

Impact of Contemporary Inflation on Beggars with Special Needs

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Abstract

The study aimed to assess impact of contemporary inflation on beggars with special needs and assess the attitude of people towards the disabled beggars while giving money. The study was quantitative in nature. A descriptive methodology was applied through survey design for data collection from the beggars of special needs begging in bustling areas of the city Faisalabad. The research population of the study encompassed all the beggars with special needs who were begging in urban area of city Faisalabad, Pakistan. Researcher selected a sample of 40 beggars with special needs begging in mostly packed/congested/ bustling renowned areas of the city. Convenient sampling technique was applied to approach the beggars with special needs. A self-made questionnaire containing seventeen items was used for the data collection. Researcher visited various urban areas of the city Faisalabad (Susan road near Faizan-e-Madina, Clock Tower, Jhang Bazar, Lasuri Shah Darbar, Madina Chowk Samanabad, Gulam Muhammad Abad No.1, Gulam Muhammad Abad No.2, Nawaban Wala, Razabad, Styana Road, Choti Unasi, and Marzi Pura) and approached the beggars with disabilities. Beggars with disabilities were met in bazars/streets/markets and after sharing necessary detail collected the data personally. The collected facts of the study were analyzed through the SPSS software using frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation statistics. It was inferred that a great majority cannot meet basic expenses without borrowing and feel significant emotional fatigue, a surprising share still voice contentment with their meager circumstances perhaps reflecting adaptive coping rather than genuine economic security. The disabled beggars were facing very negative attitude of the common people while getting beggary. Disabled beggars face more frequent emotional harm such as humiliation, insults, and negative expressions than outright denial of financial help. The main struggle for disabled beggars lies not in receiving alms, but in maintaining social dignity in the face of frequent psychological disrespect. There is a need to make efforts to improve the lives of disabled beggars must go beyond material aid and address the social attitudes that undermine their sense of worth.

Keywords: Contemporary, Inflation, Beggars, Special Needs

Introduction

Beggar with disabilities spend their lives in underprivileged and impoverished environment. However, they are mostly ignored in advocacy campaigns to increase opportunities for those with disabilities generally and are not included in the policy agendas of nations worldwide. This is true even in nations that have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and are working to put it into effect. According to the CRPD, states

must support people with disabilities' right to work on an equal basis with others. It also highlights the significance of promoting respect for their rights and dignity, increasing public awareness of their contributions and abilities, and battling stereotypes and prejudices in all spheres of life. If the goal of the CRPD is to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities at all levels of society, it is critical to comprehend why they wind up as beggars on the streets of towns and cities around the globe. Additionally, it is pertinent to the debates around the establishment of a post-2015 development framework, which is expected to place a strong emphasis on reducing poverty and advancing opportunities for decent employment for all men and women (International Labour Organization, 2013). One study examined the detrimental effects of begging on the global community, finding that while beggars do not work, they rely on others and lead very fulfilling lives; other reviews claim that beggars have good eating habits, that some have built nice homes and bought land for their families, and that they have a healthy bank balance, while others are extremely poor and lack the funds to meet their basic needs; and that beggary is a bad occupation that was brought on by global poverty. Because of their poverty, the impoverished always participate in this activity. Sometimes they form a good team, and via this team, children are occasionally made to beg, but in this business, the majority of youngsters are coerced. Parents occasionally send their kids to the market to beg. During this period of their schooling, they spend the majority of their time begging and do not receive the necessary skills and training for their future, which leaves them illiterate. Additionally, it was noted that beggars moved from rural to urban areas and between nations in order to obtain money for their subsistence. As a result, they are always interested in this job, which has a negative impact on the global economy and puts the world community in a sad state. The developing world has more beggars than the developed world. Because of their low per capita income and lack of capitalization, they create fewer jobs than the developed world and have a severe unemployment problem. These factors eventually lead to other issues in the country, slow economic growth, which in turn leads to a rise in the number of beggars. While their output is essentially zero, some programs are working to control it. In addition to begging, beggars are heavily involved in a variety of international crimes (Khan & Fahad, 2020).

