

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LAW MANAGEMENT & HUMANITIES

[ISSN 2581-5369]

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Volume 6 | Issue 4

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2023

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# Lost Childhood: Exploring India's Juvenile Justice System in the Face of Child Begging

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## ABSTRACT

*This article explores the challenges and provisions of India's Juvenile Justice System in addressing the issue of child begging. With a focus on the legislative framework, including the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 and amendments to the Indian Penal Code, it examines the legal measures in place to combat child begging and hold offenders accountable. The analysis highlights the role of the Juvenile Justice Board and the Child Welfare Committee in safeguarding the rights and well-being of child beggars. However, several gaps and challenges within the system hinder its effectiveness, including inadequate implementation, limited rehabilitation programs, and barriers to access justice. The article concludes with suggestions to strengthen the system, such as improving implementation, expanding rehabilitation initiatives, streamlining legal procedures, and fostering international collaboration. By addressing these challenges and implementing comprehensive measures, India can protect the rights of child beggars and provide them with the support necessary to reclaim their lost childhood and build a brighter future.*

**Keywords:** *Child begging, Juvenile Justice System, Vulnerable children, UNCRC, ILO Convention No. 182.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Child begging is a grave issue in India, depriving children of their rights, education, and future prospects. It is perpetuated by socio-economic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, migration, and systemic failures. Understanding the causes and consequences of child begging is crucial to develop effective legal and policy interventions.

While walking on the road or traveling in vehicles, one often encounters children wearing filthy clothes, holding a bowl and asking for alms. This scenario is particularly prevalent in metropolitan cities, where the plight of these little beggars is more tragic than it appears. Without any other choice, they beg for a single meal, disregarding their own illnesses and fevers. Child begging is not merely a social evil; it is a part of a forced begging racket. These children

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are trained to feign impairment or disability, eliciting fake sympathy from people and collecting money. The racket is orchestrated by criminals or notorious individuals who exploit these children and give them a meager portion of the earnings, hardly sufficient for a single meal.

Moreover, many children in India are abducted and forced into begging. The National Human Rights Commission reports that over 40,000 children are abducted annually, with 10,000 remaining unidentified and likely coerced into becoming beggars. It is estimated that more than 300,000 children are subjected to drugging, beatings, and forced begging each day, turning it into a lucrative industry masterminded by hidden criminals who exploit children for financial gain.

The existing legal framework pertaining to child begging poses challenges for law enforcement, as the age of these beggars often prevents their arrest. Due to this legal gap, the police face difficulties in apprehending those behind the begging racket. According to government data from 2011, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have the highest number of child beggars, followed by states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Assam, and Odisha.<sup>3</sup> However, due to the difficulty in accurately identifying and documenting these beggars, the data provided by government agencies may not be entirely accurate.

Addressing the issue of child begging requires comprehensive efforts that encompass legal reforms, stringent law enforcement, and rehabilitation programs. This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the juvenile justice system in addressing child begging in India. By analyzing the socio-economic factors, the prevalence of child begging, and the challenges faced by law enforcement, this research seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse on child protection and recommend evidence-based strategies to safeguard the rights and well-being of these vulnerable children.

### **(A) Conceptual Framework:**

Child begging, a distressing social phenomenon, requires a comprehensive conceptual framework for a deeper understanding and effective mitigation. This section explores the definition<sup>4</sup> and various forms of child begging, the legal and human rights framework for child protection, and the key principles and framework of the juvenile justice system in India.

Child begging involves the compelling act of children seeking alms or engaging in street-based

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<sup>3</sup> “Child Begging,” *Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India 2021 available at: <https://pib.gov.in/pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1778853>.*

<sup>4</sup> Section 2(8) defines begging as—“(i) soliciting or receiving alms in a public place or entering into any private premises for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms, under any pretence; (ii) exposing or exhibiting with the object of obtaining or extorting alms, any sore, wound, injury, deformity or disease, whether of himself or of any other person or of an animal.” *The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.*

activities to survive. It stems from a nexus of socio-economic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, migration, and systemic failures. Children facing destitution and vulnerability are subjected to hazardous conditions, denial of their fundamental rights, and exploitative practices. Recognizing the underlying causes and consequences of child begging is crucial for formulating robust legal and policy interventions.

In India, several legal and human rights frameworks are in place to safeguard children's rights and combat child begging. The Constitution of India, through Articles 14,<sup>5</sup> 21,<sup>6</sup> 23,<sup>7</sup> and 24,<sup>8</sup> guarantees equality, protection of life and personal liberty, prohibits human trafficking, and prohibits child labor, respectively. These constitutional provisions create a solid foundation for child protection. International instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) further reinforce the importance of ensuring child welfare,<sup>9</sup> emphasizing access to education,<sup>10</sup> healthcare,<sup>11</sup> and protection from exploitation.<sup>12</sup>

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, plays a pivotal role in India's legal framework for addressing child begging. It recognizes children engaged in begging or living on the streets as "Children in Need of Care and Protection."<sup>13</sup> This legislation sets forth principles,<sup>14</sup> procedures, and institutional mechanisms for the holistic care, protection, and rehabilitation of vulnerable children. It establishes specialized entities like Special Juvenile Police Units,<sup>15</sup> Child Welfare Committees,<sup>16</sup> and Juvenile Justice Boards<sup>17</sup> to facilitate the proper implementation of child protection measures.

The juvenile justice system in India operates on key principles that prioritize the best interests and well-being of the child.<sup>18</sup> It focuses on rehabilitation, reintegration, and diversion from the

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<sup>5</sup> Article 14 states that: "*The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.*" The Constitution of India, 1949.

<sup>6</sup> Article 21 states that: "*No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.*" *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Article 23(1) states that: "*Traffic in human beings and beggar and other similar forms of forced labour are prohibited and any contravention of this provision shall be an offence punishable in accordance with law.*" *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> Article 24 states that: "*No child below the age of fourteen years shall be employed to work in any factory or mine or engaged in any other hazardous employment.*" *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Preamble, The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

<sup>10</sup> Articles 19, 23, 24, 28, 29, 32, 33, and 40. *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Articles 3, 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 23, 24, 25, 32, and 39. *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> Articles 19, 32, 34, 36 and 39. *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Section 2(14)(ii) states that "*child in need of care and protection means a child... who is found working in contravention of labour laws for the time being in force or is found begging, or living on the street.*" The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> CHAPTER II, Section 3: General Principles of Care and Protection of Children. *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Section 107(2) & (3). *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> Chapter V, Sections 27-30, Child Welfare Committee. *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> Section 4, Juvenile Justice Board. *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Section 2(9) states that the: "*best interest of child*" means the basis for any decision taken regarding the child, to ensure fulfilment of his basic rights and needs, identity, social well-being and physical, emotional and

criminal justice system. The system aims to address the physical, emotional, and educational needs of children in need, empowering them to lead productive lives. However, effective implementation and enforcement of these principles remain a challenge, necessitating concerted efforts and resources.

While the existing legal and policy frameworks provide a foundation for combating child begging, challenges persist. Inadequate enforcement, gaps in implementation, and difficulties in identifying and rescuing child beggars contribute to its continued prevalence. To effectively address this issue, preventive measures, awareness campaigns, improved socio-economic conditions, and comprehensive rehabilitation programs are crucial. Collaboration among government agencies, civil society organizations, and the community is essential to ensure the protection, rehabilitation, and reintegration of child beggars.

By analyzing the conceptual framework surrounding child begging, understanding the legal and human rights perspectives, and examining the principles and framework of the juvenile justice system in India, we can develop a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and potential solutions. This knowledge serves as a foundation for formulating evidence-based policies and interventions aimed at safeguarding the rights and well-being of these vulnerable children.

## **II. UNDERSTANDING CHILD BEGGING IN INDIA**

Child begging in India is a complex social issue deeply rooted in various socioeconomic factors that contribute to its prevalence. To comprehend the phenomenon of child begging, it is essential to explore the socioeconomic dynamics at play, the push and pull factors that drive children to engage in begging, and the vulnerabilities and exploitation faced by child beggars.

