

Street Begging Reduction through Educating and Counseling Physically Challenged Persons in Sokoto State, Nigeria

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Abstract: *The paper focused on the street begging reduction through educating and counselling physically challenged persons in Sokoto state, Nigeria. It discussed the concept of street begging, concept of physically challenged as well as relationship between street begging and physically challenged persons education. Three (3) research hypotheses were postulated and tested, the study employed descriptive research of correlational type with six thousand five hundred and seven physically challenged persons as the population, 248 as the sample of the study. Researcher designed questionnaire titled street begging, physically challenged education and counselling. Pearson product moment correlation coefficients were used as statistics for data analysis. The findings revealed that significant relationship were found between street begging and physically challenged education, street begging and counselling physically challenged persons and physically challenged education and counselling physically challenged persons. Recommendations were made in the study which include, Government at all levels should provide equal educational opportunities to the physically challenged persons, by establishing and equipping the special schools in the society in the area of qualified teachers, infrastructure as well as teaching and learning materials, and improvement on the inclusive education system, Nongovernmental organization (NGOs) should also partner with government in that direction.*

Keywords: *street begging, physically challenged and Counseling.*

I. INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that education is the central theme in our lives and also the bedrock for any meaningful development in any nation. It prepares the younger generation for life that lies ahead and it forms adult of the world around them. The Challenged persons include physical impaired, mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed, and visually impaired and those with speech disorder (Ogbebor, 2009). There are different needs of challenged persons and other challenged children, which may stop them from street begging in the most Nigerian cities. These include providing hope, parent being open about their situation, job placement as well as sexual abuse. Others according to Ogbebor (2009) include therapy at regular interval, directing them to educational resources and medical facilities, connecting them with tutors and organization and proper treatment sources. Failure to do so may end up in making challenged person and children according to Schmistzer (2008) to problems like depression, lack of understanding of social issues, phobia, mood disorders, psychosis begging but contribute to crime among them and larger society.

Education is an instrument for national developments. This is because it is recognized that all human beings including the disables or physical challenged person who are educated and have acquired various useful skills and knowledge are the most important agents of change leading to stability in any nation. According to section V of the National Policy on Education (2013), Nigerian philosophy of education includes:

- a. Development of the individuals into a sound and effective citizen.
- b. Full integration of the individual into the community.
- c. Provision of equal access to educational opportunity for all citizens of the country at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels (Oraegbunam and Nwokolo, 2009:35)

The implication of this section of the National Policy on education is that every Nigerian citizen must have a right to equal education opportunity irrespective of ability or disability. Garba (2010), stated that various efforts were geared towards effective provision of educational needs of the special child. The provision for effective learning environment for handicapped which include educating children with special needs, in an screaming and now to inclusive educational environment all these were taken to provide educational for every child regardless of his disabilities and handicapped conditions, and to great extent reduce in him the feeling of inferiority complex, street begging and improve his self-concept. This inclusive education when properly apply and provide, will go a long way in solving problems of educating children with special needs; street begging, problems of personal and societal adjustment.

Counselling as a helping service is geared towards educating the physical challenged so as to solve their maladjusted behaviour, such as street begging. It has been asserted by many scholars that disabled have

some needs in the three major areas of counselling namely personal/social, educational and vocational by implication educational counselling. Educational counselling serves as an instrument in reducing street begging among physical challenged persons, through discovering their talents and skills through which they can depend on themselves and contribute to the social economic development of the society. However, Nwokolo&Anagbogu (2006) advocated a set of strategies to help children accept their condition identify their positive areas of ability, this include strategies such as guidance and counselling.

Concept of Street Begging

Begging is an indication of abject poverty for the helpless poor. Not all beggars are poor likewise not all the poor are beggars (Sifawa, 2013). According to Oxford Dictionary, to beg simply means to ask for money, clothes, food etc. as a gift or clarity. Therefore it could be corporate begging by organization or street and house-to-house begging which includes such related concepts as pond handling, mendicancy and vagrancy. Sifawa maintained that pan handling and house-to-house begging are synonymous, while mendicancy as an art of begging is usually associated with religious inclination. On the other hand vagrancy refers to begging activities of the jobless, homeless and vagabond. It also involves people who have been driven by natural disasters to leave home in search of right areas and refuges. Some people organized themselves as gangs to beg in cities, while others print begging programme or organization self-achieved healers of mental patient are fond of using them to beg for money from members of the public. To Wikipedia (2013) begging as a solicitation for money or food, especially in the street by an apparently penniless person, while Mohammed (2013) define street begging as an act whereby young child leading a blind, older man or woman who clutch onto the other end of a long stick going from vehicles to vehicles, individuals to individuals while chanting the same lines over and over accosting member of the public with alluring songs and soliciting alms.

