

INNOVATION LAB PROJECT

Date	October 12, 2016
Team Members	Shaun Aranha, Shashank Batija, Punit Rajpal
Std/Section/ House	Class- 9A, House – ST Davids
Class Teacher/ House Leader	Class teacher- Mrs Aruna Madan Kumar
OBA Mentor	Kamraan Abbas
Title	Beggary

Social Problem

What is beggary? Beggary is nothing but a state of extreme poverty

Begging or panhandling is the practice of imploring others to grant a favor, often a gift of money, with little or no expectation of reciprocation. Beggars may be found in public places such as transport routes, urban parks, and near busy markets. Besides money, they may also ask for food, drink, cigarettes or other small items.

Beggary is a Social Problem in India. India, though free, is still a backward country as regards the social life of its people. Our society has manifold evils. Millions of people in India do nothing except begging and passing away their time in all sorts of nefarious and socially injurious practices. They do nothing but eat away the very vitality of our nation life. Many people of robust health are beggars

Beggary in India

Beggary is an age old social phenomena in India. In the medieval and earlier times begging was considered to be an acceptable occupation which was embraced within the traditional social structure.^[4] This system of begging and alms-giving to mendicants and the poor is still widely practiced in India with over 400,000 beggars in 2015.

In contemporary India, beggars are often stigmatized as undeserving. People often believe that beggars are not destitute and instead call them professional beggars. There is a wide perception of begging scams.^[7] This view is refuted by grass root research organizations such as **Ashray, Adhikar Abhiyan**, which claim that beggars and other homeless are overwhelmingly destitute and vulnerable. Their studies indicate that 99 percent men and 97 percent women resort to beggary due to abject poverty, distress migration from rural villages and the unavailability of employment.

For example:

The moment you stop your car at the traffic red light, you see a dirty looking woman with a child in her arm come running to you or a little boy with running nose banging your car window or a handicapped old man asking for alms. This is a common sight in India. You will

find many of these people in areas where there is a regular crowd. At times, out of sheer pity or out of fear from being cursed by God out of irritation, we tend to give them some coins or money and shoo them away.

Begging in India for Poverty

Begging is one of the most serious social issues in India. In spite of its rapid economic growth, India is a poverty-driven country, which is also leading to the growth of beggars in the country. Most of them come from Bangladesh and some of them are from India. There are few beggars in the country who actually are the real ones, who beg because they are handicapped, because of their inability to work or because they are old or blind or they really need money for basic needs. There are many others who live far below the poverty line and opt for begging to earn their livelihood.

CHILD BEGGING IN INDIA

Children comprise 50% of the earth's population currently. Extremely vulnerable children can be seen begging on the streets and this is a glaring reality in every corner of our country. Even Norway, which is considered as one of the richest countries in the world is not free of this evil business. Every country has laid down laws to tackle this issue but success has been minimal. Though our Constitution expresses concern for upbringing children in safe, secure and healthy manner through various provisions but on the ground, all of those are still a long shot looking at the current state of affairs

CAUSES OF CHILD BEGGING

- Abject Poverty leads adults of families into begging and they also coerce their children into this business
- Orphaned & abandoned children and the ones who run away from their native places due to poverty or any other reasons.
- Refugees.
- Religious sanctions provided by Indian culture & religion, where people believe feeding beggars outside religious places or the ones carrying a God's picture in a steel bowl with oil is an act of good karma and wards off evil.
- Malnutrition.
- Juvenile Delinquency & Drug addiction.
- No knowledge of their rights and rehabilitation provisions and afraid of their gang-lords.

CURRENT SITUATION IN INDIA:

In India, by official statistics, roughly 60000 children (the real number is estimated to be much higher) disappear every year and an estimated 300000 child beggars in India. Even some people of the medical fraternity are also involved with the mafia gangs to help maim the children for a huge sum. In spite of a number of policies and laws set up for these purposes of helping such children, the govt. has been a big failure in curbing this due to lack of political will. Apart from that, the unholy nexus between the begging gangs/mafia and the law enforcers is a big impediment in removing this social evil. Also, there is no coordination at all between the policy makers, bureaucrats and law enforcers as well as civil society and the lack of public awareness in this matter has led to an even more deteriorated situation than before.

REFORMS NEEDED TO PREVENT CHILD BEGGING:

- Good and more number of orphanage/ shelter homes for children without close relatives and advertise this everywhere for awareness.
- Railways should become more watchful as most of beggars are trafficked through this route and one can see a huge amount of beggars on the railway stations.

- Help to lower income/ poor including temporary emergency assistance and long term skill development for stable income and occupation.
- Increasing awareness of the general public of child helpline numbers and NGOs and Govt. Homes and Laws to help such children.
- Providing an incentive to parents along with counseling to send their wards to schools.

If things are allowed to remain as they are in our country and nothing is done to check the growth of the beggar problem India can never prosper and can never take her due place in the community of nations. And one who raises a cry against this murderous profession is not headed to. There is the religion to back it. People think, what they sow in this world would be reaped by them in the next. If they give one rupee to a beggar, they would get much more rewards as a return in their next life.

Really, a bold and vigorous step is required in the direction towards eradication of the problem of beggary. The Government of India is taking efforts towards the welfare of the poor people. It is help to improve the situation. The Government should take the responsibility to provide for accommodation and food for the really needy persons, blind, cripples etc.

Every municipality must maintain a 'poor house' and only the disabled be permitted to live there. The board and the charitable organizations must finance it.

We have heard about the negative impact of Begging in our society. It is said that thousands of babies were stolen from their parents' custody by the owners of 'begging concerns', blinded, crippled and artificially paralyzed. What a shockingly inhuman act it was!

Apart from the endeavors, to be made by the government to solve the problem of beggary, public enthusiasm is also needed to combat this evil, which is essentially a social evil, caused by the follies of our society.

Naturally, beggary, which is a social evil, can be remedied by social regeneration of India.

Eradication of beggary

There are various ways to eradicate beggary

- Firstly by employing the poor people who can actually work and are physically fit.
- The government should make homes for such people and provide food
- We as citizens of the country should advice the government on such situations

Team Names:	
--------------------	--

Tasks & Timelines

- Shaun Aranha - Introduction, conclusion , child beggary
- Shashank Batija - body (from begging in India to begin in India for poverty)
- Punit Rajpal - nothing, there was no response from his side.
- We when we see beggars on the road ,we wont give them money. Instead give things what they need for example: food, clothing, study materials, and so on

<u>Sources/References:</u>

- <http://www.genyuvaa.com/begging.php>
- <http://www.azadindia.org/social-issues/beggary-in-india.html>
- <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-good-ways-to-eradicate-the-begging-system-in-India>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Begging>