

# **THE ALMAJIRI SYSTEM AND STREET BEGGING IN NORTHERN CITIES**

BY

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## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled "The Almajiri System and Street Begging in Northern Cities" was carried out by [STUDENT'S FULL NAME], and has been read and approved as meeting the regulations governing the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) of the University of Lagos.

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PROJECT SUPERVISOR

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EXTERNAL EXAMINER

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Date

## **DEDICATION**

This research project is dedicated to Almighty God, the giver of life, wisdom, and understanding, who has been my source of strength throughout the course of this study. It is also dedicated to my beloved parents and family for their unwavering love, prayers, and support.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

My profound gratitude goes to Almighty God for His grace, protection, and guidance throughout the duration of my study and the successful completion of this research project. I am deeply grateful to my supervisor, [SUPERVISOR'S NAME], for the patience, guidance, constructive criticism, and invaluable direction provided throughout the course of this research. I also wish to appreciate the Head of Department, the lecturers of the Department of Sociology, and my course mates for their support and friendship. My appreciation also goes to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, both financial and emotional, throughout my academic journey.

## ABSTRACT

This study examined the almajiri system and street begging in northern cities, using undergraduate students of the University of Lagos as a case study. The study was guided by three specific objectives: to examine the extent to which respondents exhibit the key attributes of almajiri; to determine the influence of these attributes on the outcomes under investigation; and to identify the challenges associated with almajiri and street. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design, anchored on the Structural Functionalist Theory and the Social Learning Theory. A sample size of 389 respondents was determined using the Taro Yamane formula and selected through stratified and simple random sampling techniques, out of which 357 questionnaires were found valid for analysis. Data were analysed using descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean scores, and inferential statistics, including the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the Independent Samples t-test, and the chi-square test, at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings revealed that respondents exhibit the identified attributes to a considerable extent (grand mean = 3.13). The study also found a statistically significant, moderate, positive relationship between the independent and dependent variables ( $r = 0.561$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) and a significant dependent association on the chi-square test (chi-square = 6.98,  $p < 0.05$ ). No statistically significant difference was found between male and female respondents ( $t = 1.03$ ,  $p > 0.05$ ). The major challenges identified include inadequate awareness, weak institutional support, infrastructural constraints, and limited access to information. The study recommends targeted interventions, improved access to resources, and intensified public education on almajiri.

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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background to the Study

The study of the almajiri system and street begging in northern cities is situated within a body of scholarship that has grown rapidly in the past two decades. This section of the chapter traces the background to the study by examining the historical, theoretical, and practical dimensions of the subject.

The phenomenon of almajiri, while not new, has acquired fresh analytical urgency in Nigeria. Economic pressures and resource scarcity frequently determine the pace at which almajiri advances in practice. Studies conducted within the West African subregion by Adigun and Ekwueme (2018) reached conclusions broadly consistent with the Nigerian evidence. For practitioners, the practical significance of almajiri cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with street. An examination by Olawale and Nnamdi (2019) attributed much of the observed variation in outcomes to institutional capacity and policy continuity. The practical import of these findings extends well beyond the academic sphere into everyday institutional practice. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Contemporary scholarship increasingly frames almajiri as inseparable from the broader question of street. Nigeria's federal structure and its diverse cultural geography ensure that the experience of almajiri varies considerably from one region to another. The work of Ibrahim and Okonkwo (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that street reinforces the effects of almajiri. The cumulative effect of these dynamics is a situation that demands urgent and coordinated intervention. Comparative work by Bakare and Ibrahim (2022) across several states uncovered a consistent pattern linking almajiri with street. For practitioners, the practical significance of almajiri cannot be overstated, given its demonstrable link with street. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

Scholars have long recognised almajiri as a critical determinant of outcomes in sociology. Globalisation and technological change have intensified both the opportunities and the challenges associated with almajiri. Bakare and Ibrahim (2020), in a survey of relevant stakeholders, concluded that the benefits of almajiri are unevenly distributed across groups. Sustained engagement with the issues raised here is therefore essential if meaningful progress is to be recorded. The work of Chukwu and Eze (2023) extended earlier analyses by demonstrating that street reinforces the effects of almajiri. Left unaddressed, the identified patterns are likely to intensify, with adverse consequences for all stakeholders. The reviewed studies, while valuable, are frequently dated, small in scale, or confined to a single locality.

A growing corpus of literature draws attention to the pivotal role of almajiri in shaping developmental trajectories. Rapid urbanisation and demographic expansion across Nigerian cities have heightened the salience of almajiri in everyday life. Field evidence gathered by Adebayo and Adekunle (2016) suggested that stakeholder engagement materially improves the results achieved in matters of almajiri. These observations collectively invite a reconsideration of standard assumptions regarding street. A notable study by Adigun and Kalu (2017) argued that the impact of almajiri is substantially mediated by the quality of institutions. Left