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CHILD BEGGING: A MENACE TO INDIA'S FUTURE*

ABSTRACT

Child Begging is one of the most serious social issues prevalent in the country nowadays. Although India is a developing country and its economic growth and sustainability is been clapped by the developed nations across the globe but it lacks to put embargo on child begging. Though there are various reasons for child begging, the most common among them are poverty, mental and physical disability, lack of primary education etc.

Apart from these, maiming of children is the new cause for the growth of child begging in India. In present time child begging is no less than a business because it has been institutionalized by the professional in the field. Children are employed by these professionals and are also paid by them for this work i.e. begging.

In present time child begging is becoming a source of livelihood to many persons and also paves the way for increased number of cases of abduction and kidnapping of children to push them into the so called industry of beggary. In furtherance, children are regularly inflicted with wounds, injuries and even maimed so that they become more pitiable and therefore draw more alms from a sympathetic passerby on the streets.

For the purpose of prohibiting such activities, the government authorities along with some non-government organizations such as Ministry of Women and Child Development, NHRC, Bachpan Bachao Andolan, respectively have taken various initiatives and launched a number of schemes for the betterment of such under privileged children. This paper will discuss the issues and challenges regarding child begging and also talk about existing laws, schemes and suggestion to put a bar on such activities in India.

Keywords: *Begging, maiming, alms, pitiable, wounds.*

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Introduction

“Childhood should be carefree, playing in the sun, not a nightmare in the darkness of the soul”¹ –

David James Pelzer

This quote becomes important here because the issue which is going to be discussed further is a very sensitive one. When we talk anything in relation to children and their rights, the most important thing to be kept in mind is that the future of any country highly depends upon the fact that what is the condition of children in that particular country. It the small children who are going to be the leaders and workforce of tomorrow.

The moment you stop your vehicle at a traffic signal or come out of a shopping mall or a residential building or an educational institute, you see a dirty looking small children alone or in group or with some adult female with running nose banging your car window or just touching your feet asking for some amount of money. This is a very common sight which can be seen anywhere and everywhere in India. You can also find many of these people on the railway stations, metro stations, bus stations, tourist spots, in temples, outside a restaurant and every such place where there is a crowd. Generally when such a scene emerges in front of us, we just make our way towards our work or at times feeling pity on the toss few coins in front of them and leave.

Begging is a social deviance and a social problem which includes gaining material benefit by asking for money from other persons, with no intent to reimburse the money or to provide service in return.² The more serious problem is that of a Child Begging because we see our future population on the roads with teary eyes and expanded hands in search of some money and food or clothes.

In India we do not have any conclusive legislation like some anti-beggary laws which can cure this problem of child begging. Begging in India is defined by in Section 2(1)³ of The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act of 1959⁴.

¹ David James Pelzer, A Child Called IT, 1ST ed. 1995

² https://www.researchgate.net/publication/326543817_

³ The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959.

1. Soliciting or receiving alms, in a public place whether or not under any pretense such as singing, dancing, fortune telling, performing or offering any article for sale;
2. entering on any private premises for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms;
3. exposing or exhibiting, with the object of obtaining or extorting alms, any sore, wound injury, deformity of diseases whether of a human being or animal;
4. Having no visible means of subsistence and wandering, about or remaining in any public place in such condition or manner, as makes it likely that the person doing so exist soliciting or receiving alms.
5. Allowing oneself to be used as an exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms.

There are a sum total of 22 states in India which have adopted the Prevention of Begging Act 1959 as a derivative in absence of any central act for the same cause.

Child Begging in India

If we talk about India, the condition is not very soothing and at the same time is alarming and disturbing. In India, according to the official statistics, roughly around [60,000 children](#) disappear each year and some human rights groups estimate that the actual number is much higher than that. Many of these children are kidnapped and [forced to work as beggars](#) for organized, mafia-like criminal groups.

According to the reports and study conducted by UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, and the U.S. State Department, these children are not allowed to keep their earnings or go to school, and are often starved so that they will look gaunt and cry, thereby eliciting more sympathy—and donations—from tourists. It is also a proven fact that the disabled children get more money when they beg than healthy ones, the criminal groups often increase their profits by physically damaging the body of the children by cutting out a child's eyes, scarring his face with acid, or amputating a limb⁵. These criminal groups also subject these children to certain amount of drugs and make them addicted so that they do not run away from the gang.

