

**Understanding  
The issue of begging  
And suggested  
Solutions**

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**Introduction**

Begging also called 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. Beggars have existed in human society since before the dawn of recorded history. Begging has happened in most societies around the world, though its prevalence and exact form vary.

## Varieties of Begging

It is very difficult to generalize how and where panhandling begins in the life of a beggar. Some inherited from their ancestors. There are all kinds of beggars whose period of begging spans from five minutes to fifty years. A boy was begging for peanuts on the street, but when someone offered him money, he refused. "I like peanuts," he said ran away - his needs being very specific. The eight year old of a maid-servant who was instructed to play outside was begging the passersby for small change and bought candy. When a strongly built man was asked why he couldn't work, he said that he was merely continuing his family tradition.

Generally, the elderly, the disabled, and the unemployed take to begging. Folks, who were robbed during their pilgrimage, temporarily beg to return home. The lepers and destitute graduate to this profession. From beggars who cry in front of you asking for food to entertainers who beg with the help of pets and children, most homeless fall into the category of beggars with more or less the same yard stick.

Just like lawyers, administrators and athletes, the beggars can be very professional. They guard their constituencies with great care. It is common to fight over territories. When an unassuming new comer from a village stuck out his hand in front of the temple, he was chased away and had to go to Saibaba ashram for shelter. Although the beggars do not have an association or union, they unite to defend their sources of income.

## Types of beggars

- Every one of us has seen numerous kinds of beggars. Some are blind, lame or crippled, and so take to begging.



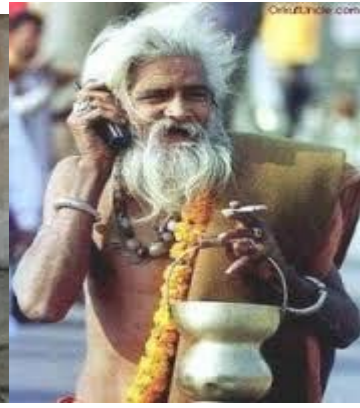
- Some people, who have lost their homes, become beggars. Child and orphan beggars also are very common.



- There are people who are physically sound but who undertake begging as their profession, for it enables them to earn their living easily.



- Some give up their family life. When they become old they are known as Sadhus. Thus kids of beggars are numerous. Their methods of begging are equally varied and strange.



- Some are thrown out of their houses at the old age are forced to live by begging.



- And many more.



### **Causes of begging**

1. The causes of begging are many. First of all, some people are physically incapable of doing any work. The only way of getting food open to them is begging. Such beggars easily win sympathy of others.
2. Secondly, some people take to begging due to religious sanction. In Hindus as well as in Muslims, some religious teachers encourage people to become beggars. Many a criminal finds refuge in the guise of such religious 'sadhus and fakirs'. It is indeed very difficult to distinguish between the genuine religious sadhus and the non-genuine ones.

3. Thirdly, there are organizations which train children in the art of begging. Orphans and kidnapped children are engaged in this profession from very early childhood. After a time, they become experts. This type of begging is indeed very harmful. It must be checked without any delay.
4. Fourthly, some criminals when they come back from jails are not treated sympathetically by society. They are not given any chance to begin their life afresh. They become beggars and find shelter in this profession. Finally, when some people see the beggars earning their livelihood in a very easy way, they enter the profession. Such beggars are on the increase. We must safeguard our society against them.
5. Finally, especially in India begging is caused largely in big cities by 'Beggar Mafia'. It takes a beggar who is fairly healthy and brisk. Accordingly, a person under the mafia's control is beaten and tortured and usually maimed for life to invoke pity and sympathy from the people, who in turn would give more alms.



### **Research Methodology**

Initially, we discussed the problem within our school and got input from more than 100 students, and also came to know from different News papers and browsing on internet that if we take the case of Hyderabad itself the begging induce 5814 males(55.5%) , 4615 female(44%) and 39 eunuchs(0.4%). Almost 73% of the beggars are outsiders, including 66% from other districts and 7% from other states. Most of the beggars (86%) belong to weaker sections, including scheduled castes (90%), backward class (30%), scheduled tribes (12%) and minorities (4%).

Then we came up with a list of 5 causes of why begging is practiced in our country.

