



The phenomenon of beggary and its impact on the community of the city of Al–Amarah

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Abstract:

Begging is a social phenomenon that affects society's structure and is a deviation from good behavior and a departure from prevailing customs and traditions because of poverty, unemployment, homelessness, family conflicts and wars. In addition, have serious implications for the beggar, his family and society, which include different ages categories for both genders and are consider a bad habits prevailing in public societies and the study area in particular. Despite of the laws against this habit, the research found that the largest number of beggar's family ranged from 5 to 12 individuals. They do not live in an owned house and adolescent teenagers, parentless and unmarried. Therefore, the phenomenon of begging deserves scientific study of its importance and it has negative repercussions on



society.

Key words: begging, slums, Poverty, unemployment, family size, Al–Amarah city.

ظاهرة التسول واثرها على مجتمع مدينة العمارة

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الملخص:

يعد التسول ظاهرة اجتماعية تؤثر على بنية المجتمع وتعتبر انحرافاً عن السلوك القويم وخروجاً عن العادات والتقاليد السائدة نتيجة الفقر والبطالة والتشرد والنزاعات الاسرية والحروب، ولها اثار خطيرة على الفرد المتسول واسرته والمجتمع والتي تمثل جميع الفئات العمرية من كلا الجنسين وهي من العادات السيئة التي سادت في المجتمعات عامة ومنطقة الدراسة خاصة، على الرغم من القوانين الرادعة، وتوصل البحث ان النسبة الاكبر من المتسولين يتراوح افراد اسرتهم ما بين (5-12) فرد، ولا يسكنون في مساكن ملك ومن فئة صغر السن والمراهقين ومن فاقدين الوالدين والعزاب، ولهذا تعد ظاهرة التسول جديرة بالدراسة العلمية لأهميتها ولما لها من انعكاسات واثار سلبية على المجتمع

Introduction:





The United Nations and population studies have paid great attention to widespread population problems. Among these problems is the phenomenon of beggary, which is a problem for all societies and has unsatisfactory results, whether at the level of the family or the individual. Begging is a social phenomenon spread all over the world, including Iraq and the study area. This is due to the events that occurred in Iraq, including wars and what resulted from the increase in the number of orphans, widows and the disabled, and the deterioration of the economic reality as a result of the imposition of the blockade, the high prices of goods and services, the deterioration of the health situation, and the spread of poverty and unemployment, especially at the present time.

Research problem:

The research problem is represented by asking the following questions:

- Is there a discrepancy in the number of beggars at the level of the neighborhoods of the sectors of the city of Amarah?
- What are the demographic, social, economic and health characteristics of beggars?
- What are the causes of beggary in the research area?
- What are the effects on the beggars , family and the society?

Research hypothesis:

There is a numerical variation of the beggars at the level of the neighborhoods of the city of Al-Amarah, with a variation in the demographic, social, economic and health characteristics of the beggars. In addition, there is a discrepancy in the causes and effects resulting from the phenomenon of begging in the research area.

Research objective:

The research aims to identify the concept of the phenomenon of begging in the city of Al-Amarah, and to show its distribution according to the neighborhoods of the sectors of the



research area. Also, knowing the demographic, social, economic and health characteristics, and the reasons leading to begging, as well as the effects resulting from this phenomenon in the research area.

Research importance:

The importance of the study is represented by dealing with a population problem that has demographic, social and economic dimensions and the effects resulting from the spread of this phenomenon. This importance increases, especially after the wars and events that the research area witnessed before and after the year (2003) after the overthrow of the previous regime. These events and other factors led to the deterioration of the economic reality and the rise in prices, and mainly contributed to the spread of the phenomenon of begging in a large way in the research area.

Research Methodology:

The study relied on the descriptive and analytical approach, which is the basis for describing the studied phenomenon. This is done by collecting data and information about the phenomenon and using the quantitative method and analyzing it, in order to reach the best results to solve the problem. Also, through the interview and the questionnaire number (150), which was distributed to the beggars in a random manner at the level of the neighborhoods of the sectors of the city of Amarah.

Study area:

The spatial boundaries were represented by the administrative city of Amarah, and its temporal boundaries were represented by the study of the study area for the year (2021).
Note map (1).



the

**Map (1) Showing
residential**

neighborhoods in the city of Al- Amarah.

Source: Based on the map, the basic design of the city of Al- Amarah in 2002,



using the program (ARC GIS 10).

First – The concept of begging:

Geography was not the first to study the phenomenon of begging. Sociologists preceded it by describing beggary as a phenomenon that has multiple and clear social dimensions and causes. In order to preserve the geographical dimension of the phenomenon, some concepts related to the phenomenon must be clarified (Abd-Alaziz & Nasser, 2014, 383).

Begging is defined linguistically as asking, asking for giving, and asking for information, in the sense that you gave it to him. (Al-Abbar, 2018, 9). As for idiomatically, it is defined as asking for charity through individuals on public roads, without work for which money is due, and making it a craft for him and a source and hunting for livelihood. (Al-Fiqi, 2009, 9). In sociology, it is known that it is a profession that many people take to master it, whether they need or do not need the sympathy of others (Masir and others, 2018, 1753).

In Islam, Allah Almighty says in Surat Al-Baqarah: "Charity is` for the needy who are too engaged in the cause of Allah to move about in the land `for work`. Those unfamiliar with their situation will think they are not in need `of charity` because they do not beg. You can recognize them by their appearance. They do not beg people persistently.." (The Holy Quran, Surat Al-Baqarah – Verse 273). Here, the poor and the handicapped, for whom charity is due, in contrast to begging, their habit of persistently, that is, obstructing people's path, hoping for what they have (Al-Fiqi, 2009,6). Legally, begging would spread crimes in society, as fraud, swindle and lying represent the basis of this profession in most cases (Al-Abbar, 2018,18).

Therefore, begging has become an art and a profession and has turned into a phenomenon that needs to be addressed. This is due to its dangers to society, especially among young people and children, which indicates a lack of care for them within the family, and the low role of society and the state in combating this phenomenon and addressing its effects. This



phenomenon usually spreads in markets and near restaurants and cafes, traffic lights, parks, places of worship, gas stations, hospitals, medical clinics, and educational institutions.

Second: Demographic, economic, social and health characteristics:

Many population studies have pointed out that the main causes of this phenomenon are the deterioration of economic and social conditions such as poverty, unemployment, family disintegration, child abuse and neglect. There are many indicators and indications that illustrate this phenomenon. For the purpose of reaching this, it is necessary to know the characteristics of the beggar and his family.

1–Family Size:

The number of family members varies according to the personal decision of the head of the family, and the benefit to the family of identifying its members or the most (Hopkins, 1965:34), the results of the study indicate through table (1) that (82%) of beggars are between 5 and 12 individuals, and the number of family members between 5 and 8 is the highest. (51, 3%), while the percentage of beggars in the number of family members (13 and more) is less (7, 3%) than the total sample.

Table (1) Numerical and relative distribution of beggars according to family members for Al–Amarah city for year of (2021)

Family members	Number	The percentage (%)
Less than 4	16	10.7
8–5	77	51.3
12–9	46	30.7
More than 13	11	7.3



The total	150	100
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Source : Field study.

2–Housing Ownership:

The dwelling is the basis of each family's endeavours to obtain it, and therefore families vary in different dwellings depending on their economic situation. (Jabbar, 2011:165, and through Table (2) it is clear that(98.0%) of families of beggars live in non–property dwellings, and that (59, 3%) live in random housing, while the rental housing ratio is (31, 3%), followed by others representing housing with relatives, where they reached (7, 3%) and the lowest percentage of beggars in the landlord dwellings (2,0%), indicating their concentration in poor districts and random housing.

Table (2) Numerical and relative distribution for beggars families according to housing ownership for Al–Amarah city for year of (2021)

Housing ownership	Number	The percentage (%)
Landlord	3	2.0
Rent	47	31.3
Informal housing	89	59.3
Other	11	7.3
The total	150	100

Source : Field study.

