

Sociological review of Mendicancy**Dr. Shialendra Kumar* Dr. Nister Kujur*******Research Associated, **Senior Assistant Professor****SOS in Sociology, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur (Chhattisgarh)**

Abstract: The present era known as era of development. What is development? What are the measurement of development? What level are stified levels of development? These are questions which makes two different views about development. Process of development is result of changes. Every changes of societies origin some positive and some negative results. Positive result called development and negative changes called social problems and mendicancy is one of them. Every undeveloped and developing country is suffering with these problems. Mendicancy affected directly baggers and their families. Human are primary unit of society so if one man effected with some problem naturally all family member are affected. There are no satisfied definitions of mendicancy in social sciences. As nature and work behavioure we can define it as social problem like "Mendicancy is a socio-economic problem, which is done by poor and physically hanicaped men, women and children for their survival." Mendicancy is generally affected childern and old age men/women. Mendicants are suffering for basic needs of life like food, cloths and shelters. Generally mendicancy is known economic problems but that is socio-cultural problems also. Present paper tries to know mendicant problems in old age men and woemen. What are the reasons because of old age men/women expend their whole life in mendicancy? If they are come suddenly in this field so what are the reasons? All the old agers are not poor as well as phycially hanicaped so why they are in these field? Present paper tried to know answers of these questions. Present research work conduct in three major railway stations Durg, Raipur and Bilaspur of Chhattisgarh state. Trinagulation methods (quantitative and qualitative) are used in present work. Present work reveled division of labour in socity and concept of nucaluer family are major factors of mendicancy.

Key Words: Mendicancy, old age, division of labour.

Introduction: India is suffered with various outer and inner problems. Terrorism, naxalism, various communal riots these are some outer problems and poverty, mendicancy are inner problems of India which are work us barriers to way of development. Every country, every society are not a single structure but it is made by various structures that's why if any structure are affected with some problem all structure are affected. As similar if any individual who are basic unit of societies, affected with some problems whole countries/societies are affected because a family made by humans, a society made by society, and a country made by societies. So, it is chains which are affected each other. Mendicancy is an also negative part of society. There are no universal definition of mendicancy but according to its nature and work behavior we can define that a social problems where are men/women, children/old aged mendicant cloths, food, money for her/him survival. Generally crowded places like railway station, temples, market etc are selected for these because there are more chances to meet something common to other places. Mendicancy affected not a particular age group but it's affected all age groups like children, younger especially physically handicapped persons, old aged etc. Mendicancy is maximum seen in crowded areas like markets, railway station and bus stand. Generally we think mendicancy are a economical problems but it is also effected by socio-cultural, health, educational etc. problems. Like hazard of joint families, physically handicapped persons, weak physical stamina all of these problems pressurized to mendicancy. There are no universal definitions of mendicancy. In Wikipedia (2009), begging is presented as requesting something in a supplicating manner with the implication that person who is begging will suffer emotional and or physical harm. Like Jelili (2006), Wikipedia (2009) also agrees that the term is applicable not only to individuals but to groups. Some scholars use the term mendicancy, vagrancy (Hanchao, 1999), panhandling, sponging (Wikipedia, 2009) to reflect means and reasons for begging. While panhandling and sponging are synonymous with street begging, mendicancy and vagrancy connote more than street begging. Mendicancy refers to an act of begging usually associated with religious belief, vagrancy is used to describe the begging activities of jobless, homeless, and wanderers or vagabond (Hanchao, 1999). whatever term used: street begging, panhandling, sponging (Wikipedia, 2009), mendicancy or vagrancy (Hanchao, 1999), it has its root in the general idea of asking people for money, food, clothes etc. Family is the most important institution for support human in any problems at any stage. Positive family atmosphere are way for solve all problems. The present paper tried to search factors of mendicancy and also tried to make some ground level suggestion for solve this problems.

Objectives of Study:

1. Study for know cause-effect of mendicancy.
2. Study about economic, social and physical problems of mendicancy and co-relation in these factors.
3. Try to make some ground level suggestion for solve mendicancy.

