

Study on beggar's incidence at major religious centres of Nagpur city and their administration.

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Abstract:

The researcher has taken up this topic in order to examine the effect of beggars on visitors who are on religious and general visit to religious destination. Tourist and visitors to religious places fall prey to beggars and shell out a good amount of money to the beggars outside the religious destinations on the name of charity and donations. The researcher found out through questionnaire and observations that the family members keep on increasing with marriage and birth and each of them gets into this begging activity on streets and temples making it a family business. The age group of beggars that is indulged in the activity is considerably the one that can be well organized for various activities in and around the destination through proper administration. Under Article 21 of the Constitution, fundamental right to live is discussed at the same time the Bombay Act of X of 1960 briefly provides provision for punishment for the seeker of alms that is scrapped by the Supreme Court now. The survival of such dependents can be canalized by the local administration through proper mechanism installed and proper administration by admitting the juvenile to school and Adults in a proper detention centre where their skill can be developed and utilised by further absorption of these people in the main stream of the society.

Keywords: Pilgrim donation, Religious Destination, Beggar, Local Administration.

Introduction:

Beggars have existed in human society since before the dawn of recorded history. Street begging has happened in most societies around the world, though its prevalence and exact form vary. (Begging, 2019)

Donations to the poor will add to the goodness in you it is well understood but at the same time it will be on way of generating organized beggars in the society. The research was conducted on the topic in order to examine the effect of beggars on the visiting tourist and the problems faced by the tourist and visitors who are on religious and general visit to religious destination, the same problem seen in India and abroad. (Appujas4029, 2019) Tourist and visitors to religious places fall prey to beggars and shell out a good amount of money to the beggars outside the religious destinations on the name of charity and donations. There is an impact on the tourist's mind as many a time the beggars plead emotionally to the visitors seeking alms. The problem is not about begging but the age of beggars that becomes a major concern now a days as it is seen that many adults are involved in this act who are supposed to involved themselves in some activity to earn their livelihood apart from begging and involvement in criminal activity. Donating to a blind or permanent disability is understandable and acceptable too, but a group of beggars demanding wellness from pilgrims is becoming major source of discomfort to tourists and visitors. Nagpur city has several such religious destinations where people from all over visit for their faith. In some cases, we find the entire family is involved in begging this is not only a seen in Nagpur but other places in India too. Begging menace has gripped the Heritage Street of Amritsar leading to the Golden Temple. A group of beggars from aged men and women to little children with tattered clothes and unkempt hair, can easily be spotted seeking alms around the temple who had migrated from distant locations and organised a team for begging. (Paul, 2019)

The researcher found out through questionnaire and observations that the family members keep on increasing with marriage and birth and each of them gets into this begging activity on streets and temples making it a family business. The age group of beggars that is indulged in the activity is considerably the one that can be well organized for various activities in and around the destination through proper administration. Most people find it difficult to donate to a healthy beggar and unavoidable to a beggar who is very tender. Loitering around in the street, these beggars give a tough time to devotees, walking their way to and for up to the shrine and have the glimpse of the almighty. It is necessary to enforce the provisions of the Act effectively so that the gods may be "spared" and religious shrines are relieved of beggars — who include men, women, and children. (Krishna, 2010)

These beggars are skilled for passionately extraction of some money from tourists and would not give up until they get it. Under Article 21 of the Constitution, every beggar or juvenile or dependant woman has a fundamental right to live at the same time the Bombay Act of X of 1960 briefly provides provision for punishment for the seeker of alms, recently the scrapping of this law had made new way to the beggars to grow the sector and possible increase in the crime rate too. The begging is now taken as an occupation and it is managed by brain now a days.

(Kamat, 2019). The survival of such dependents can be canalized by the local administration through proper mechanism installed and proper administration by admitting the juvenile to school and senior in a proper detention centre where their skill can be developed and utilised for various work to solve the burning problem of begging at religious destinations but a number of times the activity has no outcome as in a very short time these people resume back in the activity of begging again. (Indiatoday, 2016)

The increasing population in the city as well as India is causing a big problem into the development of countries economy, with many other problems such as supply of food and fulfilling the demand of food is a big matter of concern, begging is also one of them which is rapidly affecting the Indian economic system in as a serious manner this is also guttering the human resource that can be utilised. Begging is one of the most serious social issues in a developing country like India. (abhishek Frederik, 2016)

The beggars in and around the religious centres cause disturbance as well as problem to the tourist and visitor, the temple administration is not bothered to initiate action. Improper management of crowd also results creating menace of beggars that need to be taken care along with proper security arrangements. (Sontakke, 2015)

To bring back the beggars in the main stream of the society it becomes a strategic decision by the state government as all it takes are the efforts and proper planning by the administrative heads. The government of Rajasthan had taken a big leap in this direction by initiating the Beggars Orientation and Rehabilitation BHOR program which is being run with the various NGO's and Rajasthan Skilling and Livelihood Development Corporation (RSLDC), running a pilot project with selected 100 beggars, these are aged between 30-35 years age group. The aim of this activity is to make the Jaipur city free from beggars (Srivastava, 2021).

