

“MY HOME” for beggars: A Step towards Sustainable India

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Abstract

Begging is the curse to India. Foreigners may feel that it is the beggar's country because wherever they travel in India they see beggars everywhere, mostly in Urban Area. As a tourist one needs to be cautious as they are more likely to be targeted and taken advantage of. One can find beggars around eminent monuments, railway stations, religious and spiritual sites and shopping districts. In big cities they can be found at major traffic intersections where they approach vehicles while the lights are red.

Begging is one of the most ancient professions; or, more precisely, easy way of obtaining money. Begging is a complex and multifaceted problem that is most often caused by multiple and interrelated individual and structural deprivations. It seems to characterize periods of social and economic disorganization. Beggars asking for alms in every corner of the built up environment or society show their low economic condition. This matter of begging is not the ignorable issue of the society, but in fact it becomes one of the most problematic social issues in India.

KEYWORDS: Beggars, Home for beggars. Model for removing beggary, responsibility of G.O., NGO, Citizen, Society

1.1 Introduction:

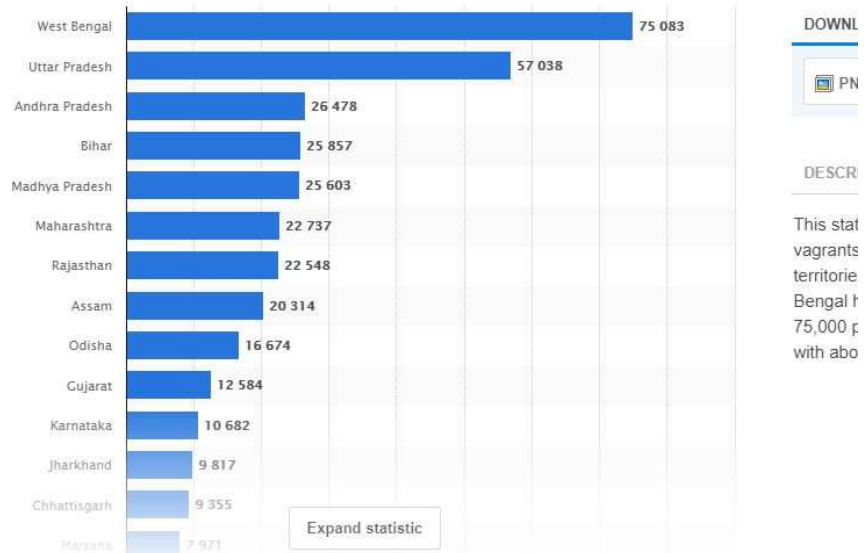
Begging is the curse to India. Foreigners may feel that it is the beggar's country because wherever they travel in India they see beggars everywhere, mostly in Urban Area. As a tourist one needs to be cautious as they are more likely to be targeted and taken advantage of. One can find beggars around eminent monuments, railway stations, religious and spiritual sites and shopping districts. In big cities they can be found at major traffic intersections where they approach vehicles while the lights are red.

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1.2 Importance of research: The country in total has over four lakh beggars, with the highest **81,000 beggars** in West Bengal, while Lakshadweep merely has two vagrants. At least **413,670 beggars** reside in India, which consists of 2, 21,673 males and 1,

91,997 females. This statistic describes the number of beggars and vagrants in India in 2011, based on gender. Following table gives the number of beggars and vagrants in India

Number of beggars and vagrants in India in 2011, by state



in 2011 by state. According to census 2011, the status of beggars in India is as follows:

Poor Show

FEWER BEGGARS OVERALL

2011

3,72,217

(30 beggars for every 1 lakh citizens)

2001

6,30,940

(61 beggars for every 1 lakh citizens)

RELIGIOUS ORIENTATION OF BEGGARS/VAGRANTS			
Community	Numbers	Share in beggar population	Share in India's population
Hindu	2,68,837	72.2%	79.80%
Muslim	92,760	24.9%	14.23%
Christian	3,303	0.88%	2.30%
Sikh	1,677	0.45%	1.72%
Buddhist	1,963	0.52%	0.70%
Jain	241	0.06%	0.37%
Others	1,126	0.3%	0.66%
Not known	2,310	0.62%	0.24%

