

Breaking the Cycle of Injustice: Investigating Restorative Justice Solutions for Street Begging Children in Dhaka City, Bangladesh through a Comprehensive Socio-Legal Analysis

*Dr. S. M. Saiful Haque¹
Dr. Shambhu Prasad Chakrabarty²*

Abstract

Street children in Dhaka are subjected to subtle abuse, exploitation, and violence, like children in many third-world countries. Children are found in vulnerable conditions in street-side homes, public walkways, local bazaars, in front of big buildings, and at public gatherings. It contrasts with the UN SDGs' goals and juvenile rights conferred by articles 02 to 41 of the UNCRC³, the Children Act 2013, and many other national and international laws. Is it not the responsibility of the state to comply with the mandate under international laws and the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. What role have the special laws for women and children played in confirming safeguards from all forms of discrimination and vulnerabilities? Children should be safeguarded and free from all psychological, physiological, inhuman, and other nuances of human exploitation. This contrast to development objectives and the frequency of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse of street children in all spheres of social, economic, and cultural life is a major problem that reinvestigated the efficacy of the rule of law and challenged the restorative justice solution mechanism in place for street children in Dhaka City, Bangladesh. A comprehensive socio-legal analysis of the Children Act of 2013 was done using a mixed-methods approach. The study sought to identify the challenges to the effective execution of the Children Act 2013 in Bangladesh and explore how restorative justice approaches

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Daffodil International University, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

² Professor and Dean, Department of Law, University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata, India.

³ Convention on the Rights of the Child | UNICEF, <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention> (last visited Aug 15, 2021).

can break the cycle of injustice for the most deprived and vulnerable children in society. The study explores the socio-legal perspective through doctrinal and applied informatics approaches to explore, inter alia, the uprising rate of begging children on the streets of Dhaka. The study's findings explore the shortcomings of the restorative justice mechanism and attempt to address an alternative mechanism to deal with the root causes of street begging and promote social reintegration. This study included observations and interviews with key stakeholders and reviewed relevant literature and aims to provide insight into the effectiveness of protecting the rights and well-being of street children under the current legal system in providing protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration of street begging children under the Children Act 2013. The study addresses some specific reformations of the policy framework and practises to ensure better protection of the rights of street children and promote their social inclusion in the mainstream of city stakeholders in Dhaka. The findings of this research are expected to contribute to identifying evidence-based policy recommendations for improving the lives of street-begging children in Dhaka City.

Keywords: Restorative justice, Street begging children, Socio-legal analysis, Children Act 2013, Legal protection, Rehabilitation, and Social Inclusion in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

I. Introduction

A study conducted in 2017 by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)⁴ estimated that 1.8 million child labourers exist in Bangladesh, and though the recent BBS survey 2022 had no exact figure on the number of street children in Bangladesh, the report highlighted that the condition of street children is terrible and called for immediate steps. Another study by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS)⁵ in 2016 found that among the 600,000 street children in Bangladesh, a substantial number are engaged in begging. The study also revealed that many street children in Dhaka migrated from impoverished rural areas in search of work or due to various economic and social vulnerabilities.

⁴ Government of the Peoples Republic of Bnagladesh, *Bangladesh Statistical Survey on Street Children 2022*. <http://www.bbs.gov.bd/> (last visited March 01, 2023).

⁵ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), <http://www.bids.gov.bd/> (last visited Jul 2, 2023).

There is a lack of up-to-date graphical data on street beggars in Dhaka after the covid-19 pandemic. Still, the documented statistics highlighted the magnitude of the problem and the need for more concerted efforts to protect and support these vulnerable children in Bangladesh. The “Bangladesh National Child Labour Elimination Policy, 2010” and the “National Child Protection Policy, 2011”⁶ also provide guidelines for protecting children from exploitation, abuse, and neglect, but millions of children are on the street, taking it as their ultimate survival destination.⁷ This threatens their right to life and liberty, including the deprivation of minimum food access and healthcare facilities. This socio-legal study examines their vulnerabilities and analyses laws to identify socio-economic causes of this uprising's deviance.

This study closely observed and collected primary data on 150 child beggars aged 4 to 18 who are on the streets or very close to or adjacent to the streets of Dhaka city. An in-depth observation of their lifestyle, including their sufferings, family matters, and other social issues, was made. According to the study, a majority (53%) of street beggars are vulnerable, and 65% are separated from family members and stay with gangs or drug peddling groups. The study also revealed that 79% of street beggars are chain smokers, and almost 58% are habituated to taking dandy gum and other poisonous chemicals for pleasure and addiction. And alarmingly, 73% of street beggars are sexually exploited by adults and elderly people and closely linked with sex traders, gangs, and mastans.

Several governmental and non-governmental organisations are working to protect street children in Bangladesh in compliance with the existing legal framework. For instance, the Department of Social Services provides services and support to street children, while organisations like Save the Children,⁸ UNICEF,⁹ Jaggio

⁶ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *National Children Policy 2011*, 14 (2011), <http://ecd-bangladesh.net/document/documents/National-Children-Policy-2011-English-04.12.2012.pdf>.

⁷ BLAST-BANGLADESH LEGAL AID SERVICE TRUST & REFORM INTERNATIONAL)-PRI, *The Children Act 2013: A Commentary by Justice Imman Ali Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust Penal Reform International*, (2013), www.penalreform.org/keep-informed.

⁸ Save the Children | Bangladesh, <https://bangladesh.savethechildren.net/> (last visited Sep 2, 2022).

⁹UNICEF, EVERY CHILD COUNTS : REVEALING DISPARITIES, ADVANCING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS. (2014), <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED560009>. United Nations International

Foundation,¹⁰ BRAC,¹¹ and many others work to improve the lives of vulnerable children through various programmes and initiatives. While there are laws and regulations to protect street children in Bangladesh, more efforts are needed to ensure their rights are fully respected and that they have access to essential services, education, and protection.

This descriptive work is based on qualitative and quantitative data, and a mixed methods and techniques approach is applied to conduct the study. To compose primary data observation, “*Focus Group Discussion*” (FGD), case study, and use of key informants are used considering the objectives of the present study. This study uses secondary sources, too; it analyses scholarly books, journals, reports, relevant national and international legislation, case studies, newspapers, online documents, and some peer review publications as secondary data sources. Data accumulation and analysis for these primary and secondary sources conveniently determine the gap or drawback of the laws protecting human rights, especially for protecting people from inhuman treatment and torture.

The study aims to investigate and evaluate the current situation of child beggars in Bangladesh and compare it with international treaties, conventions, declarations, and national policies. Specific objectives included portraying the condition of child beggars in Bangladesh, observing existing laws and statutory safeguards to analyse the restorative justice scenario, and making suggestions to prevent child begging on the streets of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) <https://www.unicef.org/> (last visited Feb 20, 2023).