Socioeconomic factors play a significant role in perpetuating child begging. Poverty, one of the primary factors, forces families to resort to desperate measures to survive. Lack of access to education, healthcare, and social security exacerbates the vulnerability of these families, pushing them further into the margins of society. Limited economic opportunities and social exclusion contribute to the perpetuation of generational poverty, creating a cycle that traps children in the practice of begging.

The push and pull factors influencing children's engagement in begging are multifaceted. Push factors refer to the circumstances and conditions that compel children to leave their homes and engage in begging. These factors can include extreme poverty, domestic violence, neglect, familial dysfunction, and the absence of adequate care and support systems. Pull factors, on the

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*intellectual development. Ibid.*

other hand, attract children towards begging. They can include the promise of quick monetary gains, the influence of peers or family members already engaged in begging, and the perception that begging is an acceptable means of survival.

Child beggars face numerous vulnerabilities and are subject to various forms of exploitation. These children often endure physical and emotional abuse, living in hazardous conditions that expose them to risks such as malnutrition, disease, and substance abuse. They are susceptible to sexual exploitation, trafficking, forced labor, and involvement in criminal activities orchestrated by organized begging rackets. The exploitation faced by child beggars robs them of their innocence, education, and future prospects, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and vulnerability.

Addressing child begging requires a comprehensive approach that tackles the underlying socioeconomic factors and provides viable alternatives for children and their families. Efforts should be directed towards poverty alleviation, promoting inclusive education, and enhancing social support systems. It is crucial to invest in skill development programs and vocational training to equip families with sustainable means of livelihood. Additionally, creating awareness about the rights and protection of children, along with stringent enforcement of laws against child exploitation and trafficking, are vital in combating child begging.

Moreover, collaboration between governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society is essential for effective intervention. This includes establishing specialized rehabilitation centers, providing access to quality education, healthcare, and counseling services, and ensuring the proper implementation of laws and policies aimed at protecting children's rights.

Understanding the intricacies of child begging in India is paramount in formulating evidence-based interventions and policies. By addressing the socioeconomic factors contributing to child begging, addressing the push and pull factors, and addressing the vulnerabilities and exploitation faced by child beggars, we can work towards creating a society where every child is protected, empowered, and given the opportunity to thrive.

### **III. JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDIA FOR CHILD BEGGING**

Child begging in India is addressed through a comprehensive legislative framework that prioritizes the protection of children's rights and well-being. These laws include specific provisions to combat the exploitation of children for begging and establish penalties for offenders. The Juvenile Justice System plays a crucial role in safeguarding children, encompassing a robust legislative structure aimed at ensuring their safety and security.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 serves as a cornerstone within this framework, recognizing child begging as a form of exploitation and providing provisions for identifying, rehabilitating, and reintegrating child beggars. Section 76 addresses the offense of employing or inducing a child to beg, carrying punishments of up to five years of imprisonment and a fine of up to one lakh rupees. Severe cases involving amputation or maiming of a child for begging can result in a minimum of seven years of imprisonment, extendable up to ten years, along with a fine of five lakh rupees.<sup>19</sup>

The Juvenile Justice System assigns critical roles to the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in addressing child begging cases. The JJB, consisting of a specialized magistrate and two social workers, conducts inquiries and determines appropriate measures for the care, rehabilitation, and reintegration of child beggars.<sup>20</sup> Similarly, the CWC, comprising a chairperson and child welfare experts, assesses the needs of child beggars and decides on necessary protection and rehabilitation measures.<sup>21</sup> Both the JJB and the CWC prioritize the best interests of the child, upholding their rights within the child-centric approach of the Juvenile Justice System.

