

# Identifying Children in Child Trafficking and Begging in Bihar: A Critical Study of the Rights of the Children

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## Abstract

The Indian environment is particularly prone to this issue since the country has a significant population of poor children, many of whom do not have parental care. As we know Poverty is one of the primary reasons why children are compelled to beg since their families may perceive it as a way to generate some money. Furthermore, children from marginalized areas are more vulnerable to trafficking, with traffickers preying on their vulnerabilities to entice them into exploitation. One thing is that generally, we predict that child trafficking happens with poor children only, but nowadays any child can be trafficked, whether they are poor or rich. The Indian environment is particularly prone to this issue since the country has a significant population of poor children, many of whom do not have parental care. In behind of that many reasons why children are compelled to beg since their families may perceive it as a way to generate some money. Furthermore, children from marginalized areas are more vulnerable to trafficking, with traffickers preying on their vulnerabilities to entice them into exploitation.

**Keywords:** Child Trafficking, Child Labour, Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Protection.

## INTRODUCTION

As we know according to Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act, of 2015, a Child means a person who has not completed eighteen years of age. Child trafficking and child begging are intertwined problems plaguing India for decades. Child begging has long been a problem in the country, with hundreds of youngsters discovered on city and town streets begging for money from passersby. Child trafficking, on the other hand, has been a major problem, with millions of people, including women and children, being trafficked each year globally. Concerns have grown in recent years about the relationship between these two occurrences, with reports claiming that many youngsters forced to beg on the streets are also victims of trafficking.

The Indian environment is particularly prone to this issue since the country has a significant population of poor children, many of whom do not have parental care. Poverty is one of the primary reasons why children are compelled to beg since their families may perceive it as a way to generate some money. Furthermore, children from marginalized areas are more vulnerable to trafficking, with traffickers preying on their vulnerabilities to entice them into exploitation. The Indian environment is particularly prone to this issue since the country has a significant population of poor children, many of whom do not have parental care. Poverty is one of the primary reasons why children are compelled to beg since their families may perceive

it as a way to generate some money. Furthermore, children from marginalized areas are more vulnerable to trafficking, with traffickers preying on their vulnerabilities to entice them into exploitation.

The association between child begging and child trafficking is complicated since it is sometimes impossible to tell whether a youngster is begging freely or being coerced. It is believed that up to 40,000 children are abducted in India annually, with at least 11,000 remaining untraced, underscoring the need for more surveillance of street children. Police officers frequently think that the adult accompanying the kid is a family member or a known individual, and they may fail to recognize indicators of trafficking.

This research paper examines the correlation between human trafficking and child begging in India. The study will specifically investigate why children are compelled to beg, the tactics used by traffickers to exploit them, and the solutions that may be implemented to alleviate this issue. The paper will draw on current studies, government reports, and the experiences of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and police forces working on the ground to address this issue. This study intends to contribute to continuing efforts to safeguard vulnerable children from exploitation and abuse by highlighting the relationship between human trafficking and child begging.

## **BACKGROUND TO THIS**

With over 1.4 billion people, India is one of the world's largest countries, making it a rich field for social challenges. One such concern is the widespread practice of child begging and human trafficking in the country. According to a National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report from 2016, there were 8,132 incidents of human trafficking registered in India, a considerable rise from the 5,466 cases reported in 2014. In these situations, 23,117 people were saved, primarily women and children. Concerns have grown in recent years about the relationship between child begging and human trafficking, with reports claiming that many youngsters forced to beg on the streets are also victims of trafficking. According to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), up to 40,000 children are kidnapped in India each year, with at least 11,000 of them being unaccounted for. This worrying figure reflects the magnitude of the problem and emphasizes the need for rapid action to solve it.

Children only five or six years old have been seen begging on the streets of India, where it is a frequent occurrence. They frequently may be seen asking for alms at traffic lights, outside of mosques and temples, and in other public locations. Most of the time, the children are accompanied by either their parents, relatives, or traffickers—adults who are any of these. Adults utilize these kids as labour, with the money typically going to human traffickers or being spent on booze and drugs. Children who are being trafficked are frequently coerced into begging by traffickers who promise them a better life or an education. They are then sent to other locations nationwide and forced to beg on the streets. The youngsters are exposed to physical abuse, hunger, and brutality to evoke more pity from bystanders.

These children frequently experience infections, hunger, and physical and psychological abuse, negatively impacting their physical and emotional well-being. Additionally, they are denied the chance to go to school and get an education, which feeds the cycle of exploitation and poverty. A multi-faceted strategy is necessary to address the problem of the connection between child begging and human trafficking. The government, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the larger society are all involved. The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, passed in 1956; the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, passed in 2015; and the National Policy for Children, adopted in 2013, are just a few of the laws and measures the government has put into place to combat child begging and human trafficking. More education and enforcement of these rules are still required, though.

In order to better understand the association between human trafficking and child begging in India, this research paper will examine the causes of children being made to beg, the strategies traffickers use to take advantage of them, and the steps that may be taken to remedy this issue. To thoroughly study the topic, the article will consult various sources, including academic literature, governmental papers, and NGO publications. This research aims to advance knowledge of the issue and inform practice and policy to end child begging and child trafficking in India.

### **The Interplay between Child Begging and Human Trafficking**

Child trafficking and child begging are two concerns that continue to haunt India. According to reports, many children forced to beg on the streets are also victims of human trafficking. The connection between human trafficking and child begging is a complicated and diverse issue that necessitates a detailed knowledge of the underlying causes and dynamics. Poverty is a significant contributor to the problem of child begging in India. India has one of the world's highest poverty rates, and many families struggle to make ends meet. For some families, sending their children out to beg is the only way for them to make ends meet.