Despite the intensity of the problem of child begging in India, it is not addressed by the authorities the way it should be. It is believed that majority of the families living in poverty driven areas and slums have to force their small children to go out on the streets and bring money for them and their family. In such families generally there is no education and there exist extreme poverty and the very basic amenities of life in not available to them hence they do not have any option but to live on streets and earn on streets and die on the streets.

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. There are few beggars in the country who actually are the real ones, who beg because they are handicapped and unable to work or are old or blind and they really need money. There are many others who live far below the poverty line and opt for begging to earn their livelihood. In some cases we find the entire family is involved in begging. The family keeps on increasing with marriage and birth and each of them gets into begging.

It has been more than 20 years since the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted (1989) of which India is also a signatory state. The Convention globally introduced the standard for the countries to be guided by in their decision-making and conduct of procedures which have or might have impact on children. By ratifying the Convention, the Member States

⁵ In 2006, an Indian news channel [went undercover](#) and filmed doctors agreeing to amputate limbs for the begging mafia at \$200 a pop.

undertake to establish a system based on the existence of a legal framework, policies, institutions and mechanisms which respect, protect and promote the rights of all children living in those states.

As stated in Article 32 (1)⁶ of the Convention: “States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development“.

International Perspective

Beggars are an unfortunate reality of many third world countries, and some first-world countries too. They can be discreet, demanding, precise or persistent, depending on where in the world you are. There are those with disabilities, often purposely inflicted for the very purpose of begging, (cunning) little children with puppy dog eyes (and wily ways), and those that try to use humor to make people give them money. Also there are the sneering ones who look down on what you give them and demand more. Or follow you...and harass you until they get what they want.⁷

In 2004, International Labor Organization adopted the definition of begging. Begging is defined as “a range of activities whereby an individual asks a stranger for money on the basis of being poor or needing charitable donations for health or religious reasons. Beggars may also sell small items, such as dusters or flowers, in return for money that may have little to do with the value of the item for sale.”

In the other parts of the world which includes some developing countries also 1 out of 3 children does not have adequate shelter to live, 1 in every 5 children does not get safe and pure water to drink, and 1 in every 7 children does not have access to the necessary health services. It is been reported globally that over 16 per cent of children under five years of age lack adequate nutrition and 13 per cent of all children have never been to school. From about 2.2 billion children across the world, 1 billion of them live in poverty i.e. without shelter, safe and pure drinking water and health facilities. There are nearly 141 million of kids who are out of education facilities. About 10.6 million of children die before they reach the age of five years. Nearly 1.4 million of them die each year from lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Around 2.2 million children die each year because they are not immunized with the essential vaccines and 1.5 million of children are orphaned due to HIV/ AIDS.⁸

Child begging can be seen in some South East European countries such as Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania. The World Bank has recorded the practice of child begging in South and Central Asia, Europe, Latin America, West Indies, the Middle East, and Africa. The studies done by UNICEF also make out a point that while boys are trafficked for the purposes of begging, girls are trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation. The report by International

⁶ [United Nations](#) Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20th November 1989.

⁷ <https://inafricaandbeyond.com/beggars-around-world/>

⁸ The State of World’s Children, 2013 <http://www.unicef.org/sowc05/english/sowc05>

Labor Organization also says that the number of children involved in forced begging is as much as 6 lacs.

The problem may be much more extensive, however, with China's Ministry of Civil Affairs reporting that as many as 1.5 million children are forced into begging. A study done in Senegal, which is a country in West Africa, by Human Rights Watch projected that a minimum of 50,000 children within the country and neighboring nations have been trafficked for the purposes of begging. In countries such as Zimbabwe, child begging is the primary source of income for the families.

Child Begging: An Offence

Section 24(1) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000, provides that whoever employs or uses any juvenile or the child for the purpose of begging or causes any juvenile to beg, can be imprisoned up to three years and shall also be liable to fine. Those who abet begging are also liable for the same punishment.

Section 363A⁹ of Indian Penal Code (IPC) provides for punishment for a person who kidnaps or maims a minor for purposes of begging. Section 363A (4) also defines begging.¹⁰

Article 23 of the Constitution of India also prohibits traffic in human beings and any kind of forced labor that includes beggar and similar kinds of forced labor. Also beggary is against the life and personal liberty¹¹ and right to education.¹² Apart from this, unauthorized vending/hawking and

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⁹ Section 363A of the Indian Penal Code.

