



Cyber Begging through Social Media: A New Trend in the World

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Abstract:

Begging is as old as man. But the emergence of technology, particularly the internet, has completely changed many aspects of society, including the way and pattern of begging. A new type of begging known as e-begging, sometimes known as internet or cyber begging, is replacing conventional street begging in modern society. Online begging is the practice of asking strangers for money, clothing, or other kind of support or assistance. The only difference between it and traditional begging is that the beggars use social media rather than go around physically to get help. With this kind of begging, beggars ask wealthier individuals for assistance in kind or in the form of money. The public needs to keep their eyes clean in order to avoid playing the "lazy beggar" card because in the network era, under the impact of information asymmetry and signal transmission mechanisms, crowd funding platforms have transformed into "beggar platforms" in the guise of "Charity." By this study researcher wants to inform the general population, parents and guardians, and the government about the causes of cyber begging. All parties would be encouraged by the knowledge to behave sensibly in order to prevent the incidence of cyber begging. People will get understanding about the problem of cyber begging and its hazards. In India some cyber begging websites are also working as a medical fund raising platforms. They displayed heart touching messages or images and get the money easily.

Keywords: Cyber begging, social media, street begging, crowd funding and charity.

Introduction:

The term begging is old as man. Since the beginning of time, no human has ever had access to all they require for survival. People who are unable to achieve their fundamental needs exist in every tribe, location, and community for a variety of causes, including but not limited to poverty. But over time, some people who struggle to support their families and cope with life's hardships have frequently turned to begging. Some of these folks may seek their family and friends for help, while others may roam around asking for money and other sorts of aid. Street begging is the act of a less fortunate person pleading with members of the public for alms or other advantages. When begging on the street, the beggar's identity is not kept a secret from the people he is appealing to for help (Obiorah, 2020). In other instances, some residents actually dislike the beggars and treat them like inferior human beings. Some people beg others who could be more inclined to help when they are unable to achieve their desired needs at the appropriate moment and there could be serious implications for the delay. Falade (2018) asserts that begging is a natural occurrence. In an effort to avoid going without, those who do not have enough beg those who do. Yet, the majority of traditional beggars are aged, sick, penniless, and children, not necessarily healthy young adults (Ferdinand, 2019). The physical movement of beggars from place to place,

house to house, or person to person over time makes their identity obvious and frequently inspires contempt or disrespect for them. Many things, including the way and pattern of begging, have been revolutionized by the development of technology and notably the internet. Nowadays, e-begging, also known as internet or cyber begging is gradually replacing conventional or street begging.

Online begging is the practice of asking strangers for money, clothing, or other kind of support or assistance (McDonald, 2020). The only difference between it and traditional begging is that the beggars use digital means rather than go around physically to get help. It is also known as online begging or virtual begging (Mbah, 2021). Online begging is similarly known as internet panhandling. With this kind of begging, beggars ask wealthier individuals for assistance in kind or in the form of money. In response to the question of why most people favor cyber begging over conventional begging, Andre (2019) pointed out that it appears to be the most practical because the beggar's identity is kept secret and they may easily solicit assistance from both close and distant. In the same way, it has a tendency to protect the beggar from insults and scorn from possible donors as the majority of them might not be particularly familiar with the beggar. So, it may be claimed that begging gives those with less opportunity a chance to breathe some fresh air and survive. On the other hand, one is compelled to

question the true motivation behind cyber-begging when one considers the nature of some people who use the technique, who are primarily young people. Nonetheless, Ferdinand (2019) thought that most online beggars may have real compelling reasons why they beg even strangers to come to their aid. Donald suggested that some cyber-beggars may be hiding their deep-rooted laziness by begging utilizing the internet.

Online begging Request money for everything and anything. Asking for money is a prevalent activity all across the world, whether it's through begging on the street or making an appeal in the news. With the development of technology, previously established types of begging for alms have taken on a new dimension is called cyber begging. The goal is the same—money—regardless of the causes. The misery stories are diverse. But, the request is the same: they want individuals to transfer money through home pages, which are becoming into a cottage industry on the Internet. The method is known as "cyber begging" by sceptic Internet professionals. Cyber begging, as the name suggests, is a practice where one solicits donations from internet users. The need for begging might not be as basic as a lack of clothing, food, or shelter as in the case of traditional begging. The goals of internet begging might range from being unable to pay off specific obligations to raising money for an upcoming world tour! According to the website cyberbeggar.org, cyber-begging is a method of fund raising where donations are made online. The online beggar posts information about their financial situation on a website (or joins one designed for this purpose) in an effort to raise money for their cause. Yahoo! began referring to this practise as "e panhandling" and is getting ready to introduce a category on the topic on its portal Yahoo.com. Credit cards, auto loans, and student loans are just a few of the aggravating factors that contribute to being in debt. It can be even worse to try to pay off that debt. A simple and practical method of raising money to get out of this financial crisis is cyber-begging. One will never feel as though they are dependent on others making donations.

Objective of the study: Following are the objectives of the study.

1. To know the history of Cyber begging.
2. How cyber begging is growing day by day in world?
3. How social media used as a tool for crowd funding?

Methodology:

To understand the new trend of begging, researcher has used the content analysis. A research technique called content analysis is used to identify the existence of specific words, topics, or concepts in a given set of qualitative data (i.e. text). Researchers can quantify and examine the

occurrence, significance, and connections of such specific words, themes, or concepts using content analysis.

Literature review:

Online panhandling, also known as cyber begging, cyber begging, or online panhandling, is the use of the internet to solicit donations from individuals. It describes the act of approaching strangers and requesting assistance in the form of money or another good via the internet. According to Falade (2018), cyber-begging is the practice of begging on social media. In a similar vein, Adeleke (2019) defined online begging as soliciting money or other resources online in order to protect one's identity. John (2020) defines online begging as requesting money from strangers in order to fulfil immediate or fabricated needs or wants (money, food, and shelter) over the internet. Online begging offers people the chance to approach people, including strangers, and request help in exchange for money or other benefits (Ferdinand, 2019). Help is available for a variety of needs, not just financial ones. It could be for things like clothing, chairs, books, kitchen utensils, and other necessities, depending on the situation (Mbah, 2021). Online begging's main benefit is that it allows the beggar to maintain their anonymity. Social media platforms are now used so frequently for begging that new terminology have been created to describe it. Internet asking differs from street begging in that the recipient's name is concealed, which helps to mask the beggar's humiliation, according to Wikipedia (2019). Also, it is most well-liked by social media users who are familiar with those networks (Falade, 2018). Although asking for assistance is not dishonorable, some people might not be willing to do so. For some people, online begging becomes a real possibility.

Internet begging can take many different forms and can even go unnoticed by users by hiding behind trends or giveaways, according to Obidoa, Eze, and Okide (2007). However, social media users point out that when these demands are not met, this type of pleading opens the door for idleness and even cyberbullying. And it's frequently really painful to watch that. People all across the world solicit assistance in a variety of ways, including begging on the street and on social media. The underlying causes may vary, but the goal—typically financial assistance—remains the same. Even if different people may experience various calamities, the appeal remains the same. Some internet beggars want help from people and hope to acquire it via home pages. Cyber begging, as the name suggests, is a practice when someone asks other users of the internet for help. As opposed to traditional begging, the cause of online begging may not always be a want of clothing, food, or shelter. The justification

for internet begging can differ (Eindi, 2021). People can also make money online by cyber-begging.

Result & Discussion:

On the internet, anonymity may be extremely effectively preserved, and the likelihood of funders independently verifying the cause is very low. Whether you enjoy robbing people of their money or not is irrelevant because there is nothing to lose and everything to gain. Cyber-beggars need money to buy goods and services, not money to buy a bit of bread. Many of them have debts they need to settle. They ask for money to pay off credit card debt, have a breast augmentation operation, fund medical treatment or schooling, assist a woman in getting a divorce, make a movie or album, or purchase a hummer jeep. From a few pennies to a million dollars, beggars demand different amounts of money.

