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Sexual Violence Against Beggars and their Coping Strategies in District Mardan: A Quantitative Study

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ABSTRACT

Beggars encounter numerous challenges on a daily basis in Pakistan, with violence being a particularly pressing issue. This study examines the violence experienced by beggars in Mardan, Pakistan, and their corresponding coping mechanisms. Employing a quantitative methodology and probability sampling, the research recruits' respondents from the beggar population in Mardan. Utilizing an interview schedule for data collection and SPSS for data analysis, the study conducts univariate analysis and chi-square tests. It presents descriptive statistics on various socio-demographic variables and bivariate statistics demonstrating that both male and female beggars face sexual violence. However, male beggars experience more sexual violence than their female counterparts. The research also draws attention to the significant violence the beggar community encounters, underscoring the necessity for increased academic and policy attention directed toward this issue.

Keywords: Sexual Violence, Beggars, Mardan, Pakistan, Quantitative.

Introduction

Beggary affects communities worldwide and occurs throughout developed nations and nations in development. Rising beggary in Pakistan attributes largely to the combination of poverty and unemployment which afflicts the country (Khan, 2021). Individuals from diverse backgrounds such as women and children and disabled persons seek to beg because of money problems. The problem reaches further than poverty since criminal organizations utilize vulnerable people to obtain economic benefit (Mehreen, 2022). It is essential to address the severe problem of violence directed against those who beg. The abuse of women and children continues to increase because criminals use physical violence and forced labor to cause further harm to their vulnerable state (Ali & Rehman, 2020).

The implementation of protective legal frameworks becomes ineffective because of poor law enforcement combined with corruption which blocks genuine action. Systematic discrimination as well as social isolation and lack of care occurs frequently in the experiences of Pakistani beggars (Ahmed, 2019).

Public health together with economic stability and social order face adverse effects because of begging activities. Some individuals rely on genuine backing but professional begging has emerged as a method that many fake beggars use to turn public donations into their main

occupation. Beggars misuse religious practices of zakat and charity intended to support the poor leaving a complex situation in Pakistan according to Mehreen (2022).

Multi-dimensional solutions need to unite legal measures with economic development programs and social improvement systems to resolve this crisis. A reduction in begging patterns occurs when people have jobs and access to education and acquire professional skills. Representative government bodies and NGO organizations need to unite efforts by gathering data about poverty and carrying out effective anti-beggary law implementation. The development of solution-based policies requires an extensive evaluation of sociodemographic elements which affect poverty and research gaps which need to be investigated. The identification of fundamental causes including social exclusion and poverty will allow policymakers to implement comprehensive solutions for this entrenched problem (Ahmed, 2019).

Literature Review

Definition of Begging

"Begging is the fun and skill through which, without work, money is made. They do not work and do not have special skills to make money. Sometimes, parents don't work. They sit in their house and send their children to beg. Sometimes young people are abducted, and then they are used for forced begging" (Khan, 2020).

Child Beggars

Child beggars refer to when children engage in begging, usually on the streets, often because of poverty and exploitation or oppression. They are vulnerable to neglect, abuse, and lack of access to education and to childhood routines. (Khan, 2019).

Physical and Mentally Disabled Beggars

Physically and mentally challenged beggars are disabled people who resort to begging due to limited access to employment, health care and social support. They often face unique challenges as they struggle with physical and mental health problems. Inclusive disability free policies, support services, and awareness raising are needed to improve their quality of life and reduce dependence on begging, addressing their needs (Khan, 2019).

Diseased Beggars

Diseased beggars are individuals who beg on the streets while dealing with various diseases or diseases. These individuals are often in dismal situations, deprived of adequate health care and social support. Meeting the needs of sick beggars includes providing medical care, shelter and support services to improve their health and overall well-being by addressing the broader problems of domestic dancing and poverty (Khan, 2019).

Violence

According to Sanaullah (2021) violence represents a multifaceted event without standard interpretation since it changes depending on cultural and situational elements. According to the World Health Organization from 2002 violence consists of purposefully using force to deliver destructive actions and deprivations. The UNHCR (2010) along with Oxford (2023) define violence as any behavior which causes injury to a victim or disrupts social structure as well as brings psychological damage.