¹⁰ Begging means—

1. Soliciting or receiving alms in a public place, whether under a pretense of singing, dancing, fortune-telling, performing tricks or selling articles or otherwise;
2. Entering on any private premises for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms;
3. Exposing or exhibiting, with the object of obtaining or extorting alms, any sore, wound, injury, deformity or disease, whether of himself or of any person or of an animal.
4. Using a minor as an exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms

¹¹ Article 21 of The Constitution of India

¹² Article 21A of The Constitution of India

begging in trains and Railway premises is an offence under the provisions of Section 144 of the Railways Act, 1989.¹³

All said and done but the shocking fact is that India still does not have any conclusive legislation or statute on beggary and child begging. This provides an opportunity and an advantage to the market players to invest the lives of small children and earn a profit without any fear of punishment. Few aforesaid provisions are present but they are so dilute that they cannot be applied to curb this horrible practice of child begging which can be found in each and every corner of this country.

Present Scenario in India

As per census of 2011 it is estimated that there are about 7.3 million of beggars in India which includes men, women and children with a total revenue of about 180 crore rupees. Out of the total number of beggars present almost 25% of them belong to age of less than 18 years. Thus it is evident by the facts that in India begging has taken a form of business and yet another profession like the other profession. There can be seen professional players in the market who run and administer these begging rackets. Children are brought in vans and other vehicles and are deployed at different location for begging and are being constantly watched by their caretakers.

In the evening the entire collection is produced to the boss and a small portion of the money is been given to those child beggars in which they fulfill their daily needs and amenities of life. This whole professions involves some politicians along with police professionals and other big people of the society.

In a statewide campaign to prevent child begging, the district administration rescued 14 children in last two months in Kapurthala, Punjab mostly being pushed by their own parents, rescuing teams have found.¹⁴ “The Right to Education (RTE) Act is being violated as parents enroll their wards in schools and avail facilities offered by the government, but do not allow their kids to attend classes,”. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, legislated by the central government, has strict provisions to completely prohibit begging by children.

At least 300,000 children across India are drugged, beaten and forced to beg every day, in what has become a multi-million rupee industry controlled by human trafficking cartels.¹⁵ The National Human Rights Commission of India reports that 40,000 children are abducted in India every year, over 25% of whom remain untraced. The police has no mechanism to put a vigil at child because

¹³ <http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/607248/>

¹⁴ Hindustan Times dated 07/01/2019.

¹⁵ <https://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-300000-children-across-india-are-forced-to-beg-by-cartels-report-2218856>

it is a common belief that the adults accompanying the children are the parents or a relatives of the child and to make sure of it, DNA test of such a large number is practically not possible.

Offences in lieu of Child Begging

Child begging is only one facet of the multiplex of crimes that are associated with this practice. To constitute child begging as a crime, there are many offences which are committed by the offenders during this particular crime of child begging. These criminal offences are performed by the offenders in lieu of child begging because without these acts, the sole crime of child begging cannot be completed.

Section 363A of the IPC expressly lays down provision for Kidnapping or maiming a minor for the purpose of begging. Clause (1) of this section makes kidnapping a penal offence for which the offender shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 10 years, and shall also be liable to fine.

Clause (2) of this section lays down provision for Maiming as a punishable offence and reads out that any person who maims any minor to be employed or used for the purpose of begging shall be punished with life imprisonment and shall also be liable to fine.

Clause (3) of this section also says, where any person, not being the lawful guardian of a minor, employs or uses such minor for the purpose of begging, it shall be presumed that he kidnapped or otherwise obtained the custody of that minor for the purpose of begging.

Apart from this there are some implied offences which are committed by the offenders during the act of child begging. One such is laid down in Section 359, Section 360 and Section 361 which talks about kidnapping from India and kidnapping from lawful guardianship.

