

**Socio-Economic Factors influencing people towards****Panhandling in District Quetta Pakistan:**

By

<sup>1</sup>Zohra Asad <sup>2</sup> Nasir Khan**Abstract:**

*Panhandling has become a critical social issue in under developed countries. There is different problem interlinked with it, like poverty, illiteracy, broken families and lack of jobs. Current study aims to investigate the social and economic causes of panhandling in District Quetta. The primary as well as secondary data is used for compilation of that study. The questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection from beggars for the sake of Primary data. According to the study the large no of beggars was illiterate and they were living in rented houses. They had no facility of clean drinking water, house ownership, energy facility and educational opportunities. The socio-economic aspects shown that panhandling was more common in uneducated males, elderly and married people The ratio of Muslims was high than non-Muslims as a socio cultural characteristics, because of the open heartedness of Muslims regarding charity. According to the findings of the study The Government, welfare department and NGO's should play a more constructive role to raze the crime of panhandling.*

**Keywords:** Panhandling, Begging, Poverty, Critical, Illiteracy, Primary, Secondary, Charity, NGO's, Zakat, ILO, Mazuma

**Introduction:**

The term Panhandling is a legal one which refers to the process of unlawful forms of public begging. As we know that beggars are present in every part of the world. Some of them are truly in need but taking this as an opportunity, lot of people have made it their way of earning and some groups has made this a network of business.(Swierczynski, D. 2002).

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In our country the ratio of charity work is higher than many other countries of world. Being Muslims the people has made this a part of their daily routine to do charity work in terms of helping people by giving donations and money as a Zakat where we can find beggars bagging in front of the mosques, restaurants, religious shrines, tourist places, street in groups or with family where they emphasize to act in the way that they could get the maximum sympathy of the people to get good money.(Walsh, A. 2010). The people get sympathy and provide them money which is leading to increase in their number and it has turned into a good profession while putting in a very little effort. It should also be taken in consideration that the poverty line has also increased due to bad management of country resources.(Bruhl, W., & Ball Jr, T. L.2016).

As it has become a business that is also leading to organized crime as the working people in this sector are poor and needy who cannot do any sort of work despite of its legal or illegal nature and taking this opportunity restricted felonious networks are turning into worldwide networks of crime. Few days before in it was in newspaper that a gang of baggers were arrested who were abducting the infants from hospitals and from Markets and not only that they were scanting the goods money and mobiles from the customers. (Greenberg, C. L. 1997).

As per BBC report “For many Pakistani Muslims, visiting a shrine and donating money to beggars go hand in hand but their generosity has encouraged the creation of a begging mafia which forces thousands of children into a life of slavery “Now, Panhandling or beggary have been receiving some attention by broadcasting fields, intellectuals, television, radio, officials domes either Governmental or Non-governmental and scholars. Even in its real shape beggary has not been considered as a crime in the other world, especially in Pakistan.

Albeit there are inadequate indicted documents which designated when and where the beseeching originated, sundry oral exercises betokened that it was originated when people commenced a diffident life across the whole world. For example, process of imploring had not transpired in primitive civilizations since these people commenced living and working jointly, and favored each other in sundry ways. But later when population commenced incrementing, reserves commenced reducing expeditiously, and then a contest commenced between human beings over inadequate resources to consummate and incremented their countless desiderata and desires. It is through this way that the “haves” and “have-nots originated. Then the have-nots did not become able to live and had quandaries to fit the situations so they commenced imploring as a way of meeting their essential wants Imploring phenomenon has seemed in cognation with

private property. In primitive societies, cadging had considered venerable and charity as a holy deed. (Swierczynski, D. 2002).

The difficulty of imploring commenced due to the disintegrating of the early convivial structures and support system as a result of socio-economic disorder and dissimilarities that had transpired in different time and different places in history. For example, the commencement of industrial revolution, revelation of America, wars of 16th and 17th century for outward magnification, the crusades and many other historical fluctuations which had rigorously affected the socioeconomic systems took sizably huge components of societies into beseeching, homelessness and larceny. Cadging is an antique phenomenon, which was firstly noted in Bible which showed the incapacitated beggars. Charities always sustained the continual expansion of the quandary of cadging. Muslim religion and Orthodox reflect charity and alms giving as holy act that will avail the adherents to procure an aeonian life in heaven. Beseeching is described as the action of obviating people on the roads to appeal for avail, for example in the shape of mazuma and aliment. There is a vigorous connection between imploring and rough slumbering, and the despair conditions and multifaceted desires of the people involved in these activities.

Cadging is an ecumenical phenomenon, and it has viewed to be more prominent in the third world countries. The quandary of beseeching has witnessed on the base of numerous issues that have arisen over time. (Weiler-Harwell, N. 2008).