MALE-FEMALE RATIO AMONG BEGGARS		
Community	Male	Female
Hindu	1,51,343 (56.29%)	1,17,494 (43.70%)
Muslim	40,454 (43.61%)	52,306 (56.38%)
Christian	1,693 (51.25%)	1,610 (48.74%)
Sikh	1,078 (64.28%)	599 (35.71%)
Buddhist	1,048 (53.38%)	915 (46.61%)
Jain	128 (53.11%)	113 (45.88%)
Others	553 (49.11%)	573 (50.88%)
Total	1,97,725 (53.12%)	1,74,492 (46.87%)

Source: Census of India, 2011

According to the recent surveys, there are nearly 14, 51,000 beggars in India. In Mumbai alone there are nearly 3, 00,000 beggars and in our capital city Delhi there are nearly 60000 beggars. In cities like Hyderabad and Bangalore there are nearly 30,000 beggars each. Here 66% of the beggars are able bodied. Researcher feels that it means this human resource is idle in the country. If we can channelize this human resource it is fruitful for the development of India, and the curse i.e. 'India is beggars country' will be vanished.

1.3 Objectives:

1. To study status of beggars in India
2. To study the causes of begging in India
3. To prepare the model to solve the problems of beggars in India.

1.4 Hypothesis: If Indians decide firmly, beggary can be removed from India.

1.5 Research Methodology:

The Research Methodology for the research is descriptive. It is based on secondary Data. Researcher used journals, articles in papers and information provided by websites. Researcher prepared the model to remove the beggary from India.

1.6 Causes:

There are four types of people who beg.

1. It's an easy way of making money. The Indian mentality of giving alms helps them earn a decent amount every day. It's a less physically demanding way of working.
2. Organised crime syndicates recruit people and make them beg and rob the money earned by them. It's a very profitable business.
3. The country with very poor or nonexistent support mechanisms leaves the extreme poor with very little options. Crop failure, debt, natural calamities, all displace people. They are left to fend for themselves and end up in the street begging.
4. We found third gender people, disabled persons or diseased persons and some senior citizens thrown out by their wards.

1.7 Proposed model to remove the beggary from India:

In India we find beggars at various places like in stairs of temples and Mosque, churches, railway stations, Bus stations, in railways, Local trains, and signals of Squares, Hotels, and Hospitals etc. Normally in our country when any event has to happen such as Kumbhmela, any high fame personality or national Leader invited in any city, all these beggars are arrested and put into jail under the charge of begging being a crime. After some days they are released without any punitive action against them. This is not the proper way to removing the beggar. So what could be the solution to nip the problem in the bud? Researcher suggests the model for the same. Researcher proposed the model to utilize this human resource for the development of India.

First step:

Find/Search/spot out the beggars

Spot the beggars where they live and gathered them in the campus of my home. When they enter the office of My home They should be registered first, I-card should be provided. Then information of their demographic history, i.e. age, residential place, about their education, gender, cause of begging any skill they have,etc. should be recorded.

Second step:

When they are concentrated in MY HOME, First categorize them according to various categories and they should be counseled by the expert counselor..They will ascertain the root cause of their begging. We may get one of the answers as mentioned above in causes. Those who are begging because of unemployment must be given assurance that they will get job or will get every assistance to establish his/her business unit. They can live in “MY HOME” until they become self-dependent. If any parents and children are present together in ‘MY HOME’ then parents need to be made to understand that children will not work but they will have to complete basic education provided by “My Home” and women may get the work of cooking, rearing the children or any other work at the hour of need.

Third step:

Categorization according to healthy and sick beggars:

This is the Most essential categorization,because almost of these beggars live in public places and open places. Mostly these places are unhygienic, the habits of these beggars are very bad so they may be suffering from various diseases. Thus it is essential to have medical checkup of all beggars. It will also ensure that contagious diseases are not spread to other beggars by already affected ones.