¹⁰JAAGO, A Child with JAAGO Foundation- JAAGO Foundation, https://jaago.com.bd/sponsor-a-child?utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_term=jaago_foundation_school&utm_campaign=&hsa_cam=13308229899&hsa_mt=b&hsa_ver=3&hsa_src=g&hsa_ad=524856972479&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_tgt=kwd753879564957&hsa_a_cc=2142028348&hsa_grp=122403805349&hsa_kw=jaago_foundation_school&gclid=Cj0KCCQjwl8anBhCFARIsAKbbpyTd_7XxGysAh9pKPONfo_HR V3neKMZyjjzjXFXF7-Q1J12zIC3wh-bgkaAt10EALw_wcB <https://jaago.com.bd/> (last visited Sep 2, 2022).

¹¹ Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), 1972. <http://www.brac.net/>. (last visited May 04, 2022).

II. Conceptual Frameworks

William Wordsworth rightly said that "the child is the father of man". Aligned with the statement, Bangladesh's legal framework for protecting street children's rights includes several laws and regulations. Bangladesh's Constitution¹² enshrines the rights of citizens, including the protection, care, education, and health of children. In addition, the Children Act of 2013¹³ is comprehensive legislation that outlines the rights and protections for all children in Bangladesh. Sec. 4 of the Children Act 2013¹⁴ defines a child as anyone below 18 years of age¹⁵ and prohibits all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect against children. It also guarantees children's rights to education, healthcare, and social security.

In many cases, children who beg in the street are subject to torture by those whom they trust and, in some cases, are sexually exploited to earn money.¹⁷ Child begging is a significant global problem linked to health concerns, insufficient educational opportunities, gender inequality, and poverty. Though child begging is a substantial problem in Bangladesh. Not many empirical studies have been undertaken to determine the issue's magnitude and spatial distribution at the national level and its relationship with poverty in Bangladesh. A sharp rise in child beggars has spread alarmingly in Bangladesh. It is time to address the issue more precisely, explore avenues to rehabilitate child beggars between 4-18 years old, analyse legal efforts to counter the illegal trade of begging, and address Bangladesh's problem of child beggars.

III. Literature Review

Most of the reviewed literature highlights the precarious living conditions of street children in Dhaka City,¹⁸ including experiences of extreme poverty, social

¹² BD CONST. Art 8-Art 19.

¹³ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *The Children Act 2013*, www.bdlaws.gov.org (2016), Act No. XXIV of 2013 (Bangl.)

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *supra* note 13.

¹⁶ Children Act 2013, § 4, *Supra* Note 6.

¹⁷ UNICEF, *supra* note 9.

¹⁸ RAHMAN, M.A. (2014), Street children at Dhaka City: Concept, causes and recommendation, SSRN ELECTRONIC JOURNAL [Preprint]. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2376790>.

exclusion, and marginalisation, which make them susceptible to various physical, emotional, and psychological problems.¹⁹ The reviewed studies indicated that street children often lack access to basic needs, such as adequate shelter, food, clean water, sanitation facilities, and essential healthcare services.²⁰ The reviewed research articles also reveal that street children in Dhaka city face various social, economic, and cultural challenges, engaging in hazardous labour, such as begging, street vending, rag-picking, and sex work, which expose them to risks of exploitation, abuse, and violence.²¹ They face discrimination and stigmatisation from the broader society and law enforcement agencies, who often view them as a nuisance or a threat.²² Some street children rely on religion and spirituality to cope with their difficulties and find a sense of purpose and belonging.²³ The reviewed literature also identifies several coping mechanisms and resilience factors that street children use to survive and thrive in challenging circumstances. For instance, some street children form peer groups and support networks to protect themselves from harm and to meet their basic needs.²⁴ They also develop various survival strategies, such as street smartness, adaptability, and resilience, which enable them to navigate the complex and unpredictable urban environment.²⁵

The reviewed studies highlight the need for comprehensive and integrated interventions to address the complex challenges faced by street children in Dhaka

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ KHAN, A., BURTON, N.W. AND TROST, S.G. (2017), Patterns and correlates of physical activity in adolescents in Dhaka City, Bangladesh, *Public Health*, 145, pp. 75–82. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2016.12.011>.

²¹ Abedin et al., *Street Children in Bangladesh: A Critical Review of the Literature* (2019); Hossain, *The Life of Street Children in Dhaka City* (2019); Rashid et al., *Survival Strategies of Street Children in Dhaka City* (2018); Rahman, *Life of the Street Children in Dhaka City* (2017); Saha, *Life and Livelihood of Street Children in Dhaka City* (2018).

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Hossain, M. S. (2019). Street Children: An Overview of the Phenomenon, Concepts, and Policies. *Children & Society*, 33(2), 93-105; Khan, M. A. (2020). The Plight of Street Children in Bangladesh: A Study on the Necessity of Empowerment. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 13(4), 489-498; Uddin, M. S. (2020). Human Rights Violation of Street Children in Dhaka City, Bangladesh. *Journal of Human Rights and Social Work*, 5(3), 175-187.

City. The interventions should prioritise providing basic needs, such as shelter, food, and primary healthcare, as well as protecting their rights and dignity.²⁶ Root causes of child begging, such as poverty, Inequality and social exclusion, must also be countered. Social inclusion and empowerment of street children²⁷ must also be promoted. Finally, the interventions should involve a multi-sectoral approach, engaging major stakeholders, such as government agencies, civil society organisations, and community groups, to ensure sustainability and effectiveness.²⁸ The review has focused on literature that provides valuable insights into the lived experiences of street children in Dhaka and the challenges and opportunities of working with this vulnerable population. It underscores the urgent need for concerted efforts to protect and promote the rights and well-being of street children and to build a more inclusive and just society for all.

Another study investigated street beggars' health status and healthcare-seeking behaviour in Dhaka City.²⁹ The study found that street beggars face several health issues, including respiratory problems, skin diseases, and injuries. However, they were less likely to seek healthcare due to financial constraints and a lack of awareness. Basic, affordable healthcare and accessibility are two primary challenges the country needs to address.

A study explored the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in improving the socioeconomic conditions of street beggars in Dhaka City.³⁰ The study found that NGOs significantly provided street beggars with healthcare, education, and vocational training. Last but not least, Ahmed and Haque's study looked at how COVID-19 affected street beggars in Dhaka City and discovered that they suffered greatly as a result of the pandemic due to a loss of income and increased health risks as a result of their occupation. The study emphasises the

²⁶ *Supra* note 17.

²⁷ *Supra* note 10 & 13.

²⁸ Md Manjur Hossain Patoari, *Socio-Economic, Cultural and Family Factors Causing Juvenile Delinquency and Its Consequences in Bangladesh: A Look for Way Out*, 7 *ASIAN J. SOC. SCI. MANAG. STUD.* 89 (2020).

²⁹ Alam, M.M. et al. (2022), *Impacts of health and economic costs on street children working as waste collectors in Dhaka City*, <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/e269a>.