#### **Assumed Root Causes**

- Mental illness.
- Physical disability

- Lack of skills
- Religious belief/ beg for religious sanction
- Beggar mafia invoke beggars to beg
- Laziness to work
- Traditional

To confirm the above causes we gathered data from our residential and market based field report by doing a survey of our own school student's homes and survey of commercial shops and street vendors within the old subjimandi area.

For which we made a questionnaire as following.

**To the local people:**

1. What are your views on begging
  - a. Profession
  - b. Need
  - c. Mafia
2. Do you give them according to their wish?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Sometimes
3. Do you ask the beggar before you give/allow them money?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Sometimes
4. Do you think begging should be restricted from our country/state/area?
5. Do you think we need some govt. Actions to restrict beggars from begging?
6. What do you do when a beggar wants your help?
  - a. I recommend him/her for a job in the society
  - b. I can't help you/its not my problem
  - c. I would collect some money from the officials and give that money to him and suggest him to start a new business.
  - d. I will hire him in my business.

## Then we met some beggars and asked them the following

### Questionnaire on beggars

1. What made you beg?
2. What kind of beggar are you?
3. Usually how much do you earn daily?
4. Do you think begging is the correct way to earn money?
5. Since how many years are you a beggar?
6. How much do you earn in festival season when compared to usual daily earning?
7. Is the earned money/alms sufficient for your needs?
8. Why do you beg?
  - a. Ancestral profession
  - b. Need
  - c. Unemployment
9. If you get a chance to work, will you take it?
  - a. According to comfort level
  - b. Yes
  - c. No
10. What sort of work are you interested in?
  - a. Business
  - b. Daily wage earning

## We understood that the following

That the beggars are of following kinds

**Mental illness:** a beggar with mental illness would win sympathy of people; otherwise they with their mental problem might cheat or snatch. To be safer, people would give them money.

**Physical disability:** a beggar with physical disabilities wouldn't undertake begging as their profession which enables them to earn their living easily and in the same way they too would win people's sympathy.

**Lack of skills:** lack of skills enable beggars to undertake begging as their profession. In conducted surveys, it was revealed that most of the beggars in the city are seasonal beggars. Many beggars who belong to other communities migrate to the city from different parts of Telangana, AP and other states during important festivals like Ramzan, Christmas, Diwali, Dussehra and others to

beg and stay on the streets for a period of 10 days to 1 month and seek alms. After festival they go back to their villages and work as domestic help and take up other odd jobs.

**Religious belief/ beg for religious sanction:** Many religions have prescribed begging as the only acceptable means of support for certain classes of adherents, including Christianity, Hinduism, sufi islam, Buddhism and jainism typically to provide a way of certain adherents to focus exclusively on spiritual development without the possibility of becoming caught up in worldly affairs.

**Immigrants:** People are migrating to city areas for livelihood as its becoming very difficult to earn proper amount of money for live hood in villages. And this people are not skilled works so, they go for begging. The easiest way to earn and live.

### **Action Taken:**

After the research we understood that the people are begging due to different reasons, one of them is laziness. Some of them are physically fit and could do work but are not ready to do so.

So, we decided to try and bring change in at least one beggar's life.

Following are the steps taken:

1. To raise the fund.







Made a Money Collection box

## 2. Went out for Funding





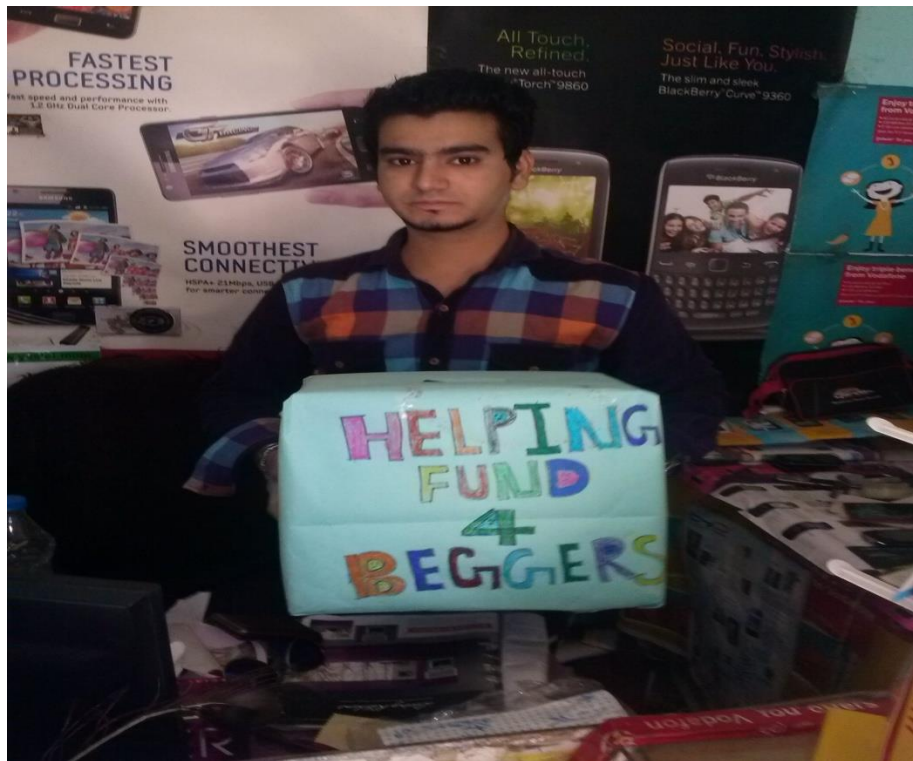
Started the Funding from Kulsumpura Police Station