Using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), a study investigated the psychological causes of beggary in connection to examining the behaviors of beggars and the impact of beggary. 15 beggars made up the sample size for the exploratory study design. The results demonstrated that the main socioeconomic issues cited were poverty, unemployment, and a lack of professional skills. Additional physical impairment, aging, and some severe and long-term illnesses were identified as the main biological drivers of poverty. Lack of self-respect, feelings of worthlessness, and uncertainty about one's future were among the psychological factors contributing to poverty. Low self-esteem, guilt, shame, discontent, insults, sadness, loneliness, helplessness, and inferiority were among the many experiences that beggars reported. The majority of participants reported begging in groups by selling inexpensive things, displaying their disease and disability/handicapping condition, or requesting religious assistance. Sympathy, friendliness, and support were the most common good attitudes people had toward beggars; verbal abuse, contempt, and hatred were the most common negative attitudes. Government initiatives to reduce poverty and caring for elderly parents who rely on beggary for assistance are two of the options proposed to abolish beggary (Rasool & Kausar, 2022). Adopting begging is typically the result of poverty, dysfunctional households, illness, physical disabilities, or unguided childhoods (Sobhani, 2008). Beggars are typically seen beneath flyovers, at traffic signals, on the sides of roads, and at trash dumps. Since it is regarded as a simple method of getting financial aid, it has grown in popularity in Pakistani society in recent years. Although poverty, illiteracy, societal shifts, or deterioration are some of the main causes of begging, it is challenging to pinpoint the precise

source or contributing aspects of this practice (Khan, 2013). Above all, beggary has existed throughout history, typically in a structured manner. A number of steps have been made to address the issue of beggary and its consequences, including organizing families and making it illegal so that beggars will strive to avoid this line of work (Sobhani, 2008; Najafi et al., 2004).

Physical disability, lack of finances, culture, the yearning to live a respectable life, and the insufficiency of social security, alcohol, and drugs are some of the numerous elements that are linked to begging (Tambawal, 2010). The patterning and formation of the beggars' informal social contacts and the choosing of their companions are known to be significantly influenced by demographic parameters such as gender, socioeconomic background, marital status, education, religion, and physical appearance (Demewozu, 2005). The beggars' living patterns are significantly impacted by inflation. Horn and Cooke (2002) looked at the beggarly elements. They discovered that one of the primary causes of begging is economic restructuring, which leads to unemployment among low-skilled individuals. Because policies were not created to achieve their intended goals, inflation also caused affordability issues, particularly for those who relocate to urban areas (Merga, 2022).

Review Literature

Begging is a widespread occurrence in both wealthy and impoverished nations. Beggars can be found anywhere, from Paris to Delhi, or from New York City to London, and Bangladesh is no different. Although begging is frequently an act of desperation, all beggars are not impoverished and all destitute are not beggars. According to a survey, the daily income of a crippled beggar in Dhaka is more than the international poverty line level - 1.25 US dollar. People won't move to the metropolis to beg if there is enough work available in rural areas. Furthermore, in order to stop organized begging, begging syndicates must be disbanded and the appropriate measures taken against them. Instead than advancing the status of the powerful, rehabilitation should be carried out with the goal of protecting the welfare of the weak. Therefore, it makes no sense to implement face-saving methods like paying beggars to keep off the streets during the cricket world cup or establishing beggar-free zones in locations that are visited by foreigners. Permanent measures are needed to improve the beggars' wellbeing (Saadat, 2018). Beggars typically represent visible and disenfranchised sectors of the urban poor, making homelessness and urban poverty one of the most pressing worldwide issues. The study examines how livelihood capitals affect urban beggars' survival tactics in Surakarta, Indonesia, using the Sustainable Livelihoods paradigm. The main conclusions showed that social and financial capital are crucial in creating an environment that facilitates the shift from begging to other non-begging sources of income; social networks serve as crucial access points, while financial stability reduces reliance on begging. Education and employment are examples of human capital that greatly reduces reliance on begging. Most frequently, physical capital perpetuates poverty traps, which in turn promote reliance. Surprisingly, physical health and environmental quality played a minor influence since beggars are more focused on their immediate survival than their overall well-being. Time-location sampling was used to recruit 150 beggars in total. The findings highlighted the need for such interventions to provide access to microfinance to prevent financial instability, develop social support networks through community programs with NGO partnerships, and provide skill-building programs that are pertinent to urban beggars. In the rapidly urbanizing environment of resolving capital inadequacies and maintaining transitions, our findings have operationalized policy ideas for creating inclusive poverty reduction methods (Amin et al., 2025).

