A STUDY ON THE CHILD BEGGAR SYNDICATES IN MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

By

Norhafizan Bt Mat Yasin (2007144141) Saidatul Salwa Bt Abdul Razak (2007144199) Hani Nurzafirah Bt Badarludin (2007143839)

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor in Legal Studies (Hons)

> University Teknologi MARA Faculty of Law

April 2010

The students/authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where references has been made to the work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By the grace of Allah s.w.t our group has completed project paper titled 'A study on the Child Beggar Syndicates in Malaysia and Singapore'. First and foremost, we offer our sincerest gratitude to the supervisor, Mr Ismail, whose had encourage, guidance and supports from the initial to the final level enabled us to develop an understanding of the subject matter.

We are ever grateful to those who are our mentors, teachers, advisors, prayer partners, supporters, co-workers and well wishers.

We would also like to thank our parents for supporting us throughout all the studies at Mara University of Technology, especially in a financial problems and the moral support.

Lastly, we offer our regards and blessings to all of those who supported us in any respect during the completion of the project.

i

ABSTRACT

This research study comprises the points relating to child protection in terms of child beggar, in particular. The issue would be the adequacy of the current law in developing the advancement in the protection of the children together with the enforcement of the law by the government agency and non governmental organization, its workability towards the people and the current situation as a whole. The comparison would be with The Republic of Singapore regarding the laws and relevant authorities which responsible and correlated with the child protection, specifically, child beggar. It is for the reason that the Republic of Singapore appears to be a country with a lesser number of child beggar or 'street kids' compared to Malaysia.

The method used in this research to obtain the information or the relevant data would be mainly by the way of library research and internet research. The semi-structured interview will be as an endorsement if more information needs to be attained. In completing this research, the scope of the study will be focusing on the laws and the effort made by the authorities and relevant agencies in both Malaysia and Singapore for the purpose of protecting the child beggar and the protection of the children from begging.

In the surface, Singapore provides a small and rare cases pertaining to child beggar or 'street kids' as compared to Malaysia, the child beggar is everywhere. There is need to call out for the advancement of the law relating to child protection to decrease the number of child beggar which will affect the society as a whole. The cooperation from the public at large to provide a better environment for the well being of the children needs to be taken into consideration as the children are the backbones of a nation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Acknowledgement Abstract Table of Legislation | i ii iii | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|--------|
| | | Contents | iv-vii |
| | | <u>CHAPTER 1</u> | |
| Introduction | | | |
| 1.1 Background | 1-4 | | |
| 1.2 Problem Statement | 5 | | |
| 1.3 Objective of Study | 6 | | |
| 1.4 Literature Review | 7-10 | | |
| 1.5 Methodology | | | |
| 1.5.1 Internet search | 10 | | |
| 1.5.2 Library based research | 11 | | |
| 1.5.3 Semi-structured interview | 11 | | |
| 1.6 Scope and Limitation | | | |
| 1.6.1 Limited to laws provided in Malaysia and Singapore | 11 | | |
| 1.6.2 Time | 12 | | |

CHAPTER 1

1.1 BACKGROUND

These youth dressed in rags torn to shreds with the faces covered in dirt and they walk the winding pathways of asphalt. They spend their days baking under the sun's scorching rays or drudge in the endless assault of rain and wind, their bare feet being tortured by an unforgiving environment. These are the child beggars who would normally knock down people's car, hunting for alms to earn money for the irresponsible group of people. Nonetheless, there are unfortunate child in the universe who has to walk down on street begging for money with the purpose only to buy their daily foods. Normally, these youngsters are approximately from under the age of majority. As we can see so far, there are bundles of laws and authorities provided in Malaysia for the protections of these children, however the issue to identify is relating to the adequacy of the laws that is imposed the offender. These offenders are referring to the person who has abused the children and forced the children to work on their behalf.

This research proposal discusses the child exploitation in terms of beggar syndicate. It is also further discusses the adequacy of our laws which consist of the punishment to whom who are involved in this matter compared to other modern country namely Singapore. The situation where people will questioned the law since this children beggar are becoming a normal situation especially in cities like Kuala Lumpur and Shah Alam. First and foremost, it is important to identify the definition of the child beggar itself.

Generally, according to the Children and Young Persons (Employment) Act 1966 by virtue of Act 350, the term of child can be defined as: