

Work Life of Beggars: A Case Study

Dr. Menka

Post Doctoral Fellow (UGC), Department of Geography, J.S. Hindu (P.G.) College, Amroha-244221, (UP) India

Abstract - The present empirical study aims to analyze the working life of beggars. The study is based on primary source of data, collected through the field survey and direct questionnaire to the respondents in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh during 2009. The study reveals that majority of the population of beggars' households involved in the begging activity as a profession and about 80 per cent beggar population engaged in this activity by their birth. Moreover, 78 per cent beggars were able bodied and they are begging with the help of slogan or in a silent way. They mainly prefer to go to the residential areas, markets and religious places for begging purpose. About 52 per cent beggars beg within their place of living localities or areas and remaining goes to the other parts of the blocks, district and states. On an average, there were 2-4 earning hands and dependent respectively in each household. However, an average daily income of the beggars by begging is 51-100 per day.

Index Terms - Beggar, Begging, Panhandlers, Dependent, Occupation

INTRODUCTION

The problem of begging is a universal phenomenon but it is more pronounced in developing nations. The only difference between the begging system of the western countries and in the case of India is the way of begging. Beggars get money in developed countries by performing their arts and skills but in India they are getting money only on the basis of sympathy or on the mercy of society. They are found everywhere in public places, such as stations, restaurants, banks, super markets, mosques, churches, etc. Moreover, deviant behaviors such as theft, thuggery, violent and criminal behavior, and vandalism are listed as some of the vices associated with street begging (Adedibu & Jelili 2011, 17-24; Tambawal 2010 cited by Namwata et al. 2012, 133-143; Adedibu 1989, 25-40).

Najafi and his colleagues (2004, 23 & 31) conceived that since begging is a behavior in conflict with the ethical principles of the society, it should be considered as preventive/deterrent crimes.

Furthermore, they believed that considering it as a crime, is not logically justifiable and its range should be limited by no criminal and preventive actions. However, begging has been a traditional profession in India as charity is considered one of the noblest of human virtues according to Hindu tradition (Dhruvasan 1963, 10-12). Beggars request food, money, clothing and other items from passersby. They have many reasons for asking for assistance and can be found in many locations worldwide. Beggars tend to present a negative image of a particular location. The presence of beggars is perceived to be indicative of larger social ills or issues and can cause others to avoid beggar-inhabited areas (Clapper 2012, 1). Begging is commonly defined as the act of stopping people on the street to ask for assistance, for example in the form of food or money (Bose and Hwang 2002, 477-479; Collins and Blomley 2003, 1).

Begging is a social ill whose implications for city economy and environment call for concern of urban planners. The negative impacts of begging on social and physical environments are obvious in the tendency of beggars to delay and obstruct free flow human and vehicular traffic and their high propensity to generate dirty materials either as waste or as parts of their belonging (Jelili 2006 cited by Namwata et al. 2010, 53-60). Adedibu (1989, 25-40) also observed that begging also has implications for the economy of the nation as beggars depend on the already overstretched workforce.

Begging has been a serious problem confronting many urban areas across the globe. The situation becomes worse when it confronts urban areas of less developed nations. Despite the pronounced manifestation of this problem in developing countries, people still regard begging as a normal phenomenon (Adedibu 1989, 25-40; Ogunkan and Fawole 2009, 498-503; Tambawal 2010 cited by Namwata et al. 2012, 133-143; Adedibu and Jelili 2011, 17-24). According to Bromley (1987, 23-24), modern societies viewed begging and the

presence of beggars on the streets as a social problem. Many of the systematic efforts to document the problem of destitution and begging have come from America. The menace of street begging as a potential threat to the environmental, economic and social survival of humanity, societal fabric is evident (Ogunkan and Fawole 2009, 498-503; CRISIS 2003, 1-9). People engaged in begging themselves also recognized begging to be a 'problem'. To them, it's harsh, humiliating, demeaning, degrading and frustrating (Lynch 2005, 521; Rowntree 2000, 1-2). The continued relevance of begging as both a political and a public policy problem is evidenced by extensive media coverage of the issue in recent years, together with governmental consideration of the regulation and governance of begging (Lynch 2005, 520; CRISIS 2003, 1-9).

The society always had a low tolerance level for the beggars and the panhandlers. Begging, considered by many to be anti-social behaviour and it is also less tolerated in a more suburban residential community. Beggars often have criminal records, but they are nearly as likely to have been crime victims as offenders (Scott 2002, 6). As Lee and Farrell (2003, 300) convey, "conventional wisdom regards begging as a deviant activity, engaged in by the stigmatized poor that carries significant costs and is disapproved of by a majority of citizens." Aggressive begging may create an intimidating and unsightly atmosphere, negatively impacting the quality of life of residents, while, adversely affecting businesses and tourism. The increasing visibility of people begging is generating much public discussion and debate about the causes of begging and possible ways to address it. Many view the beggars as undeserving of help and their begging activity as a result of pathological, self-induced and self-selected circumstances (Esmonde 2002, 63-86; Wilson 1991, 14-19). While, it is true that a small number of people "choose the lifestyle", the vast majority are begging because of a lack of other alternatives.

Biswas has rightly remarked that *'The status of a place can best be judged by the number of its beggars'* (cited by Cama 1945, 1). Mukharjee (1945) pointed out that *"Beggary is a symptom of social disorganization"*. The major factors making for its prevalence are to be found in the breakdown of the socio-economic structure of the country. Beggars in India are the victims of an unbalanced socio-economic system. They are amongst

the most vulnerable people in our society and show the low economic condition of that group. These are the human degradation to the lowest extent, and a menace to the healthy society. Most of them are the product of economic deprivation, destitution and neglect. Thus, beggars are the most deprived section of the society who begged for sustaining their livelihood, living in abject poverty and on the mercy of people.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The main thrust of this paper is to analyse the working life of beggars. The main objectives of the study are;

1. to examine the occupational structure of the beggars in the Aligarh district,
2. to inspect the variations in the various types of beggars, methods of begging and places of begging frequently visited by the beggars for begging in the district,
3. to analyse the average daily income of beggars through begging activity and the nature of alms,
4. to find out the general attitudes of the people towards the beggars and begging.