Went to Mosque



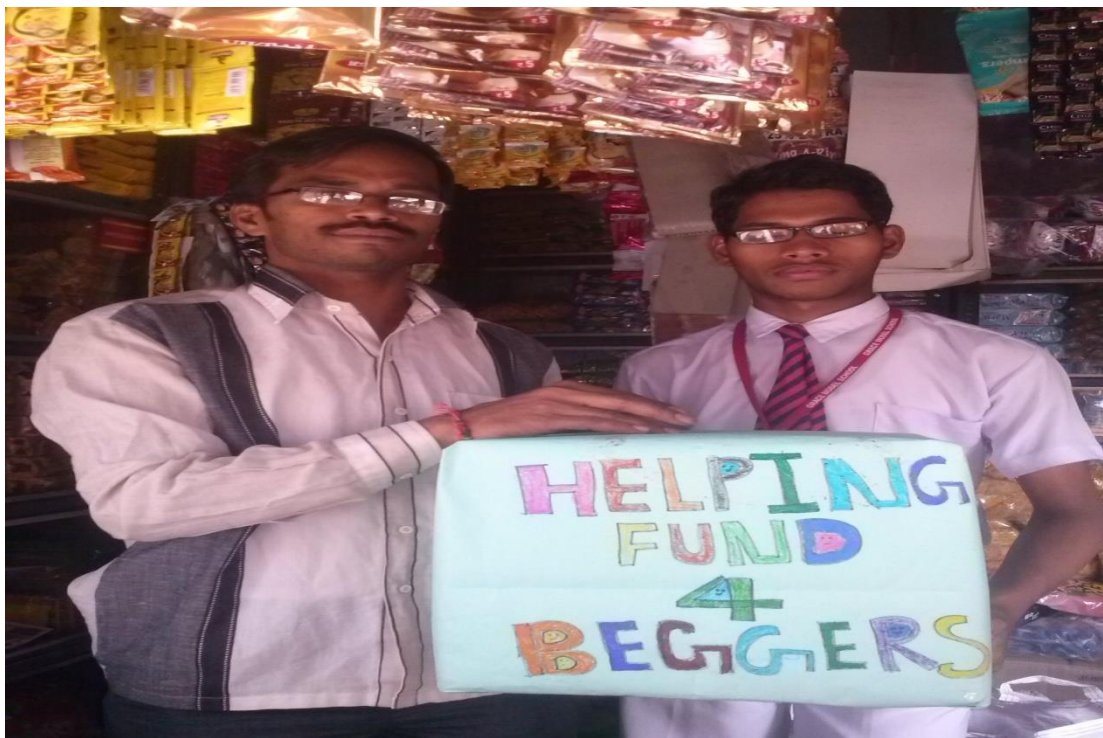
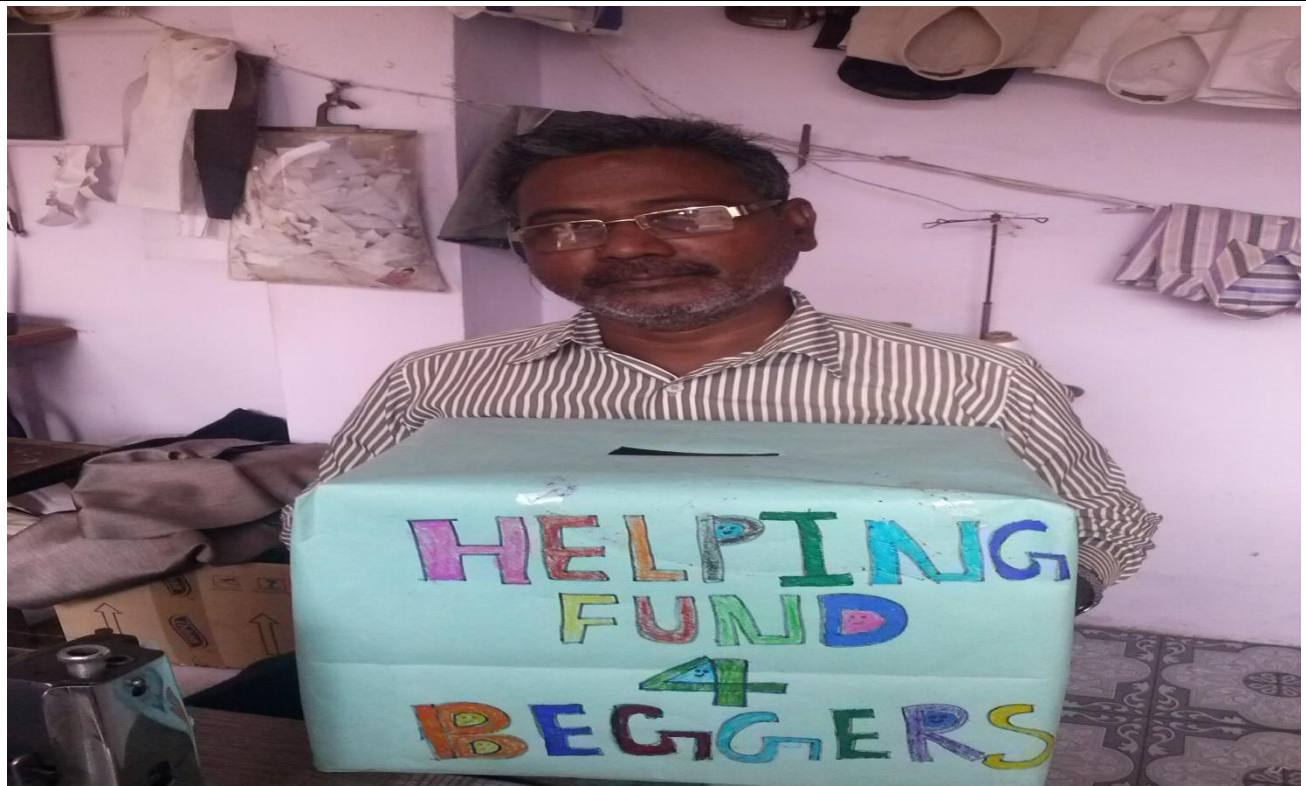
Medical Hall



