

## Status and Social Evaluation towards Beggars in Bangladesh: Context of Sylhet City

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### Abstract

Beggary is an important social phenomenon and one of the major social problems for all over the developed, underdeveloped and developing countries in the world. Bangladesh is a developing country in the South Asia, affected by the beggary problem due to the poor socio-economic conditions, poverty, lack of working opportunities etc. Sylhet city is an important city in Bangladesh as natural resource and foreign remittance are important part in the national economy, but is not free from beggary problems. Among the beggar's family more than 60% are involved in begging due to low income (Taka 1000-3000/\$12.8-38.5- 14.3%) and inadequate property (62.86%) as such as- land, deposit money, investment and other exchangeable assets etc. to make-up the imbalance of monthly income and expenditure. This is why their family are incapable to maintain all the essential needs which push them to involve in beggary and various starve (74.29%) in their family life.

**Keywords:** Beggary, Social evaluation, Social harassment, Earnable person, Financial support, Inadequate property, Savings and Nutrition food.

### 1. Introduction

Beggary is the one of the important social problem and social concern of all least developed countries in the world. It often occurs for the purpose of securing a material benefit, generally for a gift, donation or charitable donation. Beggars mostly request money to take their meal and fulfill basic needs (Wikipedia). In Bangladesh beggars are found anywhere and among them most of the beggars are begging due to their physical disability as like as some are blind and lame. It is significant that those who are very poor, landless or helpless may beg but some able people beg in spite of their ability to work. During the rainy season poor people of rural areas come to Dhaka for begging alms. Though there is no organized association of beggars, they form unauthorized unity to sustain their activities for a long time. Usually in the upozilla level or big bazaar area they have a fixed place where they meet that day (Beggars-problem-in-Bangladesh.html).

The numbers of beggars may vary by area. Comparatively it remains almost in the capital city than a district town because of the density of population, frequency of wealthy person, huge market and other places. According to the source of data about beggary ([news.priyo.com](http://news.priyo.com)) it is found that as per the survey of 31 NGOs (up to June, 2012) at present in Dhaka city present total beggars crossing 7 lakh. The survey emphasized the three objectives i.e., to learn the exact number of beggars, types of begging and their possible rehabilitation. Beggars in Dhaka city could be seen seeking alms at bus stands, railway station, markets, court premises, ferry piers, religious place and also busy traffic intersections.

Peoples are involving in begging due to various causes. The important causes of beggary is-physical inability, long term illness, unemployment, poverty, disease and death of income capable person, habit of heredity, break down of family and marriage, religious inspiration, social insecurity, commercial mentality, natural disaster etc. (Shawkatuzzaman, 1990).

The present study area Sylhet city, one of the divisional city and corporation in Bangladesh, is not free from the beggars' problem. In various important places i.e. Hazrat Shahjalal (R), railway station and important commercial area beside highway etc. beggars are begging everyday to fulfill their essential subsistence needs. Among them some are local and large proportions are migrated from different district of Bangladesh. Due to low income and large size of family their socio-economic condition is not sound, livelihood status is less standard and that's why social evaluation toward them is not sound which lead them to remain at the undermine level in their existing society.

In the present study, socio-economic status and social evaluation towards beggars in Sylhet city were concentrated along with the findings of the interviewed 70 beggars of Sylhet city from 5 important places (Hazrat Shahjalal (R) Mazar, Ambarkhana Point, Rail Station, Mandibag Point and Kin Bridge Point) under the social survey method. After collect data 'univariate' and 'bi-variate' analysis used for proper data analysis.

### *1.1 Legal Restriction of Beggary*

Although people are bound to involve in beggary due to various hazardous situation, but it is an important social problems in our existing society. In many countries of the world law are established against beggary to reduce the current rate and set up a balance economic structure. According to the data of Wikipedia it is displayed that governments of many countries approved legal restriction against beggary is as follows:

#### 1.1.1 Canada

The province of Ontario introduced its Safe Street Act in 1999 to restrict specific kinds of begging, particularly aggressive or abusive begging. In 2001 this law survived a court challenge under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The law was further upheld by the court of Appeal for Ontario in January 2007.

#### 1.1.2 United States

In 2004, the city of Orlando, Florida passed an ordinance (Orlando Municipal Code Section 43.86). The ordinance further makes it a crime to panhandle (begging) in the commercial core of downtown Orlando, as well as within 50 feet (15m) of any bank or automated teller machine (ATM). It is also considered a crime in Orlando for panhandlers to make false or untrue statement or to disguise themselves, to solicit money, and to use money obtained for a claim of specific purpose (e.g. food) to be spent an anything else (e.g. drugs).

#### 1.1.3 United Kingdom

Begging is illegal under the Vagrancy Act of 1824. However it does not carry a jail sentence and is not well enforced in many cities, although the act applies in all public places.

#### 1.1.4 Finland

Begging has been illegal in Finland since 1987 when the poor law was invalidated. In 2003, the public order Act replaced any local government rules and completely decriminalized begging.

#### 1.1.5 Romania

Law 61 of 1991 forbids the persistent call for the mercy of the public, by a person which is able to work

#### 1.1.6 Portugal

In Portugal beggars normally beg in front of Catholic Churches, on semaphores or on special places in Lisbon or Oporto downtowns. Many social and religious institutions support homeless people and the Portuguese Social Security normally gives them a survival monetary subsidy.

#### 1.1.7 India

Under the Bombay Prevention of Begging act, 1959 for the purpose of making uniform and better provisions of begging in the State of Bombay a law was conducted. Accordingly the Bombay Prevention of begging bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly and having been assented by the Governor came into forces as The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1060 (X of 1960). In this law penalty of employing or causing persons to beg or using them for purpose of begging were enrolled. According to the law of penalty if any person employs or causes any other person to solicit or receive alms, or having the custody, charge or care of a child, connives at or encourages, the employment or the causing the child to solicit or receive alms or uses another person as an exhibit, shall be punished for imprisonment for a term up to three years but which shall not be less than one year (<http://delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm>).

### 1.1.8 Bangladesh

In Bangladesh rate of beggary is increasing gradually though the enacted act is ruins against beggary and it has no proper implication to reduce. According to the Prevention of Oppression Women and Children Act (2000), “Whoever damages hands, feet, eyes or any other limb of a children, or make a disabled or disfigured by any means for begging or to sale any part thereof, he shall be punished with death or rigorous imprisonment for life and also with fine” (Helal & Kabir, 2013). Very recently, the Vagrant and Shelter-less People (Rehabilitation) Act 2011 has been passed along with an effort to rehabilitate the beggars. Since this law was more time-befitting compare to the old 1943 Vagrancy Act, would sufficiently address the troubles of beggars particularly women and children vagrants than the previous outmoded law along with rehabilitation by making arbitrary arrest and detention of beggars legal, without any provisions for women and children who have always been the most vulnerable and the prime victim of any suppressive law ([www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news\\_details](http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news_details)).

## 1.2 Beggary: A Social Problem

### 1.2.1 Beggary in India

Beggary is a major concern in developing countries associated with the problems of poverty, less standard of livelihood, low socio-economic condition and unemployment. Like other developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, India is not free from beggars entirely. According to a recent survey by Delhi School of Social Work ([www.youthkiawar.com](http://www.youthkiawar.com)), in India number of beggars is increasing gradually. In a decade since 1991 their number has gone up by a lakh. According to the *Action Aid Report (2004)* and police record, there are 60,000 beggars in Delhi, over 3, 00000 in Mumbai; nearly 75000 in Kolkata, 56000 in Bangalore. As Council of Human Welfare (2005), in Hyderabad *1(one)* in every *354 (three hundred and fifty four)* people are engaged in begging maintain their all kind of subsistence needs due to the poor socio-economic situation.

In India *1(one)* in every *4 (four)* goes to bed hungry every night and 78 million are homeless that lead them to involve in begging in various public places. Although physical inability is important barriers of beggary but in Delhi more than 66% beggars are able-bodied, are engaged in begging due to poverty (above 71%).

Mumbai is an important state in India that is the home to majority of beggars. According to the Maharashtra Government they are worth Rs. 1800 million a year with daily income ranging between Rs. 20-80 due to the flexibility of begging and not face any kind of barrier to beg. According to the survey of Delhi School of Social Work, 81% beggars don't face any problem during begging by public and police. A survey of Social Development Centre of Mumbai (2004) displays, majority of the beggars see it as a profitable and viable profession although it is not recognized means of income in their existing society.

Although the rate of beggary is increasing in India gradually, but there is no proper enumeration of beggars in the country. The 1931 census mentioned about 16% women beggars in India and the figure shot up to 49% in 2001 along with 10 million street children many among engaged with begging for livelihood.

### 1.2.2 Bangladesh

Beggary is one of the great sins in Bangladesh as like as other developing countries in the world which is the ultimate result of poor socio-economic condition and poverty. As per the source ([www.asianews.it/news-en&www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.asianews.it/news-en&www.guardian.co.uk)) of World Bank, in Bangladesh poverty has been reduced to fewer than 40% (among 150 million) from 49% where beggary is one of major problem- recognized as a *so-called* profession and way earning money to fulfill the subsistence needs. In Dhaka City above 700 thousand people living by beg. Furthermore, it is one of the distressing matters that in Bangladesh the present increasing rate of beggary is motivated by a suspected number of gang. The gang had maimed at least five children aged between seven and eight who subsequently earned between 500 and 1,000 taka per day (£4.50 to £9) and maximum proportion of earning took the gang leader. Each gang of beggars consists of around 500 members with syndicates of beggars working under sardars (leaders).

## 2. Objectives of the Study

The principle and general objective of this study is analyzing the socio-economic status of beggars of Sylhet city in the aspect of Bangladesh.

Specific Objectives:

The broad objectives have been split into several specific objectives as follows-

- a. To describe the social harassment and types of social armaments toward beggars by their existing society due to their beggary;

- b. To explore the important factor (causes) of beggary of Sylhet city like other city/district of Bangladesh whose lead them to involve in beggary for the long time of period;
- c. To assess the types of disease and treatment opportunities of beggars during begging in Sylhet city ;
- d. Describe the beggars according to their migration status in Sylhet city from other district in Bangladesh.

### 3. Methods

Sylhet city (one of the City Corporation in Bangladesh) has been selected purposively as research area due to the availability of beggars due to the rapid urbanization, growth of investment holder, growth of business or commercial activities, liquidity of money and natural resources etc. Due to the rapid urbanization, growth of the city, high prices of goods least income holder people (migrated and non-migrated of Sylhet city) are pushing to beg. In Sylhet City 5 (five) beggars crowding area such as- Hazrat Shahjalal (R) Mazar, Ambarkhana Point, Rail Station, Mandibag Point and Kin Bridge Point have been selected for collect the representative and crucial data. Under purposive sampling 70 beggars have been selected from 5 area (14 respondents from each area) to collect the representative and precise data by the face to face interview. In the questionnaire 'open-ended', 'close-ended' and 'contingency' questions have been used for collect more in-depth and vital data from the selected respondents. To analyze and interpret the collected data univariate and bi-variate analysis have been used and to interpret the collected data quantitative measurement i.e. frequency and percentage used in the univariate data. Cross table or bi-variate analysis also used to show the significant factors between the important variables. As well as for the various crucial information of the study (which is so essential to strength the analysis) many journal, research work, article and book are used as the source of secondary data

### 4. Result

In this part of the study respondent's socio-economic condition, social harassment and types of social harassment, causes of beggary, disease of beggars and migration of beggars are presented.