STUDY AREA

The Aligarh district, a medium sized district, is spreading over an area of 3700.4 square kilometers in the Western part of Uttar Pradesh. It occupies the north-western part of the Uttar Pradesh, which is a fertile region of Ganga and Yamuna Doab. The district lies between the parallels of 27°29' and 28°11' north latitudes and meridians of 77°29' and 78°38' east longitudes. Its boundary touches the boundaries of five other districts (Bulandshahr, Badaun, Mathura, Hathras and Etah) of the Uttar Pradesh and one state (Haryana) of India. At present, the district is divided into five tahsils namely, Kol, Khair, Gabhana, Atrauli and Iglas for the purpose of land record keeping, land revenue collection, judicial administration, etc. These tahsils are further sub-divided into 12 development blocks namely: Atrauli, Gangiri, Bijauli, Jawan, Chandus, Khair, Tappal, Dhanipur, Lodha, Akrahad, Iglas and Gonda.

According to 2001 Census, the district accommodates a residential population of 29, 92, 286 of which 29 per cent was classified as urban and 71 per cent as rural. The general density of population in the district was 820 persons per sq. km. However, it was 607 persons per sq. km. in the rural sector and 5,949 persons per

sq. km. in the urban sector. The general sex ratio that is the number of females per thousand males was 862 in the district, whereas, the figures for the rural and urban areas were 856 and 876 respectively. The literacy rate in the district is 58.5 per cent and the male literacy rate is 71.7 per cent and females are 43.0 per cent literate while, the percentage of literacy in rural and urban population was 56.5 and 63.2 respectively.

DATA BASE AND METHODOLOGY

This study is based on primary source of data that have been collected through field survey in the Aligarh district. The survey was carried out during 2009. The villages have been selected on the basis of stratified random sampling. According to 2001 Census, the district had 1210 revenue villages of which 1180 were inhabited. The inhabited villages were stratified into three categories based on the size of population, so that, all types of population and villages may get reasonable representation in the samples randomly drawn for the survey. Keeping in view the constraints of time and cost, it was decided to collect data for this enquiry from 6 per cent villages of each category. Six per cent villages (70) were selected out of the 1180 inhabited villages and for the selection of households, 25 per cent beggars' households were randomly selected from each selected village of the district. All

the 13 towns of the district were selected for the survey. Six per cent wards from each town and 25 per cent households of beggars from each ward were randomly selected for the study. Altogether, 892 households were selected for the present study, in which the rural survey consisted of 496 households and the urban survey comprised 396 households for collection of information about the work life of beggars. After the field work was over, the data collected by using individual slips were scrutinized and were processed in tabular forms in percentages according to the requirements of the various facets of the study.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Table 1 shows the working and dependent population within the selected beggars' households of the Aligarh district. An analysis of data given in Table 1 reveals that out of the total sampled households (892), 73.9 per cent beggars have 2-4 earning members and 8 per cent recorded 4-6 earning members. However, 17.5 per cent have only one earning hand within their households. The urban and rural wise distribution of earning members depicts more or less same picture except in the category of 4-6 earning hands in which urban areas recorded (12.4 per cent) and rural areas (5.2 per cent) as compared to the total households (8.4 per cent) in the district.

Table 1: Percentage Distribution of Working and Non-Working Population of the Beggars' Households in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Earning Hands				Number of Dependents				
	One	2-4	4-6	>6	No	One	2-4	4-6	>6
Rural	17.1	77.4	5.2	0.2	3.4	10.3	56.7	25.6	4.0
Urban	17.9	69.4	12.4	0.3	15.2	7.8	60.9	15.9	0.3
Total	17.5	73.9	8.4	0.2	8.6	9.2	58.5	21.3	2.4

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

The further examination of data given in Table 1 depicts that out of the total households of the district, 58.5 per cent beggars have 2-4 dependents within their household, followed by 21.3 per cent of 4-6 dependents, 9.2 per cent beggars have one member, 2.4 per cent beggars with more than 6 dependents within their households. When the dependent population of beggars was studied on the basis of place of residence i.e. rural-urban distribution, it is found that in the rural areas 56.7 per cent household have

been recorded in the category of 2-4 dependents, followed by 25.6 per cent households 4-6 dependents, 10.3 per cent households with one dependent and 4 per cent of households above 6 persons as dependents. In case of the urban areas the distribution of the dependents is somewhat different from the rural areas that is 60.9 per cent of the households have 2-4 dependents, 15.9 per cent beggars with 4-6 dependent population, 7.8 per cent with one dependent, 0.3 per cent beggars have more than 6 dependents.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Occupational Structure of Population of the Beggars' Households in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Occupation							Total
	Begging	Labourer	Showing Art	Animal Care	Cobbler	Rag Picker	Others	
Rural	70.7	17.7	5.8	3.1	1.1	-	1.7	1300

Urban	72.0	13.8	1.7	0.3	4.9	2.0	5.2	940
Total	71.3	16.1	4.1	1.9	2.7	0.9	3.2	2240

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

The Table 2 and Figure 2 give ideas about the occupational structure of the sampled population of beggars' households. An analysis of Table 2 reveals that 71.3 per cent population of beggars' households were involved in begging activity, followed by the labourer (16.1 per cent), showing own art (4.1 per cent), cobbler (4.1 per cent), animal care (1.9 per cent), rag picking (0.9 per cent) and remaining (3.2 per cent) were engaged in other activities.

