

COUNTERING THE GROWING

MENACE OF BEGGARY

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c. Establishing rehabilitation centers

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- e- Promoting and regulating charity
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4. CONCLUSION

According to Pakistan and Eurolf Economist report, Pakistan has 38 million beggars, receiving about Rs. 32 billion daily. It indicates the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan. Since the existence of human

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society, begging has been initiated as social practice. For human society, it is viewed as one of the oldest challenges. For many, offering a few rupees to beggars seems like an act of kindness, but it results towards growing beggary. However, there is need to adopt strategic ways to counter growing menace of beggary in Pakistan. These ways include strengthening legal frameworks and dismantling begging mafias. Moreover, establishing rehabilitation centers and strengthening vocational and skills training institutes will also help in reducing beggary. Furthermore, there is need of promoting charity, public awareness campaigns, and ensuring child protection. Similarly, government should monitor travel agents facilitating begging missions and establish a helpline for community surveillance. Moreover, "no begging zones" must be strictly enforced at traffic signals. It is need of the hour to take pragmatic measures for countering growing menace of beggary.

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The issue of beggary has been prevalent in Pakistan over a long period of time. For any society, it is considered as oldest challenge. However, instead of decreasing, it has been increasing in Pakistan. According to a statistical report in 2025, Pakistan has 38 million beggars, receiving Rs. 32 billion daily, creating a \$42 billion economic drain yearly. There are various type of beggars involving able-bodied, disabled, mentally deficient, hereditary beggars e.t.c begging due to various factors. The wicked effects of beggary do not only influence an individual but also bring change in the social framework of the society. No one is safe from its repercussions and directly or indirectly affected by it.

There is need to take pragmatic measures for countering the growing menace of beggary. It involves the need to ~~be~~ strengthen legal frameworks. The government should

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frame the existing laws. The ordinances like Vagrancy Ordinance 1958 are outdated. Each province should make their own laws. They should follow the recent example of approved KP Vagrancy Control and Rehabilitation Bill approved on 27 February, 2026 against beggary. It will provide a modern, right-based and legal structure to counter the growing menace of beggary.

Moreover, besides strengthening legal frameworks, dismantling begging mafias can also help in reducing beggary in Pakistan. There is need to focus and act against contractors and handlers of beggars instead of street beggars. It can help in breaking their begging networks. Criminalizing organized begging as a form of human trafficking as in recent

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Federal amendments allow for faster trials and severe penalties. This step will help in reducing the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan.

In addition to dismantling begging mafias, establishing rehabilitation centers is also necessary to counter the growing beggary in Pakistan. The state should establish dedicated rehabilitation centers that provide healthcare, psychological treatment and support to those addicted to drugs.

Because mostly drug addicted turned out to be beggars to earn money to fulfill their drug desires. It can help those people reintegration into society after proper treatment and thus reduce the rate of beggary in Pakistan.

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Furthermore, along with rehabilitation centers, strengthening vocational and skills training institutes ^{will} help in countering the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan. The root cause of beggary is poverty and unemployment. To address these issues, government need to focus on skills development of youth in Pakistan. It can only be possible through vocational training at institutes like TEVTA. The training may involve plumbing, tailoring, IT and freelancing e.t.c. It will empower people for dignified earning and reduce the growth rate of beggary.)

Similarly, another way to counter the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan is "promoting" and regulating charity. The government should encourage people to give to deserving people

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instead of people roaming on the streets. otherwise, people should charity through proper channels such as NGOs or state programs like Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) so that the money reach to truly deserving people. It will obviously discourage beggary in Pakistan.

Moreover, there is need to lead public awareness campaigns to reduce the rate of beggary in Pakistan. In this 21st century, it is the era of social media, and through social media platforms, ulema and other public figures can come forward to change public perception in this regard. It must be highlighted that street giving often fuel exploitation and organized crime. However, state and NGOs must engage to change public perception through media, campaigns and seminars to counter beggary.

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Furthermore, another way to counter the growing menace of beggary is ensuring child protection.

In Pakistan, it has become common that children are begging and roaming on the streets and roads.

The main reason behind this is offering a few rupees as an act of kindness, but actually it is increasing this ratio. To ensure child protection, children found begging should be immediately referred to **Child Protection and Welfare Bureau**. The state must focus on the children enrollment to school to break the cycle of intergenerational beggary.

Similarly, along with ensuring child protection, there is need to monitor travel agents who facilitate begging missions under the guise of Umrah or Ziarat.

FIA's statistics shows that in 2025,

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over 66,000 passengers were offloaded to prevent "begging missions" disguised as Umrah or work trips. These timely actions and blacklisting such individuals can save Pakistan's international image and reduce the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan.

Moreover, establishing a dedicated helpline may help in countering the growing menace of beggary. The helpline like 1121 for child exploitation and begging activities must be established for community surveillance and reporting. It will help in for police to act in real-time against beggary.

Additionally, strictly enforcing "no-begging zones" at traffic signals is also one of the ways to reduce growing rate of beggary in Pakistan.

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Traffic signals are the main locations of beggars to earn the most. Every traffic signal or commercial hub is divided into a group of beggars. To remove these begging zones, there is need to enforce patrolling forces at major traffic signals and commercial hubs. It can help in reducing the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan.

To sum up, beggary in Pakistan is one of the oldest challenges. Multiple factors are involved in it. Instead of reducing, it is increasing day by day. To counter the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan, there is need to take several steps. It includes strengthening legal frameworks and establishing rehabilitation centers. Similarly, regulating charity and public awareness campaigns ^{can} also help in countering the growing menace of

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beggary in Pakistan. Moreover, ensuring child protection and enforcing no-begging zones at traffic signals are also ways to counter the growing menace of beggary in Pakistan.