#### 4.1 Socio-Economic Condition of Beggars

To interoperate the socio-economic condition of the respondents their age, family size, educational qualifications, earn able person in family, monthly income and expenditure of family, own property, savings, three times nutrition food facilities oriented data are presented.

##### 4.1.1 Age

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their age

<i>Age</i>	<i>No. of beggars</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
40-50	35	50.00
50-60	12	17.14
60-70	14	20.00
70+	09	12.86
Total	70	100.00

Age is one of the important indicators to measure the socio-economic condition of anybody. Peoples activities, ability to perform work, working strength, skills, and energetic concentration are entirely depend on age. Naturally more aged person get less strength to work compare to young. But in Sylhet city this natural concentration is differed by various aspects. Data shows that, the highest concentration of beggars (50.00%) is between the age of 40-50 years and the lowest beggars (12.86%) are in the 70+ years respectively. So data reflects that most of the beggars of Sylhet city are 40-50 years aged, have the proper strength and ability to do any work compare to 70+ aged but they are involving themselves in begging due to various social inconsistency and barrier. The mean age of beggars in Sylhet city is 56.92 years.

##### 4.1.2 Family size of beggars

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to the types of their family and family members

<i>Types of the family</i>	<i>Frequency/ Percentage</i>	<i>Number of family members</i>	<i>Frequency/ Percentage</i>
Single	19 (27.14%)	3-5	19 (27.14%)
Combined	50 (71.43%)	5-7	36 (51.43%)
Extended	01 (01.43%)	7+	15 (21.43%)
Total	70 (100.00%)	Total	70 (100.00%)

Family size is an important indicator that plays the crucial role for socio status of a family. Because families have large number of member but not earn able, is not potential for enrich the overall socio-economic structure and status in the society. In other hand, families where number of family member is small but earn able and active to do work, have a great potentiality to play the important role to enrich economic base and social status in the existing society. So there is a strong role of earn able family members to enrich the socio-economic condition, economic base, social status and standard livelihood of a family in their societal ground. In Sylhet city majority of beggars family belong with combined structure and as per this nature family size is also large which an obstacle to enrich the overall development. Table-2 displays, the highest concentration of beggars (71.43%) family type is combined and the lowest part of beggars (1.43%) family type is extended. According to the structure of family respondents family member oriented data displays above half (51.43%) and above two-tenth of beggars (21.43%) family member are 5-7 and 7+ respectively.

4.1.3 Educational qualifications

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their educational qualifications

<i>Educational qualifications</i>	<i>No. of beggars</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Illiterate	56	80.00
Literate	14	20.00
Total	70	100.00

Education is one of the important elements for anybody. An educated person can overcome any problem easily and properly by his achieved learning. Data shows, in Sylhet city above three-fourth of the beggars (80%) are illiterate and two-tenth (20.00%) are literate that’s why they are not sound by basic education, that is essential to get any kind of work/job.

4.1.4 Earn able person in family

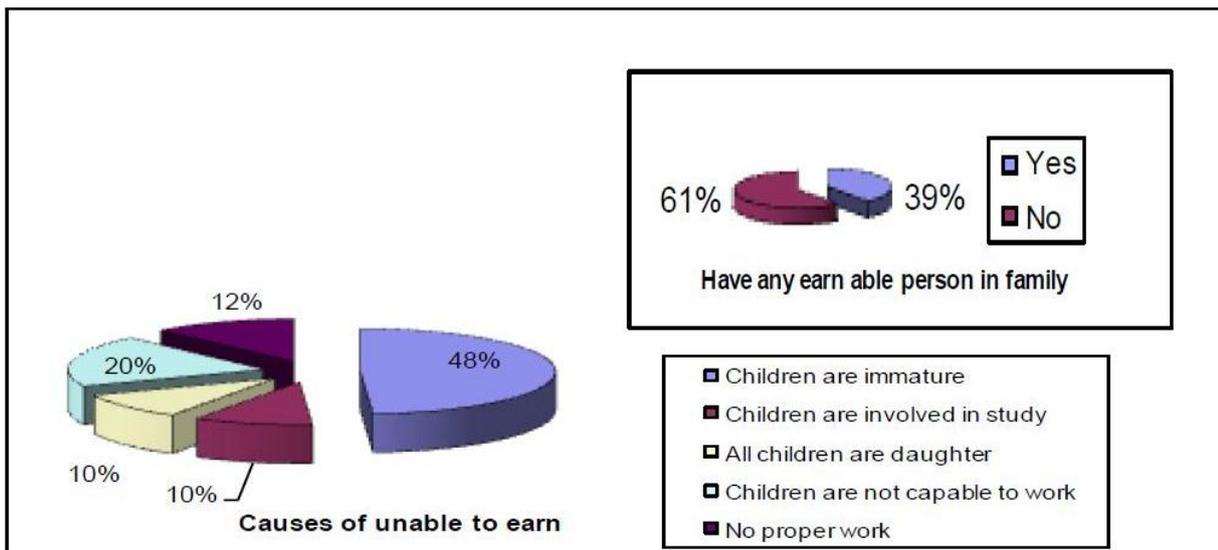


Figure 1. Pie chart of respondents according to earn able person in family and causes of unable to earn

The socio-economic condition, economic strength, social status and overall development of any family partially depends on earn able person. Because earn able person plays the crucial role for the economic strength by their monthly income. But in Sylhet city it is reflected the different figure about earn able person in beggar’s family. Figure 1 displays, above half (60.55%) of beggars have no earn able person in their family and 39.45% beggars have. According to the data of no earn able person, it is reflected that above half (54.35%) of beggars children are immature and near able one-fourth (21.74%) of beggars children are not capable to work. Like other city of Bangladesh, beggars of Sylhet City are begging for have not earn able members in their family that is also one of the fact beyond their economic strength and development.