Study area and used method and techniques: Present study conducted in three main stations of Chhattisgarh state which are durg, Raipur and Bilaspur and some small stations. Old aged mendicant are selected for study in these stations by purposive sampling. Total 127 respondents are selected in this study which is busy in mendicancy in these railway stations. The triangulation method used in present study. Quantitative and qualitative both research methods are used for data collection. Structural interview schedule, semi participatory observation and interview used in quantitative methods and case

study, life history and content analysis used are in qualitative study. MS-Excel and SPSS (16-version) are used for data analysis.

Result and discussion:

1. General information of old aged mendicant:

Age is the major factor of mendicancy. Maximum 46 percent old mendicants are in age group of 60 to 65 percent and secondary 25 percent old mendicants are in between 66 to 70 year. 8.7 percent mendicants are in 80 and over 80. So, as result we can say that mendicants which are in 60 to 80 year age, they need completely physically and social rest and security but they are suffering in mendicancy. Mendicancy could be very harmful to them because railway station and railway are very busy and crowded area.

Education is basic need for survival in present era. Educated persons have large view for understand the problems and for solve the problems not only in present but future also. In study group 65 percent mendicants are illiterate and 28 percent mendicants are studied in less of primary and primary. Only 8.6 percent mendicants are cross middle school and high school. So, we can say that illiteracy is a major factor for mendicancy but not only single factors because high school educated persons are also engaged in mendicancy. 5.5 percent mendicant are physically handicapped who are high school educated. If all mendicants are educated definitely our percent could be less than comparison to present data and they could not suffer with these problems.

There are no and directly and indirectly co-relation of religion and caste with mendicancy because the main cause are poverty and other economical factors for these. Generally, mendicants used some god or goddess name and some religious sentences for mendicancy. Like a mendicant who are Hindu they used Hindu god and goddess, Muslims used religious mats for mendicancy, In present study 69 percent mendicants are Hindu and secondary 11 percent are Muslims which are general result because main population of India are Hindus and secondary Muslims. Almost similar result found in caste related data. We found mendicants of various caste groups. In present study 55 percent mendicants are scheduled caste and 29 percent are representing general category.

2. **Family Status of Mendicants:** Joint family or support of family member makes easier to easier big problems and other side destroyed family origin big problems. Nucleus and old age both are the conditions where human wants family supports. In study groups 67 percent mendicants are related to joint family, 29 percent mendicants are related to nuclear family and 4 percent mendicants have no one in this world. So, as result we can say that family contention of joint families are more responsible comparison to nuclear family. According to many social scientists family makes human life easy to easier and that is its main function but in this study that are not seen.

Shelters are very important for human to psychological and health view. In study group, 66 percent mendicants are return to their home after mendicancy and 34 percent mendicants live in railway station, bus stand, market stages etc after mendicancy. That is the direct result shows families unresponsibilities for old age family members. That is very sensitive problems of current societies and according to many sociologists, anthropologists family members want to care them.

Without sociological life no one human survive in this world. Entertainment, friends group, family's member etc are very important part for human. In study groups many mendicants said there all

day expend in their mendicancy Some mendicates have some friends who are meeting in railway stations, bus stands etc where they are engage with mendicates like gram seller, news paper seller etc.

3. Economic Status of Mendicates:

Mendicancy is a hard work especially for old age because they can't stay one place. This paragraph try to shows income groups of mendicates. In present study 43 percent mendicates are belonging to very low income groups and 29 percent mendicates are related to low income group. In present study group no one in present group representing middle and high income group which are general finding about mendicancy. Mendicancy is related to hard work but comparison to work mendicates earn very low income.

Some shocking result find out in present study about past family income of mendicates. In present study group 52 percent mendicates were related to middle class economic groups and 7 percent were related to high income groups. So, as result we can say that economic condition are major factor for mendicancy but not a single reason. In study groups 45 percent mendicates who are representing middle and high income groups they are also agricultural land holders but some family issues like joint family contention, men dominated division of labour etc.

