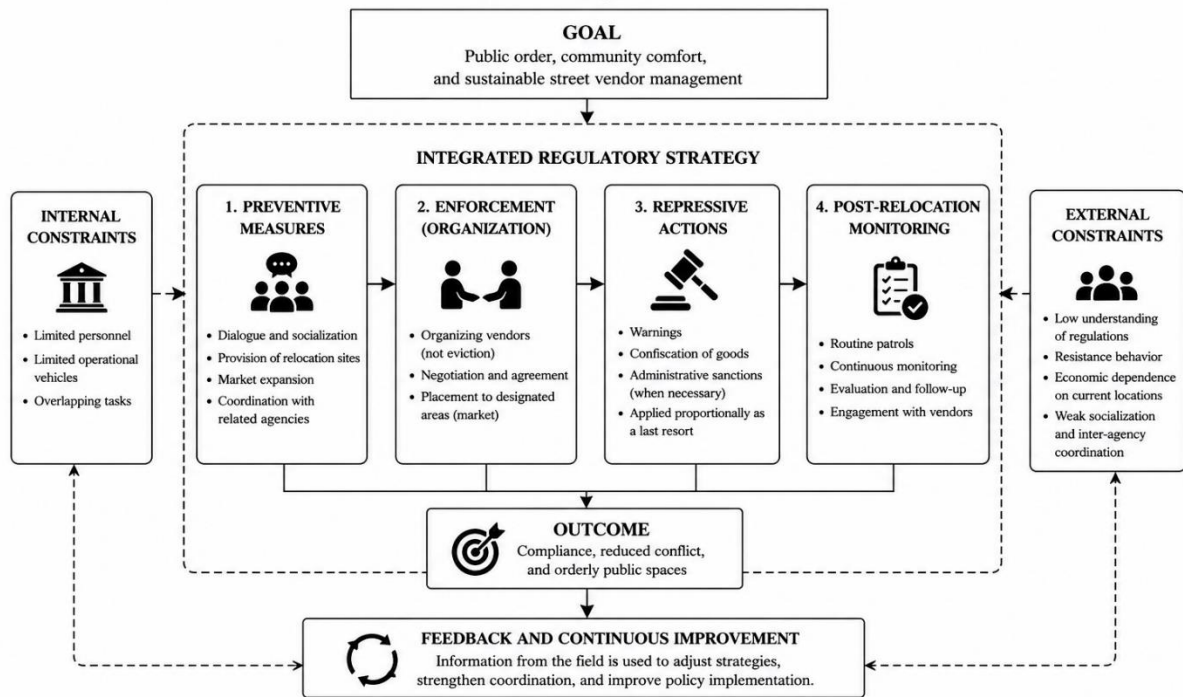


Figure 1. Integrated Regulatory Strategy Framework for Street Vendor Management in Wonomulyo District

The figure illustrates the integrated regulatory framework implemented by the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP), which consists of four main strategic components: preventive measures, enforcement (organization), repressive actions, and post-relocation monitoring. These components operate dynamically within a governance system influenced by internal constraints (institutional capacity) and external constraints (socio-economic conditions of street vendors). The framework highlights that effective regulation requires not only enforcement but also continuous adaptation through coordination, dialogue, and monitoring mechanisms.

Regulatory Strategy Framework for Street Vendor Control

The findings indicate that the regulatory approach adopted by Satpol PP in Wonomulyo District is not limited to enforcement alone but reflects a multi-layered strategy combining organizational, preventive, corrective, and monitoring mechanisms. This integrated framework aims to maintain public order while minimizing social conflict and accommodating the economic realities of street vendors.

Order-Based Strategy (Organizing Rather Than Evicting)

One of the primary strategies implemented by the Polewali Mandar Regency Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) in regulating street vendors in Wonomulyo District is the enforcement approach through organization rather than eviction. This strategy is applied to address the presence of street vendors occupying sidewalks and roadside areas, which disrupt public order and community activities.

The enforcement activities carried out by Satpol PP are not conducted independently but involve coordination with multiple related institutions. Based on an interview conducted with the Head of Satpol PP, the following statement was obtained:

“We, as the Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) in Polewali Mandar Regency, carry out enforcement activities not only involving Satpol PP, but also with the assistance of the DPP (Market Management Agency) in regulating street vendors.”

Based on the interview results, it can be understood that the regulation of street vendors in Wonomulyo District is carried out collaboratively. Satpol PP works together with other agencies to ensure that enforcement is not only effective but also supported by institutional resources, particularly in providing alternative trading locations.