4.1.5 Monthly income and expenditure of family

Table 4. Distribution of monthly income and expenditure of respondents' family

Monthly income of family (Tk. & \$)	Monthly expenditure of family (Tk. & \$)			Frequency/ Percentage
	1000-3000 (\$12.8-\$38.5)	3000-5000 (\$38.5-\$64.1)	5000+ (\$64.1+)	
1000-3000 (\$12.8-\$38.5)	10 (14.3%)	08 (11.6%)	05 (7.2%)	23 (33.1%)
3000-5000 (\$38.5-\$64.1)	06 (8.5%)	06 (8.5%)	12 (17.1%)	24 (34.1%)
5000+ (\$64.1+)	05 (7.2%)	06 (8.5%)	12 (17.1%)	23 (33.8%)
Total	21 (30.0%)	20 (28.6%)	29 (41.4%)	70 (100.0%)

Test chi-square ( $X^2$ )=100.910

<sup>1</sup>Significance value of the chi-square test is P-value<0.001

Monthly income and expenditure is one of the crucial indicators to measure the entire economic base, standard of life and socio-economic condition of a family. Families those remains in more expenditure compare to monthly income, economically is not sound and livelihood is less standard. Other hand, families are economically sound where monthly expenditure is less compare to income due to the well capacity of savings. But in Sylhet city economic condition of beggars family is not sound due to more expenditure compare to poor income. In table 4 data shows, about 9% of the respondents are hand to mouth (monthly income and expenditure is same as such-Taka 3000-5000/\$38.5-\$64.1), about 9% save little beat (monthly income is Taka 3000-5000/\$38.5-\$64.1 and expenditure is Taka1000-3000/\$12.8-\$38.5 and 17.1% of beggar's is living with debt whose monthly expenditure (Taka 5000+ /\$64.1) is higher than income (Taka 3000-5000/\$38.5-\$64.1) with no scope to savings for economic strength, standard livelihood, fulfill proper subsistence needs and future development. It is a clear inconsistency between monthly income and expenditure of beggar's family which leads them not only sustain as less standard entity but also involving in beggary for the long time in their society.

4.1.6 Own Property of Beggars

Property is the vital indicators that are crucially responsible to measure the socio-economic status of anybody and any family. Every family should have to hold and achieve some proportion of property (land, money, ornament etc.) to maintain all kind of subsistence needs and economic base. But people whose are begging not sound by their own property due to poverty, less opportunity of income, have no earn able person in family etc. are pushed them to involve in beggary for the long time. Data about the beggars' own property displays, among the beggars of Sylhet city above one-fourth (37.14%) have own property and more than half (62.86%) have no. According to the data of property what a quantity of property do they have? The findings shows, more than half (53.85%) and above one-fourth (30.77%) of beggars have 1-3 acr. and 4-6 acr. own property respectively. Although above one-fourth beggars have their own property but maximum beggars (62.86%) have no property by which they would be able to make-up their essential needs and property less situation promotes them to beg at the various spot of Sylhet.

4.1.7 Savings

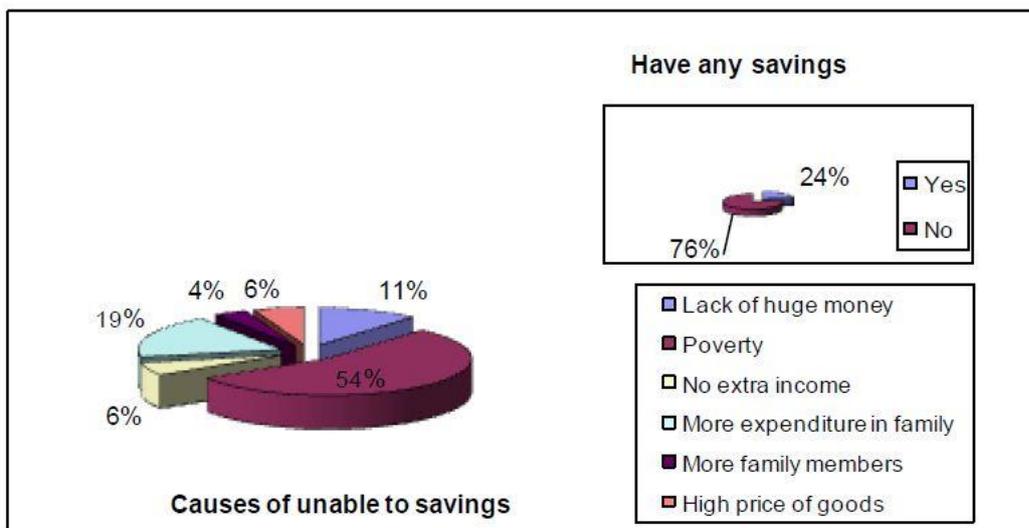


Figure 2. Pie Chart of Respondents' savings oriented data and causes of unable to savings

To measure the present economic structure and social status of any family or community savings is an important and crucial indicator that plays the vital role becomes the economic growth. The total economic structure of a family partially depends on the capability of saving. Because monthly savings establish a family in the society as a sound economic strength and status holder part that may play the crucial role for the wellbeing of human. But in Sylhet city beggars and their family are not sound by their financial strength due to the incapability of savings after the total expenditure of subsistence demand. In figure 2 data about beggar’s savings shows, in Sylhet city above three-fourth of beggars (75.71%) has no savings after maintain all kind of basic needs of the month. According to no savings of beggars the findings shows, the maximum beggars (54.72%) are not capable to savings due to poverty and near able two-tenth (18.87%) of beggars have no savings because of lack of huge money respectively. So in Sylhet city majority of the beggars are remaining in poverty which leads them to become incapable to save money for the strength of economic base and status.