Section 367 also talks about kidnapping or abducting in order to subject person to grievous hurt, slavery, etc. Here the word grievous hurt should be laid extra importance and Section 320 of the IPC should be read which defines it.¹⁶

¹⁶ Section 320 defines grievous hurt as following kinds of hurt -

1. Emasculation,
2. Permanent privation of the sight of either eye,
3. Permanent privation of the hearing of either ear,
4. Privation of any member or joint,
5. Destruction or permanent impairing of the powers of any member or joint,
6. Permanent disfiguration of the head or face,
7. Fracture or dislocation of a bone or tooth,

Any hurt which endangers life or which causes the sufferer to be during the space of twenty days in severe bodily pain, or unable to follow his ordinary pursuits

Another offence which is Trafficking of person is also a common act which is done in lieu of child begging. Section 370 of the IPC says, “whoever, for the purpose of exploitation, (a) recruits, (b) transports, (c) harbors, (d) transfers, or (e) receives, a person or persons is to be brought under the offence of Trafficking and punishment which follows shall be awarded to the offenders.

Another much important offence which is done while child begging is the violation of Right to Education¹⁷ which is been made compulsory to children up to the age of 14 years in India. This violation is been done by the offenders who are the traders in this gang of child begging and also done by the parents of such children who are not allowed to go to the school and seek education but are subjected to such atrocities of forced labor and even child begging.

Factors behind Child Begging

There are various reasons which attributes to the increasing number of child beggars in India. The overall society, the government, the educational institute and the parents, all contribute equally to the fact that child begging is increasing in India with the passage of time. Some of the important factors behind child begging are—

Poverty or Need– The first and the most important factor behind child begging in India is the ever-increasing poverty in India. More than 30% of India’s population is still living below the poverty line which reinstates the fact that these people and their families do not possess the basic and most needful amenities of life. Hence it is a proven fact that to run their families and earn a bread for themselves, they have to employ their small minor children to this horrible act of begging and they do not have any alternative to this.

Illiteracy and Failure of Government Schools– No money leads to no education or no education leads to no money....this is yet to be ascertained but both these conjectures are quite relatable to each other and equally supplement each other. When the children do not get the basic primary education then they have no future in their hands and the only future is ON STREETS. Thus the absence of basic education and high rate of illiteracy leads to child begging in the country.

The government has facilitated the poverty ridden people to access free education in the government schools but on the contrary these schools have ruined their lives up to a large extent. There are neither proper teachers nor proper classes and the purpose of the government fails miserably. Also the teachers deployed in the government schools are not competent enough to impart even the basic level of education to the pupil. Thus if the person has no money then he cannot gain quality education which results in the mass illiteracy which is the causal factor for child begging.

Peer and Sibling Motivation, Family Encouragement– Many of the children come to public places such as temples and market places along with their cousins, siblings and friends. When any

¹⁷ Article 21A of the Constitution of India which says that the State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the state may, by law, determine.

one of them gets a money or anything by any passerby then they show that to the other and the others child also targets the same passerby for money.

Apart from these there are certain families who do not have enough resources to earn their sources of livelihood so they encourage and send their children to beg and bring money so that they can be fed and other basic needs of their lives can be fulfilled.

Humanism and Religious Sanctions– When people see such small children they feel bad and out of sheer pity give them money or anything to eat without paying much attention to the circumstances afterwards. Also as India is a land of Religion so giving alms or money to the poor or needy has been regarded as sacred and holy act. Some people look for some Punya after they feed the poor children or give them some money. The Muslim people offer “zakat” which is a holy act as enshrined by Quran to give away a portion of their earning to the needy and poor children. It has also been seen that child begging also depends on the days of the weeks such as child beggars can be found at Shiva Temples around the cities on Mondays and on Tuesday the destination changes to the Hanuman Temples. On Saturdays majority of the child beggars can be seen in front of the Shani Dev Temples.

In the same way small children can be easily found outside a Mosque after the Friday Namaz and beg to the people coming out of the mosque after offering prayers. This sight can also be seen at the Dargaahs and other religious places on Thursdays where a large number of people come to seek blessing of their deity and offer prayers.

Failure of the Governments – The Government is the biggest caretaker of each and every individual of this country and it’s the responsibility of the government in power to make such legislations and such policies which benefit the weaker and poorer section of the society.

The Government needs to adopt such policies which provide welfare schemes to the poor families so that their young children are not required to indulge in activities such as beggary and labor and can lead a peaceful life. If the poor families who do not have any source of income are provided with some job opportunities, the major chunk of their problems are solved and then they will not have to employ their children and can also send their children to schools for a better education and better future.

Thus more feasible plans and policies must be made by the State Governments and Central Government and also the implementation of such plans should be ensured for a better life to the under-privileged and the people living their lives in complete misery and below the poverty line.