Plate 1: Occupational Structure of Beggars in Aligarh District



In the rural areas, 70.7 per cent working population were engaged in begging, 17.7 per cent in labourer work, 5.8 per cent in showing their art, 3.1 per cent in animal care, 1.1 per cent in cobbler and 1.7 per cent in others activities and no data was recorded regarding the rag picking activity in the rural areas because rag pickers collect the plastic bags and plastics bottle which is mostly found in urban areas. On the other hand, in urban areas, 72.0 per cent population of beggars' households were involved in begging

Table 3: Percentage Distribution of Subsidiary Economic Activities of Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Subsidiary Occupation						
	Labour	Animal Care	Selling Items	Cobbler	Band	Others	No
Rural	67.7	6.5	2.4	1.1	-	1.5	20.9
Urban	17.8	2.0	5.8	4.5	4.0	25.8	40.0
Total	42.7	4.3	4.1	2.8	2.0	13.6	30.6

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

At the district level, it was observed that, 30.6 per cent beggars opted begging as their main occupation and spend their whole time on it, whereas, in rural and urban areas the corresponding figures were 21 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. As a whole, nearly 69 per

cent beggars of the district were engaged in other subsidiary occupations except begging activity, while, their respective figures in the rural and urban areas were 79 per cent and 60 per cent. Labour work was the main subsidiary occupation adopted by these beggars

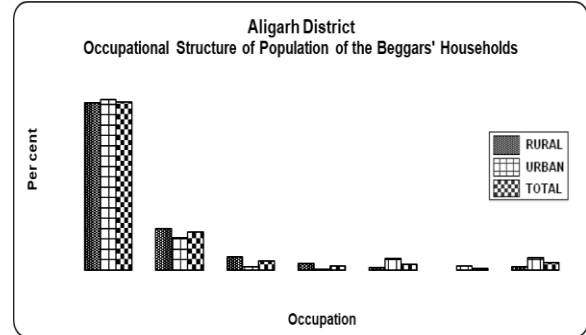


Figure 2

in other activities. Cobbler, rag picking and other works recorded higher in urban than rural parts because in the urban areas these people also get the opportunity to involve themselves in other type of economic activities i.e. rickshaw pulling, vender, driving, work in factories etc. On the contrary, the percentage of animal care activity was found less in urban than the rural areas because this activity needs the fodder for animals which were easily collected by them in the rural areas without spending money but in urban areas it is expensive to kept cattle and there is a problem of open space also in these areas.

The percental distribution of subsidiary occupations of beggars is given in Table 3 and diagram 3. The secondary occupations which were mainly adopted by the selected beggars were labourers work either manual or agricultural (since these beggars are neither skilled labour nor possess any technical or academic qualification), animal care, selling items (vender), cobbler, playing with musical bands and others activities.

and it contributed about 43 per cent of the total subsidiary occupations, followed by animal care (4.3 per cent), selling items (4.1 per cent), cobbler (2.8 per cent), playing musical band (2.0 per cent) and others activities (13.6 per cent). On the other hand, the rural and urban picture was almost different.

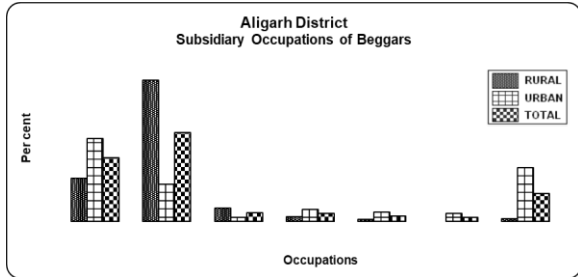


Figure 3

In the rural areas, 67.7 per cent beggars were engaged in the labourer work like casual or agricultural labour,

6.5 per cent involved in animal care, 2.4 per cent in selling items, 1.1 per cent in cobbler and 1.5 per cent in others economic activities. In addition, in the urban areas, labourer work (17.8 per cent), selling items (5.8 per cent), shoe polish (4.5 per cent), band (4.0 per cent) and others (25.8 per cent) were the main secondary economic activities adopted by the sampled beggars. The above analysis reveals that the percentage of other subsidiary occupation like selling items, cobbler, band and other economic activities was higher in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas because they are low paid jobs which are easily available in urban centres, where as, animal care and labourer work (mostly agricultural labour) were more common economic activities in rural areas because it was related to agriculture.

Table 4: Percentage Distribution of Types of Beggar in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Type of Beggar					
	Able	Diseased & Weak	Old	Handicap	Child	Religious
Rural	84.7	8.1	4.5	1.4	0.2	1.2
Urban	62.4	13.6	6.3	8.2	6.1	3.3
Male	78.2	7.6	4.1	5.1	2.2	2.8
Female	66.9	16.9	7.9	3.3	4.3	0.7
Total	74.5	10.6	5.3	4.5	2.9	2.1

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

Table 4 provides the information about the types of beggars. It is clearly seen from the table that out of the total selected beggars, 74.5 per cent were able bodied
Plate 2: Types of Beggars in Aligarh District



(physically fit for doing any work), followed by diseased or weak (10.6 percent), aged or (8.1 percent), aged or old (4.5 percent), handicap (1.4 percent),

religious (1.2 percent), and child (0.2 percent), whereas, in the urban areas, able bodied beggars have a share of 62.4 per cent and remaining 37.6 per cent were belong to the others types. Able bodied old (5.3 percent), handicap (4.5 per cent), religious (2.1 percent), and child (2.9 percent) at the district level.