4.1.8 Three times nutrition food facilities

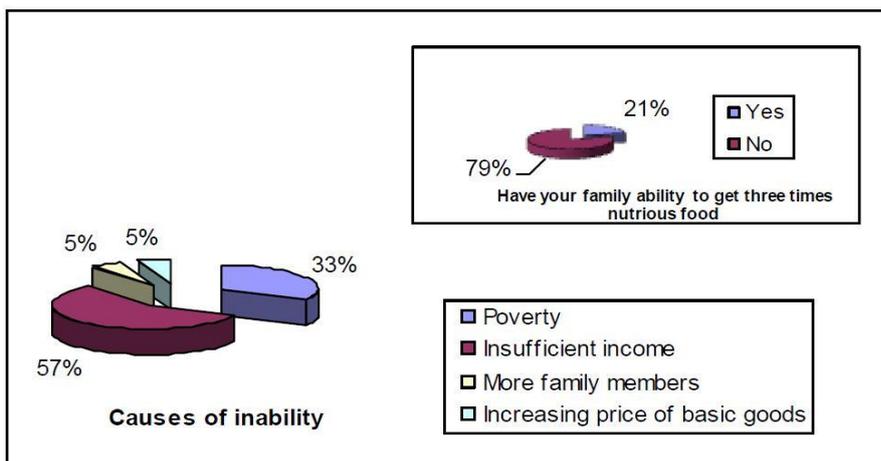


Figure 3. Distribution of respondents’ family according to get three times nutrition food and causes of inability to get

Nutrition is so essential for good health and proper strength to work for human body. Everybody should have to take the proper quantity of nutrition to active their body for activities and freshness. But like other city beggars of Sylhet city are not entirely capable to take their proper quantity of nutrition food due to various socio-economic problems. In figure 3 data displays, more than three-fourth of beggars’ family (79%) is incapable to get their essential nutrition food. According to data of inability the findings shows, more than half (57%) and more than one-fourth (33%) of beggars’ family are incapable to get their essential nutrition due to insufficient money and poverty respectively that is not only serious threat for their physical health but also one of the barrier beyond entire economic development.

4.2 Social harassment and types of social harassment

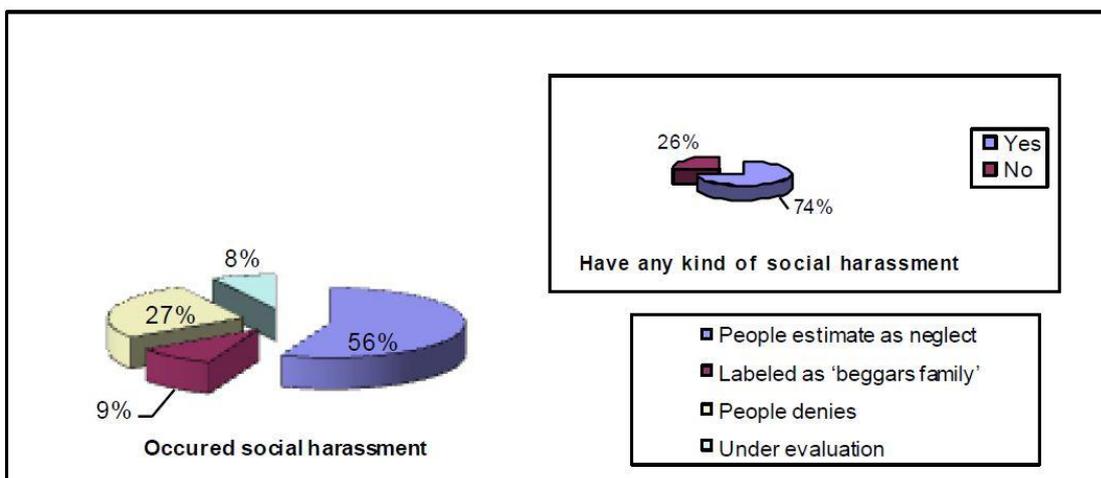


Figure 4. Pie chart of Respondents according to social harassment and types of social harassment

In the present socio-economic context of Bangladesh social harassment and beggary is strongly and universally related. The entire socio condition of beggars in Bangladesh is very poor in average that promotes people to estimate the beggars as a *marginal entity*. As a result they (beggars) face various types of *social harassment* by other person of their existing society due to their soundless socio condition and poverty. The present study area Sylhet city is also not different from this situation, where beggars tolerate various types of harassment by the association of existing society. Figure 4 shows, near able three-fourth (74%) of beggars face various kind of social harassment as such as- *negligence* (55%) and *denied* (27%) by own society which is very *inhuman manner* toward them and fact for the self development and overall progress.

4.2.1 Negligence from relatives (no financial support)

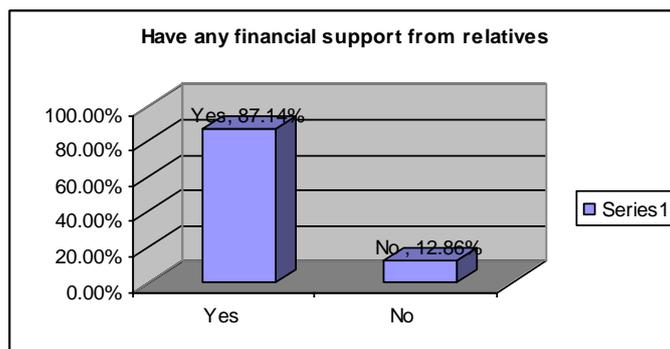


Figure 5. Pie chart of Respondents according to financial support from rich relatives

Negligence by relatives is one of the natural and common matters for these people whose hold the livelihood by begging and hand to mouth. Beggars stay in their existing society along with *poverty, low income, lack of proper basic demand and low social status* etc. which promotes them as an undermine person to others as like as nearest relatives. This situation is absolutely displays the real social position of beggars in Sylhet city in where they also denied out by nearest relatives. Data shows, above three-fourth of beggars (87.14%) unable to get financial support from their rich relatives which is one kind of negligence and misevaluation toward them. As a result beggars also exist in a narrow position in the mental corner which not only a depressive matter but also a major obstacle for their overall development and progress.

