

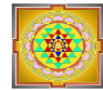
## Socio - Economic Profile, Health Status and Quality of Life among Beggars with Special reference to Malda district of West Bengal (India): A Case Study

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**Abstract:** Begging is a social problem in rural and urban areas of different parts of the country. It is a biggest curse in our society in the era of 21<sup>st</sup> century. “Beggars” or “*Fakir*” are poorest of the poor, most disadvantages, most backward and marginalized section of the society, living in such a pathetic condition that they are unable to full fill the basic needs of life. Currently there are more than 4 lakh of beggars in India with highest in West Bengal state (Indian express report 2011). The main objectives of this research is to know the genuine cause of taking beggars profession , to examine the socio-economic profiles, health status and quality of life among beggars, suggest suitable remedial measures to eradicate this beggars profession in the study area. Malda district of West Bengal has been selected as the study area. The entire research work is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. The results of the study shows that 19.57 percent of the beggars are practicing this profession as a traditional family profession, 17.87 percent are suffering from lungs problems, 38.72 per cent of the respondents are does not have any Ration card facilities and majority of beggars have various bad habits such smoking bidi and cigarettes, alcohol consuming, lottery ticket batting etc. The researcher suggested that Government of West Bengal and district administration (District Magistrate) and local government authorities (Zila Parishad-Panchayat Samiti- Gram Panchayat) should provide affordable houses and provides monthly pension to the beggars for alleviating this problems in the study area.

**Key Words:** Extreme Poverty, Health, Income, Housing, Beggars, Poor, Open defecation, Sanitation, Cloth

**Introduction:**

***“Allah ke naam paar 10 Rupay dey dey beta (Please give me Rs 10 for Almighty God Namesake)”***

***“Khana khila dey, Bhagwaan tujhe aur Maalamal aur kamyaab banayega (Give me food, God will give you more money and All of your wishes will come true)”***

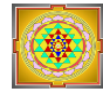
***“Kuuch Paise de do Sahab, mere bacche 3 din se bukha Hey (Give me some money, my children’s are very hungry since three days)”***

***“Paise dey deo tujhe achi sarkari naukari and sundaar biwi milega (Give me money you will got government job very soon and beautiful wife)”***

**When you hear these words, you must understand that, you are being pressurised by a beggar for donating something.**

“Beggars” or “*Fakir*” are poorest of the poor, most disadvantages, most backward and marginalized section of the society, living in such a pathetic condition that they are unable to full fill the basic needs of life. The popular term “bhiksha” in Hinduism, Jainism, and Buddhism are very well known. Even having emerged as unorthodox religious, philosophy, Muslim peoples also believed in “Zakat”. However, besides the fact that beggary has its root in religious mendicancy. Today begging is a major social problem in our county India. Begging has been with mankind since antiquity – anywhere in any city. Currently there are more than 4 lakh of beggars in India with highest in West Bengal (Indian express report). According to planning commission, 1963, report, approximately two million beggars of all categories were there in India. Begging has not only psychological consequences such as the development of inferiority complex in the beggars family members and their network of kinship, but also will affect, as an unpleasant consequence, is of considerable importance in terms of the effects it will have on the face of the city especially in metropolises which are magnets for domestic and foreign tourists. There are different types of beggars. Some are blind, lame or crippled and therefore accept alms. Some people who lost their homes became beggars. Child and orphan beggars are also very common. Some people who are physically fit but take up begging as their profession to earn an easy livelihood. Some leave the family and start begging. Poverty, job loss, major diseases like tuberculosis, leprosy etc. And other socio-economic problems lead to begging. It is well known that problem of begging has originated from old time but it is also very difficult to say that actual particular year of begging began to be practiced first. Many studies indicate that it was non-existent in primitive societies where small groups of relatives used to live together and support one another.

Previously, religious faith of the people has encouraged begging in India. They believed that it is one way to please the Almighty but now it has become a profession since no physical and mental effort is required to earn one’s bread. Hence, beggars suffer from various health problems. They are the source of various infections. Their health problems can lead to serious complications if not treated on time. It can harm the health of society. This is a burden on the society as well as the healthcare delivery system. Begging adversely affects socio-economic development. Begging itself is a complex social problem. So we have to fight against it from all sides. First of all, public opinion should be created against it. Giving alms is a common practice in the society. But indiscriminate giving is neither

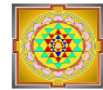


beneficial to the giver nor to the receiver. Rather it creates many social evils. Those who are crippled, helpless or homeless should give alms. However Begging is one of the most localized multifaceted social problems of a large scale, but it is poorly understood in all its dimensions. Begging in India has always been a subject of passing attention to charity, the problem of begging has never been the subject of in-depth scientific research.