Solutions to Child Beggary in India

The problem of child beggary is quite horrifying in India and we cannot tolerate to see small children who are the future of this country running here and there on the streets, around the market place and at any other public place asking for few penny and risking their lives in that process.

A recent case of begging came forward the Delhi High Court¹⁸ in which it decriminalized begging in the region of Delhi. The court held that criminalizing begging is a wrong approach to deal with the underlying causes of the problem and quashed provisions in the law that made begging a punishable offence. The act of begging in the national capital was made a criminal offence after the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959 was extended to Delhi by a Central Government Amendment in 1960.

The Delhi High Court in

Harsh Mander v. Union of India
&
*Karnika Sawhney v. Union of India*¹⁹

In this historical judgment, the High Court of Delhi removed around 25 Sections of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959, which criminalizes any form of begging. The Hon'ble judges have very clearly pointed out that begging is not any form of a disease and this mindset has led to stigmatization and ultimately towards criminalization in the society.²⁰

Apart from decriminalizing beggary, special attention should be given to the number of cases of child begging because it is destroying the future of the country continuously. It's the duty of the entire society along with the Local Government bodies, State Governments and the Central Government to pay attention to this horrific act present persistently in the society.

Role of Government and Other Authorities

On one hand, the Indian government had made a variety of legislations to uplift the condition of children. On the other hand, the same government had failed to ensure that children do not beg, do not remain homeless and get rid of the social evils prevalent in the society which come in their way of overall development.²¹

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is in process of formulation of a Scheme for Protection, Care and Rehabilitation of Beggars. Ministry of Women and Child Development has informed that the Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) (now "Child Protection Services") for children in need of care and protection (CNCP). CNCP are defined under section 2(14) of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (JJ Act) respectively. As per Section 2(14)(ii) of JJ Act, a child who is found

¹⁸ The Hindu dated 11/08/2018

¹⁹ W.P.(C) 10498/2009 & CM APPL. 1837/2010

²⁰ www.livelaw.in/the-beggary-judgment-undoing-the-injustice

²¹ <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/45710103>

working in contravention of labor laws for the time being in force or is found begging, or living on the street is included as a “child in need of care and protection”.²²

The primary responsibility in execution of the JJ Act lies with the State Governments/UTs. Under ICPS, financial assistance is provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for, inter-alia, undertaking a situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances, for setting up and maintenance of various types of Child Care Institutions (CCIs). The scheme, provides institutional care through CCIs. As a rehabilitative measures in these CCIs, children are provided age appropriate education either within the institution or outside in a formal education system through convergence with other schemes and programs of the Government or Civil Society. The Scheme also provides for family based non-institutional care through adoption, sponsorship and foster-care.

The Central Government is in process to implement such schemes which provide shelter, health care and skill development training to the homeless and destitute to address the problem of child begging in the country.²³ Through the scheme prepared by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the government is aiming at providing a whole range of basic services like food, shelter, health care, counselling and rehabilitation. The problem of destitution and child beggary is becoming a major concern warranting urgent attention and intervention in view of the increasing numbers, especially of children and women.

The government is also planning to maintain the details of every beneficiary in a computerized database and to link such details to the UIDAI (Aadhar) number in order to enhance transparency and accountability in the implementation of the scheme.

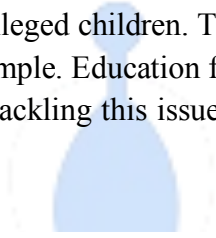
Role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The NGOs are non-governmental and non-profit organization which works in various fields which are generally related to the social welfare. These NGOs provide a platform for the underprivileged social groups and such children who are indulged in begging. From creating awareness to providing basic needs of life, these organization do a lot without the support of the government. These NGOs are working to improve the condition of underprivileged children. These NGOs are probably one of the very best in the country who have brought significant changes in the lives of these children by means of education, providing them food, shelter and by nurturing them

²² Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment dated 4/01/2018

²³ economictimes.indiatimes.com/article_show/50611721

Make A Difference Foundation (MAD) -- MAD²⁴ is an NGO that works tirelessly towards the cause of improving the life of less privileged children. The NGO is working round the clock in 23 cities of the country. Their motive is simple. Education for all and love for the children who never got it. Our country is not focusing on tackling this issue and there was indeed a need for such an NGO that can do just that.



MAD helps more than 4500 children annually and is continually working towards the goal of improving the literacy rate and improving the condition of orphans. Several programs like ED support, Discover and Propel are implemented to help the children realize their true potential.