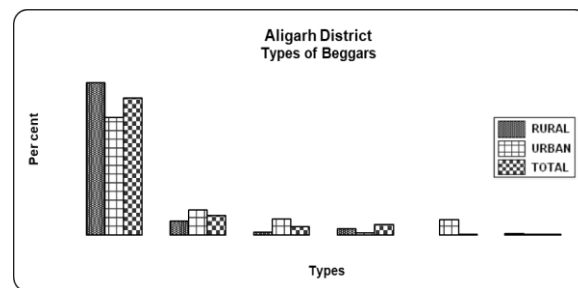


Figure 4

The table also depicts the rural-urban wise distribution, in which, it has been found that in the rural areas, about 85 per cent beggars were able bodied, followed by diseased or weak beggars were higher in the rural areas as compared to the urban areas due to caste factor as most of them belong to Nat, Banjara or Faqirs whose main occupation was begging from the past. On the other hand, all other types of beggars were higher in the urban areas because these

persons gained the sympathy of the people by showing their disability at the urban centres. Religious places, markets, railway station, bus stand, medicals (hospitals), banks, university areas were the main hubs for them to show their disability and get the sympathy of public.

A gender-wise data about the type of beggars at the district level is also presented in Table 4, in which, it has been found that 78.2 per cent male beggars were able bodied and remaining 21.8 per cent were the

needy or compelled by the circumstances due to which they have adopted this occupation, whereas, female beggars contributed 66.9 per cent of able bodied and remaining 32.1 per cent were not able to do work. An in-depth analysis of data also reveals that the percentage of female beggars was just doubled than the males in the category of diseased or weak and old because most of the female are widow and their children threw them out from their family.

Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Number of Years Engaged in Begging by the Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Time of Starting Begging				
	By Birth	Before (years)			
		1-4	5-10	11-20	> 20
Rural	88.9	2.8	1.6	5.8	1.4
Urban	81.3	7.8	5.1	4.3	1.5
Total	85.5	5.0	3.1	5.2	1.2

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

The Table 5 gives an idea about the distribution of number of years engaged in begging activity by the beggars of Aligarh district. The data envisages that at the district level, 85.5 per cent beggars were engaged in this activity by their birth and remaining 14.5 per cent have adopted it before few years due to circumstances. Rural-urban wise data shows that 88.4 per cent beggars have adopted this occupation from their childhood because of their parents and caste and remaining 11.6 per cent adopted it before few years in the rural areas, whereas, in the urban areas, 81.3 per

cent beggars were engaged in this occupation by birth and 18.7 per cent of them, recently adopted this occupation. In the rural areas, most of the cases were recorded in this activity because of their caste either in Hindus (*Nats, Banjara, Sapera*, etc.) and Muslims (*Faqir*), while, in the urban areas, it is mainly due to the circumstances.

Table 6 provides the information about the major areas of begging frequently visited by the beggars. The data shows that residential areas, markets and the religious places combinely contributed about 93 per cent of the total places visited for begging

Table 6: Percentage Distribution of Major Areas of Begging frequently visited by the Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Places					
	Residential Areas	Markets	Religious Places	Functions	Railway Station	Others
Rural	44.0	40.0	11.4	4.2	0.4	-
Urban	33.5	29.9	27.4	1.8	4.1	3.3
Total	39.0	35.2	19.0	3.1	2.2	1.6

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

purpose at district level. The rural-urban data clearly exhibits that in the rural areas, 44 per cent beggars used to go to the residential areas for begging purpose, followed by markets (40 per cent), religious (11.4 per cent), functions (4.2 per cent) and railway station (0.4 per cent). Similarly, in the urban areas, out of the total selected beggars, 33 per cent beggars went to the residential areas for begging purpose, followed by markets (29.9 per cent), religious (27.4 per cent), functions (1.8 per cent), railway station (4.1 per cent), and others (3.3 per cent).

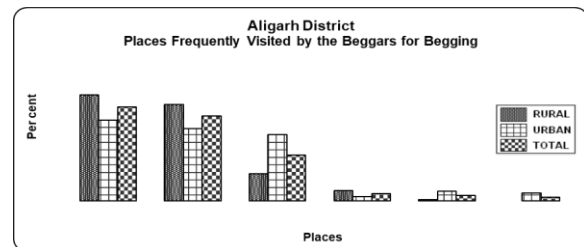


Figure 5

The above analysis reveals that the beggars of both (rural and urban) areas used to prefer to go to the residential and market areas. The percentage of religious places,

Plate 3: Places of Begging Visited by Beggars in Aligarh District



railway stations and others was higher in the urban areas as compared to the rural areas because of the urban impact they get higher number of donors in that places. Religious places, markets, railway station, bus stand, medicals (hospitals), banks, university areas are the main hubs for these people in the urban areas to show their needy situation and for getting the sympathy, money and kind from the people. However, in the rural areas, functions contributes about 4 per cent because these people get more alms at the occasions of marriages, deaths, birth of male child (*Jashotan* or *Naamkaran*), etc.

Table 7: Percentage Distribution of Methods of Begging opted by Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Methods of Begging					
	Slogan	Silent	By Showing Art	Showing Inability	Using Animals	Others
Rural	57.7	2.0	35.9	0.5	3.5	0.5
Urban	46.9	29.7	8.8	3.6	3.1	7.5
Total	53.2	13.6	24.5	1.8	3.4	3.4

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

Table 7 provides the information about the distribution of various methods of begging. At the district level, out of the total selected beggars, 53.2 percent used slogan as a method of begging, followed by showing their arts (24.5 percent), silent way (13.6 percent), using animals (3.4 percent), showing inability (1.8 percent) and others (3.4 percent). The rural-urban data shows that in the rural areas, 57.7 per cent used slogans and remaining by showing their arts (35.9 percent), using animals (3.5 percent), silent way (2 percent), show inability (0.5 percent), and others (0.5 per cent), while, in the urban areas, 46.9 per cent of beggars used slogans for begging, silent way (29.7 percent), showing their arts (8.8 percent), show inability (3.6 percent) and animals (3.1 percent).