Sexual violence

A sexual activity becomes violent when someone lacks free willing consent or if they cannot give their consent or deny it. The boundaries of sexual contact include nonconsensual penetration activities as well as forced or nonconsensual sexual touching and other similar sexual acts. No matter who participates with them sexual violence includes any act of forced or

pressured sexual activities toward others. This unacceptable behavior constitutes a serious violation that goes against the law (SPO, 2023).

Sexual abuse

As a result of sexual exploitation female beggars experience manipulation from men who make fake money offers to deceive them. Their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS increases due to becoming victims of the disease (Ogunkan 2009). The insufficient protection and support systems for street dwellers proves vital for preventing women from experiencing such harmful exploitation alongside health dangers.

Beggary and Violence

Individuals mostly including women and children become vulnerable to violence through their connection with extreme poverty and marginalization when they beg (Manoz, 2015). Beggars maintain an exposed position because they lack legal protection so they fall victim to exploitation networks and experience trafficking and forced labor practices. Their psychological trauma becomes more severe due to adverse street situations. A combination of legal reforms together with social support mechanisms must be implemented to secure the rights and dignity of the beggars (Ogunkan, 2009).

Causes of Bagging Poverty

According to the Federal Office of Statistics (1996), poverty assessment depends on individual or group financial income and spending patterns. Signs of homelessness together with insufficient food and substandard living arrangements can be observed. Motherhood pushes numerous women into begging activities as a means to survive according to Akinbola (2002).

Homelessness

Statistics provided by UNICEF show that 100 million children in the world exist without a place to live. The results from the survey indicate that 43% of beggars chose to displace themselves and 71% struggled to obtain shelter during nighttime. Statistics show that child disruption affects many people and creates major problems for all homeless individuals (Hoyt, 1939).

Unemployment

The majority (82%) of people who beg maintain long periods of joblessness before they seek survival through this method. Beggars resort to this method because traditional employment opportunities remain elusive while they must use the money to support their families as well as fulfil basic societal requirements (Okunmadewa, 2001).

Begging in Pakistan

Unemployment and poverty and organized criminal activities together create the deep social problem of begging that exists throughout Pakistan. Criminal organizations based on crime rings subject women, children along with disabled individuals to forced street begging. The United Nations reports that poverty affects 49% of Pakistan's citizens while the country's qualified youth maintain a jobless status at 31%. The 1958 West Pakistan Vagrancy Ordinance became ineffective after both its enforcement and governance system became irresponsible. The successful resolution of professional begging demands proper government oversight, complete data accumulation together with NGO participation and public education efforts to combat professional begging while giving appropriate help to genuine needy populations (Mehreen, 2022; Asian Human Rights Commission, 2015).

Statistics of Beggars in Pakistan

Research indicates that begging surpassed survival needs to become a professional activity in Pakistan where 25 million people engage in this business among 170 million citizens (The News, 2023). Families resort to extreme desperate actions because of poverty and joblessness by giving their children to begging organizations. Beggars participate alongside organized groups

that use coercion as well as physical mistreatment to trap victims into committing future acts of begging. The absence of sufficient laws enables further exploitation. The resolution of this problem demands various stakeholders to work together since it requires poverty alleviation schemes combined with legal system modifications and sustainable career development opportunities for vulnerable populations to prevent exploitation and lift their human worth (The News, 2023; Asian Human Rights Commission, 2015).

Daily income of beggars in Pakistan

The population of beggars in Pakistan totals 3.8 crore including 55% female and 27% child constituents. The economy suffers \$42 billion annually due to begging activities which leads to 21% inflation. When this labor force finds employment in productive positions it would produce \$38 billion in revenue that would strengthen economic growth and stability (The News, 2023).

