

# Perceived Causes and Effects of Street Begging among Adolescents with Disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Nigeria.

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**Abstract:** *Begging for money, food, or other favors in a public area or on a busy street without expecting anything in return is known as street begging. The practice of street begging by individuals with disabilities has spread throughout the country and has become an embarrassing societal phenomena. Poverty, homelessness, and unemployment are the main reasons of street begging, which has negative outcomes such as rape, ritual slaughter, and prejudice. Therefore, this study looks at how street begging is perceived to be caused and affected among young people with disabilities in the Nigerian state of Kwara and the city of Ilorin. The survey design was descriptive. The 50 beggars in the population were chosen at random. The questionnaire titled Perceived Causes and Effects of Street Begging Among Adolescents with Disabilities was used to collect data ( $r=0.91$ ). There were two research questions posed, two hypotheses presented, and two were tested at the 0.05 level. For data analysis, frequency, mean, percentage, and T-test were utilized. The result revealed that all the items in the questionnaire are on the perceived causes of street begging were surgical treatment, poverty and daily need top the rank. Additionally, it was discovered that the worst perceived effects of street begging were poor health, a lack of access to high-quality education, and sexual abuse. Based on male and female beggars in the Ilorin Metropolis, the results indicated that there is no statistically significant difference between the perceived causes and effects of street begging ( $p>0.05$ ). People with disabilities who are educated and willing to work should also be given due consideration so they can feel like their fellow citizens and reduce the number of begging on the streets. Therefore, the government should provide employment opportunities for everyone, regardless of class, religion, gender, or tribe.*

**Keyword:** Street begging, Adolescents, Gender

## Introduction

Street begging is the practice of soliciting money, food, or other favors in public areas or on busy streets without expecting anything in return. According to Mortimer (2012), it is when someone solicits money in a public setting without exchanging goods or services. It can occasionally be considered a syndrome because it frequently occurs in conjunction with other circumstances. Disability-related street begging has spread across the country and is now an embarrassing societal reality. In Nigeria, persons with disabilities through the streets, begging for money from onlookers, drivers, bikers, foreigners, and the general public (Olawale 2017). According to Konkola (2014), there are two reasons why street begging has become a significant issue in Africa. First, society's attitudes toward those who live with impairments are ones of abandonment, apathy, and excessive protection. Secondly, people with disabilities themselves now have a negative attitude of utter need due to the way society views them.

According to Obioda, Eze, and Okide (2012) in another study on the issue of street begging, street begging in Nigeria is frequently associated with child begging, which, in accordance with the National Planning Commission and UNICEF (2001), has serious negative psychological, social, and health consequences. There are three types of child beggars in urban areas that have been identified: those who accompany ill or disabled parents or other family members, those who beg solely on their own, and those who act as fronts for parents, especially mothers who typically remain out of sight but keep an eye on them. They assert that these children, who are from the most impoverished households, spend the night with their accompanying seniors in unplanned beggar colonies or on the streets of towns. Children who panhandle are at risk of serious accidents on busy streets, constant abuse and hostility from

the public, and coercion into dubious criminal activity like theft, pickpocketing, drug abuse/peddling, homosexuality, hiring out errand boys and girls, prostitution, and a host of other pervasive vices.

Street begging is a phenomenon that can be attributed to a variety of things, including poverty (real or perceived), religion, physical handicap, culture, natural disaster, civil war, bad habits (drug, alcohol, and gambling dependencies), family history, unrestricted rural-urban migration, and psychiatric impairments, among others. It is significant to note that a number of factors, including these ones, have been linked to street begging among young people with disabilities. Additionally, the results of another study on the subject suggested that a variety of intricate factors, such as poverty, unemployment, physical hardships, homelessness, and family dissolution, contribute to the phenomenon of begging.

Lynch carried out a study where (2013). Many factors have been identified as contributing to street begging, including homelessness, poverty, mental illness, drug addiction, and limited access to housing, employment opportunities, and health care services. According to Demenozu (2015), the main reason why people beg is poverty in the majority of societies. He argued that the socioeconomic system is getting more concentrated as a result of the detrimental effects of urbanization, migration, and the eviction of those who have nowhere else to turn. One of the abnormal behaviors brought on by Nigeria's poor economic circumstances is street begging, which is currently done by a variety of people, including neighborhood boys, the disabled, and other vulnerable groups.