This finding is further supported by an interview with the Secretary of Satpol PP conducted on the same date:

“Activities to regulate street vendors do not only involve Satpol PP, but also involve DPP, SKPD (Regional Work Units), sub-district authorities, and village administrations.”

The interview above indicates that the enforcement strategy is integrated within a broader governance framework involving multiple stakeholders. The involvement of DPP and other local government units is particularly important, as it allows the provision of relocation spaces and strengthens policy implementation through coordinated efforts.

In addition to institutional collaboration, the enforcement strategy emphasizes organizing street vendors rather than evicting them. This approach reflects a more accommodative and humanistic model of regulation. Based on an interview with the Head of Satpol PP:

“Our strategy in regulating street vendors in Wonomulyo District is to organize them, not to evict them. By organizing street vendors, public order can be created while maintaining good relations with them. For example, we encourage them to move to the Wonomulyo Central Market.”

Based on the interview findings, the enforcement approach prioritizes spatial arrangement and relocation rather than coercive removal. This strategy aims to create public order while minimizing social conflict and maintaining positive relationships between Satpol PP and street vendors.

Furthermore, the implementation of this strategy is supported by the use of dialogue as a key mechanism in the regulatory process. This is reflected in an interview with the Secretary of Satpol PP:

“We carry out the arrangement of street vendors through dialogue, because through dialogue we can reach mutually agreed solutions.”

The interview above shows that enforcement is not carried out through unilateral decisions but through communication and negotiation. The use of dialogue helps

prevent resistance from street vendors and reduces the potential for conflict between vendors and enforcement officers.

Based on the overall findings, the order-based strategy implemented by Satpol PP in Wonomulyo District reflects a shift from coercive enforcement toward a more participatory and collaborative approach. The combination of institutional coordination, organization-based enforcement, and dialogue-based engagement enables the creation of public order while still accommodating the socio-economic needs of street vendors.

Preventive Measures

The Polewali Mandar Regency Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) implements preventive measures to reduce the potential for conflict between street vendors and enforcement officers during regulatory activities and relocation processes. These preventive efforts are also intended to build mutual understanding and encourage voluntary compliance among street vendors.

The Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) responded positively to requests from street vendors in Wonomulyo District for trading space at the Wonomulyo Central Market. This is based on an interview conducted with the Head of Satpol PP on, as follows:

“Yes, we have received a request from street vendors in Wonomulyo District regarding a place at the Wonomulyo Central Market so that they can sell there. Previously, they had submitted the request to the DPP, but it was rejected, so we are considering it. If the placement does not disturb public order, we will submit it to the Regent.”

Based on the interview results, it can be understood that Satpol PP plays an intermediary role in accommodating the aspirations of street vendors. The agency does not immediately enforce regulations but instead evaluates requests by considering both public order and the economic needs of vendors. This indicates that preventive measures are implemented through a participatory and responsive approach.

Furthermore, after receiving the request, Satpol PP coordinated with the Market Management Agency (DPP) to discuss possible solutions, including the expansion of the Wonomulyo Central Market. This was revealed in another interview with the Head of Satpol PP:

“Yes, we had a long discussion with the DPP and proposed expanding the Wonomulyo Central Market area so that street vendors could be accommodated. The proposal was approved and submitted to the Regent, and it was also approved.”

The interview above shows that preventive strategies are not limited to communication but also involve institutional coordination and policy initiatives. The expansion of the market area reflects a strategic effort to provide a structural solution, ensuring that street vendors have a designated space without disrupting public order.

With the approval of the market expansion, Satpol PP proceeded with technical planning to support the relocation process. This is reflected in an interview with the Secretary of Satpol PP conducted:

“Regarding the expansion of the Wonomulyo Central Market location, which has been approved by the DPP and the Regent, we will follow up by preparing design plans, including layout, shape, and dimensions. Each street vendor will receive a space measuring 3×3 meters.”

Based on the interview findings, the preventive approach implemented by Satpol PP includes not only policy coordination but also operational planning. The provision of standardized trading spaces demonstrates an effort to ensure fairness and order in the relocation process. This comprehensive approach indicates that preventive measures are designed to minimize resistance while supporting sustainable regulation.

Repressive actions are implemented by the Polewali Mandar Regency Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) as a follow-up measure when preventive efforts and warnings are not complied with by street vendors. These actions are intended to enforce regional regulations while maintaining control over repeated violations.