Hence, it may be concluded that about 50 per cent of rural and urban beggars have been begging by slogan, while silent way was the second methods of begging.

the rural one because urban centre are the hub of places (religious places, markets, railway station, bus stand, medicals i.e. hospitals, banks, university areas) where higher concentration of the beggars is found. As far as the slogan is concerned, it can be observed by the few statements often heard in the campus. One boy usually asked money having tears in his eyes with a new request at all the time in the university campus i.e. *“bahanji, meri maa bahut bimar hai or hamare pass dawai lene k paise nahi hai, wo mar jayegi agar usko dvai nhi di to, use bcha lijiye, Allah apka bhala karega.”* (Sister, my mother is very sick and we do not have money for the medicines, she will die if she does not get medicine, save her, God will help you). Another slogan is *“meri maa or mein kai dino se bhooko h, bahanji, kuch dedo, tumhara Bhagwan bhala karega.”* (My mother and me are hungry from last some days, sister, give something, God will bless you).

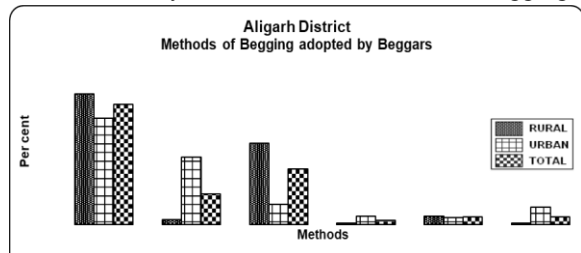


Figure 6 Showing their inability and other methods of begging were recorded highest in the urban areas rather than

Table 8 provides the information about the nature of alms received by the beggars of Aligarh district. At district level, about 98 per cent of the total selected beggars have received both cash and kind from the donors, whereas, in rural and urban areas; it was 99.6 per cent and 96.2 per cent respectively. From the above analysis of the table it is clear that more than 95 per cent beggars took everything offered by donors because they were poor and had no choice for selection from both (cash and kind).

Table 8: Percentage Distribution of Nature of Alms for Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Nature of Alms		
	Both	Cash	Kind
Rural	99.6	0.2	0.2
Urban	96.2	3.8	0.0
Total	98.1	1.8	0.1

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

Table 9 provides the information about the preferred times of begging in the Aligarh district. An examination of data shows that, 33.9 per cent beggars preferred to go for begging in the morning time especially from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., at noon (31.8 per cent), evening (25.4 per cent), night (1.0 per cent) and all time (9.0 per cent). The rural-urban break-up of

data depicts that 35.0 per cent rural beggars went for begging in the morning, followed by noon (34.0 per cent), evening (26.4 per cent), and all time (4.6 per cent), while, in the urban areas, 29.3 per cent of beggars begged in the morning, at noon (28.6 per cent), evening (24.0 per cent), night (2.6 per cent) and all time (15.6 per cent).

Table 9: Percentage Distribution of Time Duration of Beggars for Begging in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Times of Begging				
	Morning	Noon	Evening	Night	All Time
Rural	35.0	34.0	26.4	-	4.6
Urban	29.3	28.6	24.0	2.6	15.6
Total	32.9	31.8	25.4	1.0	9.0

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

The percentage of beggars who begged during day time was recorded higher in rural areas as compared to the urban areas because in rural areas they usually leaved their houses in the early morning for begging activity and go for the surrounding villages or towns of the same block and return to their houses up to 4 or

5 pm. On the other side, the percentage of night time begging and all time of begging was recorded higher in the urban beggars because in urban areas, these people mostly came from the surrounding places and moved anytime from the begging places to their residence.

Table 10: Percentage Distribution of Average Daily Income of Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Daily Income				
	<20	20-50	51-100	101-200	>200
Rural	7.4	18.7	56.4	16.8	0.7
Urban	4.1	45.0	41.4	8.8	0.7
Total	6.1	29.2	50.4	13.6	0.7

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

Table 10 envisages the daily income of beggars through begging practice. The data on it at the district level envisages that 50.4 per cent beggars earned about ₹ 51-100 per day, followed by 29.2 per cent (₹ 20-50), 13.6 per cent (₹ 101-200), 6.1 per cent (less than ₹ 20), and 0.7 per cent (more than ₹ 200). In the rural areas, 56.4 per cent beggars earned ₹ 51-100 per day, followed by 18.7 per cent (₹ 20-50), 16.8 per cent (₹ 101-200), 7.4 per cent (less than ₹ 20), and 0.7 per cent (more than ₹ 200), whereas, in the urban areas, about 45 per cent beggars earned ₹ 20-50 per day, followed by 41 per cent (₹ 51-100), 8.8 per cent (₹ 101-200), 4.1 per cent (less than ₹ 20), and 0.7 per cent (more than ₹ 200) per day. The average daily income was recorded higher in rural beggars (₹ 51-100) as

compared to the urban beggars (₹ 20-50) because in the rural

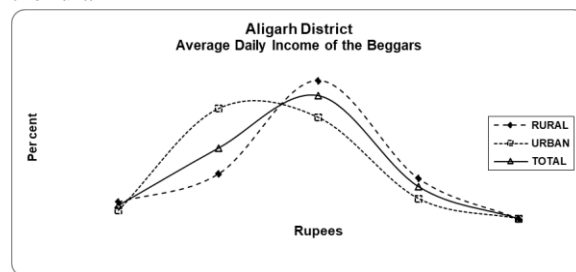


Figure 7

areas these people received alms in the form of cash and kind (flour, wheat, rice, etc.) and converted these items into money after selling to run their family.