Purpose of Study:

The study was organised keeping in mind the menace of beggars at the major religious destination of Nagpur city.

Aim: To study on beggar's incidence at major religious centres of Nagpur city and their administration.

Research Objective:

1. To identify the beggars menace at 6 major religious centres in Nagpur city only.
2. To gauge the problems faced by tourist and visitors due to beggar's existence at these destinations.
3. To provide a plan to local administrative department to scrub out problem.

Research Hypothesis:

H1: There is a significant relationship with growing problem of begging in and around the religious centres of Nagpur city and it is impacting the tourist movement.

Delimitations:

- The study was limited to Nagpur city only.
- Sample selection was limited to 6 most visited religious centres only.
- Sample size was limited to 180 but only 120 questionnaires were completely filled by the respondents and were included for the study as some of the respondents didn't respond seriously.
- Lack of administration attention towards begging problem in Nagpur city.

Research Methodology: The detail Methodology adopted for the present study has been discussed below.

Research Design: The exploratory and descriptive research design was appropriate and adopted due to the nature of the study in order to gauge the various problems faced by the visitors at religious destination in Nagpur city and their associated variables which make it very easy to understand the effects of beggars on visitors and tourists.

Selection of Area: For the present study Nagpur city was selected which is the second capital of Maharashtra and the third largest city of the Indian state of Maharashtra. It is the 13th largest urban collection of India's largest city in Vidarbha, with major transit points in surface and air transport.

Nagpur is famous for its Oranges and is known as the "Orange City". It is among some of the important cities for the Information Technology sector of Maharashtra. The city was marked as the best "Indian city to live in" and

also ranked 11th as most competitive city in the country by the Institute for Competitiveness in its 2012 published report. Nagpur has now become the 9th largest city in terms of technology and city is the 8th largest city in Maharashtra with the facts there is also growth in the population of beggars. (Hitvada, 2021)

Selection of sample: For the present study, respondents were selected randomly and questions related to their visit and problems were understood as whether they are the residents of Nagpur city or a visitor to the place to ensure their contact with the city.

Material and Methods:

Table 1 Selection of Respondents for the study

S.No	Respondents/Samples	Sampling Method	Target
01	Residents of Nagpur City	Purposive and Stratified Sampling method	Visitors to religious place
02	Alms Seekers (Beggars)	Observation and interview method	Beggars outside the destination.

Table 2 Sample size

S.No	Respondents/Samples	Number
01	Residents of Nagpur.	97
02	Visitors to Nagpur city.	23
	Total	120

Table 3 Method of Data Collection

S. No	Respondents/Samples	Method
01	Visitors to destination	Survey
02	Beggars	Observation and Interview

Sources of data collection: The objectives of the study were made clear to all the respondents before data collection to get proper response. The data was collected by the researcher and enumerators.

Primary Data: Primary data consisted of general survey and interview method which was collected with the help of a structured questionnaire.

Questionnaires were prepared for visitor respondents and an interview observation table for the beggars.

Secondary Data: collection consisted of detailed literature search by referring various books, Journals, articles, featuring videos, blogs, etc on beggars and the problem created by begging in India and international across the internet.

A review of previous related research in India and abroad was referred, for in depth knowledge regarding the problem was conducted.

Research Instrument: For effective and faultless data collection, it is necessary to have an effective and sound research instrument. For the present study Survey and observation methods were used and the data was collected with the help of **Structured Questionnaire** for Visitors.

Results and Discussion:

1. Native of locale

Options	Response	Percentage
Yes	97	80.83
No	23	19.16
Total	120	100

From table 1, it is noted that 80 percent of the respondent are from city and around 20% are not from Nagpur. The 20 % respondents are not carrying good memories from the visit, as many times the beggars lure to take more

money by presenting the deformity or by putting forth the infants in very unhealthy and pitiful condition. Young visitors especially small children find it difficult and have scary memories.

2. Location Visited (Multiple Tick)

Location – (L)	Response	Resident	Non-Resident
1. Tekdi Ganesh Temple, Burdi.	58	42	16
2. Futala Hanuman Temple.	64	58	06
3. Shree Sai Temple Wardha road	52	52	00
4. Bada Taj Bag	45	37	08
5. Gurudwara Singh Sahba Kamptee Road	30	26	04
6. All Saints Cathedral Church Sadar	10	10	00

In the table 2 it is observed that the non-residents visit mostly to the convenient location as compared to the residents. During the survey it was seen that majorly the native's moment to the destination is noted and some places are rarely visited by the non-residents.