3– The age of the beggar:

The age and quality structure of the beggar, as the age of beggars in the study area varies according to the different age groups (Derjal,2019,413), the results have been shown by



table (3) to show a higher proportion of males than females. (64, 7%) and (35, 3%) respectively of the total sample, leading the age category (13–19) years for both total and male and female beggars by up to (39, 3%), (39, 2%) and (39, 6%) respectively, followed by age category (20–39) years of age (26.7%), then the proportion in the third age category (8–12 years) falls to (22, 0%), and finally the two categories (40–60 and above) are the lowest old age group.

Table (3) Numerical and relative distribution for beggars families according to age and gender categories for Al–Amarah city for year of (2021)

Age categories	Males	%	Females	%	sum	%
12–8	19	19.6	14	26.4	33	22.0
19–13	38	39.2	21	39.6	59	39.3
39–20	27	27.8	13	24.5	40	26.7
59–40	9	9.3	4	7.5	13	8.7
More than 60	4	4.1	1	1.9	5	3.3
The total	97	64.7	53	35.3	150	100

Source : Field study.

4–Life situation:

Table 4 shows that the highest percentage of beggars are missing fathers and mothers, with (52.7%), (29.3%) of all beggars are missing fathers only, and the lowest proportion is missing mothers with (7.3%) of the total sample, and as a result of the death of the parent's family breadwinner or both, the family is the responsibility of the children to provide.



Table (4) Numerical and relative distribution for beggars families according to alive status for Al–Amarah city for year (2021)

Life situation	Number	The percentage (%)
Father and mother alive	16	10.7
Father and mother dead	79	52.7
Father dead	44	29.3
Mother dead	11	7.3
The total	150	100

Source : Field study.

5–Marital status:

Marriage is a demographic and social phenomenon of family formation and increasing the number of family members, but it is predominantly influenced by social, economic and personal factors in identifying marital status in the study area (Derjal,2022,132), since table (5) shows that the highest percentage of beggars is in the single category, their proportion being (34%), then widowed beggars (24, 7%), followed by child beggars (22%), followed by divorcees with the lowest percentage (12%), and finally the proportion of married people to register the lowest ratios (7, 3%) of the total sample,.

Table (5) Numerical and relative distribution for beggars families according to marital status for Al–Amarah city for year of (2021)

Marital status	Number	The percentage (%)
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Married	11	7.3
Single	51	34
Divorced	18	12
Window	37	24.7
Child	33	22
The total	150	100

Source : Field study.

6–Educational level:

Family, society and educational institution are the cornerstones on which an individual depends, as they influence the formation of his personality and the formulation of his thoughts and behaviour in front of society, and when parents are ignorant of the concept of education then school dropout increases (Al-Khaqani, 2001.33), Table (6) shows that (75, 3%) of beggars are elementary and below, and illiterates may be the highest at their proportion. (34, 0%), followed by a percentage approved and written (22, 7%), followed by a primary certificate in the proportion of (18, 7%), (21,3%) for intermediate and preparatory degrees, while the lowest proportion for beggars of diploma and bachelor's degree holders was(2.0%) and (1.3%) respectively.

Table (6) Numerical and relative distribution for beggars families according educational level for Al–Amarah city for year of (2021)

Educational level	Number	The percentage (%)	Educational level	Number	The percentage (%)
Uneducated	51	34.0	secondary school	11	7.3



Read and write	34	22.7	Diploma	3	2.0
Primary school	28	18.7	Bachelor	2	1.3
intermediate school	21	14.0			
The total	150	100			

Source: Field study.

7–Income level:

Family income is negatively and responsibly affected by the number of children they have, and for the purpose of meeting the needs of the family children are forced to seek work to earn money after the absence of the appointee (Simon, 1977:12), Table (7) shows that the highest percentage of beggars are low income (79.3%), followed by average income (18.0%), while the proportion of beggars with good incomes (2.7%) of the total sample,.