The present research proposed for find out the socio-economic profile and health condition among the beggar's in Malda district of West Bengal. India, at the present time, has been facing two most vital problems i.e. the first one is to meet the enhanced demand for food and other consumptive products, and the second is widespread poverty by the ever increasing population. Hence, there is showing wide gap between demand and supply of the food for the Indian population. The increasing demands of food made by exponential growth of population means the need for more requirements of food, shelter, water, energy, land for human settlements, better civic infrastructural facilities and amenities for standard quality of life. Unfortunately, poor people are unable to satisfy even their basic needs due to mass prevalence of unemployment, under unemployment and poverty in the country that force the socio-economically backward poor people of the lower stratum of the society to adopt the activity of begging to earn the few pieces of bread for the survival of the life. The current study has manifold importance as it provides information about the beggar's lifestyle and helps to understand their socio-economic status and health condition. Beggars are not only ask money from peoples but also food, drink, dressed and others small items.

**Review of Literature:** The review highlights the distinction areas covered by the many researchers and academicians which may be helpful to understand the issues relating to the present study and it also helps to find out the research gap. The basic sources of literature review of my study areas are- published research papers, articles in the journal of national and international repute, books, Government reports, Research agencies reports etc.

**Fatma Meher Sultana and Zaid Alam (2018)** highlighted that poverty and beggars are two major issues in India. Their study reveals that the major causes of taking this profession due to extreme poverty, unemployment, physically challenged, Indebtness etc. The income of beggars is very low because their income is based on the donor's behaviour. Most of the beggars are unaware about the government schemes for poverty alleviation. **Jabir Hasan Khan and Shamsad (2013)** examined that India is facing two major challenges that is food insecurity and poverty. Their study reveals that majority of beggars are facing various problems such as extreme poverty, lack of sanitation, frequently morbidity, unable to perform daughter marriage, no housing etc. The researchers suggested that there should be proper rehabilitation of beggars. Central Government includes NGOs, social workers should give vocational training like tailoring, sewing, sipping, weaving, book binding, Gardening, Nursing & Mid-Wifery, Incense stick making, cooking, catering, doll making, poultry farming, bee-keeping, carpenters etc. **P. Saliga and Visweshwar Rao (2016)** insisted that beggary is a multifaceted problem because of its socio-cultural and economic ramification. Their study reveals that there are various types of beggars such as juvenile, physically and mentally handicapped, diseases affected person, aged and infirm, professional beggars etc. The researcher suggested that media academic institution, NGOs and Government should take appropriate measures to eradicate the problems of beggars in India. **Ravindra Balaram**



**and Gurav (2015)** observe that beggars are a person who lives by asking others for money or food. Today begging is major social problem. Their study reveals that most of beggars are facing health problems such as musculoskeletal, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, skin diseases, respiratory infections, etc. Majority of beggars have habits of paan and tobacco chewing, smoking, alcohol consuming etc. **Malarvizhi and Geetha (2016)** examined that beggars are the poorest of the poor and most marginalized section of the society. Their study reveals that 92 per cent of beggars in Coimbatore city belong to Hindu religions. The researchers suggested that Government, NGOs should provide accommodation and medical facilities to the beggars at cheaper rate.

After study of the begging with broad concept it is clear that Begging is a global phenomenon and is not only found in our society but is found everywhere in both developed and developing countries. A large section of beggars are unable to lead a normal life due to poverty, disability or other reasons. In India, beggars are victims of an unbalanced socio-economic system. They are the poorest of the poor and the most disadvantaged section of society, living in such a disadvantaged situation that they are unable to meet their basic needs (food, shelter, health and safety) for their survival. Now begging has become a profession, where earning does not require physical and mental effort. This profession is based on public kindness towards poor people. Undoubtedly, beggars are needy people, but most of them take up this profession only to escape from manual labour.