The implementation of repressive measures begins with a warning system directed at street vendors who violate the rules. Based on an interview conducted with the Head of Satpol PP on the following statement was obtained:

“Regarding repressive measures, we have our own methods. We first give warnings to street vendors who violate the rules. We consistently provide warnings before taking further action.”

Based on the interview results, it can be understood that repressive actions are not immediately applied in a coercive manner. Instead, Satpol PP adopts a gradual approach, beginning with warnings as an initial step to encourage compliance. This indicates that enforcement prioritizes corrective efforts before moving to stricter measures.

However, when violations continue despite repeated warnings, Satpol PP proceeds with firmer actions. This was explained in an interview with the Secretary of Satpol PP:

“If street vendors have been given warnings several times but still violate the regulations, we will take action by securing their goods and providing further guidance.”

The interview above shows that repressive measures are applied selectively and only after prior procedures have been followed. The confiscation of goods is used as a form of sanction to create a deterrent effect, while guidance is still provided to ensure that vendors understand the applicable regulations.

Furthermore, the application of repressive actions is not intended as punishment alone but also as an educational process. This can be seen from the emphasis on guidance accompanying enforcement actions. The dual approach was highlighted again in field findings:

“We do not immediately punish them. Even when we take action, we still provide direction so that they understand why the rules must be followed.”

Based on these findings, it is evident that repressive actions are implemented with consideration of proportionality and purpose. The objective is not merely to penalize street vendors but to correct behavior and reinforce regulatory awareness.

Post-Relocation Monitoring

Post-relocation monitoring is implemented by the Polewali Mandar Regency Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) to ensure that street vendors who have been relocated remain compliant with the designated regulations and do not return to prohibited areas. This strategy is essential to maintain the sustainability of regulatory outcomes after initial enforcement and relocation processes have been carried out.

Following the relocation of street vendors to the Wonomulyo Central Market, Satpol PP conducts routine monitoring through scheduled patrol activities. Based on an

interview conducted with the Head of Satpol PP, the following statement was obtained:

“After the relocation of street vendors, we continue to monitor them through routine patrols. We usually conduct patrols from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and this is done every week to ensure that they remain orderly.”

Based on the interview results, it can be understood that post-relocation monitoring is carried out systematically and continuously. The routine patrols function as a control mechanism to ensure that relocated street vendors adhere to the agreed arrangements and maintain order within the designated trading areas.

However, the findings also indicate that not all street vendors fully comply with the relocation policy. Some vendors continue to operate in prohibited areas despite the availability of relocation facilities. This situation was explained in an interview with the Head of Satpol PP:

“Yes, there are still some street vendors who refuse to move to the relocation sites that have been provided.”

The statement above shows that compliance challenges remain even after relocation efforts have been implemented. This reflects the complexity of regulating informal economic actors, particularly when economic considerations influence their decisions.

To address this issue, Satpol PP adopts a non-coercive approach by engaging in dialogue with non-compliant vendors. This is reflected in the continuation of the interview:

“Our approach is to conduct dialogue with those who do not want to move, to understand their reasons and find solutions together.”

Based on these findings, it is evident that post-relocation monitoring is not limited to surveillance and control but also involves continuous engagement with street vendors. Dialogue is used as a tool to identify underlying issues and to encourage compliance without escalating conflict.

Socialization Practices

Socialization is an important component in the regulation of street vendors, as it aims to increase awareness and understanding of applicable regional regulations. In the context of Wonomulyo District, socialization is expected to support enforcement efforts by ensuring that street vendors are informed about the rules governing their activities.

However, the findings indicate that socialization activities conducted by the Polewali Mandar Regency Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) are still limited and not systematically implemented. Based on an interview conducted with the Head of Satpol PP, the following statement was obtained:

“The socialization of regulations to street vendors has not been carried out specifically by Satpol PP, because this is actually the responsibility of the DPP. We only provide explanations during patrol activities.”

Based on the interview results, it can be understood that socialization is not treated as a primary responsibility by Satpol PP. Instead, it is considered a secondary activity that is carried out incidentally during enforcement operations. This indicates a lack of structured communication strategies in delivering regulatory information to street vendors.

Furthermore, the reliance on informal and incidental socialization methods has implications for the level of understanding among street vendors. This is reflected in field findings and supported by an interview with a Satpol PP officer:

“Many street vendors still do not understand the regulations because socialization is not carried out intensively.”