Table (7) Numerical and relative distribution for beggars families according to monthly income for Al–Amarah city for year (2021)

Income	Number	The percentage (%)
Weak	119	79.3
Medium	27	18.0
Good	3	2.0
Very good	1	0.7
The total	150	100

Source : Field study.



8–State of Health:

All constitutions provide for the individual's social security, which ensures that he or she has access to a decent life and services. (Barratt,1972:87), but this is not actually the case, especially in the study area, because table 8 shows that the highest percentage of beggars suffer from illnesses and health problems. (61.3%), while the proportion of people who do not suffer (38.7%), the diseases suffered by beggars accounted for chronic diseases (29, 3%) and disability (24, 7%) and then burns and fractures (5, 3%). Finally, the proportion with congenital abnormalities recorded the lowest ratios (2%) of the total sample.

Table (8) Numerical and relative distribution for beggars families according to healthy status for Al–Amarah city for year (2021)

Health status	Number	The percentage (%)
No disease	58	38.7
Suffering from burns and fractures	8	5.3
Suffers from congenital abnormalities	3	2.0
with disability	37	24.7
Suffers from chronic illnesses	44	29.3
The total	150	100

Source : Field study.

Third – The reasons for begging:

The reasons for begging are embodied in the circumstances in which the study area witnessed wars and the imposition of an economic blockade that contributed to



the deterioration of the economic, social and health conditions of the individual and the family. Thus, it contributed to the increase in the spread of the phenomenon of begging (Derjal, 2021, 96). According to the field study, as indicated in the table (9) and figure (1), it is noted that the first place was represented by poverty and unemployment as a reason for begging, as they amounted to (27.3%), followed by family disintegration at a rate of (22.7%). Meanwhile, disability came in the third rank with a rate of (18%), while the fourth and fifth rank was represented by the loss of the breadwinner and the size of the family with a rate of (8.7%) and (7.3%), respectively. Whereas, poor accounting and health status ranked sixth and seventh, with a percentage of (6%) and (4.7%), respectively. As for the last and lowest reason (2.7%), it represents the eighth rank in the cultural level and the means of quick profit. All these reasons were the cause of the spread of the phenomenon of begging in the city of Amarah.

Table (9) The numerical and relative distribution of beggars according to the reasons for begging in the city of Amarah for the year (2021).

Reasons for begging	Number	The percentage (%)	Rank
Poverty and unemployment	41	27,3	1
Disintegration of the family	34	22,7	2
loss of breadwinner	13	8,7	4
Disability	27	18	3
family size	11	7,3	5
Health status	7	4,7	7
Cultural level	4	2,7	8
A quick way to earn	4	2,7	8
Weak accountability	9	6	6



The total	150	100
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Source : Field study.

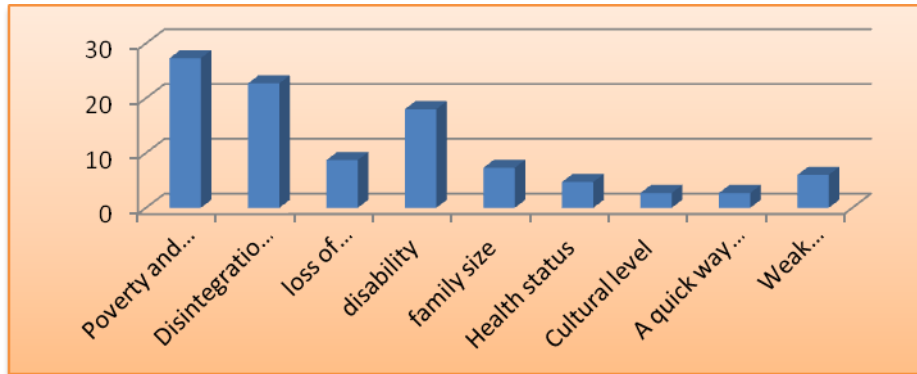


Figure (1) Relative distribution of beggars according to reasons of begging.

Source : Field study.

