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 **THE PROBLEM OF STREET BEGGING IN NIGERIA**

One social problem that has been an age long issue, and serious concern to well meaning Nigerians is street begging. The problem of street begging is widespread in Nigeria and is seen as a global problem.

 Street begging anywhere is a national disease that eats into the fabrics of the social, economic, religious, political and educational structures. In other words, it is apparently an indictment on the quality of governance in many societies.

 In Nigeria, the history of street begging is uncertain but it is known that street begging has been in existence even before the country gained her Independence.

 **What actually is street begging?**

 Street begging is defined as the act of requesting for money, food or other forms of favor without an exchange in a public place and in the streets where people frequently pass.

 In Nigeria, street begging is more in the Northern parts of Nigeria.

This is because of the adopted system of Almajiri by the Muslims for religious reasons. The population of beggars in Nigeria is growing exponentially. Today their presence in the streets in Northern parts of Nigeria is recognized to be a serious problem that requires urgent redress.

 From the foregoing, it can be seen that street begging is highly prevalent in the Northern part of Nigeria due to poverty, religion and cultural beliefs.

Rehabilitation of beggars, regular sensitizing of the public against begging, enacting a policy to inflict punishment, provision of sound education and so on should be identified as remediating strategies.