

A spatial analysis of the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of child beggars in the city of Samawa for the year 2021

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Abstract

The aim of the research is to study the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of children beggars in the city of Samawa for the year (2021), as well as to develop many proposals to reduce child beggary in the city of Samawa. Accompanied by the geographical analysis of the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of children beggars in the study area, a random sample of (81) respondents was selected for the purpose of giving accurate and clear data about their demographic, social, and economic characteristics.

The research revealed that most of the child beggars are located in the central area sector, at a rate of (33.3%) due to the activity of the population movement for the purpose of shopping and the high income for shop owners in this vital area, which contributed to the descent of children beggars there, while the small greenhouse sector came with the lowest percentage and amounted to (11.1%), and the number of male child beggars outnumbered females by (75.3%) compared to (24.7%) for females. Many of them are religion, custom, and prevailing customs, and it became clear from the research that most of the children beggars are without an academic qualification, at a rate of (45.7%), and that the cause of poverty is the most influential in the presence of the phenomenon of child beggary in the city of Samawa, at a rate of (34.6%) among the economic reasons. This is due to the difficult financial conditions of some families in light of the harshness of life and the difficulty of living, and the corresponding rise in the prices of some commodities and foodstuffs, which represent the minimum for a decent living.

Keywords: Children begging, social and economic characteristics, Samawa city.

1. INTRODUCTION

Begging is a social phenomenon that many different societies suffer from, and the problem has worsened and increased in a frightening and alarming way with the spread of unemployment and poverty. The markets and the cars parked at traffic lights and knocking on window glass in order to get money are due to the poor economic situation of some families, as well as the migration of residents from the countryside to the city and housing in slums,

forcing some children to go to the city for the purpose of begging for money.

Beggary is defined as a social phenomenon that a person undertakes to escape from facing the difficult requirements of life, especially those who do not have the desire to work or sometimes the lack of work, through which he obtains his daily food and saves face from begging and asking for money from people (Ali, 2005, p291-292).

Child beggary is defined as that child who has not reached the age of eighteen and begs people for the purpose of obtaining money and has a personal appearance through which he sympathizes with people and performs this behavior intentionally or unintentionally and repeatedly and this behavior occurs as a result of his personal desire or coercion by the parents or one of them Or the people who take care of beggary. (Hamza, 2011, p132).

The research problem is represented in the following question: What are the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of child beggars in the city of Samawa?

With regard to the research hypothesis, there are a set of demographic, social, and economic characteristics of beggars in the city of Samawa.

The aim of the research is to study the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of child beggars in the city of Samawa for the year (2021), as well as to develop many proposals to reduce child beggary in the city of Samawa.

With regard to the research methodology, it has relied on the geographical analytical approach in studying many developments and variables that accompanied the geographical analysis of the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of beggars in the study area, as well as attention to the quantitative statistical aspects in measuring some characteristics, as statistical methods are of great importance In modern geographical studies.

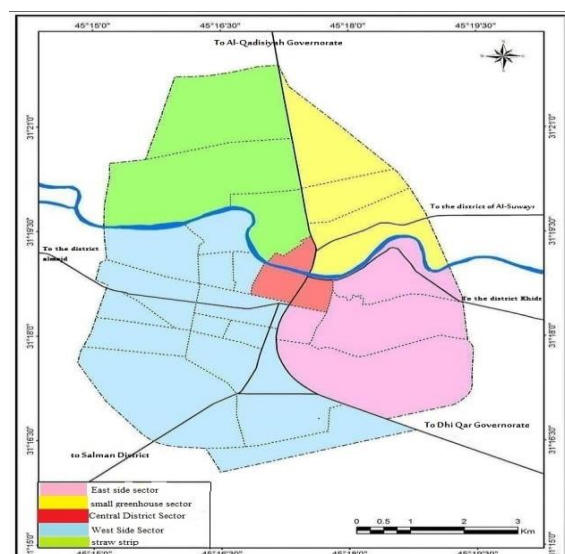
A random sample of (81) respondents was chosen for the purpose of giving accurate and clear data about their demographic, social, and economic characteristics. The research was also supplemented with some maps, which were drawn based on GIS technology - ARC GIS 10.2 program, as the map represents an important aspect of Human Civilization (Sada, 2001, p40).

As for the previous studies, there are many studies that dealt with the phenomenon from various aspects, including the legal,

psychological and social aspects, but the geographical library suffers from a great lack of social studies related to this aspect, in addition to the fact that this study is the first in the city of Samawa. As for the study area, it is represented in the city of Samawa, located at the intersection of latitude (31° - 31°) in the north and longitude (45° - 45°) in the east, and it is the center of Muthanna Governorate. To the west is Al-Majd district, to the southwest by Al-Salman district, and to the south by Al-Khader district. It occupies an area of (5626) hectares, while its population in 2021 reached (376-274) people (Al-Inma'i, 2021).