4.3 Causes of beggary

Table 5. Causes of choose the beggary as profession

Causes of choose the beggary	No. of beggars	Percentage
Physical inability	44	62.86
Lack of proper environment of work	12	17.14
Working inability	06	8.57
Lack of educational qualification	06	8.57
Money crisis	02	2.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100.00</b>

People take beggary as their means of money earning due to the socio-economic condition and incapable to fulfill all kind of subsistence. They beg for the long period of time for multiple reason as well as- *poverty, loss of employment or under-employment and lucrative business, family disorganization, lack of parental control, community disorganization, break up of joint family system and social custom, sickness, physical or mental defects, old age and religious mendicancy* etc. (<http://www.mylot.com/post/575198/causes-of-beggary>). In Sylhet city beggars also beg to earn their essential money in various important public spot to maintain all kind of subsistence needs. Data shows (Table 5), more than half (62.86%) of beggars choose begging as a means of money income due to their physical inability and more than one-tenth of beggars (17.14%) choose beggary due to lack of proper environment of work. Majority of the beggars are not capable to work due to their physical inability in Sylhet City which is not only crucial factor to involve in beggary but also a major obstacle beyond their overall progress.

## 4.3.1 Effect of high price of goods

Table 6. Distribution of respondents according to involve in begging by consequence of high price of goods and debt

Are you affected by high price of goods?	No. of beggars	Are you debt due to fulfill the essential basic needs?	No. of beggars
Yes	62 (88.57%)	Yes	50 (71.43%)
No	08 (11.43%)	No	20 (28.57%)
Total	70 (100.00%)	Total	70 (100.00%)

In the present socio-economic context of Bangladesh, rise of basic goods price is not only responsible for hamper the standard livelihood of people but also one of the major anxious for the entire national economy. People are bound to consume poor quantity of goods/low calorie due to its high price is the resultant of various mismanagement and social inconsistency. On the other hand, people sustains in debt condition to fulfill their essential basic needs which are the ultimate result of high price of essential goods. Like other city of Bangladesh in Sylhet city beggars are also affected by the high price of essential goods which lead them not only to fall into debt to maintain all kind of subsistence needs but also bound them (above three-fourth-88.5%) to involve in beggary for the long time as the continuous means of money income. According to the affect of high price of essential goods data displays, near able three-fourth of beggars (71.43%) became money owing to fulfill the subsistence needs due to the high price of goods. Although market price of essential goods are increasing in *geometric rate* but their family income are increasing in *mathematic rate* which makes them incapable to maintain the balance with low income and high price of essential goods and bound them to become debt.

## 4.4 Disease of beggars

Table 7. Distribution of Respondents according to face any kind of disease and types of disease

Do you suffer any kind of disease?		
	Yes	No
	53 (78.57%)	17 (21.43%)
	Total 70 (100.00%)	
What kind of disease are you suffering?	No. of beggars	
Fever	30 (56.60%)	
Corezy	17 (32.08%)	
Allergy	11 (20.75%)	
Headache	12 (22.64%)	
Pressure	05 (4.43%)	
Cough	07 (13.21%)	
Gastric	08 (15.09%)	
Physical Weakness	05 (11.32%)	
Pain in Leg	07 (13.21%)	
Total= 53		

(Percentage may exceed 100 percent due to multiple answers)

Disease is a natural matter in which every human being suffers. People suffer various kind of normal and severe disease due to physical instability, food taking habit, reaction of medication, restless time spend, over work and tired situation. Beggary is a means of earning money which is associated with suffering various kind of disease is the resultant of staying with dust, rain, heat of sun and dirty environment for the long time. Table 7 shows, in Sylhet city three-fourth (75.71%) of beggars face multiple kind of disease at the time of begging as well as- fever (56.60%), corezy (32.08%), and headache (22.64%) respectively which is not only harmful for their physical condition but also a threat for the capability to work.

4.5 Migration of beggars

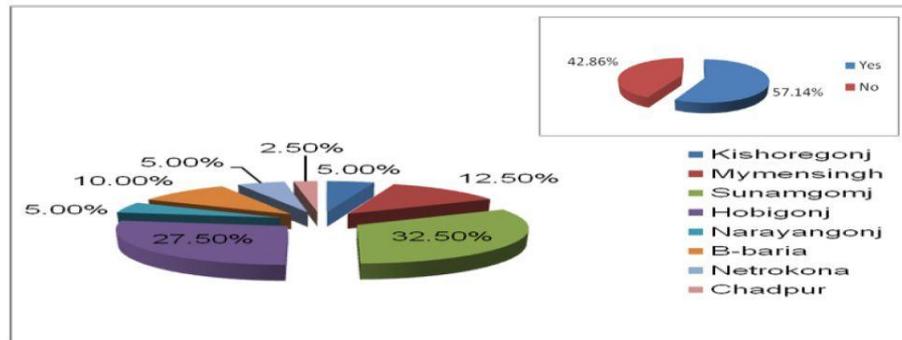


Figure 6. Pie chart of respondents according to migration in Sylhet city and migrated district

Migration is a process that leads people to move from one place/district to another. People migrate to a new place to consider and concentrate various work facilities, proper educational facilities, climate matter and other reasons. Every year thousands people of Bangladesh migrates from one to another district and as per the motives of migrated people and concentration for standard livelihood, beggars migrated to Sylhet city from different district of Bangladesh along with the priority of wealthy economic structure, working facilities, religious notion and geographical condition etc. Figure 5 shows, above half (57.14%) beggars migrated in Sylhet city from other district as well as Sunamgonj (above one-fourth-32.50%), Hobigonj (above two-tenth- 27.50%) and Mymensingh (above one-tenth-12.50%) respectively. It is reflected that in Sylhet city all beggars are not local entirely and among them most proportions are migrated for the long time.

