



FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE AND POLICY
STUDIES

BACHELOR IN ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCE (HONS)

PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC ON CAUSES OF THE STREET
BEGGING ACTIVITY KOTA KINABALU SABAH

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Street begging has now become viral. Majority of the city in the world have people who beg on the streets in order to continue their life. For instance, United States Of America (USA). Even America is a country that is very advanced, but on the other hand there are also many whose lives are on the poverty line.

For people like that, begging is considered as the most efficient modern way to make money. In Sydney the begging activity were done by the ' homeless. There just needed to sit for 16 hours a day as he lifted his hand in a crowded neighborhood in the area of George and Market Sydney CBD. In our country Malaysia, there is also a street begging activity.

In Sabah, the activity of street begging also happens. This can be seen in several places in the city such as Centre Point, Segama, and also nearby Pasar Kraftangan. The beggars beg by sitting in the corner and then reach their hand to the passerby to ask for some money. Some of the passerby just ignore them and vice versa. This had been occurring since long time ago and the numbers of beggars are seen to be increased.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Begging is defined as a range of activities whereby an individual asks a stranger for money on the basis of being poor or needing charitable donations for health or religious reasons (International Labour Organisation, 2014). Street begging is an urban problem and often obviously seen in every urban area (Namwata, 2012). It is supported by the studies of different scholars, begging is not peculiar to developing countries; it is a universal phenomenon (Ado, 1997) and a global urban problem.

Kota Kinabalu is the capital of Sabah state. It is a well-known place as there are many people come here to have holidays such as people from the peninsular of Malaysia and people from other country. This is due to the attractions of its places. In the city of Kota Kinabalu, the place of attractions are 'Pasar Kraftangan', Centre Point mall and not to forget the waterfront.

Despite on the attractions of the places, there are the activity of street begging occur there. They beggars who begs for alms make the people who walks there as their target. Most of the beggars are children and women who dressed up in very ragged clothes. This makes the people who walk around there to feel pity and give them a little donation such money to help them survive.

The favorite places of the street begging activity are near the post office corner that is located at Segama, nearby the 'Pasar Kraftangan' place, around the Centre Point mall, and at the traffic light in front of the 'Pasar Kraftangan'.

Regarding the matter of the street begging activity, it caught our curiosity to know on what are the public's perceptions on the causes of the street begging activity at the mentioned places.