History of the Cyber Begging:

According to Wired magazine, Karyn Bosnak was the first person to establish a website for online begging. Save Karyn was the name of her website. Although her victory seemed evident, it is conceivable to question it. On June 23, 2002, she owed more than \$20,000 on her credit cards. Karyn Bosnak came to the conclusion that all she needed was to collect just one dollar from 20,000 individuals, or two dollars from 10,000 people, or five dollars from 4,000 people. Others sent the woman \$13,000 as a consequence, and she added some of her own money to pay off the loan on November 10th, 2002. As you can see, she was able to solve her problem in less than six months. Karyn is now safe. She now patronizes other beggars and asserts her notion is protected by copyright. The New York Times reveals that the Save Karyn website served as the catalyst for the e-panhandling epidemic. Hence, June 23, 2002 might be regarded as the birthdate of cyber begging. Creating your own website for begging will obviously have additional benefits, but not all beggars may be fortunate enough to possess one as maintaining a website involves significant technical expertise and, of course, money. Many websites exist on the internet with the sole purpose of begging or helping online beggars, such as Cyberbeg.com, Cyberbegger.org, or donantemoney2me.com.

When a potential beggar registers on our site, he will be given a subdomain where he can express his dilemma in the most appealing way. The host site offers all help needed to maximize results, including advice on how to construct a more appealing request and submission to search engines, among other things. Hosting websites do make a little fee for their services and/or profit from advertising. The internet users who come across these sites and feel like donating a little amount of money can do so either by sending a check or cash by regular mail or an electronic fund transfer that is

enabled by online payment processors like Paypal (owned by ebay.com) DonateMoney2Me.com's subtitle is quite remarkable! It exclaims, "It's completely right, moral, ethical, and popular." This is a programme to "accumulate money slowly and surely," not to "become rich quick." A fast read through these sites' FAQs is extremely likely to persuade most visitors to try making a little dollars by signing up. A begging website will be very well-liked by donors if the webmaster includes both his or her full name and a thorough description of the problem. It should go without saying that if a donor's issue is similar to a cyber-beggar's, a webpage will gain even more attention.

The origin of crowd funding:

Individual begging is a unilateral behavior of asking assistance. Anyone can ask for assistance without having to disclose their true financial condition. The public values charitable giving. People give to a range of charity organizations to demonstrate their goodwill under the direction of the government and with the help of publicity about public welfare. Modern information technology's spontaneity and diversity foster an independent, pluralistic, and engaged civil society. The network society's extraordinary affluence has compelled network enterprises to use the network to generate revenue. Network businesses set up and packaged the online crowd funding platform swiftly due to a confluence of factors, including a lack of effective national network law enforcement, lax Internet regulation, the high expense of beggars, and the low trustworthiness of charitable organizations.

According to Wikipedia, crowd funding is the process of raising money online to support initiatives started by individuals or groups. The operating company of the crowd funding site is not a nonprofit as defined by Indian law. The crowd funding website has developed into an area that is unregulated.

Growth of Cyber Begging:

Dallas, Texas-based web developer Ed Mayhall, 29, has a desire for a Hummer. An off-road vehicle known as a Hummer, or a Humvee to use its actual name was created for the US army. They are roughly \$120,000. If you're feeling indulgent, you may donate to Mayhall at www.edneedsahummer.com. Anyone who are interested can go to www.saveshela.com. The owner of this website is a Toronto-based musician by the name of Shela. To help with debt repayment from creating and recording her music, she is currently soliciting donations on her website. The website provides a platform for anyone to advertise their music. She claims that the idea for creating her own fundraising website was inspired by a combination of irritation and her experience using the Internet. She was "conscious of how powerful a tool the Web could be" because she taught computer hardware. A

device that, in her opinion, will jump-start her musical career. Penny requests your assistance in leaving her spouse

(www.helpmeleavemyhusband.com). She needs \$12,000 for nursing school. She will have the financial security she needs to launch her own business as a result. You may assist Canadian resident Jennifer Glasser, who has Lyme disease, in covering her medical expenses. Since starting her website www.helpjennifer.com, Glasser has earned more than \$8,000 (Canadian). She has never met the friend of a friend who donated the majority of the funds. If you love opera, you might feel sorry for Elaine. She asks you to help her pay off her \$40,000 in undergraduate debt and pay for her opera singing lessons, which cost just \$50 per hour.