To address child begging, amendments were made to the Indian Penal Code, 1860. Section 363A criminalizes the kidnapping or maiming of a minor for the purpose of begging.<sup>22</sup> Additionally, Section 268, dealing with public nuisance, can be invoked when begging becomes a public nuisance causing injury, danger, or irritation.<sup>23</sup>

The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act of 1959 holds significant importance in addressing begging. Section 2 provides a clear definition<sup>24</sup> of begging as a criminal offense, allowing for the detention of individuals engaged in begging. Repeat offenders, previously detained for

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<sup>19</sup> Section 76: Employment of child for begging. *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> Sections 4 & 8. *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> Sections 27-30. *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Section 363A states that: “(1) Whoever kidnaps any minor or, not being the lawful guardian of a minor, obtains the custody of the minor, in order that such minor may be employed or used for the purposes of begging shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine. (2) Whoever maims any minor in order that such minor may be employed or used for the purposes of begging shall be punishable with imprisonment for life, and shall also be liable to fine. (3) Where any person, not being the lawful guardian of a minor, employs or uses such minor for the purposes of begging, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that he kidnapped or otherwise obtained the custody of that minor in order that the minor might be employed or used for the purposes of begging.” The Indian Penal Code, 1860.

<sup>23</sup> Section 268: Public nuisance. *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Section 2(i): Defines Begging as: “(a) Soliciting or receiving alms, in a public place whether or not under any pretence such as singing, dancing, fortune telling, performing or offering any article for sale; (b) entering on any private premises for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms; (c) exposing or exhibiting, with the object of obtaining or extorting alms, any sore, wound injury, deformity of diseases whether of a human being or animal; (d) having no visible means of subsistence and wandering, about or remaining in any public place in such condition or manner, as makes it likely that the person doing so exist soliciting or receiving alms; (e) allowing oneself to be used as an exhibit for the purpose of soliciting or receiving alms.” The Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, 1959.

begging, may face a maximum term of ten years of detention. However, it should be noted that in Delhi, certain sections of the BPBA were invalidated on August 8, 2018, as they contravened the constitutional guarantee of equality under Article 14. This led to a substantial decriminalization of begging in Delhi, reflecting a shift in the approach to this issue.

The Children Act, 1960, also addresses child begging, holding individuals accountable for employing or encouraging a child to beg, with a maximum punishment of imprisonment for up to one year, a fine, or both.<sup>25</sup> Furthermore, the Indian Railway Act, 1989, prohibits hawking and begging on railway premises under Section 144, carrying penalties of imprisonment for up to one year and/or a fine.<sup>26</sup>

Overall, the legislative framework outlined provides a comprehensive strategy to combat child begging in India, with a strong emphasis on protecting the well-being and rights of children. Rehabilitation and reintegration take precedence over punitive measures, as the Juvenile Justice System recognizes child beggars as victims in need of support to break free from exploitation and vulnerability. By prioritizing their overall well-being and rights, the system aims to provide the necessary care and protection to help child beggars rebuild their lives.

#### **IV. CHALLENGES AND GAPS IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

The Juvenile Justice System in India plays a vital role in addressing the issue of child begging. However, several challenges and gaps hinder its effectiveness in providing comprehensive protection and support to vulnerable children. This section explores key highlights of the challenges faced within the system, including inadequate legislative measures and implementation, lack of rehabilitation and reintegration programs, and impediments to effective legal procedures and access to justice.

One of the primary challenges lies in the inadequacy of legislative measures and their implementation. While the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 provides a strong legal foundation, ensuring its effective enforcement remains a pressing concern. Strengthening the implementation of the Act and enhancing the capacity and training of professionals working within the juvenile justice system are crucial steps towards addressing this challenge. Coordinated efforts between the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), Child Welfare Committee (CWC), and other relevant authorities are necessary to ensure seamless coordination

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<sup>25</sup> Sections 2(b), (1)(i), and 42. The Children Act, 1960.

<sup>26</sup> Sections 144(2) states that: “If any person begs in any railway carriage or upon a railway station, he shall be liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both.” The Railway Act, 1989.



and effective implementation of the Act's provisions.

Another significant gap is the lack of sufficient rehabilitation and reintegration programs for child beggars. The Juvenile Justice System recognizes the need for rehabilitating and reintegrating child beggars into society as essential components of their well-being and protection. However, the availability and accessibility of such programs remain limited. It is imperative to invest in comprehensive rehabilitation initiatives that encompass education, skill development, psychological support, and social integration. Collaborative efforts between governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society stakeholders are essential to fill this gap and provide holistic support to child beggars.