Table 1.1 Top 10 States having maximum beggars Peoples in India, 2011

Rank	States	Beggars Persons
1.	West Bengal	81244
2.	Uttar Pradesh	65835
3.	Andhra Pradesh	30218
4.	Bihar	29723
5.	Madhya Pradesh	28695
6.	Rajasthan	25853
7.	Maharashtra	24307
8.	Assam	22116
9.	Odisha	17965
10.	Gujarat	13445

**Source:** Census of India, Report, 2011

### A Geographical Outline of the Study Area:

Malda district of West Bengal has been selected as research study area. Malda district is entirely located in North Bengal, it is also known as “**Gateway of North Bengal**”. It lies in North Bengal on lower Indo-Gangetic plain. The latitudinal range of Malda lies between 24°40'20" North and 25°32'08" North, and the longitudinal range is 87°45'50" East and 88°28'10" East. For administrative purpose the district has been divided into 15 Community Development Block and two sub-division namely Malda Sadar and Chanchal Sadar. The

district is very much famous for Mango Production, Litchi production, Jute Production and Sericulture activity (Raw Silk production), school educational sectors. This district is also known as “Valley of Mango”. Majority of the male population of this district are migrants labour, agricultural labour and Hawkers due none availability of any large scale, medium scale industries, majority of female population in rural are engaged in bidi making household industries. According to 2011 Census of India still 86.14 per cent population are belong to rural area.

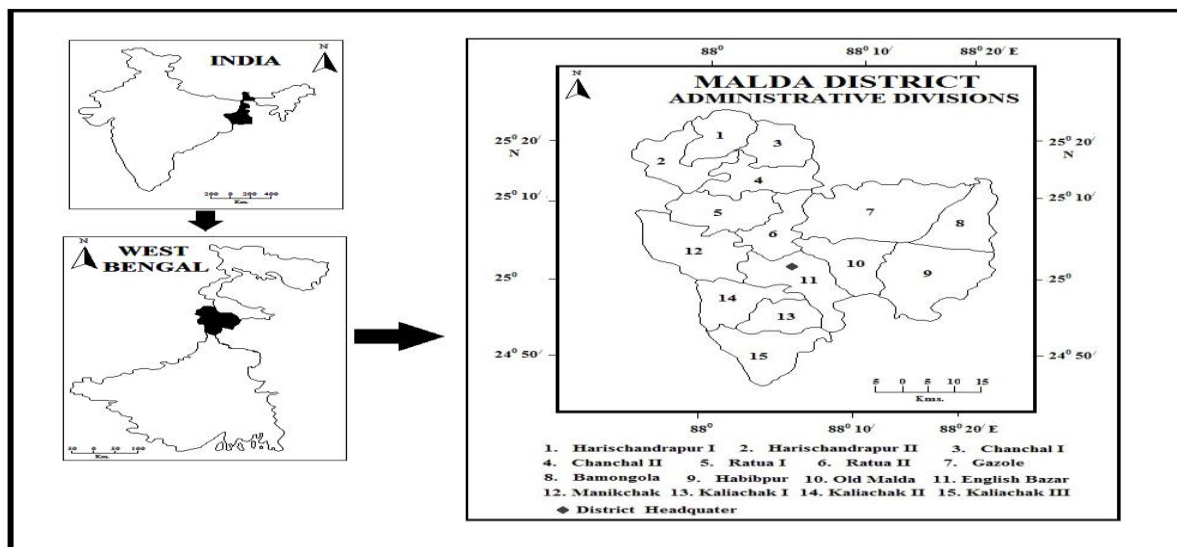
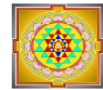


Figure 1: Location map of the Study Area

**Statement of Research Problem:** Begging is a social problem in rural and urban areas of Malda district of West Bengal. It is a biggest curse in our society in the era of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Beggars person are taking this profession due to poverty, frequently morbidity, death of husband, traditional family profession and unemployment. The socio-economic profile, health condition and quality of life among the beggars in Malda district of West Bengal are very pathetic. Beggars are eager to suggest their children adopt the same profession in future in study area. Majority of them didn't aware the anti begging law of India. They are unaware about the profession and healthy environment and society in the study area. Majority of them are living without social insecurity, social exclusion. The beggars are weakest community in our society. Governments unable to consider the solution of their problems. Remaining vicious circle of poverty and begging practice repeated in our society. It will also help to understand the phenomena of begging and explain the Beggar's perspective regarding begging practices as a profession. There have required ending the practice of begging to get a healthy environment and society.