Those who have experienced severe economic and social marginalization in relation to their educational backgrounds, access to decent employment, and family support are the most prevalent types of beggars (Rahman, 2021). According to urban studies, the main causes of the rise in the number of homeless people and beggars drawn to metropolises are urbanization, migration, and the underdevelopment of the official occupational sector (Shara et al., 2020).

Because of their sensitivity and the detrimental consequences it has on their personalities, children are especially vulnerable to the phenomena of begging, which garners international attention. A kid's age puts them at a disadvantage, and begging is one of the most degrading occupations for a youngster. As per the ILO's defining features, child begging is considered a type of forced child labor. The metropolitan metropolis of Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan, was selected as the study's population universe. The researcher used the quantitative research approach to investigate the many conditions and variables that these beggars are facing. The socioeconomic problems pertaining to Karachi's beggars, both boys and girls, are the main subject of this study. Despite their street begging, beggar children develop ties with individuals they see on a regular basis, such as merchants, street vendors, criminals, and others. These connections help kids get familiar with them and determine their behavior and attitude, which may be either positive or bad. The most common causes of begging, according to the survey, were the extremely low literacy rate, unemployment, the steadily rising rate of inflation, limited purchasing power, and the general injustice in society. It was concluded that as these beggars are also persons with everyday needs and the right to live in dignity and respect, it would be beneficial to assist them in obtaining an education and a career that utilizes their abilities and potential (Jamil et al., 2019).

According to the results of several studies, a significant percentage of beggars are either ill or disabled. Many individuals believe that their disease cannot be an excuse for them to beg because many disabled and ill persons earn a living through their hard work. As a result, the societal perception of begging has evolved from its earlier forms. Research on child begging has been conducted in Africa, South America, Europe, and Asia (Chandra, 2005). The literature's comprehensive discourses highlight the misuse of these broods' advantages, which is linked to parental negligence, poverty, and the pursuit of sacred knowledge. The media's portrayal of the beggar mafia is occasionally orchestrated and controlled by the authorities. By making false claims that the children who are abducted and used as beggars are already crippled, police are misleading the media. However, who has given them the authority to kidnap even disabled children and make their lives even more miserable (Aslam, 1995).

As the practice of begging spreads rapidly throughout society, it is imperative that this psycho-social phenomenon be investigated. Given the increasing demand for research in this area, the current study examines the psycho-social characteristics that set beggars apart from others, i.e., the characteristics that set beggars apart from healthy people, with the goal of determining how their mindset differs from that of healthy people. A sample of 117 beggars and 116 non-beggars were given structured questionnaires in order to investigate and comprehend the differences in their psycho-social behavior. The goal is to be able to articulate the true motivation behind begging and the reasons why individuals beg. Several psycho-social traits that set beggars apart from healthy people were found in this study. It was discovered that the main characteristics that set beggars apart from non-beggars are their financial situation, family disruption, and poor family background. Additionally, it was shown that healthy people had better levels of social conformity and decision-making than beggars. This difference may be ascribed to a stable familial and financial background as well as a variety of life lessons (Ali, 2019).

In recent years, the population has increased to unprecedented heights. As a result, this has impacted the equilibrium of necessities that each person requires to exist. Humans' quality of life has been poorer throughout time due to the growth of the economy, infrastructure, and public spaces (Kayed, 2018). The most vulnerable and sensitive group of individuals are the impoverished beggars, who are unable to compete for the necessities of life and hence resort to begging. Furthermore, the problem of begging is exacerbated by rising unemployment rates and declining socioeconomic standing (Mansour, 2015). The activities that street beggars engage in might lead to a variety of issues. As the most marginalized and disadvantaged group in society, they are more likely to experience a variety of psycho-social difficulties, including feelings of isolation, sadness, dependence, humiliation, stigmatization, discrimination, and other health-related concerns including sexual harassment (Lucas, 2007).