5. Factors associated with beggary

Table 8. Cross tabulation of number of family members in respondent’s family and respondents’ educational qualifications

Number of family members in respondents family	Respondents educational qualifications		Total
	Above Primary	Illiterate	
3-5	11 (15.7%)	08 (11.4%)	19 (27.1%)
5-7	05 (7.1%)	16 (22.9%)	21 (30.0%)
7+	06 (8.6%)	24 (34.3%)	30 (42.9%)
Total	22 (31.4)	48 (68.6)	70 (100%)

Test chi-square ( $X^2$ )=50.068

<sup>1</sup>Significance value of the chi-square test is P-value<0.001

The bi-variate analysis discloses that there exists highly significant relationship between number of family members in respondents family and respondents educational qualifications. Table 9 displays that most of the respondents (34.3% and 22.9%) are illiterate while their family member is 5-7 and 7+. In this case, a large number of respondents were not able to gain the proper education due to maintain all kind of subsistence needs for more family member which pushed them to involve in beggary to fulfill their basic needs.

Table 9. Cross tabulation of Monthly income and expenditure of respondent’s family

Monthly expenditure of respondents family (Tk. & \$)	Monthly income of respondents family (Tk. & \$)		Total
	≤5000 (≤\$64.1)	5000+ (\$64.1+)	
1000-3000 (\$12.8-38.5)	05 (7.14%)	05 (7.14%)	10 (14.3%)
3000-5000 (\$38.5-\$64.1)	06 (8.6%)	09 (12.9%)	15 (21.5%)
5000+ (\$64.1+)	37 (52.9%)	08 (11.3%)	45 (64.3%)
Total	48 (68.6%)	22 (31.4%)	70 (100%)

Test chi-square ( $X^2$ )=17.824

<sup>1</sup>Significance value of the chi-square test is P-value<0.001

The bi-variate analysis discloses that there exists highly significant relationship between monthly income and expenditure of respondents' family. The table 9 displays that most of the (52.9%) beggar's family earn  $\leq 5000$  taka in a month, where their monthly family expenditure is 5000+ taka (\$64.1+). Therefore, above one-tenth (12.9%) of beggars family earns 5000+taka (\$64.1+) while their monthly family expenditure is 3000-5000 (\$38.5-\$64.1) taka. In this case, a large number of respondents' family is not able to fulfill their essential subsistence needs due to the inconsistency between monthly income and expenditure. Their families are merely capable to fulfill their needs as well as sustaining by hand to mouth but are not capable to maintain the proper subsistence needs by their poor income where market price of essential goods is so high. As a result, beggars are bound to involve in beggary due to help their family by the financial matter to fulfill the essential subsistence needs of family.

Table 10. Cross tabulation of number of family members and monthly expenditure of respondents family

<i>Number of family members in respondents family</i>	<i>Monthly expenditure of respondents family</i>		<i>Total</i>
	$\leq 5000$ ( $\leq \$64.1$ )	5000+ ( $\$64.1+$ )	
3-5	10 (14.2%)	09 (12.9%)	19 (27.1%)
5-7	06 (8.6%)	15 (21.4%)	21 (30.0%)
7+	06 (8.6%)	24 (34.3%)	30 (42.9%)
Total	22 (31.4%)	48 (64.6%)	70 (100%)

Test chi-square ( $X^2$ )=50.068

<sup>1</sup>Significance value of the chi-square test is P-value<0.001

The bi-variate analysis displays that there exists highly significant relationship between number of family members and monthly expenditure of respondents' family. The table 10 displays that most of the beggars (42.9%) family expenditure is 5001+ taka (\$64.1+) while their family member are 5-7. Therefore, above one-tenth of beggars (12.9%) family expends 5001+ taka (\$64.1+) in a month where their family member is 9+. As a result, beggars family are worsening to maintain their essential basic needs instead their monthly income is 5000+ taka (\$64.1+) due to the large number of family members. So beggars are bound to continue begging for a long time to support the financial matter for the make-up of their essential family needs.

## 6. Discussion

In order to describe the socio-economic conditions of beggars in Sylhet city data were collected by social survey method and analyzed by Uni-variate and Bi-variate analysis. Among the beggars, 50% are 40-50 years aged which is the vulnerable fact of dependency on other earn able members and family. Because naturally 40-50 years aged people engage in several types of job by their own educational qualifications, physical strength, self outlooks and skills.

Monthly income and expenditure are very vital factor for beggary. Because if any person face the inconsistency between his monthly income and expenditure he suffer by money crisis to fed his family and automatically he pushes to involve in beggary which is ultimate force of poor income. In the present study, 60.00% beggars' monthly family income is 3000-5000 taka (\$38.5-\$64.1) where 64.28% beggars family expend 5000+ taka (\$64.1+) in a month to fulfill their essential basic needs. Savings is one of the vital indicators that lead people to enjoy comfortable life and lack of sufficient savings people face various miseries which are an obstacle beyond overall development of people. Data shows, more than three-fourth (75.71%) of beggars have no savings and thy are incapable to savings due to poverty (54.72), more expenditure in family (18.87%) and lack of huge money (11.33%) etc. Daily three times nutrition food is so essential for gain proper strength of a people. People get their essential stamina to work by the proper nutrition food. But in Sylhet city maximum beggars are incapable (78.57%) to maintain three times nutrition foods of their family because of sufficient income (56.36%) and poverty (32.74%) etc. As a result their family ruins in lack of sufficient nutrition foods which is one kind of threat of their beneficial health. There is a strong relation between high price of essential goods and debt to make-up essential needs. Because people promotes to become debt from various crucial source due to the high price of subsistence needs. Among the beggars of Sylhet city 71.43% are debt to fulfill their essential basic needs due to the high price of goods (88.57%). A medicine facility is one of the essential basic needs of all human being. Though beggars in Sylhet city live by begging but they are not free from disease and they also need essential treatment. Data shows, more than three-fourth (78.57%) of beggars faces multiple kinds of disease as well as fever (56.60%), corezy (32.08%) and headache (22.64%) etc. Social harassment is associated with beggary which is the resultant of enjoy low level of livelihood and undervaluation by existing society. In the present study, near able