Beggary in Islam

According to Islamic teachings Sadaqah serves as the method for giving charity but professional begging remains unacceptable to followers. According to the Quran and Hadith a person should only beg under extraordinary situations but must obtain their livelihood through legitimate means (Hafiz, 2023). The separation of legitimate needy persons from profiteering beggars proves difficult to achieve. The practice of begging reveals societal gaps between rich and poor along with shelterlessness yet it primarily exists because criminal organizations profit from manipulating helpless groups such as children and disabled people (Hafiz, 2023). Public health risks develop because the unclean living environment of street beggars serves as a channel for illness transmission. The elimination of begging demands policy changes together with employment prospects and educational programs to discourage people from accepting charitable handouts. The elimination of poverty and joblessness produces durable solutions which enhance social rights and human dignity (Hafiz, 2023).

Purpose of the study

The research investigates how frequently sexual violence affects beggars in the Mardan region including its related effects. People who beg up to two times per month face sexual violence when others force unwanted sexual actions or harassment or abusive sexual contact upon them. Due to their disadvantaged economic circumstances female and child beggars face high risks of being abused and exploited. The work goal is to create records of sexual violence incidents to study their pattern rates while investigating abuse environments. The analysis of demographic information from both targets and assailants will reveal essential relations which uncover the fundamental reasons behind this issue.

Research objective

To investigate the spread and nature of sexual, violence faced by beggars in district Mardan
 To examine the relationship between gender and violence
 To know how beggars in district Mardan deal with sexual, violence

Research questions

What is the prevalence and nature of violence beggars face in district Mardaan?
 Do male and female beggars face violence differently?
 What strategies do the beggars employ to deal with violence?

Methodology

Research Methods

The research design used a quantitative method to analyze numerical information while identifying statistical relationships within a wide sample group (Neuman, 2006).

Sampling and Study Population

The chosen research group included all beggars who lived within Mardan district according to estimates that numbered between 300 and 400. Random selection of eighty respondents took place using simple random sampling as a suitable technique to eliminate selection biases (Neuman, 2006).

Data Collection and Analysis

The researchers used a standardized survey instrument to obtain responses from subjects. The researchers analyzed the data using SPSS version 23 for descriptive purposes because this enabled the generation of percentages and averages without drawing any causal conclusions.

Data Analysis and Results

Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics in quantitative research refer to methods of summarizing and managing data to provide a clear overview of its main features. It includes measures of central tendency, such as mean, median, and mode, that indicate average or common values in a dataset. It includes measures of variance, such as limitation, variance, and standard deviation, which describe how data points are spread. Descriptive statistics often include visual representations, like tables and graphs, to communicate results effectively. Overall, these statistics help researchers understand the patterns within their data and present their results in an accessible way, producing information about a large population.

Table 4.1 Age of the Respondents

N		82
Mean		24.7927
Std. Deviation		15.87275

Explanation

Table and Histogram 4.1 shows that the average age of respondents was 24.79 years, with a standard deviation of 15.873 years, indicating the distribution of diverse ages. While many respondents are younger, the standard deviation suggests that a significant number may be older, potentially extending to about 40 years or older. Thus, one standard deviation age would range from about 8.92 to 40.66 years. This variation highlights the importance of separating ages for comparison with explicit insights and demographic benchmarks.

Table 4.2 Education of Respondents				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	No	73	89.0	89.0
	Yes	9	11.0	11.0
	Total	82	100.0	100.0

Explanation

Table 4.2 indicates that a significant majority of respondents, 89%, had no formal education. On the contrary, only 11% of the respondents were educated. Most of the literate did not complete the 10 grade, while a small number finished the 12 grade. This suggests that educational attainment among respondents is generally low, with only a few being educated to a higher level.

Table 4.3. Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Male	37	45.1	45.1
Female	45	54.9	54.9
Total	82	100.0	100.0

Explanation

Table 4.3. provides a detailed breakdown of the gender divisions. Among the total respondents, 45.1% were men, indicating a significant representation of men in the survey. Female respondents made 54.9%, which shows that the group had a majority of women.

Table 4.4. Family Life of Respondents

Family Life	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	13	15.9	15.9
Yes	69	84.1	84.1
Total	82	100.0	100.0

Explanation

Table 4.4 shows where respondents live. It shows that 84.1% of respondents live with their family, while 15.9% do not live at home. In detail, this means that most respondents, a large majority, live with their family members, including parents, siblings, or other relatives. On the other hand, a small group, which makes 15.9%, lives away from home.