So, these combined basic problems and challenges faced by among beggars provoked the researcher to undertake this study in particular. The outcomes or findings from this research will be very helpful for administrators, policymakers, economists, sociologists, Researchers, Academicians, Journalists, NGO workers, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of West Bengal as well as the Central Government of India for their various policies making.

### Research Objectives:

1. To examine the socio-economic profile and health condition of beggars in Malda district of West Bengal.
2. To find out the major causes of begging in the study area.
3. To examine the beggar satisfaction with beggary as the profession in the study area.
4. To highlight the problem faced by beggars and their remedial measure.
5. To find out suggestions as proposed by the beggars to give up this activity in Malda district of West Bengal.

### Database and Research Methodology:

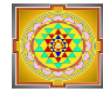
The current research work is analytical, descriptive and empirical type of research work. The study is based on both primary and secondary sources of data. Due to the non-availability of exact statistics about beggars living in Malda district, it was a great challenging for the researcher to find out the actual number of beggars living or working in Malda district of West Bengal and conducts the research on the topic. Hence; a quantitative method has been used. Primary data were collected through interview schedule based on well structured questionnaire with regards to objective in mind. For the collection of primary data a near about 235 respondents has been selected based on simple random and convenience sampling method from those public places like Malda Town rail station, bus-stand, temple, mosque, street and market, banks, Hospitals of the study area. The survey was conducted during the month of September 2019 to September 2019. The survey has been conducted at different villages of 15 community development block of Malda district of West Bengal.

The secondary data has been collected from Bureau of Applied Economics and Statistic Government of West Bengal, District Statistical Handbook, Malda Collectorate, Books, Research Paper, Journals, Newspaper, Researchgate, Google Scholar etc. After the collection of data for showing the result Simple Percentage Method, SWOT analysis and Computer Cartography has been used.

### Result and Discussion:

Table 1.2: Gender-Wise Sampled Beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Gender	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Male	54	22.98
2.	Female	156	66.38
3.	Transgender	25	10.64



<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 2 shows that 66.38 per cent of the respondents are female and 22.98 per cent of the respondents are male and 10.64 per cent are transgender.

Table 1. 3: Age- Group of Sampled Beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Age-Group	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1	14-25 Years	21	8.94
2.	26-40 Years	43	18.29
3.	41-59 Years	125	53.19
4.	Above 60 Years	46	19.58
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 3 depicts that 53.19 per cent respondents are belong to 41-59 years which was highest percentage and 8.94 per cent of the respondents are belong to age group between 14-25 years.

Table 1.4: Educational Background among Sampled Beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Educational Background	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Illiterate	175	74.46
2.	Primary level	59	25.10
3.	10 <sup>th</sup> Level	01	0.42
4.	12 <sup>th</sup> Level	00	-
5.	Graduation and Above	00	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1.4 shows that 74.46 per cent of the respondents are illiterates and 25.10 per cent of the respondent's primary level education and only 0.42 per cent of the respondents are completed 10<sup>th</sup> level education.

Table 1. 5: Causes of pursuing beggars profession in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Major Causes	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Extreme Poverty	41	12.61
2.	Unemployment	24	10.21
3.	Death of Husband / Widow	33	14.04

4.	Traditional Family Occupation	46	19.57
5.	Medical Illness Treatments	7	2.97
6.	Not caring by Sons	17	7.23
7.	Physically Handicapped (Divyang)	28	11.91
8.	Indebtness	13	5.53
9.	Old Age	15	6.38
10.	Daughter Marriage	11	4.68
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1.5 shows that 19.57 per cent of the respondents are taken due to traditional family profession which is highest percentage and 4.68 percent of the respondents are taken this profession due to daughter marriage.

Table 1.6: Daily Income among beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Daily Income (INR)	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	INR 1-300	46	19.58
2.	INR 301-500	137	58.29
3.	INR 501-999	33	14.04
4.	Above INR 1000	19	8.08
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1.6 shows that 58.29 per cent of the respondents of the respondents are earning daily INR 301-500 which is highest percentage and only 8.08 per cent of the respondents are earning daily above INR 1000 from this beggars profession.