three-fourth (74.29%) of beggars face various kind of social harassment. As a result they are counted as neglected person (55.77%) by their existing society, denied by people of own society (26.72%) and labeled as beggars family (9.62%) in their society.

Beggary is one kind of misery related to various vulnerable situations and atmosphere. Monthly income of beggars family are significantly associated ( $P\text{-value} < 0.001$ ) with the monthly expenditure of beggars family. Data shows more than half (52.9%) of beggars family earns  $\leq 5000$  taka ( $\leq \$64.1$ ) whereas their monthly expenditure is 5000+ taka ( $\$64.1+$ ). So among the beggars' family one kind of inconsistency are clear that push them (beggars) to involve in begging for long period. Monthly expenditure and family member is associated which lead people to involve in beggary. In the present study, above one-fourth (42.9%) of beggar's family expend 5000+ taka ( $\$64.1+$ ) whereas their family member is 5-7 and more than one-tenth (12.9%) of beggar's family expenditure is also 500+ taka ( $\$64.1+$ ) whereas their family member is 7+. So beggars are totally bound to begging to make-up their family expenditure due to the large size of family. Educational qualification is one of the important requirements for a good working opportunity which is also depends on various flexible environments. In our social framework various obstacles (e.g., large size of family member, school problem etc.) hamper the opportunities of proper education. As a result a large proportion of people are not able to get the suitable work due to their lack of education which is also responsible for beggary. In Sylhet City beggars are bound to choose the beggary to the means of money income due to various vulnerable situations which are important obstacle beyond their education.

## 7. Recommendations

Beggary is one of the vital concerns in Bangladesh that is increasing gradually day to day due to the various inconsistencies of our social structure and inharmonic of economic management, social inequality and stratification by wealth etc. Though laws are approved by government to reduce beggary from the country, but no implementations are properly active to reduce it. In order to stop the beggary the following initiatives can be taken:

1. To know the appropriate number of beggars nationally a strong and precise survey can be conducted by government, non-government, semi-government and autonomous organizations/institutions for the proper management of intensive distribution for the beggars.
2. Laws are already approved by government against beggary have to be implement properly if the total rate of beggars may be reduced from our existing society.
3. Government approved law (Vagrant and Street-less People Act 2011) to rehabilitate them and if this act may be implemented, government should to keep the proper monitoring by various government/non-government organizations/institutions.
4. Government should arrange technical and vocational training for capacity build upping of beggars by government/non-government agencies/institutions if they may become self capable to do work and independent entity in their existing society.
5. Government and non-government organizations/institutions should give emphasize on employment creation, approve the important project to produce subsidy for beggars, relief fund, poverty alleviation program, food for work (FFW) program etc.
6. The government-sponsored rehabilitation program may not only limited to financial help to maintain the subsistence needs of beggars but also may responsible to include small projects on handicrafts, sewing, work for food, small size dairy and poultry etc. As a result people who are begging will be encouraged to become self-dependent by the work and income generates facilities.
7. Mass awareness have to rise against the tendency of begging by organizing seminar, symposium, open forum discussion etc. and for this regard print and electronic media can play the pioneer role.

## 8. Conclusion

Beggary problem is one of the burning issues in the context of Bangladesh. People whose are involved in beggary no particular reason is responsible, but several types of crucial factor pushed them to involve in this activity. Basically, present socio-economic condition along with poverty, poor educational qualification and lack of working opportunities, more family members (large family size), lack of earnable family member and inconsistency between monthly family income and expenditure etc. are the important fact that influences people to involve in beggary for the long period of time. Socio-economic condition is a status of people which depends on family income, earnable family members, ability to earn enough money, capability to maintain the proper subsistence needs of family, savings capacity, standard of livelihood, mentality to savings and investments of family members etc. Beggar's family face hard financial crisis and they are not capable to deposit savings due to low monthly income, lack of earnable members in family and

insufficiency of essential property etc. that are involving them to beg and enjoy livelihood as undermined being in their existing society. Beggars are not able to maintain their all kind of essential subsistence needs due to poverty and current high price of essential goods which lead them to expect partial financial support to recover the present misery from their rich and financially sound relatives. But reality is that majority of them are not capable to get the proper financial support to make-up essential needs and they also becomes as neglected person in several way by their rich relatives. As a result beggars enjoy one kind of harsh life in their existing society by various social harassment as such- underestimate by own relatives and society, labeling as beggars and less evaluation by peoples which plays the negative impact on their own values and standard of life. Though beggars enjoyed less standard of livelihood and social evaluation by beg (is one of the psychological struggle) but they are also not fit physically are suffering by fever, headache, pressure, gastric, allergy and pain in leg during beg that also declining their entire expectations and life structure. Beggary is not a profession in our country but it is one kind of desolation for our society although people take it as one of the so-called means of money earning process. In general, although people are bound to involve in beggary but it is one of the vital social problem in Bangladesh and is increasing day to day due to the overall social structure and mismanagement of entire economy. Although law against beggary has been approved by our government but it has no proper implication to reduce the tendency of begging. It is too necessary to take attempt the progressive step to reduce beggary for the entire wellbeing and development of Bangladesh.

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