Wubshet et al. (2005) found that the aforementioned factors physical incapacity to do labor, age-related problems at later ages, unemployment, and underemployment were the primary causes of beggars' reliance on this activity. On occasion, though, these circumstances included being stolen by burglars, begging for medical care, and transportation. The primary issues that the beggars encountered were poverty and unemployment, according to an analysis by Khan et al. (2013). Therefore, the idea that unemployment and poverty are the main causes of the begging problem was once more reaffirmed. The range of problems that the beggars face on a daily basis was also brought to light by the study. Lack of energy, sanitary conditions, clean water, and enough housing are a few of the issues. A research evaluated Jordanians' perceptions of begging by disabled individuals and sought to determine how certain factors affected these perceptions. Data was gathered from 400 beggars with impairments using a questionnaire. The results showed that attitudes were negative, that attitudes toward people with disabilities begging differed statistically significantly among Jordanians based on educational attainment, and that attitudes did not differ statistically significantly among Jordanians based on gender, age, or whether a family member had a disability. Furthermore, the results showed that those with physical impairments solicited more frequently than those with other kinds of disabilities, and that all Jordanian institutions needed to work together to stop begging (AlTarawneh, 2021).

Statement of the problem

The study was carried out to investigate the impact of contemporary inflation on beggars with special needs.

Objectives of the study

Following were the objectives of the study:

1. To assess the impact of contemporary inflation on beggars with special needs.
2. To ascertain the attitude of people towards the disabled beggars while giving money.

Questions of the Study

These were as follows:

1. What is the impact of contemporary inflation on beggars with special needs?
2. What is the attitude of people towards the disabled beggars while giving money?

Research Methodology

The research was carried out to explore the impact of contemporary inflation on the life of beggars with special needs.

Study Design

The study was quantitative in nature. A descriptive methodology was applied through survey design for data collection from the beggars of special needs begging in bustling areas of the city Faisalabad.

Participants

The research population of the study encompassed all the beggars with special needs who were begging in urban area of city Faisalabad, Pakistan. Researcher selected a sample of 40 beggars with special needs begging in mostly packed/congested/bustling renowned areas of the city. Convenient sampling technique was applied to approach the beggars with special needs.

Instrument

Researcher made a self-framed structured questionnaire containing demography of the participants and 17 statements as under:

Segment A - Demography of beggars

Demography of beggars with disabilities included their names, gender, disability, level of disability, age, qualification, address, per day beggary in Pakistani Rupees, Per Day expenses in Pakistani Rupees, Approximate savings in Pakistani Rupees, family members, dependent family members, no. of siblings, birth order, marital status and no. of children.

Segment B- Impact of Inflation

The section of the impact of inflation of the questionnaire contained 10 statements including their satisfaction with current livelihood means, manageability of commodities, affect of inflation on lifestyle, loan taking, inability to meet life needs based on high costs, price hiking impact on edible items usage, exhausted feeling due to inflation, depressed feeling due inflation, inability in clothing buying, and inability to attend social events.

Segment C- Attitude of people towards beggars

Segment regarding attitude of people towards the beggars with disabilities incorporated viewpoints of people such as giving beggary with miserable thinking, humiliation, exchanging of negative remarks, going unattended, showing negative facial expressions, and avoiding financial support of people.

Segment D- Validation and Reliability

The questionnaire of the study was made valid after going through a detailed review of the previous researches, and having consulting with the field experts of the department of special education. The framing of statements, their grammar, content and construct was made relatable to the study objectives and theme of the study. It was also ensured that reliability index of the data was highly consistent to be used in the current research.

Data Collection

Researcher visited various urban areas of the city Faisalabad and approached the beggars with disabilities. Researcher visited areas including:

- Susan road near Faizan-e-Madina
- Clock Tower
- Jhang Bazar
- Lasuri Shah Darbar
- Madina Chowk Samanabad

- Gulam Muhammad Abad No.1
- Gulam Muhammad Abad No.2
- Nawaban Wala
- Raza Abad
- Styana Road
- Choti Unasi and Marzi Pura

Beggars with disabilities were met in bazars/streets/markets. Researcher introduced himself to the beggars and they were informed about the basic research objectives. After having proper sharing of information and rapport development, researcher asked the questions written on the questionnaire and personally filled them accordingly. Researcher translated all the statements in Urdu/Punjabi language and clarified queries of the beggars by simplifying the complex terms of the statements. Researcher filled all the statements at the spot ensuring completion / ticking of all the statements of the questionnaire.

Data Analysis

The collected facts of the study were analyzed through the SPSS software using the descriptive and inferential statistics.