Table 11 depicts the percentage distribution of means of transportation used by beggars for covering long distances for begging purpose. An examination of data reveals that out of the total selected beggars, 46.9 per

cent of beggars moved to the places by foot, followed by bus (28.5 per cent), cart (16.8 per cent), cycle (6.0 per cent), and others (1.8 per cent). In the rural areas, 39.1 per cent beggars covered distance by foot for

begging, 33.7 per cent by bus, 19.1 per cent by cart, 6.6 per cent by cycle and 1.5 per cent by other sources for begging, while, in the urban areas, 62.7 per cent of beggars

Table 11: Percentage Distribution of Modes of Transportation of Beggars for Begging in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Mode of Covering Distance					Total
	By Foot	Bus	Cart	Cycle	Others	
Rural	39.1	33.7	19.1	6.6	1.5	1265
Urban	62.7	18.2	12.0	4.7	2.4	632
Total	46.9	28.5	16.8	6.0	1.8	1897

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey. moved between the places by foot, followed by bus (18.2 per cent), cart (12 per cent), cycle (4.7 per cent), and others (2.4 per cent). The percentage of moving by foot, bus, cart, cycle, etc. was higher in the urban beggars as compared to the rural beggars.

Altogether, about 48 per cent beggars preferred to go for begging outside their village or town. The rural-urban break up of the data shows that in the rural areas, nearly 52 per cent beggars were commuted for begging in other village or town of the blocks of Aligarh district, while, 33.9 per cent moved within village or town of the block, 8.1 per cent to other district of the Uttar Pradesh and remaining 6.5 per cent to other states of India. On the other hand, in the urban areas, 73.0 per cent beggars went for begging within their native place, followed by other village or town of the blocks (14.5 per cent), other district of the Uttar Pradesh (3.3 per cent) and other states of India (9.3 per cent).

The data given in the Table 12 depicts the areas of begging and number of areas (villages and towns) visited per day by the beggars of the district. In the district level, around 52 per cent beggars went for begging within their village or town, 35.2 per cent to other village or town of the blocks, 5.9 per cent to other district of the Uttar Pradesh, and remaining 7.2 per cent beggars commuted to other states of India.

Table 12: Percentage Distribution of Places of Begging and Numbers of Places Visited per Day by Beggar Population in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Places of Begging				How Many Places visited Per Day			
	Within the village or town	Other villages or towns of the blocks	Other districts of UP	Other states of India	No	1	2-4	>5
Rural	33.9	51.6	8.1	6.5	2.2	38.1	59.7	-
Urban	73.0	14.5	3.3	9.3	4.0	73.5	20.7	1.8
Total	51.7	35.2	5.9	7.2	3.0	53.8	42.4	0.8

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

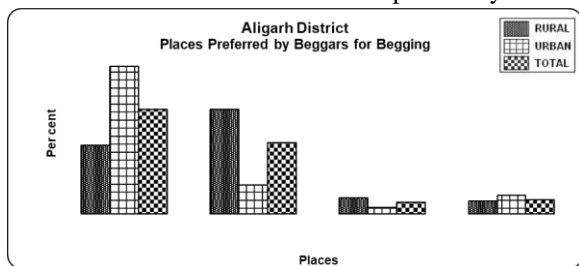


Figure 8

The data given in the Table 12 also deals with the number of places or villages visited per day by them for begging purpose. At the district level, out of the total selected beggars 53.8 per cent beggars visited only one place for begging, while, 42.3 per cent (2-4 places) and only 1 per cent (more than 5 places). In the rural areas, about 60 per cent beggars moved 2-4

places in a day. It was also observed that the rural beggars preferred to move towards villages and cover two to four villages within a day. They usually, leaved their houses in the early morning because of heavy sun light in the noon and have to cover a long distance by foots and also catch the donors at their residences. While, in the urban areas, about 73.48 per cent beggars begged at only one place and get enough amounts for their survival, 21 per cent beggars visited 2-4 places, 1.77 per cent visited upto 5 places in a day. It may be summarized from the above analysis that urban beggars generally less mobile than the rural beggars because they were more active and moved upto 2-4 villages per day.

Table 13 provides the information about the activities during rest of the day of beggars except begging. It is revealed from the data that 63.3 per cent beggars do

other work (subsidiary occupation) when they were free from begging activity and rest were engaged in household duties (20.2 per cent), take rest (12.9 per cent) and others activities (3.7 per cent) respectively. In the rural areas, 74.6 per cent beggars did other work when they were free from begging, followed by

household duties (19.8 per cent), take rest (5.6 per cent) and others (3.7 per cent), while, in the urban areas, nearly, 51 per cent beggars replied that they did other work, 20.7 per cent did household duties, 20.7 per cent take rest and 7.6 per cent did others activities when they did not begged.

Table 13: Percentage Distribution of the Activities during Rest of the Day of Beggars in Aligarh District, 2009

Aligarh	Activities of Rest of the Day			
	Subsidiary Work	Rest	Household Works	Others
Rural	74.6	5.6	19.8	-
Urban	51.0	20.7	20.7	7.6
Total	63.3	12.9	20.2	3.7

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

Table 14 illustrates percentage distribution of general information about the begging and beggar population of Aligarh district. An analysis of Table 14 exhibits the distribution of general information related to their safety at their places of begging. At the district level, 98.3 per cent of selected beggars said that they had no problem from anybody at their places of begging and rest of the 1.7 per cent replied to have faces some

problems from the people. The urban beggars faced more problem than the beggars of rural areas.