3. Reason to visit

Reason	Response	Percentage.
Leisure	18	15%
Faith	83	69%
By interest	19	16%

In table 3 it is seen clearly that 69% of visitors visit of faith and 16% visit for interest and 15% people visitor find it a leisure trip to temples to see the art and surrounding for some shopping and relax.

4. Problem faced by all (Multiple Tick)

Problem faced due to	Response
Parking	54
Beggars	86
Shopkeepers	38

From table 4 it is understood that 86 responders faced the major problem of beggars in the surroundings and then by parking space as on certain location the parking of vehicles on road is another threat from the traffic authorities which makes the movement somewhat difficult on occasions, 38 responders faced the problem by pleading shopkeepers which is another problem inside the religious places.

5. Thought on base for beggars

I donate to a beggar at the holy place only after I observe...	1-Strongly Disagree	2- Disagree	3-Undecide	4-Agree	5-Strongly Agree
Physical Defect Projected (Showing deformities)	18				
Appeared Homeless to me (Having loads of belonging)	27				
Narrated Abandonment (Left-away from family)		12			
Observed Old age (On observation)	45				
Pleading on Lack of food (Repeatedly demanding food)		26			
One that impacts my emotional (Carrying infants, Small Child)	36				
Type of beggar based on age (Old aged Beggars)	12				

6. To overcome problem of beggars

Sr. No.	Option	%
1	Allot work of cleaning and pay them.	67
2	Allot work of handling shoe at the door and pay them.	85
3	Allot the work of security and parking handling and pay them.	91
4	Allot the work of watering plants and garden cleaning and pay them.	86
5	Ask the civil authorities to eradicate the beggars from the site and reposition them.	57

The Enumerator were sent to find out the details and very few responses can be recorded as most of the beggar respondent did not wish to talk as they smelled fish in the survey and the information can be used against them.

1. Outcome of 18 beggars

Questions	L1 TGT	L2 FHM	L3 SST	L4 BTB	L5 GSSKR	L6 ASCC
How long you are there in the activity of begging? In Years	12	18	13	14	10	13
Do you belong to any family in the city?	10	18	13	13	10	13
How many members are there? Average	6	5	6	4	2	1
What work do they do?	No reply					
Do you have a family of your own?	6	8	9	12	9	10
How many members are there? Average	3	4	2	2	3	3
Approx. how much you earn daily? Average	350	150	280	450	260	150
Approx. how much you earn during festive occasions? (Average)	500	400	450	600	500	400

Summary and Conclusion:

The study conducted on the objectives brought forth some of the facts that might strike some point of discomfort to some but there needs a way out for the future. The response from the respondents made one crystal clear summation that it may be any religious place the most common problem of all is the alms seeker, this may vary from low to high depending on the volume of visitors from place to place. 80% of the resident are bothered always at the religious destinations by the beggars. The visitors have different motive to visit religious destinations inside the city the most important fact is 15% visit as leisure and 16% for the interest in the other factors the remaining visitors contributing to 69% for faith are responsible for donating the beggars and increasing the likelihood of increasing the volume of beggars. Around 86 respondents had a common problem faced at these locations that is beggars and another problem is the shopkeepers who keep an uproar for selling the offerings to the deity. There are reasons when the visitor makes the mind to donate vary from beggar to beggar- like deformities, being assessed to be homeless, or abandonment, the most common is when pleaded hungry and demanded for food, many a times infants are used to impact emotionally, and the most common of all the beggars age become a reason to put the alms to the seekers.

The beggars involved in this activity now have spent more than a decade in the same activity, many of them have a family with them- mostly a large family, the sample of beggars did not open on the occupation of family members as of their own reason to hide. Most of them have their own family, possibly the members too are involved in the same or similar activity at different location. The earnings of these beggars vary from location to location depending on the events, occasions and festivals add on the earning as there are high inflow of pilgrims.

The visitors opined that the administration must take some constructive actions and make the alms seekers enter the mainstream of the society and live a life with dignity and make them work in and around as in capacity of them, there are several options that can be explored and have a key to the problem.

The summation of the above is that the administration has the major role to play in resettlement of these masses and make them join the mainstream of the society. The alms seeker must be trained in the work that is suitable to them according to gender, age, and skills by proper identification process.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

1. The Local Administration must see that the tourist places are eradicated from beggars' circles.
2. The citizen identification process should be used to track the origin of the people.
3. Agencies governing the state or municipal zones should maintain a record of beggars as the need to track back them, so they do not return to the begging business.
4. The involvement of non-governmental organizations can intervein the process as they have different sources through which they get donations that in terms can be utilised.

5. The city has different college of social work- who can help the administration in this process.
6. The city-based NGO's have members who belong to the industrial sector can provide employment to these trained people in their organizations understanding their utility.
7. The shrine trust of these locations must open the pots of donation and utilise some part on the building up shelter, accommodate them, make them work and have a life of dignity.

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