The statement above shows that limited socialization efforts contribute to low levels of regulatory awareness among street vendors. As a result, violations often occur not only due to intentional non-compliance but also due to a lack of understanding of the rules.

In addition, the lack of coordination between Satpol PP and the Market Management Agency (DPP) further weakens the effectiveness of socialization. This was highlighted in another interview:

“Actually, socialization should be carried out by the DPP, but in practice, their role is not very active, so many vendors remain uninformed.”

Based on these findings, it is evident that the weakness in socialization is not only caused by limited initiative from Satpol PP but also by insufficient coordination between responsible institutions. This condition results in gaps in communication and reduces the effectiveness of regulatory implementation.

Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of Regulatory Strategies

The effectiveness of the regulatory framework is shaped by a combination of internal and external factors. These constraints influence both the implementation process and the sustainability of outcomes.

Internal Constraints

The implementation of street vendor regulation in Wonomulyo District is significantly influenced by internal institutional constraints within the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP). These constraints primarily relate to limitations in human resources and operational facilities, which directly affect the effectiveness and consistency of enforcement strategies.

One of the main internal challenges identified is the shortage of personnel. Based on an interview conducted by the researcher with the Head of the Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) of Polewali Mandar Regency, the following statement was obtained:

“The internal obstacle we face is the lack of personnel. Sometimes when we are carrying out enforcement activities, we suddenly have to handle other tasks, such as escorting important guests, which disrupts our operations.”

The interview above indicates that the limited number of personnel leads to overlapping responsibilities among officers. As a result, enforcement activities cannot always be carried out as planned. This condition reduces the consistency of regulatory implementation, particularly in maintaining routine supervision and follow-up actions.

In addition to human resource limitations, the study also found that operational facilities constitute another significant constraint. Based on an interview with the Secretary of the Satpol PP on the same date, it was stated:

“We also face limitations in operational vehicles. We only have seven units, and this is often not enough to support our activities in the field.”

This finding shows that logistical constraints affect the mobility and responsiveness of enforcement teams. The limited number of operational vehicles causes delays in reaching target locations and reduces the frequency of monitoring activities.

Consequently, some enforcement operations take longer than expected, and planned activities may be postponed or even canceled.

The combination of limited personnel and inadequate facilities creates inefficiencies in resource allocation. Officers are required to manage multiple tasks simultaneously with restricted support, which ultimately affects the overall performance of the institution. The lack of sufficient resources also limits the ability of Satpol PP to expand its coverage area and conduct continuous monitoring, especially in areas with high concentrations of street vendors.

Based on these findings, it can be concluded that internal constraints play a crucial role in shaping the effectiveness of street vendor regulation strategies. Even though Satpol PP has developed a comprehensive approach combining preventive, repressive, and monitoring strategies, the implementation of these strategies is not optimal due to institutional capacity limitations. Strengthening human resources and improving operational facilities are therefore essential to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of regulatory efforts.

External Constraints

In addition to internal limitations, the effectiveness of street vendor regulation in Wonomulyo District is also influenced by various external constraints, particularly those related to the characteristics, behavior, and socio-economic conditions of street vendors. These factors play a significant role in shaping compliance levels and determining the overall success of regulatory strategies.

One of the most prominent external challenges identified in this study is the low level of understanding of street vendors regarding applicable regional regulations. Based on an interview conducted by the researcher with the Secretary of the Public Order Agency (Satpol PP) of Polewali Mandar Regency, the following statement was obtained:

“The street vendors here generally have limited understanding of the existing regulations, so when we explain the rules, it is often difficult for them to fully understand.”

The interview above indicates that limited regulatory awareness among street vendors becomes a major obstacle in the implementation of control strategies. This lack of understanding is not only related to the complexity of regulations but also to the absence of systematic and structured socialization efforts. As a result, many street vendors continue to violate regulations, not necessarily due to intentional resistance, but due to insufficient knowledge.

In addition, the study found that the behavior and attitudes of street vendors also influence the effectiveness of enforcement. Based on further statements from the same informant:

“The character of street vendors in this area tends to be quite strong, and sometimes they resist when we try to provide explanations about the regulations.”

This finding suggests that enforcement efforts are often met with resistance, particularly when vendors perceive regulatory actions as threatening their livelihoods. The persistence of such resistance reflects the complex relationship between economic necessity and regulatory compliance.