Ramon Stoppelenburg, a journalism student at Windesheim University in Zwolle, the Netherlands, decided to set up a website and ask people all over the world to host him for a day in order to pay for his journey. He started the website www.letmestayforaday.com and asked for food and lodging in exchange for writing about people's hospitality. The reaction has been amazing. Around 600 of the over 11,000 invites that were sent in over the course of 12 days were accepted, and the offers continue to stream in. He has been overwhelmed by some of them, such as an offer from India to provide him a roof for as long as he wishes and to show him through the entire subcontinent. Despite the fact that it seems absurd, cyber-begging is growing into a significant industry. Steve Donohue created the website www.savemesites.com, which gives e-panhandlers advice on how to sell banner ads and get listed on search engines. And because online begging is now so widespread, you may find them via a directory. Some, like www.shelter.org.uk and www.oxfam.org/eng, are even tax deductible.

We also have a successful Indian example. Visit the website of director-actor Rajat Kapoor at www.rajatkapoor.com. Prior to the release of his film *Raghu*, Rajat Kapoor appeared in movies including *Dil Chahta Hai* and *Monsoon Wedding*. The major development in this tiny film was that Kapoor was able to complete it on time while raising a sizable sum of money from both friends and strangers. On his website, he stated, "I am beginning my new film *Raghu*... Over the past two years, I have been attempting to raise money for this movie. I want to ask you to help produce the movie. If you donate more than Rs 10,000, you will receive a pro-rata portion of the movie's earnings. I require 120 of these partners to each purchase a minimum of one share. The plan worked, and several lakhs were amassed, marking the first successful cyber-begging case in India. We have one more example of crowd funding site in India that is *ketto*, *Ketto* is a website for crowd funding that supports social, artistic, and individual causes. *Ketto*, which was

founded in 2012 by Kunal Kapoor, Varun Sheth, and Zaheer Adenwala, is regarded as the most popular and dependable crowd funding platform in Asia. Any cause in which one has a strong conviction can be supported by *ketto*. Indiadonates.org, impactguru.org, [fondly](http://fondly.com), simplygiving.com and crowdfundingindia.org are the crowd funding websites from which cyber beggars can ask money for their personal need. In India most of the cyber beggars ask money for the medical treatment

Social Media as a tool for Cyber Beggars:

Platforms for crowdsourcing communicate well with beggars. On the crowd funding website, beggars take the form of "helpers" or "project sponsors" and effectively ride the free ride of "charity." Suddenly, a crowd funding platform takes on the form of a "beggar's platform." The crowd funding platform restricts users' ability to identify themselves, and "sympathizers" payment costs are significantly greater. The crowd funding site acts as a middleman to break up the face-to-face game mechanism between the donors and the beggars. The signal transmission technology malfunctions, drastically lowering the beggars' cost of begging. There are many audiences on the Internet. The cost of selecting the giver and engaging in face-to-face games with the giver are eliminated, and the beggars can instead benefit from more effective advantages. This makes it much easier for them to conceal their belongings. The supply and demand of "sympathisers" are negatively correlated with the level of police control, both online and off. The way network signals are transmitted further transforms crowdfunding platforms into "beggar platforms." Hotspots for public opinion not only enhance the number of prospective donors for beggars but also raise their risk of information exposure and encourage the symmetry of information flow.

