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## Nanny sedates baby, 'rents' him out to beggars

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BANGALORE: The worst nightmare of working parents entrusting the care of their children to nannies became a reality for a city couple recently. As soon as they would kiss their little one goodbye, the nanny would feed him and get him ready - for a day of begging on the streets of Bangalore. Instead of milk, the baby was fed sedatives; instead of the clothes carefully put out by his parents, she would dress him up in rags.

The modus operandi was simple - she would hand the seven-month-old baby to beggars for Rs 100 a day and lie back at her employers' home, watch soaps and feed herself to her heart's content. And this was not an 'ayah' picked up by hearsay reference, she came duly recruited by an employment agency, considered a safe option.

The horrifying story was revealed when the child's mother - who works for an MNC - returned home early one day. She found the nanny sitting in front of the TV but the baby was missing. Taken aback, she confronted the nanny who then confessed that she had been sending the baby for begging for the past three weeks.

It's only then that the parents realized why their son was drowsy and inactive in the evenings - he was being sedated everyday but for weekends when the parents would be home. Strangely, though, the couple have so far not lodged a police complaint.

"The parents want to remain anonymous and don't want to even talk about it," a source said. They are said to be planning to move abroad. It isn't clear whether this incident has forced them to take this step, but it would be hardly surprising if they wish to leave this nightmare behind.

According to State Children Commission officials, a suo motu case will be filed against the nanny.

"We are trying to track the family and get more details about the crime and the nanny. As beggary is a punishable offence, stringent action will be taken against the culprit. The commission will meet on Friday to decide on the course of action.

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