Some other shocking result find out in present study about mendicates past works or their life time works. In present study group 34 percent mendicates said they were related to various unregular but good economically related jobs and 4 percent mendicates are related with settled/regular jobs. All of these 38 percent mendicates who were related with unregular and regular job found good money in their retirement but they can't manage their payments and retirement monies. Some mendicates give their money to their children. In present study group's maximum mendicates who gave their money to their children, their children out their parents in home and properties and after that they engage in mendicancy. Some mendicates who have agricultural land they also do same thing they give their land to their children and relatives and after nomination their relatives out them from their own properties and they came to mendicancy. All of these examples, representing mentality of youth groups of the present era. Present data shows negative mentality of present youths which are very harmful for not only present era but also for future of society. In present study 8 percent mendicates had regular government job and they got good amount for their survival but they lost their whole money on alcohol, playing cards, bets etc. So as result we can say that absent of management of their money are major cause of their mendicancy.

4. Health Status of Mendicates:

In study groups 76 percent mendicates their health status are not good, 20 percent mendicates their health status are good and 4 percent mendicates give not answer about this questions. In study groups, 45 percent mendicates suffer with fever and body pain and secondary 20 percent mendicates they suffer with chest pain and cough.

Physical handicapped are an important factor of mendicates and present study also support these. Physically handicapped persons are disabling for hard work. In present study groups many mendicates are physical handicapped which is reason for mendicancy. Present study revealed 23 percent mendicates are suffered with physical handicapped related problems which is high percentage

in only 117 mendicants. In present study there are positive correlation between physical problems and illiteration. Maximum mendicants who are suffering with physical handicapped problems they are illiterate also and illiterates are also reason because they can't do any hard or labour works. If they are physical handicapped but literate than they do some work for own economy because every physical handicapped are not engage with mendicancy.

In study group, 64 percent mendicants are treat their physical problems and 26 percent mendicants are not interested about their health related treatment. 52 percent mendicants done their treatment in various government hospitals and 8 percent mendicants refer private hospitals for treatment. According to 4 percent mendicants they refer railway general hospital for their treatment. So, as result we can say that, because of low economic condition mendicants avoid their treatment that is very harmful for them.

Conclusion: 1. Illiteracy is a major factor of mendicancy but it is not only single factor.

2. Economic problem is a major factor of mendicancy in old age mendicants but it is also not a single or only factor for mendicancy

3. No particular plans in youth stage are also a reason for mendicancy.

3. Family of joint family becomes an important result for mendicancy comparison to nuclear family.

4. In the present era, destroyed function of families and negative mentality of youth about families member are a reason for poverty of old age family members.

5. Different physical problems are generated in old age mendicants because of mendicants.

Maximum factors which are founded in present study these can be stoppable. Good management of re-employment amounts, Policies, small business etc. these can be some treatment which can be take by old mendicants at their young age. Other side central or government wants to provide some hermitage. Counciling can be major way for solve these problems. Sociologist, anthropologist and other social scientist wants to council mendicants family members specially their young children. I tried to solve these problems by counciling and I got positive result. So we can say that mendicancy is a social problem and its solutions are also present in societies.

6-References

- 1- Agrawal, K.G. (1987): *"Poverty Deprivation & Intelligence"*, Criterion publication, India.
- 2- Danik Bhasker (2012-2014)
- 3- Hasnain, N. (2011): *"Samkalin Bhartiya Samaj: Ek Samajshashtriya Paridriya"*, Tarun offset, Delhi.
- 4- Haribhumi (2012-2014)
- 5- Nvabharat (2012-2014)
- 6- Ogunkan V. David, Fawole A. Olufemi. 2009. Incidence and socio-economic dimensions of begging in Nigerian cities: The case of Ogbomoso. *International NGO Journal*, vol-4(12), pp-498-503.
- 7- Verma, S. 2014. *Audhikaran Ka Gramin Jeevan Shaili per Prabhav* (In Hindi). *Scholarly Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies*, II: XIV: 2058-2068.
- 8- World Bank (2000). *World Development Report 2000/01: Attacking Poverty*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.