A STUDY ON THE BEGGARS IN BATTICALOA DISTRICT

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Abstract

Poverty greatly endangers the socio- economic aspects of the country. Poverty is often seen as low or no income or lack of means of livelihood. According to World Bank report (2005), "poverty is the deprivation of material well being". The direct victims of increasing rate of poverty are the poor. The poor can be categorized in to poor, entrepreneur poor, self employed poor, labored poor and ultra poor (beggar). Among different kinds of poor, one kind is ultra poor or poorest of poor. Poorest of poor are worst affected by poverty and they depend on earnings of others. They are beggars. (Richard, Dulan, Anura, Steve-2000). They are the victims of worst famines, and they are deprived from accessing the basic needs such as health, sanitation, education, diet, nutrition and shelter in the normal way. Beggars don't have a normal life model as others in the society, and they have been completely ignored from the social concern. (Ratnapala, 1999). No organization has been specifically established so far to redesign and to build up the lives of beggars. Further there are no set up mechanisms to rehabilitate the beggars in the society. In addition very fewer researches have been conducted so far regarding the beggars in the Sri Lankan context. This research carry social significance as it attempts to study the various aspects about the beggars in the Batticaloa District. This research was conducted with objectives of collecting data in to the various living patterns of beggars such as their shelter, income range, reasons for begging and etc and with the objective of drawing remedial strategies to reform the lives of baggers in Batticaloa district. Researcher colleted data from beggars at three major cities and market places in Batticaloa district which are Batticaloa, Chenlallady and Kattankudy. Beggars were selected on random sampling basis any way all the beggars encountered were taken in to the data collection. Questionnaires, interviews, discussions and observations were adopted as the methods of data collection and the data were analyzed using Excel work sheets. In addition qualitative analysis also was used in the relevant circumstances. Data were analyzed in to different aspects about beggars such as way of income, reasons for begging and etc. Then findings were made regarding the reasons for begging, and the intention to change their way of life and so on. And finally recommendations were given to reform the lives of beggars and to accommodate them in to the normal way of life.

Key Words: Poverty, poor, beggars