³⁰ Susan Bennett, Stuart N. Hart & Kimberly Ann Svevo-Cianci, *The Need for a General Comment for Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Toward Enlightenment and Progress for Child Protection*, 33 *CHILD ABUS. NEGL.* 783 (2009).

need for targeted interventions to support street beggars during the pandemic.³¹

The literature review suggests that street beggars in Dhaka City face significant socioeconomic challenges, including poverty, social exclusion, and health issues. While NGOs have played a crucial role in improving their conditions, sustainable interventions that address the root causes of poverty and social exclusion must be prioritised. Moreover, targeted interventions are required to support street baggers during crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In conclusion, street begging is a complex issue in Dhaka city, driven by poverty, a lack of access to education, and the absence of social protection systems. To address this issue, it is important to implement a range of strategies that address these underlying factors, including education and vocational training, social protection programmes, and efforts to address poverty and inequality in the city. By taking a holistic approach, including legal introspection, to the issue of street begging, it is possible to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families in Dhaka.

IV. Understanding the Laws on Children in Bangladesh

The right to life, liberty, and security of persons, as well as the prohibition of forced labour and discrimination, is secured by the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights-UDHR” adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. Bangladesh is subject to the declaration's provisions as a signatory.³² The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) recognises that all human beings, including children, are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Article 5 of the UDHR prohibits torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment for all individuals, while Article 7 guarantees equal protection under the law without any discrimination. Bangladesh, a signatory to the UDHR, must respect its provisions, which uphold and protect the right to life, liberty, and security and prohibit discrimination based on race, colour, or religion. These provisions provide protection for street beggars.³³The “International Covenant on

³¹ Md. Rakibul Islam Ahmed & Md. Anwarul Haque, Impact of COVID-19 on Street Beggars in Dhaka City, 14 INT'L J. OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS 64, 66-67 (2021).

³² Universal Declaration of Human Rights, G.A. Res. 217A (III), U.N. Doc. A/RES/217(III) (Dec. 10, 1948)

³³ Ibid.UDHR, 1948.

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)”³⁴ recognises the right to a minimum standard of life, including access to food, clothing, shelter, and the right to employment and social security. Bangladesh signed the Covenant in 1998, thereby committing to its terms. These rights protect street beggars in the country.³⁵ The “UN Convention on the Rights of the Child-UNCRC”³⁶ that Bangladesh signed in 1990, acknowledges every child's right to an acceptable standard of life, including food, clothing, shelter, and education. As a signatory to the Convention, Bangladesh must make positive efforts to protect the rights of child beggars in the country.³⁷ Under international law, the rights of begging children are protected. Begging is considered a form of social deviance and a social problem as it involves requesting money without the intention of reimbursing or providing services in return. Child begging, a form of forced child labour, delivers children to another person to exploit their work.³⁸ Forced child begging may also involve trafficking for begging, which is defined as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons for exploitation.³⁹

A. Definition of Child

According to the “*United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child*”(UNCRC 1989), *Article 1* provides that “a child, for the Convention, refers to every human being below the age of eighteen years unless a majority is attained earlier under the law applicable to the child”⁴⁰a child is an individual under the age of 18. In Bangladesh, there are various legal definitions of a child.

³⁴ International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), art. 10, 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 49, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), entered into force Jan. 3, 1976.

³⁵ International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), U.N. Doc. A/RES/2200A (XXI) (Dec. 16, 1966).

³⁶ Convention on the Rights of the Child, G.A. Res. 44/25, Annex, 44 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 49A) at 167, U.N. Doc. A/44/49 (Nov. 20, 1989).

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ De Boer-Buquicchio, M., 2020. Sale of Children and Trafficking in Children as International Crimes. The Palgrave International Handbook of Human Trafficking, pp.1341-1359.

³⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000).

⁴⁰ Convention on the Rights of the Child art. 1, Nov. 20, 1989, 1577 U.N.T.S. 3.

Section 4 of the Children Act of 2013” mentioned defines a child as someone under 18⁴¹, while the “Women and Children Oppression (Amendment) Prevention Act 2003 considers a person under 16 as a child. Under Muslim Shariah law, a child becomes an adult upon reaching the teenage age, typically 12 for girls and 15 or 16 for boys. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) acknowledges the need for special protection and assistance to prevent the economic and social exploitation of children.⁴² Bangladesh ratified the ICESCR in 1998, recognising the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothing, and housing, protecting street beggars living in poverty (ICESCR, Art. 11).⁴³ Moreover, Article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) mandates the adoption of special protection measures for children, regardless of their social status or circumstances, to prevent discriminatory action against them.⁴⁴ The CRC emphasises the importance of providing children with a loving and understanding environment, adequate nutrition, housing, medical care, education, and protection from neglect, cruelty, and exploitation, reinforcing the ICCPR's principles. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets forth ten principles emphasising children's right to equality, protection, and physical, mental, and social opportunities. These principles provide a framework for ensuring children's rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled (UNCRC, Art. 3).⁴⁵

Bangladesh ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2007, which recognises the rights of persons with disabilities, including those who engage in begging due to their disability, and

⁴¹ *Supra* note 6, Children Act, 2013, § 4, Acts of Parliament (Bangladesh).

⁴² *Supra* note 28. International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), art. 10, 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 49, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), entered into force Jan. 3, 1976.

⁴³ Bangladesh, International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2F1990%2F5&Lang=en (last visited Apr. 3, 2023).

⁴⁴ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, G.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), art. 24, 999 U.N.T.S. 171, entered into force Mar. 23, 1976.

⁴⁵ Convention on the Rights of the Child, G.A. Res. 44/25, art. 2, 3, 28, Nov. 20, 1989, 1577 U.N.T.S. 3, entered into force Sept. 2, 1990.

mandates appropriate support and services for such persons.⁴⁶ Bangladesh also ratified the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 29 in 1972, which prohibits forced labour, including forced begging.⁴⁷

In the national context, several laws and regulations provide protection for street beggars in Bangladesh. The Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees the right to life and liberty, prohibits discrimination based on occupation or economic status, and contains provisions that aim to protect children's rights (Constitution of Bangladesh, Art. 28(4), 29(3), 31, 32, 34, 47, 15, and 17).⁴⁸ The Children Act 2013,⁴⁹ the Prevention of Oppression Against Women and Children Act 2000,⁵⁰ and the National Child Policy 2011⁵¹ are some laws and policies enacted to protect children's rights in Bangladesh.⁵² The Penal Code of 1860⁵³ considers begging a potential public nuisance and a punishable offence under Section 268, which considers anyone causing common injury, danger, or annoyance to the public or people nearby guilty of a public nuisance. Such actions may be subject to a fine of up to 200 taka (Penal Code of Bangladesh, Sec. 268 and 290).⁵⁴

B. Criminal Responsibility of Child

In Bangladesh, the age of criminal responsibility is 9 years old, according to Section 83 of the Penal Code of 1860.⁵⁵ As a result, a child who is aged 9 years

⁴⁶ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, G.A. Res. 61/106, art. 27, Dec. 13, 2006, 2515 U.N.T.S. 3, entered into force May 3, 2008.