Another significant external factor is the economic dependence of street vendors on their current selling locations. Based on field observations and interviews, many vendors prefer to remain in prohibited areas because these locations offer higher

customer traffic and better income opportunities. This condition was explained by a Satpol PP officer:

“Even though relocation sites have been provided, some vendors still choose to return to the roadside because they can earn more there.”

The statement above highlights that economic considerations are a dominant factor influencing vendor behavior. Relocation policies, although structurally well-prepared, may not always align with the economic interests of street vendors. As a result, compliance becomes temporary, and violations tend to recur over time.

Furthermore, weak inter-institutional coordination also contributes to external challenges. Based on interview findings:

“Actually, the socialization of regulations is the responsibility of the DPP, but in practice, it is not carried out optimally.”

This indicates that gaps in coordination between Satpol PP and other relevant agencies, particularly in terms of communication and education, exacerbate the problem of low awareness among street vendors. The lack of clear division of responsibilities leads to incomplete policy implementation, especially in preventive aspects such as socialization.

Based on these findings, it can be concluded that external constraints are deeply rooted in socio-economic realities and institutional interactions. The low level of regulatory awareness, resistance behavior, economic dependence, and weak coordination collectively hinder the effectiveness of street vendor regulation. These factors demonstrate that regulatory strategies cannot rely solely on enforcement mechanisms but must also consider broader social and economic dimensions to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Hybrid Governance in Street Vendor Regulation: Integrating Enforcement, Participation, and Adaptation

This research investigates the regulatory practices of the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP) in controlling street vendors in Wonomulyo District and uncovers a hybrid model of management, blending enforcement, prevention, dialogue, and post-eviction monitoring. Instead of summarizing the results, this section offers an analysis of the findings in light of literature on urban governance, regulation of the informal economy and policy implementation.

A key finding of this research is the transition from enforcement to an organisational and dialogical strategy. The emphasis on "organising rather than eviction" marks a departure from conventional approaches to enforcement that are focused on coercive measures. This is consistent with the recent literature on inclusive and participatory governance of informal urban markets (Fattah & Walters, 2023; Sebunya & Gichuki, 2024). Evidence from prior research reveals that repressive eviction measures tend to trigger social conflict, policy failure, and urban resurgence of informal activities (Pulliat et al., 2024). However, this study shows that dialogical approaches and negotiated resettlements can improve compliance and minimise conflict.

But contrary to some previous studies that focus on formal participatory planning processes, this study shows that participation in Wonomulyo District is mainly informal and operational. This finding adds a subtlety to the literature because it demonstrates that even non-institutionalised mechanisms of participation can lead to relatively high levels of compliance when coupled with systematic enforcement strategies. Therefore, the study adds to the theories of collaborative governance by showing the role of operational-level, pragmatic negotiation in policy implementation.

Another key finding relates to the role of preventive measures in the form of relocation spaces and infrastructure. The development of Wonomulyo Central Market and provision of uniform selling spaces are examples of how infrastructure can support regulatory enforcement. This observation is in line with research that shows relocation measures are more effective with sufficient infrastructure and accessibility (Niyobuhungiro & Schenck, 2021). Yet, this research also adds a crucial aspect by showing that relocation is not only a spatial but also a governance policy process that involves negotiation, coordination, and institutional leadership.

The results also show a structural provision-economic activity disjuncture. While relocation spaces are offered, vendors still operate in prohibited spaces because of increased economic benefits. This insight echoes calls that stress the importance of recognising that informal economic practices are primarily motivated by economic needs (Orkpeh & Adedire, 2024). Thus, the study suggests a shortcoming of relocation policies: unless economic incentives are aligned, compliance may be short-lived. This finding adds to the literature by stressing the importance of considering economic interests in urban regulation.

The study also underscores the continued relevance of repressive actions within a balanced regulatory framework. While Satpol PP prioritizes preventive and dialogical approaches, sanctions such as warnings and confiscation are still applied when necessary. This finding supports the argument proposed by Brummer et al. (2022) that enforcement remains an essential component of regulatory governance but must be applied proportionally. Unlike traditional models of strict enforcement, the approach observed in this study reflects a calibrated use of authority, where sanctions are positioned as a last resort rather than a primary strategy. This contributes to the theoretical discourse on responsive regulation, which emphasizes adaptive enforcement strategies based on compliance behavior.