Table 1.7: Beggars begging place at Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Beggars begging place	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Bus Stand and Railway Station	37	15.74
2.	Door to Door Household	73	31.06
3.	Market and Shopping Maal Areas	21	8.93
4.	Mosques, Temple Areas	13	5.53
5.	Banks Areas	18	7.65
6.	Public Toilet Areas	11	4.68
7.	School, Colleges and University Areas	15	6.38
8.	Religious gathering and Fairs	22	9.36
9.	Migration to others state for begging purpose	25	10.63
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019



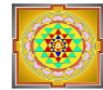


Table 1. 7 shows that 31.06 per cent of the respondents are begging place is door to door households and only 4.68 per cent of the respondents are at public toilet areas.

Table 1.8: Marital Status among beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Marital Status	Total Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Married	55	23.40
2.	Unmarried	31	13.19
3.	Widow	116	49.36
4.	Divorced	33	14.04
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, September to November, 2018

Table 1.8 show that 49.36 percent of the respondents are widow which is highest percentage and only 13.19 per cent of the respondents are unmarried.

Table 1. 9: Use of Mobile Phones among beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Use of Mobile Phones	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	No Mobiles	136	57.87
2.	Keypad Sets mobiles	72	30.63
3.	Android Sets Mobiles	27	11.48
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, September to November, 2018

Table 1. 9 shows that 57.87 per cent of the respondents are not use any mobiles and only 11.48 per cent of the respondents are uses android sets.

Table 1. 10: Possessing of Bank Account Passbook among beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

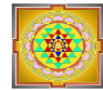
Sl. No.	Possessing of Bank Account Passbook	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Yes	62	26.38
2.	No	173	73.61
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Source: Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 10 depicts that 73.61 per cent of the respondents have possessing bank account and only 26.38 per cent of the respondents does not have any bank account for their saving money.

Table 1. 11: Status of Housing among Beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Status of Housing	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Own House	112	47.65



2.	Rented House	19	8.08
3.	No Housing	104	44.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 11 shows that 47.65 per cent of the respondents have owned house and only 8.08 per cent of the respondents are living at rent house.

Table 1. 12: Availing any Government Facility among Beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Availing any Government Facility	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Yes	89	37.87
2.	No	146	62.12
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 12 shows that 62. 12 per cent of the respondents are not availing any government facilities and only 37. 87 per cent of the respondents are benefited by government facilities.

Table 1. 13: Possessing of Ration Card among Beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

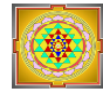
Sl. No.	Possessing of Ration Card	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Anantadaya Yojna	71	30.21
2.	SPHH /BPL	34	14.46
3.	RKSY-II	18	7.65
4.	RKSY-I	21	8.93
5.	No Ration Card	91	38.72
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 13 shows that 38.72 per cent of the respondents are does not possessing any ration card which is highest percentage and only 8.93 per cent of the respondents have RKSY-I ration card which is lowest percentage among the beggars.

Table 1. 14: Major Problems faced by beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Major Problems	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Unable to bear Medical treatment	19	8.08
2.	Unable to bear children education	28	11.91
3.	Unable to bear daughter marriage	21	8.93
4.	Low Income and extreme	33	14.04



	poverty		
5	Rude behaviour, Abuse language and neglected attitude by donors / Public	47	20.00
6.	Torture by local police	23	9.78
7.	Sexual Abuse	14	5.95
8.	Harassment from fellow beggars	25	10.63
9.	No Problems	25	10.63
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 14 shows that 20.00 per cent of the respondents are facing the problems like rude behaviour, abuse language and neglected attitude by donors/ public which is highest percentage.

Table 1. 15: Toilet facility among beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Availability of Toilet facility	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Public Toilet	44	18.72
2.	Open Field	136	57.87
3.	No Toilet	55	23.40
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 15 shows that 57.87 per cent of the respondents are practices open defecation at open field and only 18.72 per cent of beggars are used public toilet facility.

Table 1. 16: Bad Habits among beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

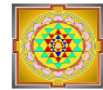
Sl. No.	Bad Habits	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Smoking Bidi and Cigarettes	26	11.06
2.	Chewing of Paan and Tobacco	21	8.93
3.	Alcohol Consumption	45	19.14
4.	Gambling	12	5.10
5.	Lottery ticket batting	88	37.44
6.	No Bad Habits	43	18.29
<b>Total</b>		<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 16 depict that 37.44 per cent of the respondents are Lottery ticket batting bad habits among the baggers and only 5.10 per cent of the beggars having gambling habit.