Table 4.5. Begging under Compulsion

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	36	43.9	43.9
Yes	46	56.1	56.1
Total	82	100.0	100.0

Explanation

Table 4.5 describes the reasons why the respondents were involved in certain activities. This shows that 43.9 % of respondents chose the begging of their own free will, while 56.1 % felt forced to engage in it for survival. In detail, this means that almost half of the respondents, 43.9%, are involved in these activities because they find value or purpose in their actions. However, a large group, 56.1%, are participating because they feel they have no other choice, likely due to financial or personal positions requiring them to participate in these activities to survive.

Table 4.6 Sexual Violence

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
No	9	11.0	11.0
Yes	73	89.0	89.0
Total	82	100.0	100.0

Explanation

Table 4.6. shows the sexual violence experienced by the respondents in various activities. According to the data, 89% of respondents reported experiencing sexual violence, while only

11% said they did not experience any sexual violence. This shows that a large majority of respondents have experienced sexual violence in their activities, suggesting that this is a serious issue affecting many. The small percentage of people who have not experienced sexual violence highlights that the problem is widespread and affects a significant number of respondents. Overall, the table emphasizes the urgency of addressing sexual violence in these contexts.

Table 4.7 Type of Sexual Violence				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	Unwanted touching	6	7.3	8.2
	Verbal sexual harassment	16	19.5	21.9
	Sexual assault	8	9.8	11.0
	All 1,2 and 3	43	52.4	58.9
	Total	73	89.0	100.0
Missing	System	9	11.0	
Total		82	100.0	

Explanation

Table 4.7 presents an overview of the types of sexual violence faced by respondents in their daily activities. In particular, 8.2% reported unwanted touching experiences. A large percentage, 21.9%, suffered verbal sexual harassment, highlighting the broad nature of this form of abuse in everyday interactions. In addition, 11% of respondents reported experiencing sexual assaults, pointing to more severe violations of safety and consent. In particular, a significant 58.9% of respondents experienced a combination of all these types of sexual violence, which describes the interplay of these issues and the broad nature of sexual harassment and assault in society. This highlights the urgency of awareness, prevention and supportive procedures to deal with and combat sexual violence in all its forms.

Table 4.8 Daily Experience of Sexual Violence				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	Never	9	11.0	11.0
	Rarely	11	13.4	13.4
	Sometimes	49	59.8	59.8
	Often	1	1.2	1.2
	Always	12	14.6	14.6
	Total	82	100.0	100.0

Explanation

Table 4.8 presents respondents' views on sexual violence in their daily activities. Data show that 11% of respondents never experienced sexual violence, while 13.4% said they rarely experienced it. An important part, 59.8%, indicated that they sometimes experience sexual violence. In addition, 1.2% are often reported to encounter such violence, and 14.6% said they always experience it. Information highlights that a large number of respondents have experienced sexual violence at some point, with the majority experiencing it at least sometimes. A large percentage of respondents feel they are often exposed to sexual violence

or highlight the seriousness of the problem at all times and the urgency of awareness and action to deal with it.

Table 4.9 Offender of Sexual Violence				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	Authorities	11	13.4	15.1
	Others beggars	8	9.8	11.0
	Local people	17	20.7	23.3
	All 1, 2, 3 and 4	37	45.1	50.7
	Total	73	89.0	100.0
Missing	System	9	11.0	
Total		82	100.0	

Explanation

Table 4.9 presents important findings about the experiences of respondents who have experienced sexual violence, showing a disturbing landscape of abuse. Specifically, 15.1% of respondents reported being harassed by authorities, indicating mobilization about power and exploitation. Moreover, 11% of respondents experience abuse from other beggars, which points to harsh facts within vulnerable populations. Emphasizing the spread of violence within the community, a notable 23.3% of respondents were abused by locals. To the most alarming extent, 50.7% of respondents reported abuse by a variety of sources, including officials, fellow beggars, locals and strangers, highlighting the systematic nature of the problem. This data highlights the urgency of comprehensive strategies to tackle and prevent sexual violence in different contexts, as well as the importance of providing support to the affected.