Among them impecuniosity is the most common difficulty of imploring. Prevalent scarcity of basic desiderata to live a more salubrious life is another factor of imploring. Culture, physical incapacitation, lack of convivial security schemes, alcohol drug and wagering habits are other factors of cadging. Imploring has withal viewed more salient in major cities of Great Britain and in those of others industrial countries. (Ellison, C. G., & McFarland, M. J. 2013). These days, urbanization is being caused impecuniosity and societal vicissitudes in sundry urban areas of Pakistan. This leads to more earnest convivial quandaries, in which cadging is profoundly hazardous and a conspicuous one. In 2004, the International Labor Organization (ILO) carried out a research on cadging in Pakistan, which reveals that beseeching is fundamentally an urban phenomenon with regard to the profit of beseeching. The ILO withal focuses the very vital aspect of accumulation of imploring, in which people involve in cadging with other financial and substantial amount of income engendering activities, approving the cognations between cadging and other illicit activities such as drug use and sex work Khan (2013) observed that in advanced countries beggars generate mazuma(Money) by

exhibiting their skills, while in developing countries they live on the sympathy of community to make their livelihood. Gillin (1929) examined that beggary and vagrancy are the result of socio-economic disorders. High occurrence of beseeching is the result of expeditious rate of urbanization of families on major highways disrupting economic, convivial and political changes, where they face rigorous impecuniosity. (Yusuf, et, al 2012). According to the report of ILO (2009), there are twelve (12) million child bonded labor in Pakistan. Between them six (6) million are under the age of ten (10) years. An immensely colossal number of child labor 1.9 million was found in Punjab. According to the report of ILO, sixty-seven (67) such countries were found in the world where the condition of child labor was found very hazardous, among them Pakistan is at no. six (6) (Saeed, 2015). Vigorous gangs or mafias are trafficked children into beseeching throughout the world. Drug addiction is associated by the force child imploring. Third parties are utilized children into coerced imploring; both boys and girls are involved, who have coerced into cadging by strangers rather than their paren. Cadging is a vocation which needs commitment, interest and attention and characterized by assiduous rural-urban migration, high population magnification rate, high cost of living, minuscule income, and great unemployment rate. Imploring has been in presence since antediluvian. Cadging is a convivial issue having a challenge for urban planners. (Weiler-Harwell, N. 2008).

An astronomically immense number of incapacitated people found in streets are street beggars. This impecuniosity stricken persons get advantage of the economic condition of the most urban areas licit or illicit to get sempiternal denizens of these urban centers. Cadging as business is thought an evil as a beggar apostatizes and exploits others to fortify him rather than to consume his physical and spiritual power. Cadging is a multifaceted convivial issue causing by the several and interconnected individual and rudimentary shortages. It is the result of extreme degree of penury (Weiler-Harwell, N. 2008). In Pakistan, it is very frequent and an astronomically immense number of migrants are being caught into it there is a great difference in occurrence of impecuniosity among rural and urban areas of Pakistan. According to the Economic Survey of Pakistan (2006) there were 28% impecuniosity levels in rural areas and 15% in urban areas. Penury stricken take up cadging as an alternate designates of livelihood because they have no other option but to turn them into cadging. In this regard economic factors are dynamic reason for demanding.

**Study Area:**

This study is limited to Quetta city. The Quetta district has spread over an area of sq. 2,653 km<sup>2</sup>. It is a Provincial Capital of Balochistan and 10th largest city of Pakistan next to Islamabad. Its total population was estimated about 1,001,205million with annual average growth rate of 143% by BPS survey report. Quetta Division's population has gone up from over one-fourth of the province to over one-third. Quetta division population was 1.72 million or 26% of the province's population according the 1998 census. After nineteen years its population is now 4.2 million or 33.8% of the province's total population. The city occupies the north-western Balochistan near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border . Quetta is at an average elevation of 1,680 meters (5,510 feet) above sea level, Quetta serves as the learning center for the Balochistan province. The city has a number of government and private colleges and universities, including the following;

\* (UOB) University of Balochistan

\* (BUIEMS) Balochistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences

\*(SBK) Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University

\*Bolan medical college

\*Balochistan Agriculture College

\*Command and Staff College, Quetta, etc.

**Methodological Problems:**

The study area is a tough one; therefore, researcher faced different problems during conducting research. While concerning the moral and practical subjects, special concentration has been taken while collecting and designing data. Sampling problems were also faced from the location. To formulate a reliable sampling technique was also a hard task, as panhandlers are moveable and found everywhere. Different approaches were used to collect information about panhandlers in view of the study research.

### 3.2. Sampling Design:

In order to improve generalization and validity of the study a sample size of 100 beggars was used. Random sampling method was used for selection of beggars as beggars keep on moving from one place to another. Quetta city was selected as a sample for this study.