⁴⁷ International Labour Organization, Forced Labour Convention, No. 29, June 28, 1930, 39 U.S.T. 55, ratified by Bangladesh on Sept. 14, 1972.

⁴⁸ Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, art. 31, 32, 34, 47, 15, available at http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/print_sections_all.php?id=367.

⁴⁹ Children Act, 2013, Act No. 24 of 2013, The Bangladesh Gazette, Extraordinary, June 10, 2013.

⁵⁰ Prevention of Oppression Against Women and Children Act, 2000, Act No. 8 of 2000, The Bangladesh Gazette, Extraordinary, May 9, 2000.

⁵¹ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *supra* note 6.

⁵² National Child Policy, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, 2011.

⁵³ Government of Bangladesh, *The penal code*, 65 BANGALDESH GOVERNMENT 3255 (1860).

⁵⁴ Penal Code, 1860, § 268, Act No. XLV of 1860, The Bangladesh Gazette, Extraordinary, Oct. 6, 1860.

⁵⁵ Penal Code of Bangladesh 1860, § 83, Act No. XLV of 1860, The Bangladesh Gazette, Extraordinary, Oct. 6, 1860.

or older can be charged and sentenced for begging under Section 2(14) of the Vagrant and Shelterless Person (Rehabilitation) Act of 2011.⁵⁶ Such a child can be detained for up to two years in a shelter home under section 10. Furthermore, begging is considered a public nuisance under Section 268 of the Penal Code of 1860.⁵⁷ The section states that a person is guilty of a public nuisance if they perform any act that causes common injury, danger, or annoyance to the public or the people who occupy property in the vicinity. This section provides that a common nuisance is not excused even if it causes some convenience or advantage. Such acts of public nuisance are punishable by a fine of up to Tk 200.

The Children Act 2013⁵⁸ has replaced the outdated Children Act 1974 and the Children Rules 1976⁵⁹ to comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) of 1989.⁶⁰ According to this Act, anyone who assaults, abuses, neglects, abandons, or obscenely exposes a child, causing unnecessary suffering or injury, is charged with an offence. The punishment for such an offence is imprisonment for up to five years, a fine of up to one lakh taka or both.⁶¹ The act also considers it an offence to engage a child in begging or to encourage the practice. Anyone found guilty of such an act will face imprisonment for up to five years or a fine of up to one lakh taka or both.⁶²

C. Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is an approach to the justice delivery system that acknowledges every child's right to natural justice, namely "*audi alterem partem*" in particular. Restorative justice also takes child rights seriously by creating a safe space for them where they can take their responsibility and engage in every matter that revolves around them. The principal facets of restorative justice include the voluntariness, confidentiality, and impartiality of the facilitators. In matters concerning children who are in conflict with the law, restorative justice prioritises reintegration, support, and empowerment.

⁵⁶ Vagrant and Shelterless Person (Rehabilitation) Act 2011, § 2(14).

⁵⁷ Penal Code, 1860, § 268, Act No. XLV of 1860, The Bangladesh Gazette, Extraordinary, Oct. 6, 1860.

⁵⁸ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *supra* note 13.

⁵⁹ Children Rules 1976, (1976).

⁶⁰ Convention on the Rights of the Child | UNICEF, *supra* note 3.

⁶¹ Children Act 2013, § 76.

⁶² Children Act 2013, § 80, 84, 89d.

D. Restorative Justice under the Children Act, 2013

Child Development Centres

Section 59 of the Children Act 2013⁶³ mandates the government to establish and maintain an adequate number of child development centres, categorised by gender, for the accommodation, correction, and development of children who have been ordered to be detained in judicial proceedings or are under trial.⁶⁴ Additionally, Section 60 of the Children Act 2013⁶⁵ allows non-governmental institutions to be established and operated by individuals, organisations, or institutions with government permission to further restorative justice efforts.

Disadvantaged Children and Alternative Care

Under section 89(d) of the Children Act 2013⁶⁶, any child engaged in begging or any activity that endangers their well-being is classified as a disadvantaged child. Section 84⁶⁷ allows for alternative care to promote underprivileged children's overall welfare and best interests. Section 45 specifies that institutional care can be facilitated through designated institutions such as government-run children's homes (Sharkari Shisu Paribar), baby homes (Chotomoni Nibash), training and rehabilitation centres, government shelter homes, and any other institutes determined by the government.⁶⁸

E. Restorative Justice under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

If a criminal court sentences a person under fifteen years to imprisonment for any offence, Section 399(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898⁶⁹ provides an alternative option. Instead of being imprisoned in a criminal jail, the court can direct that the person be confined in a reformatory as a suitable place for confinement, where appropriate discipline and training in a helpful industry are provided. Alternatively, the person can be confined in an institution run by an individual willing to comply with government regulations regarding the

⁶³ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *supra* note 13.

⁶⁴ Children Act 2013, § 59.

⁶⁵ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *supra* note 13.

⁶⁶ Children Act 2013, § 89(d).

⁶⁷ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *supra* note 13.

⁶⁸ Children Act 2013, § 45.

⁶⁹ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh et al., *The code of criminal procedure, 1898*, 1973 39 (1973).

confinement, discipline, and training of the individuals placed in their care.⁷⁰

F. Relevant Laws

The Prevention of Oppression Against Women and Children Act 2000 considers anyone who causes disabilities, disfigurement, or damage to a child's body parts, making them beggars or selling their body parts, a punishable offence. The punishment for such an act is death or rigorous imprisonment for life, along with a fine.⁷¹

The government has recently approved new laws to combat "beggar masters" who forcibly engage in amputating the body parts of children for money. The Children Act 2013 includes punishment for forcing anyone to beg, punishable by five years in jail and a fine of 500,000 takas (7,000 dollars). Anyone found guilty of severing the limb of a beggar and then sending them onto the streets will also face punishment under this law.⁷² Street beggars in Dhaka City are a common sight. These people live on the streets and collect garbage for a living. Despite their significant contribution to the city's cleanliness, their living conditions and social status are often neglected.

The Begging (Control) Act, 1959: This Act regulates begging in Bangladesh and provides for the punishment of those who engage in or encourage begging. However, this act has been criticised for being discriminatory towards beggars and violating their rights.⁷³

The Protection and Welfare of the Destitute Persons Act, 2001: This Act provides for the protection and welfare of destitute persons, including street beggars. It includes provisions for establishing shelters and rehabilitation centres for destitute people.⁷⁴

The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012: This act criminalises all forms of human trafficking, including the trafficking of beggars, and provides protection to victims of trafficking.⁷⁵

⁷⁰ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, § 399(1).

⁷¹ Prevention of Oppression Against Women and Children Act 2000, § 12.

⁷² Vagabond and Street Beggars Rehabilitation Act, 2010.

⁷³ Begging (Control) Act, 1959.

⁷⁴ Protection and Welfare of the Destitute Persons Act, 2001.