RESULTS

The study results have been presented below:

Participant's demography

Table 1 Demography of participants

Variables	F (N=40)	%
Gender		
Male	31	77.5
Female	09	22.5
Type of Disability		
Orthopedic Impairment	39	97.5
Intellectual Disability (Microcephalic)	1	2.5
Disability Level		
Mild	11	27.5
Moderate	6	15.0
Severe	23	57.5
Age		
10-20 Years	9	22.5
21-30 Years	9	22.5
31-40 Years	9	22.5
41-50 Years	7	17.5
51 Years & above	6	15.0
Qualification		
Illiterate	21	52.5
Primary Level	13	32.5
Undermatric	6	15.0
Beggary per day		
Rs. 200-500	16	40.0
Rs. 600-800	14	35.0
Rs. 900-1000	5	12.5
Rs. 1000-1500	4	10.0

Rs. 1600 or above	1	2.5
Expenditure per day		
Rs. 200-500	13	32.5
Rs. 600-800	8	20.0
Rs. 900-1000	8	20.0
Rs. 1000-1500	10	25.0
Rs. 1600 or above	1	2.5
Family Members		
1-5 Members	10	25.0
6-10 Members	24	60.0
11-15 Members	5	12.5
16-20 Members or above	1	2.5
Dependent Family Members		
1-5 Members	30	75.0
6-10 Members	10	25.0
Siblings		
1-5 Siblings	21	52.5
6-10 Siblings	18	45.0
11-15 Siblings	1	2.5
Birth Order		
First	3	7.5
Second	7	17.5
Third	9	22.5
Fourth	10	25.0
Fifth	4	10.0
Sixth	1	2.5
Seventh	6	15.0
Marital Status		
Single	20	50
Married	20	50
Children		
No Child	22	0
2 Children	4	2
3 Children	2	3
4 Children	5	4
5 Children	4	5
6 Children	2	6
7 Children	1	7

Table 1 depicted the demographic statistics of the beggars with disabilities. Among the 40 disabled beggars surveyed, most were men 31 (77.5%) and almost all had an orthopedic impairment 39 (97.5%), with only one participant showing an intellectual disability. The majority lived with a severe disability level 23 (57.5%), 6 (15%) with moderate, while 11 (27.5%) with mild level of disability. Age was fairly evenly spread across the first four decades of life each about 9(22.5%) against age group 10-20 years, 21-30 years, and 31-40 years, then tapered to 7(17.5%) for ages 41–50 years and 6(15%) for 51 years and above.

Educational attainment was low as over half were illiterate 21(52.5%) and one-third had only primary schooling 13(32.5%) and a few 6(15%) were undermatric. Daily earnings from

begging typically ranged between Rs. 200–800 (75%), and daily expenditures followed a similar pattern, implying that income was largely consumed the same day. Most supported medium-sized households showed that 60% participants lived with 6–10 family members, and 75 % had 1–5 dependents. Sibling counts were usually 1–10, and the fourth-born position was most common (25%). Marital status was evenly split between single and married, yet more than half had no children, while those who did generally had two to five. Overall, the data portray predominantly male beggars with severe physical disabilities, minimal education, and modest, hand-to-mouth incomes, bearing the financial burden of moderately large families.

Table 2 Impact of inflation on beggars with disabilities

Impact of inflation	NE <i>f</i> (%)	AN <i>f</i> (%)	MT <i>f</i> (%)	HT <i>f</i> (%)	AT <i>f</i> (%)	M	S.D
1.Satisfied with current livelihood means.	5 12.5	0 0	6 15	15 37.5	14 35	3.83	1.279
2.Rates of commodities are unmanageable.	26 65	12 30	0 0	2 5	0 0	1.45	.749
3.Current inflation highly affected the life style.	12 30	10 25	12 30	5 12.5	1 2.5	2.33	1.118
4.Have taken loan to manage the life.	4 10	1 2.5	3 7.5	8 20	24 60	4.18	1.299
5.Unable to meet the life needs due to high cost of commodities.	24 60	13 32.5	3 7.5	0 0	0 0	1.47	.640
6.Price hiking of edible items made the life very tough.	19 47.5	19 47.5	2 5	0 0	0 0	1.58	.594
7.Feel exhausted due to current inflation.	3 7.5	9 22.5	18 45	7 17.5	3 7.5	2.95	1.011
8.High inflation makes me feel depressed.	6 15	9 22.5	8 20	11 27.5	6 15	3.05	1.319
9.Difficult to by clothing in prevailing high inflation wave.	31 77.5	7 17.5	1 2.5	0 0	1 2.5	1.33	.764
10.Unable to attend the social gathering, events and marriages etc. due to less income sources.	17 42.5	15 37.5	6 15	2 5	0 0	1.82	.874