Mobile Store

And More







4. Took out the total a week Collection





5. Went to a Cart Seller and asked him to rent one old one for a day. As we don't have that much of money. He agreed and rented a cart for Rs.150/-



6. Gave it to the Beggar Shiva



7. Bought some stuff from a shop to sell.





7. Told him to sell by going around the locality.

8. And the result is followed.







Finally the happiness can be seen on Shiva's face.

So, we decided to continue our work. Till now we are able to collect Rs.1,143/-

### **Observations and Findings**

In our observation we found that every beggar is begging because they want to work according to their comfort level.

Everyone if needed to overcome from the problem should help the poor so that they could stop begging.

We can help beggars by inducing them at work according to their comfort level.

It is concluded that our assumed causes are agreed by the common people.

### **Recommendations for Solutions**

- Government should organize shelters for beggars who live on pavements.
- Begging must have to be restricted or prohibited from our country/ state / area.
- Government should induce those people to work.
- Each school student and their respective management should help at least one beggar implement his/her work.

- Help box must be provided on each street to restrict specific kinds of begging. The help box would accept donations for charitable efforts to help the poor as part of an official effort to discourage begging.
- There must be a law against begging.
- One should offer a job instead of money and should suggest them to live with dignity whatever may be the situation.
- There must be an announcement by the govt to the society not to encourage beggars by giving them money or to inform beggars to grab help from the government's act against begging.