

Impact of child begging on education

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Date of Submission: 07-04-2024

Date of Acceptance: 17-04-2024

I. INTRODUCTION:

An upsetting societal problem that affects many parts of the globe, child begging occurs when youngsters beg for money or goods using words, signs, or even their bodies. Not only does this practice show how vulnerable children are, but it also shows how structural failures keep people in poverty and exploited. To further understand this disturbing practice, we explore what it means to define kid begging and how common it is in this account.

Defining Child Begging:

Child begging is the practice of youngsters approaching adults for money or other forms of assistance. Some examples of this behaviour are youngsters making emotional appeals to get money or showing signs of disability. Begging as a means of subsistence for children may seem like a good idea to some, but it really reflects larger social problems like poverty, ignorance, abuse, and neglect. In addition to robbing children of their youth, the practice of exploiting them via begging also violates their basic rights to healthcare, education, and safety.

Global Prevalence

As a result of cultural and socioeconomic differences, the frequency of child begging ranges greatly among nations and regions. According to estimates by organizations like UNICEF, roughly one million kids are engaged in begging activities globally. Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Thailand, the Republic of Indonesia, Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Mexico, and Brazil, and several more nations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are among those with a high prevalence of child begging. More than 70% of children who beg in India are under the age of 10, according to reports. In nations like Pakistan and Bangladesh, minors can be spotted on the streets seeking charity from walkers and cars. The frequency of child

begging is typically interwoven with bigger concerns such as impoverished neighbourhoods, migration, relocation, and absence of social security systems. Children from underprivileged areas are especially vulnerable to being coerced into begging owing to structural inequities and restricted access to healthcare and schooling.

The statistics data supplied by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2016 showed the number of child beggars in India to be approximately 30,000. Around 3 lakh youngsters throughout India are forced to beg. According to the statistics of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 63,407 minors in 2016, 63,349 in 2017 and 67,134 in 2018 were reported missing. The statistics by the Ministry of Home Affairs says that barely half of all these missing children are ever discovered. The top five states with the largest number of missing children are Madhya Pradesh (10038), West Bengal (8205), Bihar (6950), Delhi UT (6541) and Tamil Nadu (4271) for the year 2018. Many of these lost youngsters are driven into begging and are never located. The techniques employed by the perpetrators consist of exposure to drugs, assaults, violence and even danger to life.

Importance of education for children's development:

Education is critical to children's overall development, providing a light of optimism and possibility amid the darkness of child begging. In the context of child begging, education is more than just academic learning; it is a transformational force that may break the cycle of impoverishment, abuse, and marginalization. Most importantly, education is a great weapon for breaking the downward spiral of poverty, which frequently traps youngsters in an endless cycle of begging. Education provides children with information, skills, and possibilities for personal growth, enabling them to acquire stable work and

establish sustainable lifestyles. Individuals who are educated have a higher chance of gaining access to economic possibilities, moving themselves and their family out of poverty and decreasing their need on begging for survival. Furthermore, education protects children against exploitation, providing a road to sovereignty and independence. Children who acquire a good education are less likely to fall victim to forced begging methods or other types of exploitation. Education offers them with alternate income-generating and personal development opportunities, allowing them to make educated decisions about their future and avoid coercive or manipulative techniques that prolong the begging cycle.

Furthermore, schooling has an important role in improving cognitive capacities and analytical skills among youngsters who beg. Education promotes cognitive growth, which enhances retention of memory, logical thinking, and problem-solving ability. These cognitive abilities are necessary for navigating complicated social circumstances, making educated choices, and avoiding unsafe behaviors that might expose children to future exploitation or damage. Education also helps children impacted by begging develop confidence, self-esteem, and resilience. Formal schooling helps children develop a feeling of self-worth and confidence in their talents, allowing them to defend their rights, resist unwanted influences, and campaign for their well-being. Education instills in youngsters a sense of action and autonomy, allowing them to imagine better futures beyond their current circumstances. Finally, education promotes civic involvement and responsibility for society among youngsters engaged in begging behaviors. Education empowers children by teaching them about their rights, obligations, and the value of engaged citizenship. Educated youngsters are more likely to serve as agents of change, speaking out against structural injustices and fighting for legislation that protect vulnerable communities from exploitation and assault.