Mesele conducted a study in which (2020). He emphasized certain unfavorable effects of begging, such as lack of food and shelter, inclement weather (cold and rain), verbal abuse from the general public, car accidents, and harassment from other beggars. The other typical issue related to begging was limited social engagement, discrimination, and social stigmatization.

Some negative effects of begging have also been noted in a few studies (Osofisan, 2016; Jowette, Banks, & Brown, 2017; Lynch, 2017). The conclusion implies that, in addition to the stress that begging causes, other factors have a negative impact on beggars' personalities and health. A few of these are: Justification and sexual assault: There are risks associated with beggars' reliance on passersby. One of these is that some of them have been classified as HIV/AIDS victims since 1990 (FGN/UNICEF). In Suleja, Niger State, where Bukoye (2014) looked into gender differences among adolescent street beggars, it was discovered that male beggars outnumbered female beggars by 58% to 42%, respectively. Although the aforementioned is realistic given that men began begging decades ago, it is not possible to assume that the situation is the same across all of Nigeria. Even yet, the proportion is respectable given how thorough the investigation was. According to a 2017 study by Musubika, a mother begs on the street while always carrying a child in her arms, laps, or back, which frequently makes potential donors feel empathetic. According to what I saw while conducting fieldwork along Kampala's streets, Karamojong women and children belong to the larger category of beggars. The fathers/husbands don't accompany the kids and wives out onto the street, which is the only distinction.

### **Statement of the Problem**

People with impairments who belong in schools are still seen begging on the streets in the majority of Nigeria, it has been noted. This is a significant issue that has contributed to the inappropriate behaviors displayed by individuals with disabilities, which has led to the way society views them as persons who need on alms for survival. Different categories of people, ranging from children to the elderly, the able-bodied and the physically challenged, still take to the streets every day in order to solicit alms if a disabled person did not attend school in an inclusive environment or in a special school and failed to learn a profession. By emphasizing the value of receiving a quality education so they can use its benefits to help themselves, their parents, and guardians, this study aims to bridge the gap between the problem and the ugly situation by ensuring that these disabled people do not fall behind in terms of education and making one of the cardinal principles of education true rather than resorting to street begging with all of its problems.

### **Research Question**

1. What are the perceived causes of street begging among adolescents with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State.
2. What are the effect of street begging among adolescents with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State

**Research Hypotheses**

Ho1: There is no significant difference on the perceived causes of street begging in Ilorin Metropolis Kwara state based on gender.

Ho2: There is no significant difference on the perceived effect of street begging in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender.

**Methodology**

A descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. Fifty Adolescents beggars were randomly selected in Ilorin Metropolis. . Perceived Causes and Effects of Street Begging among Adolescents with disabilities Questionnaire (PCESBADQ) was the instrument used for the study. PCESBADQ was constructed by the researcher and it contains Section A and Section B. Section A measures the demographic data of the respondents , and Section B contains 10 items each on the causes and effects of street begging among adolescents with disabilities . It will consist four likerscale of Strongly agreed(SA), Agreed(A), Disagree (D) andstrongly disagree (SD). It was validated and a reliability coefficient 0.91 was obtained. The researcher then administered the questionnaire and collected them back on the spot. The data gathered were analyzed using frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation for the research question while the hypothesis was analysed using t-test.

**Result**

**Research Question 1:** What are the perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State?

**Table 2:** Table showing the percentage and mean distribution of the perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State.

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	RANK
1	Poverty is one of the causes of begging by adolescent with disabilities.	27(54.0)	12(24.0)	4(8.0)	7(14.0)	3.2	2 <sup>nd</sup>
2	Adolescent with disabilities beg on street in order to meet up their daily needs	201(40.0)	193(38.0)	5(10.0)	6(12.0)	3.1	3 <sup>rd</sup>
3	They set to beg because they are exploited by their families	13(26.0)	20(40.0)	13(26.0)	4(8.0)	2.8	9 <sup>th</sup>

	to obtain continuous income						
4	They beg on street because they cannot trace their family member	20(40.0)	13(26.0)	<b>10(20.0)</b>	7(14.0)	2.9	7 <sup>th</sup>
5	They result into street begging due to their disabilities.	16(32.0)	17(34.0)	11(22.0)	6(12.0)	2.9	7 <sup>th</sup>
6	They are exploited to beg by promises of surgical treatment and the purchases or medical aids.	51(15.6)	77(23.5)	151(46.2)	48(14.7)	3.4	1 <sup>st</sup>
7	School dropout by adolescent with disabilities leads them to begging	13(26.0)	24(48.0)	11(22.0)	2(4.0)	3.0	4 <sup>th</sup>
8	Adolescent with disabilities beg to complete their disabilities	12(24.0)	17(34.0)	11(22.0)	10(20.0)	2.6	10 <sup>th</sup>
9	Lack of acceptance by families	25(50.0)	11(22.0)	6(12.0)	8(16.0)	3.0	4 <sup>th</sup>

	cause them						
	to beg						
10	The low level of education for adolescent with disabilities lead them to beg	23(46.0)	15(30.0)	3(6.0)	9(18.0)	3.0	4 <sup>th</sup>