One important contribution of this study is to highlight the monitoring of effects after relocation as a key aspect of the policy implementation process that is often neglected. Literature has highlighted the need for follow up mechanisms (Abid et al., 2023), but there is not a lot of empirical evidence on how these mechanisms are implemented. This research shows the importance of having regular patrols and ongoing interaction to maintain the regulatory results. If not monitored, the relocated vendors could return to informal sites and this would impact policy effectiveness. The result supports the implementation theory, which emphasizes the need for continuity in processes and opportunities for policy feedback (Capano & Howlett, 2021).

The study, however, identifies a number of institutional and structural weaknesses. Regulatory strategies are less effective by internal constraints especially personnel and operational resources. This matches research to date, which has highlighted the need for institutional capacity in local governance (Gasco-Hernandez et al., 2022; Saul et al., 2023). The enforcement activities are not regularly and consistently conducted due to low numbers of manpower, supplies and equipment. Indicates the need for institutional support to ensure the success of even well-designed policies.

In addition to internal challenges, external factors play a crucial role in shaping regulatory outcomes. The study finds that low levels of regulatory awareness among street vendors are partly due to weak socialization efforts and insufficient inter-agency coordination. This finding aligns with Marie (2025), who emphasizes that effective communication is a key determinant of policy success. The absence of structured socialization programs highlights a critical gap in the policy implementation process.

The study identifies economic dependency as a fundamental driver of non-compliance. Street vendors prioritize income generation over adherence to

regulations, particularly when relocation sites offer lower economic returns. This finding is consistent with broader literature on informal economies, which highlights survival strategies as a primary motivation for informal activities (Kajiita & Kang'ethe, 2024). However, this study contributes by illustrating how economic rationality interacts with regulatory design, leading to cyclical patterns of compliance and violation.

From a theoretical perspective, this study contributes to urban governance literature by proposing a hybrid regulatory model that integrates enforcement, prevention, participation, and monitoring within a single framework. Unlike conventional approaches that treat these elements separately, this study demonstrates how they interact dynamically at the operational level. This integrative perspective provides a more nuanced understanding of policy implementation in informal urban contexts. From a practical perspective, the findings offer several implications for policymakers and local governments. First, regulatory strategies should prioritize a balance between enforcement and engagement. Second, relocation policies must consider economic sustainability to ensure long-term compliance. Third, strengthening inter-agency coordination and institutional capacity is essential. Fourth, systematic socialization programs are needed to improve regulatory awareness.

This study also has broader implications for governance practice, particularly in decentralized systems where local governments play a central role in policy implementation. Adaptive, context-sensitive approaches are necessary to address the complexities of informal economies. However, several limitations should be acknowledged. The study focuses on a single case, which may limit generalizability. The reliance on qualitative data may also restrict broader comparative insights. Additionally, other stakeholders such as consumers and local businesses were not extensively examined. Future research should explore comparative and multi-site studies to validate the findings across different contexts. Quantitative approaches may also be used to measure policy effectiveness more systematically. Furthermore, future studies should examine the role of digital governance and smart technologies in regulating informal sectors.

CONCLUSION

This study examines the regulatory strategies implemented by the Civil Service Police Unit (Satpol PP) in managing street vendors in Wonomulyo District and demonstrates that an integrative and adaptive approach is essential for achieving sustainable public order. The findings reveal that the regulatory framework combines organizational enforcement, preventive measures, repressive actions, and post-relocation monitoring. Among these, the emphasis on organizing rather than evicting, supported by dialogue and relocation initiatives, has proven effective in reducing conflict and enhancing compliance. However, the effectiveness of these strategies remains uneven due to institutional limitations, weak socialization, and the economic dependence of street vendors on informal trading activities.

From a theoretical perspective, this study contributes to the literature by proposing a hybrid regulatory model that integrates enforcement, participation, and monitoring within a single governance framework. This model extends existing discussions on urban governance and informal economy regulation by highlighting the importance of adaptive and context-sensitive policy implementation at the local level. From a practical perspective, the findings suggest that policymakers should strengthen inter-agency coordination, improve institutional capacity, and ensure that relocation policies are economically viable for street vendors. Nevertheless, this study has several limitations. It focuses on a single case study, which may limit the generalizability of the findings. In addition, the reliance on qualitative data restricts the ability to measure policy effectiveness quantitatively. Future research should

therefore conduct comparative and multi-regional studies, as well as incorporate quantitative approaches to evaluate the long-term impact of regulatory strategies. Exploring the role of digital governance in managing informal economies also represents a promising direction for further investigation.

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