As a result, education serves as a beacon of optimism for youngsters imprisoned in the cycle of child begging. Education opens the door to a brighter future full of possibilities and potential by giving people with the tools, information, and chances they need to break free from a life of servitude and poverty. Efforts to promote access to excellent education for kids of all ages must be emphasized as a critical step toward eliminating childbegging and building a more equal society in

which every child has the opportunity to develop and realize their aspirations.

Indian activists such as Amit Sinha, founder of Jamghat, an NGO dedicated to child rights, and Sanjay Gupta of Chetna NGO remarked that following the completion of the G20 Summit, we began to observe this. Child begging has resumed in the city. The situation is anticipated to return to normal within a few days. Beggars were reportedly removed from the city in advance of the G20 conference. Many people participating in begging operations may have left the city. However, they are anticipated to return and continue abusing youngsters for begging. Throughout September 2015, the DCPCR identified 53 child begging hot spots throughout the city. NCPCR previously organized a Consultation on Child Begging in Delhi on January 18, 2018. Representatives from MWCD, the Delhi government, DCPCR, Delhi CWC members, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) attended the meeting. The subject was subsequently pursued with the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, who requested that an Action Plan be developed to discourage child begging in Delhi. NCPCR also created a leaflet titled "Come Together, We Can Stop Child Begging."

Impact of Child begging in their education.:

Child begging has a dramatic and negative influence on the academic development of children who engage in this behaviour. One of the most significant repercussions is inconsistent school attendance, as youngsters frequently prefer asking for money above attending courses. This creates major gaps in their schooling, impeding academic development and holistic learning outcomes. The downward spiral of begging can keep young children from receiving an accredited schooling, resulting in lower levels of literacy and less prospects for future growth. Lack of constant schooling deprives students of critical information and skills required for psychological development and success.

Furthermore, child beggars miss out on intellectual and interpersonal growth that occurs in an organized educational environment. They miss out on contacts with classmates, teachers, and educational materials, which are critical for their overall development. The lack of an encouraging educational setting can have long-term implications for their cognitive and emotional well-being. In addition to scholastic losses, child begging exposes youngsters to difficult living circumstances and potential hazards on the streets.

Begging's mental and physical hazards might make it difficult for them to concentrate on their studies. Begging exposes children to abuse, mistreatment, and neglect, all of which can have long-term consequences for their health and development. Breaking out from the pattern of begging gets increasingly difficult for these youngsters because they lack the required resources, support networks, and opportunity to explore other avenues. Without access to a decent education and competent direction, individuals may be locked in a cycle of being exploited and impoverished.

To address these issues successfully, interventions must address the underlying reasons of child begging. This involves reducing poverty, providing alternative income-generating options for families, and increasing access to excellent education. Strengthening educational institutions and providing assistance tailored to the specific needs of child beggars are critical steps toward reducing the detrimental effect of begging on their ability to learn. Furthermore, limiting direct financial gifts to child beggars while encouraging long-term solutions that tackle the root causes of child begging will assist in break the vicious pattern and create an atmosphere of encouragement for these vulnerable youngsters. By focusing on education, protection, and comprehensive growth, we can fight to ensure that every kid has the chance to thrive and realize their full potential, free of the challenges of child begging.

Causes of Child Begging:

Poverty:

Poverty has a significant impact on the vice of child begging, melding the harsh reality experienced by many families across the world. Poverty deprives people of their right to dignity and autonomy, forcing them to deal with the everyday battle for existence. Families caught up in intergenerational poverty are sometimes engaged in a cycle from which it appears impossible to break free. In such poor conditions, exposing children to begging becomes more than a choice; it is a desperate effort to relieve the immediate constraints of starvation and deprivation.

Poverty-related economic troubles create a slew of obstacles for vulnerable families. With low wages and limited resources, parents are unable to meet their children's fundamental necessities, let alone afford the luxuries of education or developing their skills. As a result, children are forced to face the harsh reality of the roads, where they must negotiate dangerous

surroundings in order to survive. Furthermore, poverty creates a sense of despair, obscuring the line between requirement and exploitation. For many families, breaking away from poverty appears to be an impossible ideal, trapping them in a cycle of misery and resignation. In this setting, kid begging appears as a symptom of institutional shortcomings, emphasizing the critical need for comprehensive solutions that address the underlying causes of poverty.