Impediments to effective legal procedures and access to justice pose additional challenges within the Juvenile Justice System. Delays in legal proceedings, lack of adequate legal representation, and limited awareness of rights and entitlements among child beggars contribute to these challenges. Streamlining legal procedures, establishing mechanisms for prompt hearings, and ensuring child-friendly court environments are crucial for effective justice delivery. Access to legal aid and awareness campaigns that empower child beggars with knowledge about their rights can enhance their ability to navigate the legal system and seek justice.

To address these challenges and gaps, it is imperative to establish regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms within the juvenile justice system. Robust data collection, research initiatives, and collaboration between governmental agencies, NGOs, and civil society stakeholders can facilitate evidence-based policy reforms and interventions. Such collaborative efforts will contribute to identifying gaps, evaluating the system's functioning, and implementing necessary improvements.

By upholding the principles of the juvenile justice system and addressing the challenges at hand, India can foster a more comprehensive and effective legal framework that tackles the issue of child begging. Strengthening legislative measures, improving implementation, expanding rehabilitation programs, and enhancing access to justice will collectively contribute to the overall protection and support for child beggars, ensuring they regain their lost childhood and have a chance at a brighter future.

## **V. INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES AND BEST PRACTICES IN ADDRESSING CHILD BEGGING**

Child begging is a complex issue that transcends national boundaries, requiring collaborative

efforts and shared best practices at the international level. Various conventions, treaties, and initiatives provide a framework for addressing child begging and ensuring the protection and well-being of children worldwide. This section explores key international perspectives and best practices in tackling child begging, highlighting significant conventions, and exemplary approaches employed by different countries.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), a universally ratified treaty, sets the foundation for protecting and promoting the rights of children. Article 32 of the UNCRC specifically addresses child labor and calls for the elimination of child economic exploitation, including begging. It emphasizes the importance of providing adequate social protection, access to education, and rehabilitation services to children affected by begging.<sup>27</sup>

The International Labour Organization's Convention No. 182 concerning the Worst Forms of Child Labour is another critical instrument in combatting child begging. This convention identifies the worst forms of child labor, including forced begging, and requires member states to take immediate and effective measures to eliminate these practices. It emphasizes the need for legislation, enforcement mechanisms, and social programs to address the root causes of child begging and provide comprehensive support to affected children.<sup>28</sup>

Several countries have implemented noteworthy practices in addressing child begging. For example, in Brazil, the Bolsa Família program provides financial assistance to families living in poverty, targeting child labor prevention, including begging. This initiative aims to break the cycle of poverty by providing conditional cash transfers while ensuring children's enrollment in schools and accessing healthcare services.<sup>29</sup>

In Bangladesh, the government has established the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program to address child begging. This program focuses on providing nutrition, healthcare, and early childhood development services to vulnerable children, aiming to prevent their engagement in begging and other hazardous forms of child labor.

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<sup>27</sup> Article 32 states that: "1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. 2. States Parties shall take legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to ensure the implementation of the present article. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of other international instruments, States Parties shall in particular: (a) Provide for a minimum age or minimum ages for admission to employment; (b) Provide for appropriate regulation of the hours and conditions of employment; (c) Provide for appropriate penalties or other sanctions to ensure the effective enforcement of the present article." The Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989.

<sup>28</sup> Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

<sup>29</sup> "Bolsa Família in Brazil," Centre For Public Impact (CPI) available at: <https://www.centreforpublicimpact.org/case-study/bolsa-familia-in-brazil>.

The “Children’s House” model implemented in Turkey has gained international recognition for its success in combating child begging. This model provides safe shelter, education, vocational training, and psycho-social support to child beggars. It also involves outreach programs that target families and communities to raise awareness about child rights and the harmful consequences of child begging.

In addition to these examples, international organizations such as UNICEF, Save the Children, and Terre des Hommes have implemented various interventions and projects in different countries to address child begging. These initiatives focus on prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, and social integration of child beggars, involving community engagement, capacity building, and advocacy for policy reforms.