Scholars have categories or identify categories of beggar's world over as passive begging involving a person either sitting/standing in one place asking for donations. The others are involved in active begging in which beggars move from one place to place soliciting for help. It was found that peoples who adopt passive begging style tend to obtain more donations and gifts than active beggars, while people who use aggressive style were the least successful (Sifawa, 2013). According to him, some scholars identified six or more categories of beggars. They include; the physically challenged and handicapped, partially deformed or handicapped, those who claim to be medically ill, those with psychiatric disability, cultural beggars almajirai/elderly.

Concept of Physically Challenged

The physical challenged according to Careen (2009) in Tambawal (2009) consist of physical, social, psychological, mental and economics individuals who deviate from the normal population, the term challenged according to Tambawal have been interchangeable used with disadvantaged or handicapped for whom special education should be provided. The challenged groups of individuals are those that would need social education because their abilities, emotionality, mental, behavioral, and social characteristics are different from the normal population.

Tambawal (2004:180-181) identified the categories into which individuals that are handicapped or physically challenged to include;

- a. The hearing disabled
- b. The Mentally retarded
- c. The physical and health impaired
- d. The speech and hearing impaired
- e. The visually impaired
- f. Children with behavior disorders (distorted hearing behaviour)
- g. The gifted and talented.

Olakunbi (2005) in Araegbunam and Nwokolo (2009) defined people with special needs as people with any characteristics or who are under any situation that confer on them the need for special attention beyond that which is usually required by unaffected people further more these people were categorized as people with disability, disability in terms of significant reduction in normal abilities. Smith (2005) stated that disability refers to reduction of a particular body part or organs, for example mental disability, physically impaired, deafness, dumb, mute speech impaired and the blind.

Relationship between Streetsbeggingphysically challenged Education and Counselling.

Several Government in the nation come up with different programmes in order to alleviate poverty, ignorance as well as enhance the socio economic wellbeing of not only destitute but entire population, especially Sokoto state successive government both civilian and military, but the questions to ask is that does all this initiatives yields positive result of reducing or eliminating street begging in Sokoto State? Base on this fact that the present Government introduced programmes that are geared toward curbing the menace of street begging in Sokoto state, such as listed by Sifawa (2013); provision of effective and meaningful programmes to empower our youths and widows poverty alleviation, provision of monthly allowances of six thousand five hundred (6,500) naira to teach screen disables, setting up Zakat and endowments' committee both at state, local government and grassroots levels, establishments of skill acquisition training centers, provision of Ramadan

Package, as well as provision of education to physical challenged at both rehabilitation center and Abdul-Rashid Adisa Raji Special School. But due to non-concentration by physical challenged persons, political influences, careless attitude of the government officials, non-involvement of the scholars in the area as well as lack of guidance and counselling as well as non-inclusion of counsellors makes the programmes at fail. It is therefore belief by all stakeholders and the general society, that educating physical challenged, counselling them on the danger and negative effects of street begging is more important than financial aids that other programmes that are merely political than real.

In their own study Oraegbuban and Nwokolo (2009) titled counselling teachers for the education of people with special needs in Anambra state, Nigerian, using descriptive survey design, with mean and t-test as statistics for data analysis, confirmed that counselling strategies is accepted to the teachers for the education of people with special needs and finally recommended that; effective guidance and counselling unit should be established and equipped in each special school, special teachers need to be trained to handle education of the people with special needs.

Educational counselling aimed at assisting the special need person to make the most educational opportunity needed by them. This means educating them towards becoming cultivated individuals and at the same time preparing them for participation in life activities which will be socially useful and personally satisfying (Noah, 2009). This will also aid in the reduction of street begging among special needs person in the society. Counselling is viewed as a personalized, intimate interview or dialogue between a person experiencing some emotional, social, educational, physical and vocational problems and a professional counsellor (Tambawal 2009). It can also be seen as a service that helps individuals to solve problems and learn to cope with these problems that are not easy to solve. This is why special need population can be focused so that they are assisted out of their needs. It further stated that, counselling is designed to remove the emotional, psychological and personal social roadblocks placed in the way of individuals by the multi-dimensional problems of the day to day life. Individual with one kind of disability or the other needs special kind of attention in order to fit into normal life with the generality of the population in terms of adjustment and information.