#### Data Collection:

This study is carried out by using both primary data as well as secondary data. Primary data were obtained with the help of questionnaires and direct interviewed methods in the field. Well-designed questionnaires were used for this purpose. Secondary data were obtained from different sources such as relevant textbooks, journals, district census reports, newspapers, previous thesis, and internet.

#### Data Analysis:

Primary data collected through questionnaires were entered into SPSS after necessary checking. Then different statistical techniques were applied to analyze it. To explore the relationships among several variables different tables were created. Z-score was applied to find out socio-economic problems faced by beggars. Descriptive statistics were applied to get frequency and percentages of coded responses. Locations of begging were marked with the help of Google Earth. Different maps were created in GIS.

#### Results and Discussion:

The impacts of demographic factors on socio-economic growth have become a fact of great concern with the appearance of modern demographic trends in developing countries in current decades. Socio-economic progress is greatly associated with demographic factors.

**Table 1. Gender Distribution**

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
MALE	66	66%
FEMALE	34	34%
TOTAL	100	100%

**Table 2. Age of Respondents**

<b>AGE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
15-20	05	05%
21-30	35	35%
31-40	25	25%
>40	35	35%
Total	100	100%

**Table 3. Marital status**

<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
Married	55	55%
Single	25	25%
Widow	16	16%
Divorced	04	04%
Total	100	100%

**Table 4. Education level of panhandler**

<b>EDUCATIONAL LEVEL</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
Illiterate	55	55%
Primary	10	10%
Middle	03	03%
Matric	01	01%
Religious	31	31%
Total	100	100%

**Table 5. House ownership**

<b>OWNERSHIP</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
Owned	25	25%
Rented	42	42%
Hut	33	33%
Total	100	100%

**Table 6. House type**

<b>HOUSE TYPE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
Pakka	19	19%
Kaccha	55	55%
Kaccha and Pakka	26	26%
Total	100	100%

**Table 7. Average daily income**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
0-1000	65	65%

1001-2000	35	35%
Above	05	05%
Total	100	100%

**Table 8. Religion of panhandler**

<b>RELIGION</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
Muslim	90	90%
Non-Muslim	10	10%
Total	100	100%

**Table 9. Panhandler's residential background**

<b>RESIDENCE AREA</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
Rural	34	34%
Urban	66	66%
Total	100	100%

**Table 10.Z score**

<b>NO</b>	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>STANDARD DEVIATION</b>
5	30	35.01428

**Table 11. The socio-economic factors influencing Panhandlers**

<b>S.NO OF FACTORS</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>%age</b>
Poverty	55	55%
Unemployment	22	22%
Family breakage	05	05%
Norms satisfaction	10	10%
Other	08	08%
Total	100	100%

**Table 12. Chi-square analysis of different variables**

SR.NO	HYPOTHESIS	x2	DF	P-VALUE
1	Total family income show the type of house	25.231	6	.000
2	Availability of water is the result of house ownership	119.245	3	.000
3	Good type of house is the indication of electricity	119.506	3	.000
4	Male monthly income increases or decreases by education	241.452	124	.000

Model	Sum of squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1Regression	6.672	1	6.672	23.059	.000
Residual	42.822	98	.289	-----	
Total	49.493	99	-----	-----	

**Conclusion:**

Panhandling which today has been adopted by a large number of people is the result of human and many other environmental factors. Therefore, main reasons of begging have originated from environmental, economic and socio-cultural problems that were examined in study area. There are a number of problems that have also contributed as a major part in resorting to begging by a large number of people. Unemployment and poverty are major social problems confronted by these people along with other ones such as i.e. family breakage, lack of education and various health issues. Begging is more pronounced in male and Muslims than in female and non-Muslims. Begging is a major source of earning for a large number of people regardless of age, sex, religion and marital status.

Begging develops when people exhibit to be more generous. Social facilities including non-governmental organizations are also pulling factors that attract many people towards begging.

**Recommendations:**

On the basis of said study the following recommendations have been suggested to lessen the occurrence of begging in the study area. There is no proper law that helps to alleviate the social issue of panhandling in Pakistan. Therefore, it is a need of hour to make solid laws throughout the country to eliminate this scourge. Family disorders, poverty and unemployment take people towards begging. Therefore, social welfare and rehabilitation facilities by counsellors, social workers, psychologists and professionals can provide help to those who are in need, thus helping them to lead a more meaningful life. There is need to establish different institutes like tailoring, gardening, and book binding and sewing for beggars so that they may keep themselves busy as well as earn their livelihood. Government and NGO's can offer old age funds to those beggars who are old aged and unable to do any work. Majority of the beggars in the study area were deprived from housing facilities, safe drinking water and electricity. By providing them these facilities society may keep them away from panhandling.

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