Fourth – The social, economic, health, psychological and security effects:

The United Nations has paid great attention to population issues, and the effects resulting from population problems through their impact on their growth and demographic characteristics (Hauser, 1960). It has an economic effect through determining the monthly income and standard of living for the beggars' family. This contributes to determining their social, educational and health conditions, and is a major factor in the stability of life for their families. The loss of the ability to meet their basic needs of food, clothing, housing and other household needs leads to an increase in problems within the family. Consequently, the standard of living decreased, which reached (38.0%), and the number of (57) beggars, forcing most beggars with their children to beg in public streets, parks, markets, and other places directly. As well as through other methods in different forms and methods taken by beggars as a means to enable them to collect money. Note Table (10) and Figure (2).

Table (10) The numerical and relative distribution of beggars according to the social, economic, health, psychological and security impacts of the city of Amarah in (2021)



Effects	Number	The percentage (%)
Social Effects	47	31,3
Economic Effects	57	38,0
Health Effects	16	10,7
Psychological Effects	21	14,0
Security Effects	9	6,0
Total	150	100

Source : Field study.

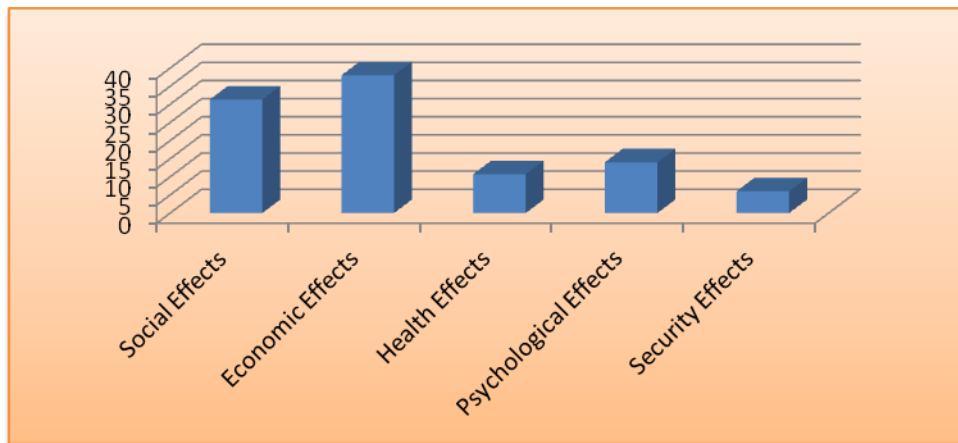


Figure (2) The relative distribution of beggars according to the social, economic, health, psychological and security effects.

Source : Field study.

Socially, the beggar individual, due to the loss of the head of the family or the breadwinner, is exposed to family problems represented by physical and verbal family violence by one of her family members, relatives, or society. This constituted a rate of (31.3%), with a number of (47) beggars, which leaves negative effects on the life of the individual beggar. It could also be due to the lack of cultural awareness, the spread of backwardness and ignorance, and the increase in the number of illiterates and the unemployed. The inability of the family to follow up on their children and provide



educational supplies from electronic devices, especially after the spread of Corona disease (Covid 19) and the cessation of face-to-face education for them, led to many children dropping out of school. In this regard, one of the educational case studies indicated that (35%) of the population of the governorate did not attend school as a result of the economic situation of the family, while the unemployment rate was (20.2%) after the year (2003) as a result of the lack of work for unemployed youth, which contributed to the spread of unemployment.

As for the psychological effects, which are represented in the personal problems of the beggar, they amounted to (14.0%). In the number of (21) beggars, the psychological problems were represented by the bad reality that the beggar lives in, causing psychological effects on him. Consequently, it leads to negative psychological problems that greatly affect his future aspirations, and as a result leads him to delinquency and not taking responsibility for himself or his family in front of society.

In terms of health, it is represented by the health status of the beggars, as it reached (10.7%), and the number of (16) beggars, and this is a result of the economic and social conditions that the beggar lives within the family. Many beggars are exposed to many transitional or chronic diseases as a result of the nature of the practice of beggary in society, the first of which is malnutrition and the second is the risks that can occur to him while begging in the street from car accidents, people and stray dogs.