⁷⁵ Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012.

The National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC) 2016-2021 is a strategic document that outlines the government's commitments to protecting the rights of all children, including street children. The NPAC aims to ensure that children have access to essential services, are protected from violence and abuse, and have their voices heard.⁷⁶

V. Relevant Discussion & Findings

Street children are a global phenomenon, present in every country in the world.⁷⁷ In Bangladesh, the number of street children is exceptionally high, with an estimated 1.5 million nationwide, and the figure is expected to increase significantly, addressed by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).⁷⁸ Two main categories of street children have been identified in Bangladesh: those who live and sleep in public spaces and those who work on the streets during the day but return home to their families at night to rest.⁷⁹ The second category includes child beggars who work on the streets to support themselves and their families.⁸⁰

Dhaka is the capital city of Bangladesh, situated in the central region and north of the Buriganga River. It has a population of more than 23 million as of 2023, making it one of the most densely populated cities globally (World Population Review, 2021).⁸¹ Due to the high poverty rate in Bangladesh, millions of street children in Dhaka struggle to survive on the streets without necessities such as food, shelter, and education. The UNICEF Bangladesh report 2021 mentioned that these children often work in dangerous conditions and are exposed to violence and abuse while having limited access to healthcare services.⁸² Although the government of Bangladesh and non-governmental organisations are trying to

⁷⁶ National Plan of Action for Children, 2016–2021

⁷⁷ Supra note 3.

⁷⁸ Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), *Street Children in Bangladesh: A Situation Analysis* (Dhaka: BIDS, 2017), 3.

⁷⁹ Nahid Begum, "Street Children in Bangladesh: Issues and Interventions," *Journal of Children and Poverty* 19, no. 2 (2013): 83-84.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ World Population Review Report 2023. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/dhaka-population>. Accessed on January 2023.

⁸² Marjan, N., Rahman, A., Rois, R. and Rahman, A., 2021. Factors associated with coverage of vitamin a supplementation among Bangladeshi children: mixed modelling approach. *BMC Public Health*, 21(1), pp.1-11.

address the issue of street children in Dhaka through various programmes and interventions, the problem persists due to various socio-economic factors.⁸³

Based on the data presented in Table 1, annexed as Annexure No. 1, the following findings can be made regarding the socio-demographic characteristics of street-begging children in the Dhaka City Area, Bangladesh. Gender: Out of the total population of 150 street-begging children, 72% are male, and 28% are female. This indicates that male children are more likely to be involved in street begging than female children. Age Criteria: The majority of street-begging children fall within the age ranges of 10–12 (29.34%) and 13–15 (23.33%), followed by 7-9 (20.66%), 16–18 (11.34%), and 4-6 (15.33%). This indicates that older children are more likely to be involved in street begging than younger children.

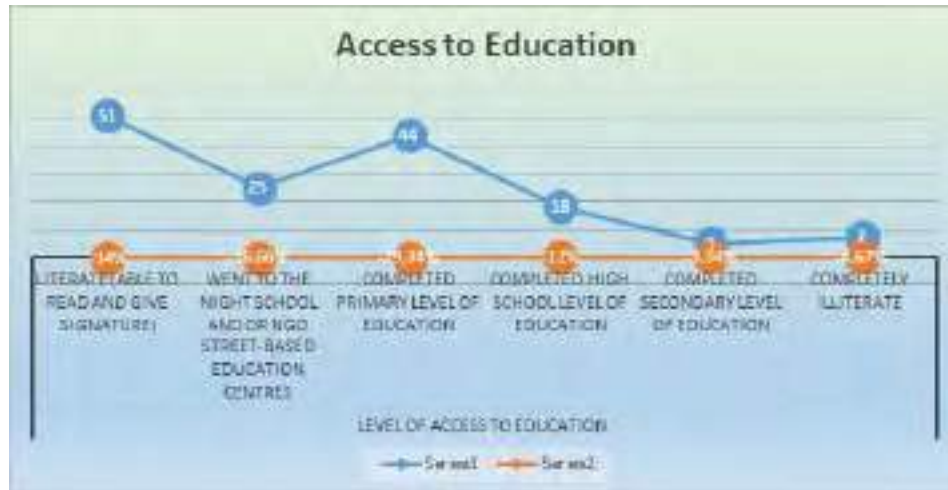


Parental Occupation

Considering the parental livelihood of street-begging children, the highest number of occupations reported was begging (43.33%), followed by small tea/shop owners (10%) and rickshaw/ban drivers (14%). Among the mothers of street-begging children, the highest number of occupations reported was also begging (36.67%), followed by housewives (10%) and street-side tea stall owners (10.67%). These findings suggest that street-begging children come from families

⁸³ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics Survey on Street Children in Bangladesh 2022. Summary published in April 2023. The Financial Express, <https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/national/378pc-street-children-leave-home-for-poverty-hunger-bbs-survey-shows>. Last visited on April 28, 2023.

with low-income backgrounds, and begging is a common occupation for their parents.

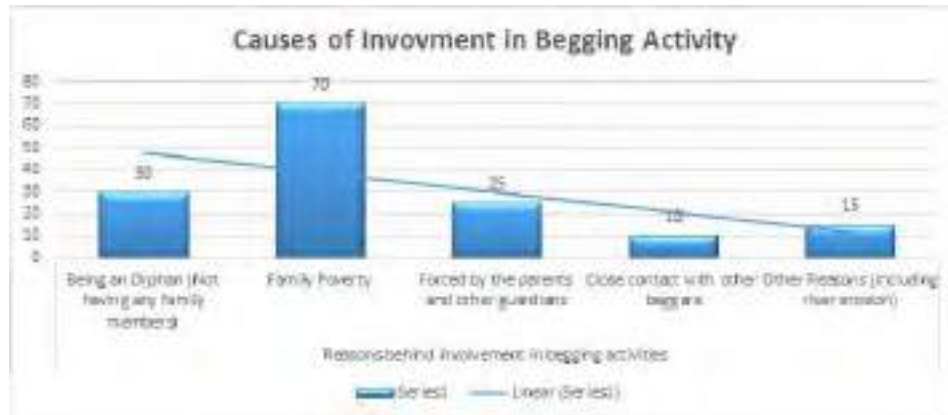


Level of Access to Education: 34% of street-begging children are literate and able to read and give signatures, while 16.66% went to night schools or NGO street-based education centres. 29.34% completed primary level education, 12% completed high school level education, and 3.34% completed secondary level education. Only 4.67% of street-begging children are entirely illiterate. These findings suggest that while a significant proportion of street-begging children have access to education, a considerable proportion also lack adequate education.

Overall, the findings suggest that street-begging children in Dhaka City Area come from families with low-income backgrounds and lack access to an adequate education. Addressing the socio-economic issues faced by the families of these children is crucial to addressing the issue of street begging. The Children Act 2013 can be critical in ensuring restorative justice for street-begging children by providing them access to education, healthcare, and protection from exploitation and abuse.