Fourth step:

Health checkup:

After checkup those who are found unhealthy, the treatment should be started by the doctors.Healthy beggars should get counselling for good habits.

Fifth Step:

Distribution of Aadharcard, Pan Card

To all beggars Aadharcard, PanCard should be provided so they become bonafide Indian citizens.

Sixth Step:

Categorization According to age:

Further, beggars should be categorized according to age. Babies,kids children,grown ups/Adults, senior citizen and Super senior citizen.According to age categorization,

children should be provided with basic education and their schooling should be in MY HOME campus. If these children are admitted in normal schools they may feel ashamed to learn with other students. Those who are above 16 years, basic education with various skills should be provided for self-empowerment. The skill with financial assistance should be given so they can start their own business. Some beggars may be of 30 to 40 years who are not able to adopt any skill. It means they remain unskilled so they can be provided labor work for e.g. digging, planting, watering, cleaning, etc. Some beggars who may be senior citizen may take responsibility of the children, kids, and babies and they may behave like grandmother and grandfather. Old age home should be provided to super senior citizen.

Eighth Step:

Financial Planning:

Every beggar should get assurance that they will get some sort of work definitely. If they work sincerely for the work allotted to them they will get minimum Rs. 300 daily out of which he should pay Rs 100 daily to my home, Rs 100 for his personal expenditure, and Rs 100 for his saving for his future which should be compulsory.

Ninth Step:

Respect and Honor:

After rehabilitation, some beggars shall become self-dependent and confident. They should be honored before they leave "MY Home". Their case studies will motivate others to live respectful and set examples for others to emulate.

Tenth Step:

Presentation of Report:

Every year the report about admitted and left beggars, report of children beggars and their schooling report, beggar's medical report, report about skill training, financial assistance etc. should be submitted to the government. There should be Audit every year and Audit report should be submitted to government. Both these reports should be published by govt. These reports will show what are the efforts taken by GO and NGO for bringing the beggar human resource in main stream.

If we really feel that India should be beggar free country, it is the duty of government, nongovernment organization and every citizen to have their contribution in this drive. How can we help?

Government:

In this model Government can assist as per following-

- Infrastructure for MY HOME including land and buildings.
- Administrative structure to look after MY HOME
- Support of government Authorities, officials and provide mechanism to all levels.
- Financial assistance.

- Support through various schemes, providing jobs, any work, or assistance for Business.

Non government Organization

- Team of councilors
- Team of doctors
- Team of teachers and skill trainers
- Team of caretakers for children and senior citizen.
- NGOs should come together and work on rehabilitation of such people by providing them some means of work or business.

*Researcher here is giving the case study of one NGO in Pune. They council these beggars to send the children to school, to establish Self help Group. theSantulan SHG provide them with loan. With the help of this group they purchase toys, flowers and the small things and sell them on the roads
(News Paper “SAKAL” 28th Jan 2019).*

Citizens:

- Not to give Alms in money; give in kinds or in food instead.
- Provide information to G.O. or N.G.O.who will look after them.
- Convince them to live in MY HOME
- Give Donations to MY HOME
- Adopt the children of MY HOME – meaning, not to take them home but provide the financial assistance for their daily expenditure and education.

Pune citizen decide not to give money to beggars, instead of it they provide food to beggars or cloths. It means they help in kinds and not in money.

From above steps it is easy to conclude that in ordertomake this model successful, we need help of Govt. NGO Teachers, Doctors,Trainers, Funding Agencies, Senior citizens,and Hon. Indian citizen also.

1.8 Conclusion:

In nut shell, the first step towards removing beggary in present scenario,we shouldn't give alms to young beggars, those who are capable of working. By giving them alms we are encouraging them to beg.Children also shouldn't be given alms as they are sent by their parents and this will encourage their parents to earn their livelihood in this way.Also, there are beggars who ask on the name of religion, taking advantage of religious sentiments of Indian people. They should be strictly restrained.Give them in kind not in cash. You can give food to a hungry person.If you really want to help, then help them in such a way that benefits them.

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