Counselling the physical challenged, first thing to do for them is to help them adjust their minds and feelings of the meaning and implications for their challenged conditions to do that counsellor needs to apply much of his professional counselling skills such as that of feelings, effective communication and unconditional positive regard (Tambuwal, 2009). To him helping a physical challenged person to adjust to his condition requires giving him counselling on how to plan an effective strategy for improving his other positive aspects of self and then he helping him to determine how to manage most of his existing challenging conditions so as to help him control as much as possible, the obstacles they can present to his progress in life.

Justification for study

It is generally agreed that; education is the central theme in our lives and also the bedrock for any meaningful development in any nation. It prepares the younger generation for life that lies ahead and it forms adult of the world around them. Education is an instrument for national development. This is because it is recognized that all human beings including the disables or physical challenged person who are educated and have acquired various useful skills and knowledge are the most important agents of change leading to stability in any nation. Several Government in the nation come up with different programmes in order to alleviate poverty, ignorance as well as enhance the socio economic wellbeing of not only destitute but entire population, especially Sokoto state successive government both civilian and military, Base on this fact that the present Government introduced programmes that are geared toward curbing the menace of street begging in Sokoto state such as; provision of effective and meaningful programmes to empower our youths and widows on poverty alleviation, provision of monthly allowances of six thousand five hundred (6,500) naira to each screened disables, setting up Zakat and endowments' committee both at state, local government and grassroots levels, establishments of skill acquisition training centers, provision of Ramadan Package, as well as provision of education to physical challenged at both rehabilitation center and Abdul-Rashid Adisa Raji Special School, with all these programmes the issue of street begging is rampant especially in most of the major locations in the city of Sokoto state, hence the need for the study to see whether counselling and education could be relevance in the reduction of street begging among physically challenged persons in the state.

Statement of the Problem

One of the problem militating against the socio economic and educational development of our society today is the menace of street begging and increasing type of beggars in our cities as well as low level of education and awareness among physically challenged person who are mostly involved in street begging in most of Nigerian cities. Different reasons and causes were mention on why physical challenged persons were involved into street begging especially in the northern part of the country such as being homeless, poverty, lack of education, lack of caring relatives, physical disabilities, lack of adequate rehabilitation centers, uncontrolled migration as well as acceptability of begging within the society. Educating physically challenged and counselling of physical challenged persons were considered as some of the ways through which street begging can be reduced among physically challenged person in Sokoto State. Based on the above fact that the present

research investigated on the street begging reduction through educating and Counselling physical challenged persons in Sokoto State.

Objectives of the Study are to find out the relationship between:

1. street begging and physically challenged persons education in Sokoto state.
2. street begging and counselling physically challenged persons in Sokoto state.
3. physically challenged education and counselling in Sokoto state.

Research Questions

1. Is there any relationship between street begging and physically challenged education in Sokoto state?
2. Is there is any relationship between street begging and counselling physically challenged persons in Sokoto state.
3. Is there any relationship between physically challenged persons education and counselling in Sokotostate?

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were postulated:

Ho1 There is no significant relationship between street begging and physically challenged persons education in Sokoto state.

Ho2 There is no significant relationship between street begging and counselling physically challenged persons in Sokoto state.

Ho3 There is no significant relationship between physically challenged education and counselling in Sokoto State.

II. METHODOLOGY

The research employed a descriptive research of correlational type, with six thousand five hundred and seven (6507) physically challenge person moving and begging in the street of twenty three (23) local of Sokoto state (research team of the Aliyu Magatakarda Foundation, 2008). 248 respondents were selected as sample using research advisor (2006) as well as proportionate sampling techniques in the distribution of 248 participants across the state. A researchers designed questionnaire titled street begging, physically challenged education and counseling intervention Questionnaire (SBPCECIQ), which consist of four (4) parts, part A, bio data of the respondents, part B, on street begging, Part C, on physically challenged education, and Part D, on counselling intervention in reducing street begging, with two (2) point likert scale of agree and disagree with 2 and 1, as the score value of the likert scale.

The content validity of the instrument was obtained after corrections of the questionnaire items by some lecturers in the School of education, Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto and adjudged to have content of validity. where by the reliability was obtained using split-half method by administration of the instrument items to one hundred and fifty (150) physical challenged in kebbi state and splitting the test score into even and odd numbers and analyzed using Pearson product moment correlation coefficient that yielded 0.69 index.

The data was collected with the help of research assistant on direct delivery techniques in administration and collection, test item were interpreted in Hausa, because almost all the respondents only hear Hausa as a language of communication, Pearson product moment correlation coefficient were used in analyzing the three (3) hypotheses stated at 0.05 significance level.