Finally, the impact of poverty extends beyond simply economic distress, infiltrating every element of a child's life. It deprives children of their youth, their goals, and their natural right to an existence full of hope and opportunity. Until nations address the underlying imbalances that promote poverty, child begging continues to shed asad shadow over the lives of many children throughout the world.

Lack of education:

Lack of education is a tremendous barrier to combating child begging, maintaining a cycle of impoverishment, apathy, and abuse. Children in communities with educational deficiencies lack access to the transforming power of information, condemning them to a life of restricted options and unrealized potential. At the core of this loop is a lack of finances and facilities to ensure that all children receive a decent education. Poor families sometimes struggle to pay school fees, uniforms, and materials, causing many children to renounce their entitlement to an education. Additionally, distant, or underprivileged groups may lack the opportunity to attend schools entirely, compounding educational gaps. Without having access to schooling, kids lack the skills and information required to break away from the bonds of poverty. Illiteracy and numeracy weaknesses limit their capacity to find productive job in the future, locking them in a circle of economic reliance. As an outcome, begging may evolve as a survival strategy, repeating the cycle for future generations.

Furthermore, lack of knowledge exposes youngsters to abuse and manipulation. They are unprepared to negotiate the intricacies of the world surrounding them because they lack critical thinking skills and understanding of their rights. Unscrupulous persons may take advantage of their vulnerabilities, enticing them into risky or exploitative circumstances under the premise of offering aid. The effects of this endless cycle go well beyond the individual kid and reverberate

across society. A lack of education fosters intergenerational poverty, stifling economic growth and social advancement. Furthermore, it weakens attempts to reduce child begging by failing to address the underlying issues. To stop this pattern, we must work together to prioritize and engage in quality education to all children, irrespective of socioeconomic background. This involves increasing school access, boosting educational quality, and providing targeted interventions to help vulnerable groups. Only via education can we help children reach their maximum potential and stop the cycle of exploitation and destitution.

Sympathy Attraction:

Sympathy attraction and cultural beliefs play a crucial role in the persistence of child begging, resulting in a complicated web of enabling variables that support this detrimental activity. Society frequently regards underprivileged children with sympathy rather than acknowledging their natural rights and dignity. This notion encourages an attitude of almsgiving, in which well-intentioned people give money to street children, believing it is a philanthropic act of compassion.

However, this sympathy-driven solution ignores the root reasons of child begging, thus perpetuating the cycle of exploitation. Instead of tackling underlying concerns like poverty and a lack of education, almsgiving is a band-aid approach that does not result in genuine change. Furthermore, cultural misunderstandings about the effectiveness of almsgiving worsen the situation. Many people feel that offering financial aid to street children will lessen their misery and satisfy their immediate needs. However, this strategy fails to address the underlying reasons of child begging that may unintentionally encourage caregivers or parents to continue abusing their children for financial benefit.

To overcome the effect of empathy attraction and cultural misunderstandings, efforts must be directed at improving awareness and building empathy throughout communities. By questioning conventional attitudes and fighting for systemic change, cultures may try to address the underlying causes of child begging while establishing an environment that is better for children who are at risk.

Minor causes with major ramification:

Minor reasons of kid begging, while apparently trivial on their own, sometimes have

far-reaching consequences that enhance the frequency of this disturbing trend. Parents dealing with challenges like drinking or divorce may struggle to offer enough care and supervision to their children. In such cases, children may be responsible for caring for themselves, making them exposed to abuse and intimidation by unscrupulous persons who regard them as potential targets for begging. The children are taken from their relatives and dumped into a new environment with no guardian, forcing them to beg through threats and violence. Many youngsters are beaten on a daily basis to ensure that they obey the rules and meet the goals set for them. Instances of children getting disabled for profit by cartels have culminated in horrible procedures such as limb amputations and other forms of crippling the children in order to elicit pity from the public.