Table: 02: annexed as annexure No. 02 addressed Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Street-Begging Children and Their Family analysis to understand the patterns and trends to draw meaningful conclusions.

Reasons behind involvement in begging activities



The data suggest that family poverty is the most common reason behind the involvement of children in street begging activities, with 70 respondents (46.67%) stating it as the reason. This is followed by being an orphan with 30 respondents (20%) and being forced by parents and guardians with 25 respondents (16.66%). Close contact with other beggars was cited as the reason by only 10 respondents (6.66%). 15 respondents (10%) gave other explanations, which included river erosion.

Monthly income of street beggars’ children



The data suggests that the monthly income of street beggars’ children varies widely. The highest number of respondents, 44 (29.34%), reported earnings between 2001-4000, followed by 43 (28.66%) reporting earnings between 4001-6000, and 27 (18%) reporting earnings between 6001-8000. The lowest number of respondents, 13 (8.67%), reported earning between 8001-10000, and 23 (15.33%) reported earning less than 2000.

Connecting Occupations



The data suggest that street begging is not the only occupation of children. The highest number of respondents, 41 (27.34%), reported being beggars. This was followed by Khuli with 11 respondents (7.33%) and Tokaay with 15 respondents (10%). Rickshaws and ban drivers were the connecting occupations for 21 respondents (14%), and restaurant workers were the connecting occupations for 10 respondents (6.66%). Other connecting occupations, such as day labourers, peasants, hawkers, chintay and drug dealers, and small tea shop workers, were cited by a smaller number of respondents.

Custodians and Family Contacts

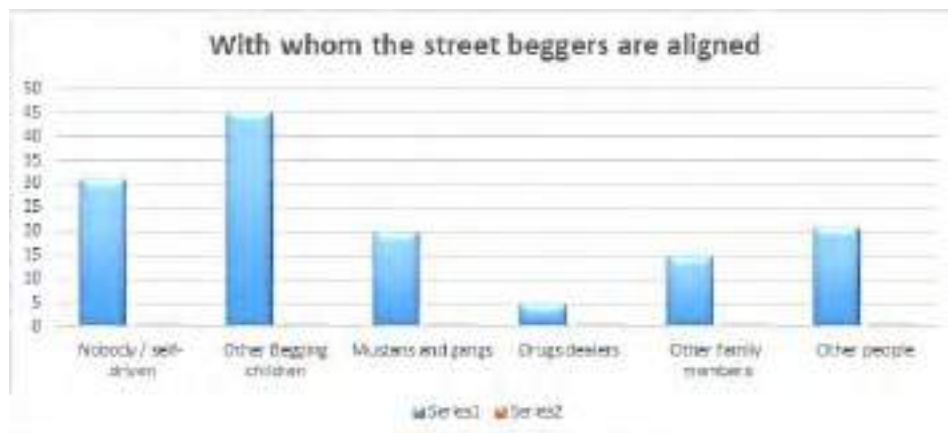
The data suggest that fathers are the most common custodians and family contacts of children involved in street begging, with 58 respondents (38.66%) reporting it. Mothers were the custodians and family contacts for 35 respondents (23.34%). 24 respondents (16%) stated that there was no family connection. A smaller number of respondents mentioned other custodians and family members, such as maternal relatives, grandfathers, other members of the parental side, and others.

Who forced them to do street begging?



The data suggests that parents are the most common people who force children to beg, with 84 respondents (56%) reporting it. Elder brothers and sisters were the next most common, with 16 respondents (10.67%), followed by themselves, with 14 respondents (9.33%). Street gangs, street mustangs, and friends were also reported as the people who force children to beg.

With whom they are closely intimated on the streets



The data suggests that other begging children are the most common people with whom street begging children are closely intimated, with 45 respondents (30%) reporting it. Nobody or self-driven was the second-most common, with 31 respondents (20.67%), followed by mastans and gangs, with 20 respondents (13.33%). Other family members and other people were also reported as the people with whom street-begging children are closely intimated.

The data suggest that family poverty is the most common reason behind the

involvement of children in street begging activities, and fathers are the most common custodians and family contacts of street begging children. Parents are the most common people who force children to beg, and other begging children are

Table 3, annexed as annexure No. 03, shows the victimisation dimensions of the respondents.

According to the study, being an orphan (20%), having parents or other guardians force you to beg (16.66%), being in close contact with other beggars (6.66%), and other reasons (10%) were the main causes of involvement in begging activities. These findings highlight the importance of addressing poverty as a critical factor in reducing the prevalence of begging activities.

Monthly income of street beggars' children

The study found that most street beggars' children earn between 2001-4000 (29.34%) and 4001-6000 (28.66%) monthly. This suggests that although these children are involved in begging activities, they are able to generate some income for themselves and their families. However, a significant number of children (15.33%) earn less than 2000 per month, which may contribute to their vulnerability to poverty and begging activities.

Connecting Occupations

The study found that most street beggars were also involved in other occupations, such as rickshaw and ban drivers (14%), restaurant workers (6.66%), day labourers (6.66%), hawkers (9.33%), and small tea/shop workers (4%). However, 27.34% of beggars listed begging as their primary occupation, suggesting that some individuals may have limited options for generating income and resort to begging as a last resort.

Custodians and Family Contacts

The study found that fathers were the most common custodians and family contacts for street beggars' children (38.66%), followed by mothers only (23.34%), no family linkage (16%), and others (21.34%). These findings suggest that family support may play a role in protecting children from street begging activities.

Who forces street begging

The study found that parents were the foremost perpetrators of forcing children into street begging (56%), followed by elder brothers and sisters (10.67%), self (9.33%), and friends, street gangs, and street mustangs (all under 10%). These findings highlight the need for targeted interventions to prevent parents and caregivers from forcing children into begging activities.

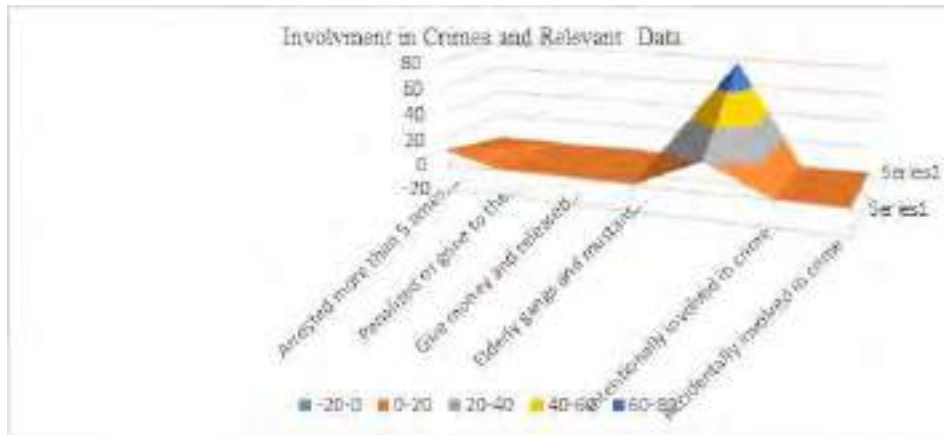
With whom they are closely intimated on the street

The study found that most street beggars were closely intimated with other begging children (30%) and mastans and gangs (13.33%). These findings suggest that street begging activities are often carried out within a social network and that interventions to reduce the prevalence of street begging should target these networks.