As for the lowest percentages, it was represented by the security effects, which amounted to (6.0%), and the number of (9) beggars. The security problems were represented in the presence of beggars in the streets and public places that are devoid of parental control, and bad mixing with other people leads to their deviation towards theft and drug abuse. And prostitution (Al-Sharafat, 2013, 69). As begging leads to the spread of many crimes such as addiction, drug trafficking, theft, adultery and rape.



Conclusions:

- 1– The research showed that (82%) of the beggars have family numbers ranging between (5–12) individuals, the largest percentage of which (51%) is for numbers (5–8) individuals.
- 2– It was found that (98%) of beggars do not live in owned homes, and (59.3%) live in trespasser houses.
- 3– The research showed that (61.3%) of the beggars are between the ages of (8–19) years, and this age group represents the category of young people and adolescents.
- 4– The research found that (89.3%) of the beggars are those who have lost their parents or one of them, and that the percentage of (52.7%) are those who have lost their parents .
- 5– The research concluded that (34%) of beggars, according to marital status, are single, and (7.3%) are married.
- 6– The research showed that (75.3%) of the beggars are holders of a primary school certificate or less.
- 7– The research showed that (79.3%) of the beggars are from the poor class and those with low incomes.
- 8– The research showed that (61.3%) of the beggars suffer from chronic diseases, burns, fractures, congenital deformities and disabilities.
- 9– The research concluded that the highest causes of beggary were poverty, unemployment and family disintegration by (27.3%) and (22.7%), respectively. While it turned out that the least reason was represented by the cultural level and the means of quick profit by (2.7%) for both of them.
- 10– The research showed that the highest percentage was represented by the economic and social effects resulting from begging, which amounted to (69.3%), and



the lowest percentage was represented by the security effects by (6%).

- 11– The research concluded that begging is a profession taken by beggars for the purpose of obtaining money easily, whether they are destitute or not.

Recommendations

- 1– Preventing the phenomenon of begging because of its negative and civilized effects on society by strengthening the role of oversight and enacting deterrent laws.
- 2– It is necessary for the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to transform the negative energies of young people into positive ones through vocational and training workshops, and granting small loans to eliminate the phenomenon of unemployment and begging.
- 3– It is important for civil society organizations and religious institutions to activate social solidarity and pay attention to this group through the distribution of material and financial aid.

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Appendix (1)

Questionnaire form

Misan University/ College of Basic Education/ Department of Geography

After Greetings....

The researcher intends to carry out a study on (the phenomenon of beggary and its impact on the community of the city of Al- Amarah). The information provided by the study is used for the purposes of scientific research, and it will have value in the results of this research. Please answer the questions, with best regards.

Note: Put a mark (√) above the correct choice.

- 1- Place of residence: Sector: () – Neighborhood ().
- 2- The gender of the beggar: (male) – (female).
- 3- 3- Alive status : (the father and mother are alive) – (the father and mother are deceased) – (the father is deceased) – (the mother is deceased).
- 4- Marital status: (married) – (single) – (divorced) – (widow) – (child).
- 5- The number of beggars in the family: ().
- 6- The age of the beggar: (8–12 years) – (13–19 years) – (20–39 years) – (40–59 years) – (60 years and over).
- 7- Number of family members: (less than 4 people) – (5–8 people) – (9–12 people) – (more than 13 people).
- 8- Housing ownership: (ownership) – (rent) – (trespasser) – (others).
- 9- Type of begging: (direct) – (indirect).
- 10- Reasons for begging: (unemployment and poverty) – (family disintegration) – (loss of breadwinner) – (disability) – (family size) – (health condition) – (cultural level) – (quick



profit means) – (weak accountability).

- 11– The educational attainment of the beggar: (illiteracy) – (read and write) – (elementary) – (intermediate) – (preparatory) – (diploma) – (bachelor).
- 12– Income level: (poor) – (average) – (good) – (very good).
- 13– The effects of begging: (social effects) - (economic effects) - (health effects) - (psychological effects) - (security effects).