Smile Foundation-- Smile foundation has been active since 2002²⁵ and is considered as one of the top organizations of India that is working towards improving the present condition of children, women and more. Their work has made a significant impact in the lives of the underprivileged. That are giving their best and have given the children a sword of education to help them fight through the many obstacles that life threw at them. Their programs involve education, healthcare, livelihood, special support program and more.

Save the Children -- This foundation is one of the oldest ones in India and is active in 20 states²⁶. Save the Children foundation was created in 1922 and since then they have helped over 13 lakh children. They run programs like Child support, emergencies, educations, health nutrition etc. Their mission is to provide a safe sustainable future for all the children.

Asha Foundation -- Asha was created in 1991 in Berkeley with the aim to bring about a change in the education system and bridge the gap between the privileged and the underprivileged. Asha has been active since then and now has 50 branches spread across countries like India, UK, USA and Canada. Asha's vision is clear, they want to improve the conditions of children in India and provide them with educational opportunities and nurture them so that one day they can become a part of the society and don't have to depend on anyone. Asha is active in 24 states of India and has over 400 project partners. With them they have collectively spent over 32 million towards the goal of improving the present conditions.²⁷

CRY (Child Rights and You) – this organization was started by Rippan Kapur in 1979²⁸ with a vision to build a happy, healthy and creative child whose rights are protected and honored in a society that is built on respect for dignity, justice and equity for all.

²⁴ <https://makeadiff.in/>

²⁵ <https://www.smilefoundationindia.org/>

²⁶ <https://www.savethechildren.in/>

²⁷ <http://www.ashafoundation.org/>

²⁸ <https://www.cry.org/>

Its mission is to enable people to take responsibility for the situation of the deprived Indian child and so motivate them to seek resolution through individual and collective action thereby enabling children to realize their full potential and to make people discover their potential for action and change

Bachpan Bachao Andolan²⁹ this movement was started in 1980 by Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and for his continuing efforts in the field, he has been honored with Nobel Prize in 2014. This organization works for the rights of the children and its main purpose being to end bonded labor, child labor and to ensure right to education for each and every child of this country. From its inception till today Bachpan Bachao Andolan under the esteemed guidance of the Nobel Laureate has successfully freed more than 80,000 children from the corrupt and inhuman practices of servitude, bonded labors and child begging. The organization has helped these children to live their life by providing rehabilitation, re-integration and proper education to them.

Role of Society

There are too many ways for the society to help child beggars in India. The only thing is to care for the underprivileged and get ready to help them. The society can help them through education, food, or providing shelter to them. If you see a child beggar around you talk to the concerned authority or to police about the child and take action. It's better to do something than nothing. Children have heard about superheroes but haven't seen one, be a hero for them so that their life can be changed. Children are god's gift and they have all the rights to live peacefully. You can help them by supporting them financially or finding their families.

We watch them daily raising their little hands before strangers and most of the time they are screamed at. Isn't it possible that these little beggars are just another group of harassed victims? Or worse, the ugly face of a bonded life, blatantly existing in metros. Every day we see a number of children begging on the roads and we just turn our backs on them by saying, "What can we do?"

More than our money, these little beggars expect compassion towards their tragic lives so that they could be rescued from this vicious circle of poverty and pain. They are helpless and seek public support. Hence it becomes our pious duty and obligation to provide them the maximum support which can be useful to them.

Conclusion

It is very important that India should take the issue of child begging seriously before it is too late to find a solution. Each and every member of this country has a duty towards the children. A single person can't change everything but helping one child can make a difference. If everyone helps at least one child then in future the ratio of child beggars will be few. By helping these children we are making safe the future of this nation in which we and our coming generations will thrive. So

²⁹ <http://www.bba.org.in/>

can't we give them a peaceful place to live happily along with the underprivileged children who can be grown into a responsible citizens of this country by our efforts of today?

It is us, the citizens of this country who can stop these rackets and mafia gangs who run these child beggars racket. Also, paying these child money will not help them but indeed you are giving your share to the mafias because giving money to these small children means that you are supporting these rackets. Do not pay money to them, it is equal to destroying their lives. Help them in a reasonable manner. DO NOT SUPPORT THESE HUMAN TRAFFICKING CARTELS.

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of our Children”.

- Nelson Mandela