The study's findings regarding drug types and addictions showed that cigarettes were the most widely used drug by street beggars (63.33%), then gumas and other chemicals (53.33%), pethidine and other injecting drugs (16.66%), and ganga (16.66%). Additionally, 60% of street beggars reported taking two or more of the abovementioned items. These findings suggest that drug use is prevalent among street beggars and may contribute to their vulnerability to poverty and other adverse outcomes.

Modes of taking food and places of eating

The study found that the most common method of taking food among street beggars was to cook and eat on the street according to their arrangements (25.33%), followed by eating begging foods from homes (29.33%) and eating from street shops (18.66%). The most common sleeping place was on the streets.



ASK and BLAST have jointly filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL)⁸⁴ regarding the Government's "Beggar Rehabilitation and Alternative Employment Programme," which involved 10 NGOs in registering beggars and classifying them into seasonal/irregular, occupational, women, and children within the age group of 1-12 years, 12-50 years, and above 50 years of age. However, this classification appears to be incoherent due to overlapping categories. The survey is only conducted in one day, making it challenging to include seasonal beggars who may appear occasionally. According to a study conducted by these organisations, the issue of street begging among children is a complex social problem that stems from the unique challenges beggars face, leading to further social problems such as child abuse and child labour. Children often turn to street begging due to poverty and their parents' inability to provide for them. Additionally, they may resort to begging because of their parents' demise, manhandling by relatives, and isolation.

The research uncovered that child beggars participate in negative activities like shopping, smoking, alcoholism, stealing, and premarital sex. They also engage in money-making activities, including prostitution, scrap-metal collection and sales, luggage carrying, trash disposal, and dishwashing. However, these young individuals are often bullied and exploited by "big brothers" who compel them to surrender their earnings and perform errands. The study also showed that some of these children have significant ambitions and would like to return to school if

⁸⁴ ASK & BLAST, Public Interest Litigation. (filed in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh) (on file with author).

given a chance. The poverty and displacement of land are substantial reasons for becoming trapped in the cycle of poverty and begging, with around two-thirds of child beggars' families having no land or home and three-fourths living in slums or low-income settlements. Only 4 percent of the child beggars live in an NGO or government-run shelter, while the rest are forced to sleep on pavements, railway stations, or bus stations.

A top gang member arrested in Bangladesh has made it clear how thieves kidnap and maltreat kids before forcing them to work as beggars. These practises are real, as has been widely documented throughout South Asia, and they are mentioned in the Indian-set, Oscar-winning movie *Slumdog Millionaire*. Human rights activists and a local television firm discovered the Bangladeshi instance in the latter part of last year. Authorities detained a suspected gang member on December 28 in Dhaka's Kamrangirchar neighbourhood. The detainee, described to interrogators how he and his collaborators kidnapped infants and imprisoned them for months in cramped quarters or even in barrels without food.

As per authorities, the children were deserted on the city's streets, either with a woman posing as their mother or alone. They suffered permanent damage due to their imprisonment and near starvation. Based on what reportedly disclosed, the group had injured at least five children between seven and eight years old, earning between 500 - 1,000 takas (USD£4.50 to £9) every day after their injuries. Lieutenant Colonel Ziaul Ahsan, the director of intelligence for Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalions, a feared paramilitary force deployed to combat suspected terrorists and significant criminals, stated that "the criminals who run this operation are part of a massive racket." "The detainee also confessed to murdering male partners in relationships and abducting women for prostitution when targeting couples in Beribadh. We possess video recordings of his confessions." The battalions are notorious for the brutal treatment of detainees and have recently been held accountable for hundreds of extrajudicial killings.⁸⁵

Based on a leaked US State Department memo disclosed by WikiLeaks and the Guardian, members of a unit were allegedly involved in severe human rights violations without consequences. The cable further revealed that the British government continued to train these battalions despite their questionable history. The Guardian spoke to beggars on the streets of Dhaka who claimed that gang

⁸⁵ Hammadi & Burke, Bangladesh's begging children face prison and brutality.

bosses stole their earnings. Mohammad Nasim, a 35-year-old beggar in Bijoy Nagar, disclosed that beggar syndicates work for sardars, or leaders, and each gang has about 500 members. Nasim also shared that children were abducted and mistreated, causing them to weaken and become crippled. Begging was outlawed in Bangladesh in 2009, and the law stipulates that anyone caught begging in public may spend up to three months in jail. A judge recently ordered the police to enforce this prohibition.

However, welfare organisations have criticised this law as harsh and impractical, as it ignores the underlying socio economic issues that drive begging and does not provide for the welfare of the beggars. Alena Khan, the president of the Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation, emphasised that there is currently no suitable place for beggars to stay and that the government needs to renovate the existing homeless shelters. According to a previous study, there may be up to 700,000 beggars in the country, with a population of about 135 million. Although the proportion of Bangladeshis living in poverty has decreased from 49 percent to under 40 percent over the past decade, Bangladesh is still among the countries at the bottom of the economic ladder, despite recent economic progress.⁸⁶

VI. Conclusion and Recommendations

Street begging in Dhaka is a complex social problem caused by poverty, and it is alarming when we find that a minor child is begging for a single penny. Their life is harshly vulnerable to problems beggars face, leading to further issues such as child abuse and child labour, mass drug addiction and crime. The children engage in hazardous and unlawful activities to survive, including prostitution, picking and selling metal scraps, and begging. Though a small portion has goals to go to school and study, in most cases, those goals fade after just a few days on the street. The Child Rights Act 2013⁸⁷ empowered the executive and judiciary with a number of duties to work at the mass level and align with that, and the government has to play a tremendous role; however, in the end, unfortunately, it is found that the laws are not implemented appropriately, and the state fails to benefit the child and build up their future. Key provisions of the act for children in conflict with the law are not dealt with appropriately in the state's pro-preventive stage. Poverty

⁸⁶ M. Mazharul Islam Hammadi & Sarah Burke, A Review of Poverty Reduction Strategies for Bangladesh, 11 J. of Poverty Alleviation & Intl. Dev. 1, 5 (2011).

⁸⁷ Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, *supra* note 13.

and land dispossession are significant reasons behind the issue, with most child beggars living with their parents, relatives, or even unknown people in slums or adjacent areas of street settlements. Child begging remains a severe issue internationally and nationally, and to cope with the UN SDGs and other vivid targets. The study highlights that street begging in Dhaka is a complex social problem caused by poverty and the unique problems beggars face, leading to further issues such as child abuse and child labour, mass drug addiction, and juvenile crime. The Children Act 2013⁸⁸ empowered the executive and judiciary with many duties to work at the mass level. Still, unfortunately, the laws are not implemented appropriately, and the state fails to benefit the child and build up their future.