Charity or Begging:

The crowd funding website carries some risk. Stars and wealthy individuals are more likely to be watched over by the public if their status is higher than average, and they are also more likely to be watched over if their public persona is more attractive. The common newspaper article on the famous bogus crowd funding fraud has the feeling of "selling wretched begging." The cost of internet begging is also so minimal that those who engage in it can do so while maintaining their level of living and make a profit from the donations they receive. The phrase "new road to prosperity" now refers to crowd funding. The public was critical of the crowd funding platform's information disclosure and money management. The "veil" that disguised the relationship between the crowd funding site and the beggars has now been exposed, and the platform may no longer be able to advocate for "begging" under the guise of "charity." Begging and offering

alms are two methods of transaction based on trust. All types of discrimination against almsgiving prior to it are simply an examination of the beggar's credit history. The crowd funding platform's audit mechanism lowers the petitioner's credit cost. Credit usage is restricted by both cost and income as an economic behavior. Traitment will optimize the profit if the income from non-credit is significantly greater than the cost from non-credit. The vast interest temptation makes cultural enlightenment appear pointless. The crowd funding platform has induced people's stress response in the event of "disease" or "disaster" - begging from the public, which not only secures the current living standard and family property but also does not require payment of consideration. This response is inspired by the low cost that can be exchanged for huge interests on the crowd funding platform. The social relief of individual mutual assistance and the beggars' veil are not the ways of charity education in the imperfect credit system of today.

Charity work is not a path to universal prosperity or financial equality. The beggars must work hard in order to become wealthy; they cannot just redistribute wealth through charity. The wealth gap between the rich and the poor does not go smaller and the total value of the material wealth of the entire society is not increased through wealth redistribution. We can only truly drive an increase in the entire value of the material goods of society by empowering beggars, encouraging their labour, and raising their pay. The administration has issued the rallying cry for the crucial fight against poverty. There are many different charitable endeavours, social aid is improving steadily, social insurance is comprehensive, people's living standards have increased, and there aren't many beggars who actually need help. Even if there are, beggars can still seek assistance from the government or a charitable group without using a crowdfunding platform. Not charitable assistance but the idea of hard work and self-reliance is what beggars lack. They believe that this method of earning money is more effective and cost-effective. However, the cost of obtaining cash is reduced through crowdfunding platforms and individual mutual aid relief, which entirely strips beggars of their ability to work and employable skills while rewarding donors with more begging.

The worst acts in the world are carried out by good people with good intentions, according to Hayek. Giving out of a desire to help others raises the beggars' expectations of a big return, which ultimately results in the beggars using the giver's good intentions to make a lot of money. The government must pay significant social expenses and eliminate other social advantages even if it can pass a variety of regulations to control the crowd funding platform and gather information through

different ways. The likelihood of inaccurate information and poor decision-making is higher if the government chooses information based on its own biases. As the primary independent decision-maker, the public is able to clearly understand the purpose of crowd funding platforms and beggars, recognize investment risks, exercise supervision over these entities, obviate negative outcomes, and uphold their own interests at a lower cost and with greater motivation. The general population should be a potential giver who can calmly spot misleading information on the Internet and in intermediary agencies, resist emotional appeals from beggars, and never unintentionally act as a "loving leisure and hating labour" assistant.

Conclusion:

The study is on cyber begging through social media. The purpose is to examine the history of cyber begging, growth of cyber begging and the crowd funding websites. From the study, it was discovered that crowd funding websites are using the money of a common man. The scenario of traditional begging is changing now. With the emergence of technology people are using internet for cyber begging. They develop the website and ask money from the strangers. Now-a-days youth are engaging in this type of activities because they thought it is the easiest way to earn the money. But it is very harmful for the national development. We can say that cyber begging has some ills on national development. Some of the effects are poverty, indebtedness among others. The study recommends that Government should fix some rules for these crowd funding websites Government should empower youths to reduce poverty. Cyber begging makes youths to lose interest in dignity of labour and hard work as future leaders hence for some reasons, the government must impose restrictions on internet use to encourage people to be conscientious in their work. Parents should be aware that what type of sites are searching by their children because it is the need of time and the question of the future of their child.

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