Similarly, environmental variables such as drought and famine can exacerbate the vulnerability of existing marginalized groups. In times of shortage, families may send young children to beg for a chance to get the resources they require for survival. These interim solutions can have long-term implications, continuing a cycle of reliance and suffering that goes well beyond the current crisis. Furthermore, the dissolution of conventional support structures within societies might deprive children of the protective buffers provided by extended families. In cases when parental relationships are broken or dissolved, children may lack the financial and emotional backing required to resist the demands of street begging, rendering them more vulnerable to abuse.

Addressing these secondary causes necessitates a multifaceted strategy that acknowledges the interdependence of socio-economic, and environmental issues. By giving assistance and resources to poor families, developing community networks, and conducting targeted interventions, society may try to address the core causes of child begging and create a more equal and nurturing environment for all children.

Solutions and Recommendations:

Enrolling Young Carers in Basic Education Programmes:

Enrolling young caretakers, particularly those who guide children begging, in fundamental learning programs is critical for ending the cycle of poverty and servitude. By giving these children access to formal schooling, they can gain valuable skills, information, and chances for personal development. Education not only enables

children to make educated decisions about their future, but it also provides youngsters with the tools necessary to break away from the cycle of poverty and construct an improved existence for themselves.

Revitalizing Education for Self-Sufficiency Among Vulnerable Children:

Reviving education for independence among vulnerable children is critical for providing them with the skills and competences they need to become independent and self-sufficient adults. Vulnerable children can break out from the cycle of destitution and abuse associated with child begging by emphasizing schooling that encourages self-reliance, analytical problem-solving, and entrepreneurship skills. Empowering these kids through education would not only improve their lives but will also help to break the generational cycle of vulnerability and impoverishment.

Comprehensive policies, community participation, awareness campaigns, and coordination among government departments, NGOs, and other stakeholders are required to support efforts to enrol young caregivers in basic schooling programs and revive learning for independence among vulnerable children. By prioritizing education as a primary intervention tool, we can build a more equitable and welcoming society in which every child has the chance to reach their full potential and live a dignified life.

II. CONCLUSION:

To summarize, child begging in India is a complicated and diverse problem with underlying reasons such as poverty, a lack of education, parental carelessness, and societal influences. Children forced to beg suffer a slew of obstacles that limit their access to school, create cycles of exploitation, and jeopardize their general well-being. Addressing child begging necessitates a comprehensive strategy that includes targeted interventions, regulatory reforms, community participation, and educational activities. Efforts to eliminate child begging should centre on enrolling young caretakers in basic education programs that will provide them with necessary skills and opportunity for personal growth. Revitalizing education for independence among vulnerable children is critical to ending the cycle of misery and empowering them to achieve a brighter future. Prioritizing learning as a crucial intervention method allows us to build a more welcoming and equitable society in which every kid has the

opportunity to develop and break free from exploitation.

Moving ahead, continuous efforts are required to address the underlying causes that promote child begging in India. Strengthening legislative frameworks, boosting social welfare programs, increasing access to education and rehabilitation services, and raising public awareness are all critical steps toward building a safer and more secure environment for vulnerable children. Working across sectors and neighbourhoods, we can make substantial progress in eliminating child begging and ensuring an improved future for every kid in India by enforcing key changes like as

- . Mandatory education for all children has already been established by law under the RTE Act, but implementation and understanding need to be improved significantly, and corruption in the system has to be addressed by a severe body/mechanism.
- . Charity push to educate the public.
- . Adult guardians and criminals (mafia/gangs/traffickers) who push children into this trade should be found and punished to set an example for others in the nasty profession.
- . Criminals receive harsh and quick punishments for kidnapping and maiming children.
- . Welfare policies for child beggars and their families, including financial assistance, healthcare, and housing options.
- . Increase the number of orphanages/shelters for children without close relatives and raise awareness through advertising.
- . Railways should increase security due to the high number of beggars trafficking over this route, which can be seen at railway stations.
- . Provide interim emergency help and long-term skill development for low-income individuals to achieve steady income and employment.
- . Raising public knowledge of child hotline numbers, NGOs, government homes, and laws to support vulnerable children.
- . Offering parents incentives and counselling to encourage their children to attend school.

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