Traffickers exploit this weakness by preying on impoverished families and seducing their youngsters into begging. Children are frequently promised a better life or an education before being trafficked and forced to beg on the streets. They are constantly monitored and are commonly subjected to physical and mental torture if they do not fulfill their daily quota. The relationship between human trafficking and child begging is exacerbated by the fact that begging is frequently perceived as a harmless and legal way of making a living. This is pervasive among the general population, including law enforcement officers, who often do not consider begging a severe issue. As a result, the kids forced to beg are frequently disregarded or neglected by authorities, allowing traffickers to operate with impunity.

Most of the time, these Children from marginalized groups, such as Dalits and Adivasis, are especially vulnerable to this type of exploitation. They are frequently denied access to schooling and vital services, making them more vulnerable to human trafficking. Traffickers employ a range of tactics to exploit youngsters forced to beg. They may abduct youngsters from their families or recruit them by falsely promising schooling or work. Once the children are in their care, the traffickers utilize violence and intimidation to keep them under control. They may even drug or maim them to gain pity from bystanders and therefore raise their profits.

Begging follows a seasonal pattern, with an increase in youngsters walking the streets right before festivals or after a natural disaster. This is because people are more charitable at these times and are more willing to offer money to beggars. To maximize their revenues, traffickers take advantage of these changes. Child begging and trafficking have catastrophic repercussions. Children are frequently wounded or burnt to elicit more compassion and money. The money they make is commonly given to traffickers or used to purchase booze and drugs. Children are denied an education and forced to labour long hours in dangerous situations. They experience physical and mental stress that can have long-term implications.

The traffickers typically get the money the kids earn through begging and retain a sizable percentage of it for themselves. Some of the funds are also used to purchase booze and narcotics, which are frequently used to keep the kids under control. Additionally, many of the kids experience both physical and sexual abuse.

### Things to Solve this Issue

- The connection between child begging and child trafficking is a complicated problem that demands a varied approach. One strategy is to address the **underlying causes of inequality and poverty**, which **increase children's susceptibility to exploitation**. This calls for spending money on social services that can assist elevate families out of poverty, such as healthcare, education, and social services.
- Another strategy is to **strengthen the reaction to child trafficking** and begging. This involves raising **awareness among law enforcement**, social professionals, and the general public about the connection between these two occurrences. It also involves strengthening law enforcement authorities' ability to investigate and prosecute incidents of human trafficking and child begging.
- There also needs to be a higher public awareness of the hazards of child begging and human trafficking. This can be accomplished by campaigns that emphasise the dangers of certain practises, as well as the legal and societal implications of engaging in them.
- Lastly, a greater **amount should be invested in social programmes** that address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability among children. Initiatives such as education and skill training programmes, as well as social welfare programmes that give cash help to needy families, might fall under this category.
- Several initiatives have been launched in recent years in India to address the relationship between human trafficking and child begging. "**Operation Rakshane**" in **Bengaluru** was one such project, which featured a concerted effort by law enforcement authorities and NGOs to rescue children who were forced to beg. The operation was a success, with hundreds of children rescued and traffickers apprehended.

### CONCLUSION

Child trafficking or Human trafficking and child begging in India are complicated and multidimensional issues that require a collaborative effort from all parties to overcome. The research shows a close correlation between these two events, with many youngsters forced to beg on the streets also being victims of trafficking. The causes for this range from poverty and illiteracy to criminal networks and the need for inexpensive labour. Traffickers' tactics of exploiting these vulnerable youngsters are frequently brutal and traumatic, including physical abuse, sexual exploitation, and forced drug addiction.

Despite the difficulties, there are numerous approaches that may be done to address this issue. improved public and law enforcement awareness and education are required, as also improved collaboration and coordination among all parties. This involves improved data collection and analysis, enhanced surveillance and monitoring of vulnerable groups, and effective victim assistance and rehabilitation programmes.

The experience of Operation Rakshane in Bengaluru demonstrates how interagency collaboration may be helpful in combatting human trafficking and child begging. The police were able to rescue hundreds of children and apprehend the traffickers by taking a proactive and systematic strategy. Their guidebook is a good pattern for other law enforcement organizations to follow, providing realistic recommendations for surveillance, data collecting, and rehabilitation.

However, tackling the problem of human trafficking and child begging needs a long-term commitment that includes a variety of treatments that address both the core reasons and the symptoms of the problem. This will need more resources and commitment from governments and civil society organizations, as well as a willingness to tackle the underlying social and economic inequities that fuel these types of exploitation.

## SUGGESTION

Child Trafficking or Human trafficking is a serious crime and an organized crime. It is grave violation of human rights as well as child rights and dignity. What we can do to prevent child trafficking not only in the source areas, but also in the transit and destination areas. The activities listed below are only indicative and not exhaustive. The all-responsible people can and should take innovative steps to end action points stated below as well as undertake other that are deemed proper in the given situation.

- Vulnerability Mapping: Identifying the vulnerable areas and persons and understanding the causes of vulnerability and developing targeted plans to address them.
- Awareness generation: undertake awareness and sensitization of the masses on what is trafficking, why persons are trafficked, how to identify traffickers and their recruiters, how to below whistle in an emergency, whom to contact etc.

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