Table 4.10 Coping with Sexual Violence				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
	try to avoid the person	35	42.7	43.2
	tell someone	5	6.1	6.2
	keep quiet	18	22.0	22.2
	leave the area	23	28.0	28.4
	Total	81	98.8	100.0
Missing	System	1	1.2	
Total		82	100.0	

Explanation

Table 4.10 offers important insights into the coping strategy adopted by respondents when facing sexual violence. Data shows that a significant 43.2% of respondents choose "try to avoid the person," which suggests that many people have a basic strategy to avoid further self-harm. On the contrary, only 6.2% of respondents reported that they were "telling someone," indicating a possible obstacle in seeking help and assistance in such situations. Meanwhile, 22.2% of respondents indicated that they "remain silent," which can reflect feelings of shame, fear, or uncertainty about displaying their experiences. In addition, 28.4% deal with "leaving the area," demonstrating a desire to distance themselves from the source of violence physically. These data emphasize the need for better supportive systems and resources to encourage individuals to obtain and promote open conversations about their experiences, highlighting the complexity of sexual violence response. Understanding these coping strategies can inform interventions aimed at addressing psychological and social factors affecting survivors' responses.

Table 4.11 Avoiding Places of Violence

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Sometimes	51	62.2	62.2
Often	6	7.3	7.3
Always	25	30.5	30.5
Total	82	100.0	100.0

Explanation

Table 4.11 provides important insights into the respondent's behavior concerning avoiding places associated with violence. Data show that 62% of respondents said they "sometimes" avoid places, which indicates a cautious approach to their environment and a confession of potential hazards. In addition, 7.3% of respondents indicated that they "often" avoid areas of violence, suggesting an active attempt to tackle the risk. In particular, 30.5 percent of respondents said they "always" avoid these locations, reflecting a strong desire to protect themselves from harm. These data undermine the need for community safety measures and support systems, highlighting the wide impact of violence on individuals' daily lives and decision-making processes that can help reduce risks associated with such an environment. Understanding these avoidance behaviors is essential to promote effective intervention aimed at enhancing the safety and welfare of those affected by violence.

Bivariate Statistics**Table Association between Gender and Sexual Violence**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (2-sided)	Exact Sig. (1-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	7.821 ^a	1	.005		
Continuity Correction^b	5.961	1	.015		
Likelihood Ratio	8.520	1	.004		
Fisher's Exact Test				.009	.006
Linear-by-Linear Association	7.725	1	.005		
N of Valid Cases	82				
a. 2 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 4.06.					
b. Computed only for a 2x2 table					

Fisher's exact test was used to determine if there was a significant association between the gender of the respondents and the experience of sexual violence. Table 4.2.2 shows a statistically significant association between the two variables (two-tailed $p = .009$).

Conclusion

This research exposes a serious situation of sexual violence which affects populations with minimal protection. The results showed that 89% of respondents endured sexual violence in their lives because 58.9% among them received multiple types of abuse. The high percentage of sexual assault affects every corner of society and demonstrates how urgently we need intervention procedures and support networks. The research reveals systemic abuse patterns since 50.7% of victims received physical abuse from different sources consisting of local residents as well as other beggars and foreign perpetrators. The situation of abuse in marginalized communities requires specific intervention measures because abuse from fellow

beggars occurs against 11% of the population. The research data demonstrates both how severe the situation is and what fundamental inner weaknesses victims face when attacked. The survival of abuse victims proves to be a traumatic experience which creates chronic fear and ongoing insecurity while demonstrating the extensive psychological and social effects of abuse. A solution to this problem should combine policy innovation with police action and general community awareness programs alongside support services for victims. Urgent complete intervention strategies are required to stop exploitation cycles with traumatic experiences from spreading and causing further social marginalization of vulnerable people. The need exists for multiple organizations and governmental entities to work together as a unified force against sexual violence in society. Cooperative work and enhanced enforcement of protective laws and purposeful rehabilitation programs will secure the protection and respect and well-being of populations in danger.

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