As for the structure of the research, the scientific necessity required dividing the research into several axes. It dealt with the size and distribution of children beggars in the city of Samawa, while the second axis touched on the demographic characteristics of children beggars, while the third axis of the research dealt with identifying social characteristics, while the fourth axis touched on the economic characteristics of children. Beggars in the city of Samawa for the year (2021), and the research concluded with a set of conclusions and suggestions. As for the justifications for the research, it was represented in the urgent need to analyze the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of beggars in the study area, due to the lack of such studies and research in the community of the city of Samawa.

Figure Map (1) *the location of the study area*



Depending on the:-

1- Ministry of Water Resources, General Authority for Survey, Map Production Department, Digital Unit, Iraq's administrative map, scale 1/1000,000, and Muthanna administrative map. 1/250,000 scales.

2- The updated basic design for the city of Samawah for the year 2019.

First: The size and distribution of child beggars in the city of Samawa

Before studying the characteristics of beggars in the city of Samawa, we must take a simple overview of their spatial distribution, because it is one of the important geographical concepts that the geographer cannot skip because of its great importance. (Al-Ziyadi, 2011, p 65-66), as shown in the data of Table (1) and Figure (2), as it is clear that the central region sector ranked first in the number of child beggars, with a rate of (33.3%) of the total number of child beggars, and this may be attributed to The population movement activity for the purpose of shopping and the increase in income for shop owners in this vital area, which contributed to the descent of child beggars. In addition to that, it includes the largest popular markets in the province, which is famous for its handicraft industries, and some service streets such as Open Market Street and Bata Street, which witness a great polarization of the daily movement in the tide This leads to an increase in the percentage of child beggars, while Al-

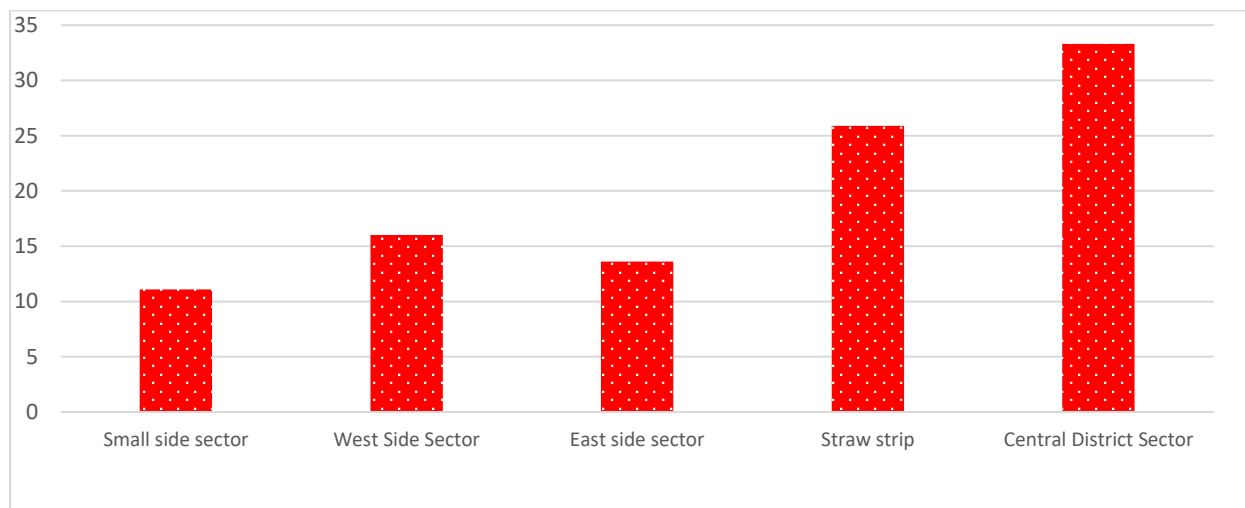
Qishla sector ranked second, with a rate of (25.9%), and this may be due to traffic congestion in the area, because it is located on the highway linking Muthanna Governorate and the governorates located to the north of the governorate, which This leads to the stopping of cars, while the western side sector came in third place with a rate of (16.0%) due to the lack of population movement, while the eastern side and the small greenhouses sectors ranked last. The reason for the decrease in child beggary in these two sectors may be due to the presence of some high-end residential neighborhoods with a high standard of living.

