

Rehabilitation fails to stop beggars

Beggary a persistent menace on Kempegowda Road; beggars return after rehabilitation

CHITRA PHALGUNI

The bus stop, the subway and the footpaths on Kempegowda Road have people practicing beggary.

The Karnataka Prohibition of Beggary Act, 1975 includes exposing wounds and injuries in human beings, fortune telling, selling articles, singing and dancing, etc. as acts of beggary.

Sam, the security guard on the foot over bridge at the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMT) station said the beggars are pushed out of the area time and again. Yet they keep returning.

B J Komarappa, the Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) at the Upparpet Police Station said the beggars are taken to the beggars' relief home. The people at the Central Relief Committee would then take charge of the beggars and get them rehabilitated. But, some people still return to begging.

The ASI said that they took not just the physically challenged but even beggars in the saffron garb. But they take no action against people like astrologers and tarot card readers.

The police official said that peo-

ple selling their wares on the footpaths and the subways are also dealt with. But the police can only

brought to their committee by the police. They provide food, medical facilities, shelter, etc. They train

station, said they just run away from the police whenever they see them. He said the police had not

let them do what they are doing. But they did not even let them take up such self-employment.

She said that she had studied up to class 10. But the conditions in her house had gotten her on the streets.

Anita said that the police often beat up the beggars on the subway and on the over bridge. But they had no courage to handle mendicants. They can touch only beggars. They were still afraid of God, she said.

Suresh, who sells books in the subway, said that the police did not trouble him since he was selling books and magazines. But he was not at all appreciative of the behaviour of the government towards such traders. He said that ninety percent of chain-snatchers and picketers are educated. But they are all unemployed. If the government would have just set them up with some kind of employment, their condition would have been so much better.

The Majestic area is quite good for business. It is natural that sellers want to come and sell their goods here. This is after all a form of self-employment, which the government wanted them to do, he said.



Beggars seen on Kempegowda overbridge even after rehabilitation

by author

make the sellers move from the footpaths and subways. They cannot file complaints against them.

Ramaiah, president of the Central Relief Committee, said that they provide relief to the beggars

the beggars to help them earn their livelihood. "But they keep taking to begging. After all, this is a deep-rooted problem," he said.

Ramesh, a tarot card reader on the foot over bridge outside the BMT

troubled them so far.

Anita, a woman selling charts said this was their only means of livelihood. The government did not want them to take to thieving or similar malpractices so they should

Safety of mall-goers is at stake

Security measures in shopping malls require revision

POOJA GAUTAM

There is not enough security in shopping malls. There is a conventional blue and black uniformed guard at the mall's entrance with a black metal detector in hand.

However, it is only used to check the bag that a person is carrying and not the person himself. It was

ing you a second look.

Mr. Mohan Das, the chief security official, at Garuda mall said, "After the Ludhiana blast the security of the mall has been increased. We have brought in 40 additional security personnel after the blasts. They are men in plain clothes, who are roaming around the mall all the time. They are marshals".

think it is below their dignity to get checked. However this is not an excuse. I will surely look into the matter", he said.

Forum Mall on the other hand has a different story to relate. The mall has machines with digitally filtered molecular dynamics technology. On entering one has to go through a digitally filtered molecular dynamics (DFMD) check. "

"A DFMD will basically detect if you have metal with you. If you have little amount of metal like in your buckle or mobile the beep is very low. But if you are carrying a laptop or anything big it will give a high beep and then the guard will come to know. That is when he will check you with his metal detector, and check your belongings. Otherwise we don't bother our customers", said Mr. Vinod, manager of the mall.

About internal security he said that it was the shops' individual responsibility. Referring to increase in security after the Ludhiana blast he said that they had increased security in the mall after the Hyderabad blast only. After that incident they increased the number of DMFDs. Initially they used to have only one at the entrance. Now there are two at the entrance and two at the parking, where cars are made to go through them. But in this day and age is having only DFMDs enough as a security measure?

"Look we are doing all that we can. After all even we are humans", said Mr. Vinod. There are a lot of malls in the city that replicate these examples.



Front view of a shopping mall in Bangalore

by Priyanka

observed that when the beep was long, although the guard did call the customer, she did not frisk him with the detector, but just made the customer open his bag.

If there is rush, you might be lucky to enter the mall without the black detector or the person wearing the blue and black uniform, even giv-

Mr. Das said that the customers often get offended if they are too strict with them so they can not enforce very strict rules. "They complain to us, also there have been instances where our security guards were beaten up by people. Even the public is responsible for its own safety. Some customers

Lalbagh home to illegal vendors

SHUBHI MEHROTRA

Hawkers in Lalbagh are selling foodstuffs and garlands illegally. They are not authorized by the horticultural department (in charge of the management of the garden) to sell things inside the park.

Narayan Murthy, former Assistant Director, Gardens said that it is almost impossible to control these elements. He also said that almost 5,000 people visit Lalbagh every morning. So even the security guards cannot prevent

He also said that the police post opposite Lalbagh is sometimes involved in throwing out these vendors when the garden authorities take action against them. "But some police personnel have ties with them and let them off. However we are more responsible about the technical aspect of management of Lalbagh like keeping track of flower species etc. So we can not concentrate on the vendors," he said.

Dada Mir, a vendor agreed that he does not have a license. He said



Visitors buying foodstuff from a vendor in Lalbagh

by author

unauthorized vendors from entering. "They jump the walls and enter the garden when not allowed to enter through the main gate. People buy foodstuffs from them and in turn dirty the place," he said. He also said that the security guards are not effective as most of the people do not listen to them.

Dr. Jagdish, Deputy Director of Horticulture, Lalbagh said that numerous efforts have been made to remove these hawkers but Lalbagh is spread in 240 acres which makes it difficult to manage.

that his family has been doing this for decades and the garden authorities cannot do anything to remove them although they have tried many times. Selling is their only way of earning their livelihood.

Assistant Director, Gardens, Krishnamurejo said that the vendor menace is a constant one. "The vendors often appeal to MLAs projecting their plight and they get moved by them.

Hence, they have nowhere to go and return to the garden", he said.