III. ANALYSIS

Ho1 There is no significant relationship between street begging and physical challenged persons education in Sokoto state.

Table1: Relationship between street begging and physical challenged persons education

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Df	r-Cal	p-value	Decision
Street begging.	248	21.03	3.10	246	0.58	.195	Accepted
Physically challenged education.	248	24.11	3.33				

Sources: field survey 2014.

From the table 1 above it can be seen that the relationship between street begging and physical challenged education resulted in the lower p-value of .195 against r-cal of .68. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is significant relationship between street begging and physical challenged education. Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.

Ho2 There is no significant relationship between street begging and counselling physically challenged persons in Sokoto state.

Table2: Relationship between street begging and counselling physically challenged persons.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Df	r-Cal	p-value	Decision
Street begging.	248	21.03	3.10	246	0.60	.195	Accepted
Counselling Physically challenged persons.	248	20.15	3.13				

Sources: field survey 2014.

From the table 1 above it can be seen that the relationship between street begging and counselling physically challenged persons resulted in the lower p-value of .195 against r-cal of .62. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is significant relationship between street begging and counselling physically challenged persons. Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.

Ho3 There is no significant relationship between physically challenged education and counselling physically challenged persons in Sokoto State.

Table3: Relationship between physically challenged persons education and counselling.

Variables	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Df	r-Cal	p-value	Decision
Physically challenged education.	248	24.11	3.33	246	0.54	.195	Accepted
Counselling Physically challenged persons.	248	20.15	3.13				

Sources: field survey 2014.

From the table 1 above it can be seen that the relationship between physically challenged education and counselling physically challenged persons resulted in the lower p-value of .195 against r-cal of .59. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is significant relationship between physically challenged education and counselling physically challenged persons. Hence, the hypothesis is rejected.

Discussion

The study investigated on the street begging reduction through educating and counselling physical challenged persons in Sokoto state, it discussed the concept of street begging, concept of physically challenged as well as relationship between street begging and physical challenged person education and counselling.

The findings of this study revealed that there is significant relationship between street begging and physical challenged education, There is significant relationship between street begging and counselling physically challenged persons and there is significant relationship between physically challenged education and counselling, this is because the correlation between all the variables resulted in the high calculated value when compared with table value, this findings agree with previously existing studies, for example Noah (2009) stated that Educational counselling aimed at assisting the special need person to make the most educational opportunity needed by them. This means educating them towards becoming cultivated individuals and at the same time preparing them for participation in life activities which will be socially useful and personally satisfying. Ogbebor (2009) stated that, the following may reduce the menace of street begging among physically challenged persons therapy at regular interval, directing them to educational resources and medical facilities, connecting them with tutors and organization and proper treatment sources. inclusive education when properly apply and provide, will go a long way in solving problems of educating children with special needs; street begging, problems of personal and societal adjustment (Garba, 2010).

IV. CONCLUSION

Conclusion drawn from this study indicated that significant relationships was found between street begging and physically challenged education, street begging and counselling physically challenged persons and physically challenged education and counselling, as all the null hypotheses were rejected, indicating that significant relationships was found between the three variables involved in the study. There it is clear that when physically challenged persons were educated and properly counseled they will understand the negative effect of street begging and will eventually desist from it. Nwokoloa & Anagbogu (2006) advocated a set of strategies to help children accept their condition identify their positive areas of ability, this strategies include guidance and counselling, education and so on.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:-

1. Government at all levels should provide equal educational opportunities to the physically challenged persons, by establishing and equipping the special schools in the society in the area of qualified teachers, infrastructural facilities as well as teaching and learning materials, and improve on the inclusive education system ,nongovernmental organization(NGOs) should also partner with government in that direction.
2. Since street begging has a significant relationship with counselling physically challenged persons, counsellors and counselling association of Nigeria should come up with programmes that are geared

toward orienting physically challenged persons on the danger of street begging and help them on how to shun street begging in Sokoto state in particular and Nigeria in general.

3. Skills acquisitions programmes, poverty alleviation programmes, sure-p programmes as well as other programmes introduced by government and nongovernmental organization(NGOs) that are geared toward reducing hardship and poverty should be available to physically challenged persons so as to boost their moral and increased their self-concept and reliance.

Suggestions for future research

The paper suggested that:

1. Future researchers could be conducted using the same topic but with almajiri pupil as populations.
2. Future research could also be conducted to combine both physically challenged persons and almajiri pupils in the state.
3. Another study could also be conducted on the aged persons who are rooming the street of the state and beg.

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