Further analysis of the Table 14 reveals the behaviour of donors towards selected beggar population of the district. The behaviour of donors varies from beggar to beggar. Most of the people or donors want to give to the handicap, old, women with small children and the small kids because they thought that these were the person who needs

Table 14: Percentage Distribution of General Information of the Beggars about the Begging in Aligarh District, 2009

General Information about Begging	Rural	Urban	Total
<i>Is it dangerous where you work</i>			
Yes	0.4	3.3	1.7
No	99.6	96.7	98.3
<i>Behaviour of donor</i>			
Good	41.8	32.1	36.8
Bad	0.4	1.2	0.8
So-So	57.8	47.5	53.9
Depend	-	19.2	8.5
<i>Source of help</i>			
Persons	23.1	46.5	33.1
Relatives	-	0.4	0.2
Government	58.2	33.0	47.4
No One	18.8	20.1	19.3
<i>Information about famous activities</i>			
Persons	83.1	46.2	66.7
Relatives	4.4	5.8	5.0
Group	2.0	0.8	1.5
No One	10.5	47.2	26.8
<i>Ready to give it up</i>			
Yes	37.3	42.7	39.7
No	62.7	57.3	60.3
<i>Willing to live in an institution</i>			
Yes	15.1	22.2	17.3
No	84.9	77.8	82.7
<i>Aware of the government move to declare begging as a crime</i>			
Yes	79.4	71.0	75.2
No	20.6	29.0	24.8

Source: Calculation is based on sample survey.

special attention from the government and society. Behaviour of some donors was very kind, some were bad, few were rude and remaining has so-so (neither good nor bad) towards these people. About 54 per cent

beggars said that the donors had so-so attitude or behaviour toward them, followed by good (37 per cent), depends on their mood (8 per cent) and one per cent faced the bad behavior of the donors. More or less

the picture of rural and urban beggars was same in term of the behaviour of donors.

The Table 14 also reveals about the sources of help during their bad time. Most of the beggars received help from the government (47 per cent) and the persons of the vicinity (33 per cent) and about 19 per cent beggars did not receive any help from anybody. In the rural areas, these people got support through the government (58 per cent) but in the urban areas, these people received help from the persons (47 per cent) of their surrounding because of corruption they did not get government measures which were made for the poor and needy person who lives below the poverty line. Around 19 per cent of rural and 20 per cent of urban beggars did not receive any help from anybody. The information related to any famous activity or the agglomeration of people creates scopes for the begging activity that is why it was necessary to study this aspect of beggars' life. The data related to the famous activities reveals that about 67 per cent beggars got information from the persons of their surroundings. Most of the beggars received information from the persons of their surrounding in rural (83 per cent) and urban (46 per cent) areas, followed by the relatives and other members of the groups. About 47 per cent beggars of urban areas and 11 per cent of rural areas did not get any help from anybody.

Whether they are ready to leave this occupation or not, it is the one of the most important question asked by the beggars of study area because their involvement in this occupation exhibits their low socio-economic status along with so many socio-economic problems. Out of the total selected beggars of the Aligarh district, about 40 per cent of beggars wanted to quit this occupation if the government provides them better employment facilities, while, remaining 60 per cent denied to leave because it is an easy earning and less time consuming occupation. About 63 per cent beggars of rural areas and 57 per cent of urban beggars did not want to leave this occupation and were happy with it.

The question related to willing to live in an institution was also included in the questionnaire to know whether they were aware the government's policies and planning for them or not. Government provides shelters for the physically and mentally deficient persons with the medical treatment, shelter homes for the old and widows with the availability of the work,

child care centres (Mathura district of U.P. is one of them) and the work houses for the able-bodied or physically fit persons. Out of the total selected beggars, about 82 per cent beggars denied to live in these institutions because they were living with their families and few of them said that these institutions will not provide us free food and cloths, and begging is an easy and less time consuming and unexpected earning occupation. About 84 per cent beggars of rural areas and 79 per cent of urban beggars did not want to live in these institutions and was happy with this activity. The percentage of beggars who wanted to live in the institutions was higher in the urban areas rather than rural areas because these people are single or with small family size.

Whether these people are aware of the government policy to declare begging as a crime or not, is an important question, to know the knowledge of these people regarding the government policies to eradicate this activity from the society. Nearly, 75 per cent of beggars accepted that they knew about this crime and 25 per cent beggars were totally unaware from this information. About 79 per cent of rural areas and 71 per cent of urban areas beggars were aware with the government policy to declare begging as a crime and few of them wanted to leave it and some denied to leaving this activity because it is an easy earning occupation without any physical work.

CONCLUSION

The overall analysis of the study reveals that nearly, two-third of the working population of the beggars' households involved in whole time begging activities and rest are also do other works like labourer, orchestra, animal care, shoe polish, rag picking. Majority of beggars' households have 2-4 earning members and 2-4 dependents within their household. The main secondary occupations adopted by the selected beggars are labourers work either manual or agricultural (because they are unskilled and illiterate), animal care, selling items (vendor), cobbler, *playing with musical band* and others activities.

Most of the beggars were able-bodied and more than half beggars used direct or slogan method of begging. Most of the beggars (86 per cent) involved in this activity by their birth and they mainly preferred to move to the residential and market areas in the district. Almost all the beggars ask both cash and kind as alms

and the preferred time for begging is from morning to evening because at this time they receive higher response of the donors. The average daily income of the beggars in the district was only ₹ 51-100 per day. Nevertheless, the economic status of rural beggars is much better than their urban counterparts.

Nearly, fifty per cent beggars visited the places of begging by their foot and remaining beggars also used bus, cart, cycle, etc. as sources of mode of transportation. Half of the beggars of the district preferred to go outside their own village or town for begging purpose and the proportion of native places and the other states of India recorded high in the urban areas as compare to the rural areas in which beggars mainly move to the surrounding villages. Nearly, half beggars visit only one place in a day for begging purpose. The proportion of two to four places was recorded higher in rural areas (60 per cent), while, in the urban areas, about three-fourth people move only one place and gets enough amounts.