Table 1. 17: Numbers of Years Engaged / Practices in beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Numbers of Years Engaged / Practices	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	1 – 5 Years	27	11.48
2.	6- 10 Years	88	37.44
3.	10- 15 Years	45	19.14
4.	Above 15 Years	75	31.91



<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>100.00</b>
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**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1. 17 shows that 37.44 per cent of the respondents are practicing since 6-10 years of begging profession and only 19.14 per cent of the respondents are 10-15 years of practicing.

Table 1. 18: Health Status among the beggars in Malda district, West Bengal

Sl. No.	Diseases	Total numbers of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Asthama	25	10.63
2.	Typhoid Fever	13	5.53
3.	Stomach Stone	19	8.08
4.	Skin Diseases	11	4.68
5.	Lungs Problems	42	17.87
6.	Cough and Cold	23	9.78
7.	Migrane	17	7.23
8.	Tuberculosis (T.B.)	39	16.59
9.	Gastric	12	5.10
10.	No Problem	34	14.46
Total		235	100.00

**Source:** Field Survey Data, September to November, 2019

Table 1.18 shows that 17.87 per cent of the beggars have lungs problems and 4.68 per cent of the respondents have skin diseases problems.

**Major Findings of the Study:**

1. It is evident from the field survey that Beggars are the poorest of the poor peoples in the society in Malda district of West Bengal and majority of them are unable to fulfil their basic needs of life.
2. It is the evident from the field survey that 19.57 percent of the beggars are practicing this profession as a traditional family profession in Malda district of West Bengal.
3. It is evident from the field survey that among the beggars 17.87 percent are suffering from lungs problems in Malda district of West Bengal.
4. It is evident from the field survey that 38.72 per cent of the respondents are does not have any Ration card facilities.
5. It is evident from the field survey that majority of beggars have various bad habits such smoking bidi and cigarettes, alcohol consuming, lottery ticket batting etc.
6. Most of the beggars are happy with this profession because of no need to do manual hard work, it is easiest way to earning money.

**Suggestion and Policy Implication:**

- Media, academic institutions, NGOs and the government should take appropriate measures to eradicate the problem of begging in Malda district of West Bengal.
- The Government of West Bengal and district administration (District Magistrate) and local government authorities (Zila Parishad- Panchayat Samiti- Gram Panchayat)



should provide affordable houses and provides monthly pension to alleviate this problems from Malda district of West Bengal.

- Slum clearance and better housing facilities should be provided the beggars through PM Awas Yojna, Bangalr Awas Yojna etc.
- Government should develop agro-based and agro-allied industries, promotes cottage industries in rural areas so that poor people can get employment and generate their income in the rural areas of Malda district of West Bengal.
- There should be proper rehabilitation centres for beggars during extreme cold season, rainy season, hot sunny weathers season at block level in the study area.
- Improve the literacy levels and awareness about the various central government and state government schemes for eradicating the poverty such as Right to Education, National Old Age Pension Schemes, Widow Pensions, Mid Day Meal, MGNREGA, Self Help Groups etc. in the study area.
- The State Government, District Administration and NGOs should be organize vocation training programmes for beggars such as Tailoring, Sewing, Mat weaving, Mango Pickles making, Litchi pickles, sericulture activity training, fishing rearing, book binding, gardening, Nursing and Mid Wifery, incense stick making, cooking, doll making, poultry farming, bee-keeping, carpentry, bidi making etc in the study area.

**Conclusion:** India is a home of beggars. In no other country of the world you will find so many beggars. The main reason is that begging is a profession in India. They do not like to change their hereditary profession. The income among the beggars is very low because their income is based on the donor's behaviours. Nobody cares about that beggars are exploited by the society peoples and treated as an animal. They are also human beings and citizen of India that they give respect beggars because they are also part of our society. **Most of the beggars are happy with this profession because of no need to do manual work, it is easiest way to earning money.** The beggary is like a curse for new India in the era of 21<sup>st</sup> century. Last but not the least we can say that there is a famous Persian proverb **“A Beggar will always be a beggar even if they give him the whole world as a gift”**.

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