Note: f-frequency, %-percentage, NE-Never Ever, AN-Almost Never, MT-Moderately True, HT-Highly True, AT-Absolutely True, M-Mean, S.D-Standard Deviation

The table shows a polarized picture of how inflation touches the lives of disabled beggars. Two realities stand out clearly including the severe financial strain for most and emotional toll but with mixed intensity. The severe financial strain showed that six in ten respondents (60 %) say they have already taken loans just to get by, pushing this item to the highest mean of all (M=4.18). Roughly three-quarters (75–95%) “Never” or “almost never” feel they can afford basic items such as food, clothing, or other life needs as indicated by items 2,5,6,9 with means 1.33 – 1.58. More than half (57.5%) admitted that they can no longer attend social gatherings for lack of money (M= 1.82).

The emotional toll, but with mixed intensity pointed out that nearly half (45 %) feel exhausted (M=2.95) and 42.5 % report depression (M=3.05) because of soaring prices, placing these feelings in the “moderate-to-high” band. Yet a sizable minority remain subjectively “satisfied with current livelihood” (72.5 % rate this moderately-to-absolutely true, M= 3.83), suggesting pockets of resilience or lowered expectations.

It showed that great majority cannot meet basic expenses without borrowing and feel significant emotional fatigue, a surprising share still voice contentment with their meager circumstances perhaps reflecting adaptive coping rather than genuine economic security.

Table 3 Negative attitude while giving beggary

Negative attitude	NE <i>f(%)</i>	AN <i>f(%)</i>	MT <i>f(%)</i>	HT <i>f(%)</i>	AT <i>f(%)</i>	M	S.D
1.People give beggary with miserable thinking.	12 30	8 20	10 25	8 20	2 5	2.50	1.261
2.People humiliate while giving beggary.	8 20	13 32.5	3 7.5	7 17.5	9 22.5	2.90	1.499
3.People exchange negative remarks while giving money.	7 17.5	9 22.5	9 22.5	10 25	5 12.5	2.92	1.309
4.People often go unattended while requesting beggary.	6 15	12 30	16 40	5 12.5	1 2.5	2.58	.984
5.People avoid to properly communicate with me.	24 60	11 27.5	3 7.5	1 2.5	1 2.5	1.60	.928
6.People show negative facial expression while looking at me.	9 22.5	12 30	4 10	7 17.5	8 20	2.83	1.483
7.People avoid to provide financial support which lead to cause beggary.	29 72.5	11 27.5	0 0	0 0	0 0	1.28	.452

Note: f-frequency, %-percentage, NE-Never Ever, AN-Almost Never, MT-Moderately True, HT-Highly True, AT-Absolutely True, M-Mean, S.D-Standard Deviation

The data painted a mixed but generally discouraging picture of how the public treats disabled beggars. Verbal and non-verbal disrespect emerge as the most frequent problems: roughly two-fifths of respondents say people humiliate them (highly true = 40 %) or make negative remarks (37.5 %), yielding the highest mean scores 2.90 and 2.92, respectively on the five-point scale. Negative facial expressions are almost as common (M = 2.83). Being simply ignored while requesting alms ranks “moderate” (M = 2.58): 40 % label it “moderately true,” though only a minority (15 %) see it as “never” happening. In contrast, outright social avoidance is less severe: most respondents report that people still communicate with them (M = 1.60, 60 % “never ever”), and an overwhelming 73 % dismiss the idea that donors generally refuse financial help (M = 1.28). Overall, the beggars experience more psychological stigma pitying attitudes, insults, hostile looks than material refusal, suggesting that social dignity, rather than sheer access to alms, is their primary battleground.