Based on the findings of this paper, the authors propose the following measures to address the problem and improve the situation:

- a) The government should take community engaged measures to integrate street begging children with the mainstream of the society.
- b) The executive branch must demonstrate its commitment by approving relevant actions and incorporating them into our laws. After passing these laws, it is the judiciary's responsibility to ensure that they are enforced as intended by the lawmakers.
- c) Children should not be separated from their families and left vulnerable to abuse and malnutrition. Therefore, parents must take responsibility for raising their children.
- d) Welfare organisations should partner with the government at all levels to launch social campaigns and raise awareness of the degrading effects of begging.
- e) To combat child abuse, neglect, labour, and destitution, the government must update, uphold, and implement both the Child Right Act and the National Child Labour Policy.
- f) Negative societal elements might take advantage of these defenceless children, which would encourage them to engage in criminal or terrorist activity and end up being a burden on society. Authorities should take action

⁸⁸ *Id.*

to remove them from the streets.

- g) The traditional curriculum should be incorporated into the education system, and the educational programme should include workshops and resources for acquiring new skills.
- h) International organisations should contribute financially or offer service-oriented aid to support the welfare and education of these children.

It is expected that the current situation of street children will be improved to elevate the nation as a whole. With adequate infrastructure being developed to prevent wrongdoing against the most vulnerable section of society, it is very possible to have a stronger society with more responsible citizens.

List of Annexures

Annexure 01

Table: 01: Addressing Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Street-Begging Children				
SL	Criteria Total Population (N: 150)		Frequency Distribution	Average/ Percentage
1	Gender	Male	109	(72%)
		Female	42	(28%)
2	Age Criteria	4-6	23	(15.33%)
		7-9	31	(20.66%)
		10-12	44	(29.34%)
		13-15	35	(23.33%)
		16-18	17	(11.34%)
3	3.1 Parental Occupation (Father)	Rickshaw and Ban Driver	21	(14%)
		Day Labour	10	(6.66%)
		Peasants	08	(5.33%)
		Beggars	65	(43.33%)
		Chintay and Drugs Delleras	09	(6%)
		Small Tea/ shop owners	15	(10%)
		Others	22	(14.66%)
3.2 Parental	Beggars	55	(36.67%)	
	Street Side Tea Stall Owners	16	(10.67%)	

	Occupation (Mother)	Drugs Delleras	08	(5.33%)
		Housewives	15	(10%)
		House workers (Aiya)	22	(14.66%)
		Others	34	(22.67%)
4.	Level of Access to Education	Literate (Able to read and give signature)	51	(34%)
		Went to the night school and or NGO street-based education centres	25	(16.66%)
		Completed primary level of education	44	(29.34%)
		Completed High School Level of Education	18	(12%)
		Completed Secondary level of education	05	(3.34%)
		Completely illiterate	07	(4.67%)

Annexure 02

Table: 02: Addressing Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Street-Begging Children and Their Family

SL	Criteria	Total Population (N: 150)	Frequency Distribution	Average/ Percentage
1	Reasons behind involvement in begging activities	Being an Orphan (Not having any family members)	30	(20%)
		Family Poverty	70	(46.67%)
		Forced by the parents and other guardians	25	(16.66%)
		Close contact with other beggars	10	(06.66%)
		Other Reasons (including river erosion)	15	(10.00%)
2	Monthly income of street beggar's child	Less than 2000	23	(15.33%)
		2001-4000	44	(29.34%)
		4001-6000	43	(28.66%)
		6001-8000	27	(18%)

		8001-10000	13	(08.67%)
3	Connecting Occupations	Rickshaw and Ban Driver	21	(14%)
		Restaurant workers	10	(6.66%)
		Wielding and automobile workers	04	(2.66%)
		Day Labour	10	(6.66%)
		Peasants	04	(02.66%)
		Beggars	41	(27.34%)
		Hawkers	14	(09.33%)
		Khuli	11	(07.33%)
		Tokay	15	(10%)
		Chintay and Drugs Delleras	11	(07.33%)
		Small Tea/ shop workers	06	(04%)
		Others	03	(02%)
		4	Custodians and Family contacts	Father
Elder brother	04			(02.66%)
Mother Only	35			(23.34%)
Grandfather and other parental side people	10			(06.67%)
Maternal relatives	08			(05.33%)
Others	11			(07.33%)
No family linkage	24			(16%)
4.	Who forced to do street begging			Parents
		Other Family Members	10	(06.66%)
		Self	14	(09.33%)
		Elder brother and sisters	16	(10.67%)
		Friends	09	(6%)
		Street gangs	09	(6%)
		Street mustans	08	(5.33%)
6.	With whom they are closely intimated on street	Nobody / self-driven	31	(20.67%)
		Other Begging children	45	(30%)
		Matans and gangs	20	(13.33%)
		Drugs dealers	05	(03.33%)
		Other family members	15	(10%)
		Other people	21	(14%)

Annexure 03

Table: 03: Addressing Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Street-Begging Children and Their Family				
SL	Criteria	Total Population (N: 150)	Frequency Distribution	Average/ Percentage
1	Types of Drugs they are used to take	Cigarettes	95	(63.33%)
		Ganga	25	(16.66%)
		Gumas and other chemicals	80	(53.33%)
		Pethodine and other injecting drugs	25	(16.66%)
		Two or more of the items mentioned above	90	(60%)
2	Modes of taking foods and places of eating	Eat from dustbins, and shops waste food corners	17	(11.33%)
		Eat from street shops	28	(18.66%)
		Eat begging foods from homes	44	(29.33%)
		Beggs foods from restaurants	23	(15.33%)
		Cooks and eat on the street by own arrangements	38	(25.33%)
3	Sleeping places	Rickshaw and Ban Garage	10	(06.66%)
		Railway station	26	(17.33%)
		On Streets and overbridges	40	(26.66%)
		Local mastans place	06	(04.00%)
		Night guards	02	(01.33%)
		Public places other than streets	11	(07.33%)
		Slums and small tents	30	(20%)
		Back to village homes	06	(24%)
		Others	19	(12.66%)
4.	Crime Contact: Did arrested by the police or faced harassment or not	Experienced with police harassment	Yes 54	No 96
		2-5 times arrested and managed bail/ release	14	(09.33%)
		Arrested more than 5 times, and criminal cases are still pending	11	(07.33%)

	Penalized or gone to the correction centres	Yes 08 (5.33%)	No 142 (94.67%)
	Give money and released from the police station	Yes 21 14	No 129 86
	Elderly gangs and mustans released or involved	Yes 34 22.66	No 116 77.34
	Intentionally involved in crime	Yes 29 19.33	No 121 80.67
	Accidentally involved in crime	Yes 40 26.66	No 110 73.33