Note: The figures in parentheses are in percentages

Table 2 showed the perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State. The following shows the perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State as follows: Poverty is one of the causes of begging by adolescent with disabilities (3.2), Adolescent with disabilities beg on street in order to meet up their daily needs (3.1), They set to beg because they are exploited by their families to obtain continuous income (2.8), They beg on street because they cannot trace their family member (2.9), They result into street begging due to their disabilities. (2.9), They are exploited to beg by promises of surgical treatment and the purchases or medical aids.(3.4), School dropout by adolescent with disabilities leads them to begging (3.0), Adolescent with disabilities beg to complete their disabilities (2.6), Lack of acceptance by families cause them to beg 3.0), The low level of education for adolescent with disabilities lead them to beg (3.0). Based on the mean all the items are the causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities where surgical treatment, poverty and daily needs top the rank.

**Research Question 2:** What are the perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State?

Table 3: Table showing the percentage and mean distribution of the perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State.

S/N	ITEM	SA	A	D	SD	MEAN	RANK
1	Street begging results into limited social interaction for the beggars.	20(40.0)	21(42.0)	3(6.0)	6(12.0)	3.1	5 <sup>th</sup>
2	The risk of being hit or run over by careless	21(42.0)	20(40.0)	2(4.0)	7(14.0)	3.1	5 <sup>th</sup>

	drivers while begging for alms in highway traffic is high						
3	Being kidnapped for illegal organ harvesting as well as for ritual and other form of fetish practice is rampant among adolescent with disabilities.	23(46.0)	15(32.0)	5(10.0)	12(24.0)	3.1	5 <sup>th</sup>
4	Female adolescents with disabilities are sexually abused by men.	26(52.0)	15(30.0)	<b>7(14.0)</b>	2(4.0)	3.3	2 <sup>rd</sup>
5	Female adolescent with disabilities are at high risk of contacting HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted diseases.	23(46.0)	13(26.0)	10(20.0)	4(8.0)	3.1	5 <sup>th</sup>
6	There is social stigma	17(34.0)	13(26.0)	14(28.0)	6(12.0)	2.8	10 <sup>th</sup>

	tization of street beggars.						
7	Lack of respect from members of the society as they would be subject to all form of insults and societal degradation.	21(42.0)	13(26.0)	7(14.0)	9(18.0)	2.9	9 <sup>th</sup>
8	Poor health conditions necessitated by the menace of street begging among adolescent with disabilities.	19(38.0)	17(34.0)	6(12.0)	8(16.0)	3.8	1 <sup>st</sup>
9	Lack of access to quality education be adolescent with disabilities.	25(50.0)	17(34.0)	5(10.0)	3(6.0)	3.3	2 <sup>nd</sup>
10	Lack of access to decent accommodat ion and housing y adolescent	27(54.0)	11(22.0)	7(14.0)	5(10.0)	3.2	4 <sup>th</sup>

with disabilities.

Note: The figures in parentheses are in percentages

Table 2 showed the perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State. The following shows the perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis, Kwara State as follows: Street begging results into limited social interaction for the beggars (3.1), the risk of being hit or run over by careless drivers while begging for alms in highway traffic is high (3.1), being kidnapped for illegal organ harvesting as well as for ritual and other form of fetish practice is rampant among adolescent with disabilities (3.1), female adolescents with disabilities are sexually abused by men (3.3), female adolescent with disabilities are at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexual transmitted diseases (3.1), there is social stigmatization of street beggars (2.8), lack of respect from members of the society as they would be subject to all form of insults and societal degradation (2.9), poor health conditions necessitated by the menace of street begging among adolescent with disabilities (3.8), lack of access to quality education be adolescent with disabilities (3.3) and lack of access to decent accommodation and housing among adolescent with disabilities (3.2). This implies that all the items in the questionnaire are the effect of street begging among adolescents with disabilities where poor health condition, lack of access to quality education and sexually abuse top the rank

**Ho1:** There is no significant difference on the perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender.

Table 4: Summary of T-test result showing perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender.

Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	T	F	Df	Sig	Decision
Male	23	30.57	3.42	0.75	3.84		0.06	Not Sig
Female	27	31.19	2.41			48		

Table 4 showed summary of t-test result showing perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender. It was revealed that male adolescent with disabilities had mean score 30.57 with standard deviation 3.42 while female adolescent with disabilities had mean score 31.19 with standard deviation 2.41, the  $T_{cal}$  was 0.75, degree of freedom 48, F was 3.84 and significant level of 0.06 ( $P > 0.05$ ). This implies that there is no significant difference on the perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender. Therefore, the null hypothesis that states that here is no significant difference on the perceived causes of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender.

**HO2:** There is no significant difference on the perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender.

Table 5: Summary of T-test result showing perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender.

Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	T	F	Df	Sig	Decision
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Male	23	31.65	4.31	0.19	3.75	0.07	Not Sig
Effects							
					48		
Female	27	31.85	2.90				

Table 4 showed summary of t-test result showing perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender. It was revealed that male adolescent with disabilities had mean score 31.65 with standard deviation 4.31 while female adolescent with disabilities had mean score 31.85 with standard deviation 2.90, the  $T_{cal}$  was 0.19, degree of freedom 48, F was 3.75 and significant level of 0.07 ( $P > 0.05$ ). This implies that there is no significant difference on the perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender. Therefore, the null hypothesis that states that here is no significant difference on the perceived effects of street begging among adolescent with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis based on gender. Urbanization, migration and displacement of people who have nowhere else to go but fall into the street.

### Discussion of findings

The study's initial findings on the perceived causes and effects of street begging among adolescents with disabilities in Ilorin Metropolis showed that every item on the questionnaire was determined to be a cause of street begging among adolescents with disabilities, with surgical treatment, poverty, and daily needs coming in at the top of the list, which may be related to the country's economy. It supports Demenozu's (2015) study, which found that in most civilizations, poverty is the primary cause of begging.

The study's second findings also showed that all of the effects of street begging on adolescents with disabilities were listed on the questionnaire, with poor health, a lack of access to a quality education, and sexual abuse coming in first and second place, respectively. This could be due to inadequate facilities and a lack of inclusion and integration of young people with disabilities in society. It is consistent with Osofisan (2016) Both Lynch (2017) and Jowette, Banks, & Brown (2017) have noted some negative effects of begging. The conclusion implies that, in addition to the stress that begging causes, other factors have a negative impact on beggars' personalities and health. A few of these are: Explanation and sexual abuse, dependency on public individuals by beggars has its dangers as well as accident risks, also no significant difference was found on the effect of street begging among adolescents with disabilities.

According to the third finding, there are no gender-based differences in the perceived causes of street begging. This suggests that there is no difference between men and women. It is in agreement with Musubika (2017) who underlined, among other things, that when a woman begs on the street, she always has a child in her lap, arms, or back. This frequently arouses sympathy in the givers. According to what I saw while conducting fieldwork along Kampala's streets, Karamojong women and children belong to the larger category of beggars. The fathers/husbands don't accompany the kids and wives out onto the street, which is the only distinction.

The final finding showed that there were no gender-based variations in the consequences of street begging. This suggests that there is no difference between men and women. It is consistent with Bukoye's (2014) study, which looked at gender differences among teenage street beggars in Suleja, Niger State. Male beggars outnumber female beggars by a ratio of 58% to 42%, but since males began begging decades ago, it is not possible to assume that the situation is the same in other states in Nigeria.

### Conclusion

According to the study's findings, there are several reasons and consequences of street begging among teenagers with impairments. The study looked at how street begging differed by gender in the city of Ilorin. The results showed that there was no gender-based significant difference in the causes and effects of street begging, indicating that there is no difference between men and women.

### Recommendations

The following recommendation were made:

1. Government should view poverty as one of the biggest challenges leading to begging in the country as such poverty needs to be address which will go a long way to curb this social menace.
2. Government should provide employment opportunities for all irrespective of class, religion, gender and tribe. People with disabilities whom are educated are willing to work should also been given due consideration to enable them feel the sense of belongingness like their fellow citizens and thereby reducing the population of beggars on the street.
3. Parent of the child beggar should be arrested and prosecuted for not meeting up to their responsibility thereby sending the children to the street to beg.

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