Table 4 Overall impact of inflation and attitude towards beggars with disabilities

Variable	M	S.D	Level
Impact of inflation on beggars with disabilities	2.50	1.261	Moderate
Negative attitude of people while giving beggary	2.90	1.499	Moderately high

Note: M-Mean, S.D-Standard Deviation

The disabled beggars experience inflation as a moderate stressor (M = 2.50, SD = 1.26), indicating that rising prices noticeably strain their daily lives but are not described as their very worst hardship. By contrast, the negative attitudes they encounter when soliciting alms rate slightly higher “moderately high” with mean values of (M = 2.90, SD = 1.50). It points

to social stigma and unkind behavior from the public being an even more pronounced and more variable challenge than inflation itself.

Findings

The study highlighted the harsh impact of inflation on disabled beggars, revealing severe financial strain and a mixed emotional toll. Sixty percent have taken loans to survive ($M = 4.18$), and 75–95% say they can't afford basic needs like food or clothing ($M = 1.33–1.58$). Over half (57.5%) avoid social gatherings due to lack of money ($M = 1.82$). Emotionally, 45% feel exhausted ($M = 2.95$) and 42.5% report depression ($M = 3.05$), though 72.5% still express some satisfaction with life ($M = 3.83$), hinting at resilience or lowered expectations.

The study revealed a mixed but mostly discouraging picture of public attitudes toward disabled beggars, with verbal and non-verbal disrespect being most common. Around 40% report frequent humiliation or negative remarks ($M \approx 2.9$), and negative facial expressions are also widespread ($M = 2.83$). Being ignored while begging is rated moderate ($M = 2.58$), though full social avoidance is rare most still receive communication ($M = 1.60$) and financial help ($M = 1.28$). Overall, psychological stigma such as insults and pity is more prevalent than outright material denial, making dignity a greater struggle than access to aid.

The overall results of the study indicated that disabled beggars experience inflation as a moderate stressor ($M = 2.50$, $SD = 1.26$), showing that rising prices noticeably strain their daily lives but are not described as their very worst hardship. By contrast, the negative attitudes they encounter when soliciting alms rate slightly higher “moderately high” with mean values of ($M = 2.90$, $SD = 1.50$). It points to social stigma and unkind behavior from the public being an even more pronounced and more variable challenge than inflation itself.

Conclusions

The study was carried out to explore the impact of contemporary inflation on beggars with special needs. The study results showed that great majority of disabled beggars cannot meet basic expenses without borrowing and feel significant emotional fatigue, a surprising share still voice contentment with their meager circumstances perhaps reflecting adaptive coping rather than genuine economic security. The disabled beggars were facing very negative attitude of the common people while getting beggary. Disabled beggars face more frequent emotional harm such as humiliation, insults, and negative expressions than outright denial of financial help. While around 40% report being humiliated or insulted, a significant number still experience basic communication and occasional generosity from the public. Ignoring and negative body language are more prevalent than direct avoidance or refusal to help, pointing to a social discomfort rather than open hostility. The main struggle for disabled beggars lies not in receiving alms, but in maintaining social dignity in the face of frequent psychological disrespect. These conclusions suggest that efforts to improve the lives of disabled beggars must go beyond material aid and address the social attitudes that undermine their sense of worth.

Recommendations

Following were the study recommendations:

1. Government and NGOs should develop monthly cash support or subsidized essentials (food, medicine, shelter) specifically for disabled beggars, reducing their reliance on borrowing for survival.

2. Govt. should provide accessible mental health support—such as mobile counseling units or community therapy groups—to help disabled beggars manage emotional exhaustion and develop healthier coping mechanisms.
3. There is a need to initiate nationwide campaigns to reduce stigma and promote empathy toward people with disabilities, especially beggars, emphasizing respect, dignity, and inclusion.
4. Set up vocational training and inclusive work programs tailored to the physical and cognitive capacities of disabled beggars to help them move away from street dependency.
5. Develop and implement local policies to discourage public harassment or humiliation of disabled persons, encouraging respectful interactions through bystander education and community accountability.

Limitations

The study was only conducted in a selected area of district Faisalabad and mostly the beggars with physical disability were available for the study. Therefore, its results can only be generalizable on limited scale.

Ethical Considerations

The beggars were firstly given the liberty to participate on their consent or willingness without any pressure. They were asked to provide the response in simple/mother tongue. The data provided by the respondents were also ensured to be used only for research purpose.

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