Sharing knowledge and experiences among countries and organizations is crucial for effective strategies in combating child begging. International cooperation, through platforms like the Global Partnership to End Child Begging, facilitates the exchange of best practices, resources, and expertise among stakeholders. Collaboration among governments, NGOs, civil society organizations, and international bodies strengthens the collective efforts to eradicate child begging globally.

By drawing on international conventions, treaties, and exemplary practices, countries can enhance their legislative frameworks, implement effective interventions, and allocate resources for comprehensive protection and support to child beggars. Embracing international perspectives and best practices enables a holistic approach that addresses the underlying causes of child begging and ensures the fulfillment of children’s rights, ultimately creating a safer and more nurturing environment for all children.

## **VI. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

Child begging in India remains a pressing social issue that necessitates a comprehensive and multidimensional approach. The exploration of India’s Juvenile Justice System in the context of child begging has shed light on the efforts made to protect and rehabilitate child beggars. However, several challenges and gaps within the system hinder its effectiveness in ensuring the full realization of children’s rights and providing them with a safe and nurturing environment.

The analysis of the legislative framework demonstrates the commitment of the Indian government to address child begging. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015, along with amendments to the Indian Penal Code and the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, establishes the legal basis for tackling child begging and holds perpetrators accountable. Additionally, international conventions and treaties, such as the UNCRC and ILO

Convention No. 182, provide guidance and reinforce the importance of protecting children from economic exploitation, including begging.

However, the implementation of these laws and the effectiveness of the Juvenile Justice System face challenges. Inadequate enforcement, limited access to rehabilitation programs, and procedural impediments hinder the system's ability to effectively address child begging. These challenges require urgent attention and action from stakeholders involved in the juvenile justice system.

To strengthen the Juvenile Justice System and mitigate the issue of child begging, several key suggestions emerge:

- **Strengthening Implementation:** Efforts should be made to improve the implementation of the existing legislative framework. This includes enhancing coordination between the Juvenile Justice Board, Child Welfare Committee, and relevant authorities to ensure the effective enforcement of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. Training programs should be conducted to build the capacity of professionals working within the system and to raise awareness about child begging and related issues.
- **Comprehensive Rehabilitation Programs:** There is a critical need to expand rehabilitation and reintegration programs for child beggars. These programs should encompass not only immediate care but also long-term support, including education, skill development, psychological counseling, and social integration. Collaborative efforts between governmental agencies, NGOs, and civil society organizations are necessary to provide holistic support and opportunities for child beggars to break free from the cycle of exploitation and vulnerability.
- **Streamlined Legal Procedures and Access to Justice:** To ensure effective legal procedures and access to justice for child beggars, steps should be taken to address delays in legal proceedings, provide adequate legal representation, and create child-friendly court environments. Promoting awareness of children's rights among child beggars and their families is crucial, empowering them to navigate the legal system and seek redress when their rights are violated.
- **Data Collection and Research:** Establishing regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms within the juvenile justice system is essential. Robust data collection and research initiatives should be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of interventions, identify gaps, and guide evidence-based policy reforms. Collaboration among governmental agencies, NGOs, and research institutions is key to generating

comprehensive data and insights.

- ***International Collaboration:*** India should actively participate in international platforms, such as the Global Partnership to End Child Begging, to exchange best practices, resources, and expertise with other countries facing similar challenges. Learning from successful initiatives implemented in other jurisdictions can inform the development of innovative strategies and policies to combat child begging effectively.

In conclusion, the issue of child begging in India requires a holistic and multidimensional approach that addresses the underlying socio-economic factors, strengthens the Juvenile Justice System, and provides comprehensive support to child beggars. Strengthening the legislative framework, enhancing implementation, expanding rehabilitation programs, streamlining legal procedures, and promoting international collaboration are key steps towards safeguarding the rights and well-being of child beggars. By embracing these suggestions, India can take significant strides in creating a society where every child can reclaim their lost childhood and have a chance at a brighter future.

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