Only two per cent beggars reported insecure at their places of begging and half of the beggars were not satisfied with the attitude or behaviour of the donors. Government and the persons of the vicinity are the main sources of help in their needy conditions. Nearly, three-fourth beggars have accepted that they knew about begging is a crime and most of them still unable to leave this occupation because they lived in abject poverty, most of them was unskilled.

REFERENCE

- [1] Adedibu, A.A., 1989, Begging and Poverty in Third World Cities: A Case Study of Ilorin, Nigeria, *Ilorin Journal Business and Social Science (IJBSS)*, Vol.1, pp.25-40.
- [2] Adedibu, A.A. and Jelili, M.O., 2011, Package for Controlling Street Begging and Rehabilitating Beggars and the Physically Challenged in Nigeria: Paper for Policy Consideration. Global Categories of Street Beggars and Factors Influencing Street Begging, 143 *Journal of Human Social Science*, Vol.11, No.1, pp.17-24.
- [3] Bose, R. and Hwang, S.W., 2002, Income and Spending Patterns among Panhandlers, *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, Vol.167, No.5, pp.477-479.
- [4] Bromley, R., 1987, Begging in Cali: Image, Reality and Policy, *International Social Works*, Vol.24, No.2, pp.23-24.
- [5] Cama, K.H., 1945, Types of Beggars, In *Our Beggar Problem: How to tackle it*, ed. Kumarappa, J.M., Bombay: Padma Publications Ltd, pp.1-17.
- [6] Census of India, 2001, Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India. Primary Census Abstract, Series-1, Total Population: Table A-5. xli.
- [7] Chand, M. and Puri, V.K., 1990, *Regional Planning in India*, New Delhi: Allied Publishers Ltd. 165.
- [8] Clapper, T.M., 2012, *About Beggars*. eHow Contributor, http://www.ehow.com/about_4610585_beggars.html (last accessed 21 October 2010), p.1.
- [9] Collins, D. and Blomley, N., 2003, Private Needs and Public Space: Politics, Poverty, and Anti-Panhandling By-Laws in Canadian Cities, In Law Commission of Canada (Ed.), *New Perspectives on the Public-Private Divide*, 1. Vancouver: UBC Press.
- [10] CRISIS, 2003, *Begging and Anti-Social Behaviour: Crisis' Response to the White Paper Respect And Responsibility – Taking A Stand Against Anti-Social Behaviour*, http://www.crisis.org.uk/data/files/publications/AntiSoc_response%5B1%5D.pdf (last accessed 01 September 2009), pp. 1-9.
- [11] Dhruvasan, A.R., 1963, Is This a Part of Religion, *Social Welfare*, Vol.10, No.9, pp.10-12.
- [12] Esmonde, J., 2002, Criminalizing Poverty: The Criminal Law Power and the Safe Streets Act, *Journal of Law and Social Policy*, Vol.17, pp.63-86.
- [13] Jha, M., 1979, *The Beggars of a Pilgrim's City: Anthropological, Sociological, Historical and Religious Aspects of Beggars and Lepers of Puri*, Varanasi: Kishor Vidya Niketan, Bhadaini, p.35.
- [14] Lee, B.A. and Farrell, C.R., 2003, Buddy, Can You Spare A Dime? Homelessness, Panhandling, and the Public, *Urban Affairs Review*, Vol.38, pp.299-324.
- [15] Lynch, P., 2005, *Understanding and Responding to Begging (Australia)*, Melbourne: University Law Review.

- [16] Mukharjee, R., 1945, Causes of Beggary, In *Our Beggar Problem: How to tackle it*, ed. Kumarappa, J.M., Bombay: Padma Publications Ltd, pp.19-26.
- [17] Najafi, A., Hossein, A., Zadeh, H., Jafar, M. and Babaji, M.A., 2004, Material (Deterrent) Penalties, *Modarres Quarterly*, Vol.8, No.4, pp.23&31.
- [18] Namwata, B.M.L., Mgabo, M.R. and Dimoso, P., 2010, Demographic Dimensions and Their Implications on the Incidence of Street Begging in Urban Areas of Central Tanzania: The Case of Dodoma and Singida Municipalities, *Global Journal of Human Social Science*, Vol.11, No.4, pp.53-60.
- [19] Namwata, B.M.L., Mgabo, M.R. and Dimoso, P., 2012, Categories of Street Beggars and Factors Influencing Street Begging in Central Tanzania, *African Study Monographs*, Vol.33, No.2, pp.133-143.
- [20] Norberg, K., 1985, *Rich and Poor in Grenoble 1600-1814*, University of California Press.
- [21] Ogunkan, D.V. and Fawole, O.A., 2009, Incidence and Socio-Economic Dimensions of Begging in Nigerian Cities: The Case of Ogbomoso, *International NGO Journal*, Vol.4, No.12, pp.498–503.
- [22] Rowntree J., 2000, Rough Sleepers Resort to Begging as Alternative to Crime, www.jrf.org.uk. (last accessed 21 October 2010), pp.1-2.
- [23] Scott, M.S., 2002, *Panhandling*, Community Oriented Policing Services, U.S. Department of Justice, The Department, Washington, DC, pp.1-57.
- [24] Sharma, R.C., 1989, *Regional Planning for Social Development*, New Delhi: Criterion Publishing House, p.68.
- [25] Stohr, W. and Taylor, D.R.F., 1981, Development From Above and Below? The Dialectics of Regional Planning in Developing Countries, In *Regional Development Alternative: International Perspectives*, eds. Mabogunje A.L. and Misra, R.P., Singapore: Huntsmen Offset Printing Pvt. Ltd, pp.9-26.
- [26] Vikas Bhawan Office, Aligarh.
- [27] Wilson, G., 1991, Exposure to Panhandling and Beliefs about Poverty Causation, *Sociology and Social Research*, Vol.76, pp.14-19.