Table 1. *The numerical and relative distribution of child beggars by sectors in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*

Sector	Number of beggars	The ratio%
Central District Sector	27	33.3
Straw strip	21	25.9
East side sector	11	13.6
West Side Sector	13	16.0
Small side sector	9	11.1
Total	81	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure 2. *Relative distribution of child beggars by sectors in the city of Samawa for the year 2021*



2. The demographic characteristics of child beggars in the city of Samawa:

There is no social or demographic phenomenon that operates away from the effects of the population structure, which is one of the most important and influential demographic factors, especially with regard to fertility, population growth, and economic and social activity. Age and gender of the population.

2.1 Qualitative Composition:

The study of children's beggary according to gender is of great importance because it is not possible to study other characteristics in isolation from demographic characteristics in studying them because the numerical disparity between males and females has different effects, as well as economic and social problems (Bush, 1997.p197). Where males and females, the percentage of what each type constitutes, and the extent of its impact on the ability of the different sectors to absorb this category of beggars.

It is evident from Table (2) and Figure (3) that the number of male children exceeded the number of female children in the age group 9

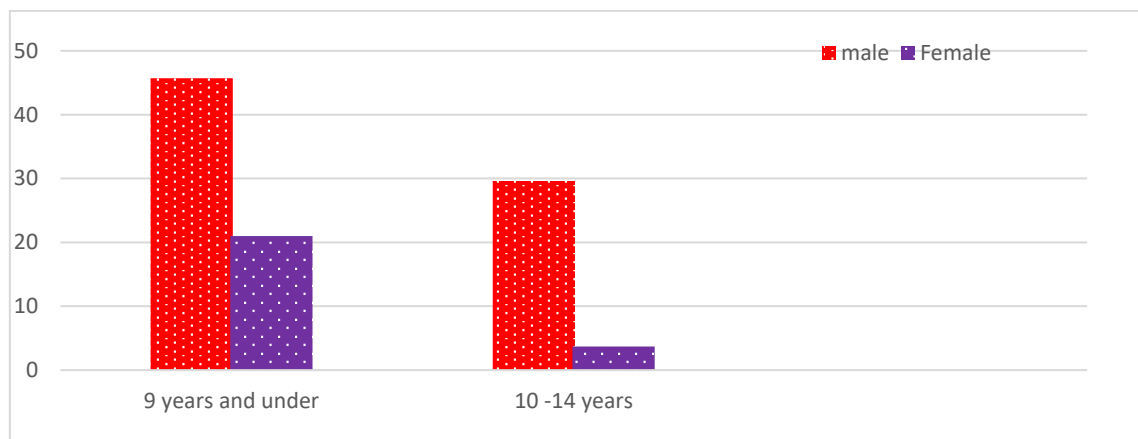
years and under, as percentages of (45.7%, 21.0%) were recorded, respectively, for each of them, and the reason for this may be attributed to customs and traditions The prevailing nature of the society, which is predominantly clan-based. As for the age group (14-10) years, it is also noted that male children beg for female children at rates of (29.6%, 3.7%), respectively, for each of them, and the reason for this may be due to the fact that the age of the girl in this The age group is not allowed to go to the street for the purpose of begging, unlike males who have the largest share in this age group.

We conclude from the foregoing that the percentage of male child labor had the largest share, and the reason for this may be due to the prevalence of social customs and traditions that see girls going to the street or any other place for the purpose of begging from unacceptable matters, including religion, custom, and prevailing customs, especially since the residents of the study area are distinguished They are tribal in nature, which leads to their strong adherence to those customs and traditions that prevent girls from leaving the house.

Table 2: *The age and gender structure of children beggars in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*

Age group	Male			Female		
	the number	% of the total sample	% of all males	the number	% of the total sample	% of total females
9 years and under	37	45.7	60.7	17	21.0	85
10 -14 years	24	29.6	39.3	3	3.7	15
Total	61	75.3	100	20	24.7	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field. Iraq

Figure 3: *The age and gender structure of children beggars in the city of Samawa for the year 2021*

2.2 Age Structure:

The age structure is of great importance in determining the size of young people because it represents the decisive factor in the phenomenon of child beggary, and it serves as a measure through which we can take a clear picture of the age group in which the phenomenon of child beggary increases or decreases (International Population Council, 2010).

The laws and customs differed in determining the legal age of the child, but the International Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, according to the first article of the Convention, stipulated that a child is every human being under the age of eighteen and did not reach the age of majority (United Nations, 1989). It is clear from Table (2) and Figure (3) that child labor rises in the age group (9 years and under) for males by (45.7%), while this age group decreases for females to reach a rate of (21.0%). As for the category (10-14 years), the beggary of male children outnumbered children by a rate of (29.6%), while the phenomenon of female children begging decreased by a rate of (3.7%).

3. Third: Social characteristics of child beggars in the city of Samawah:

Social characteristics play a major role in the spread of the phenomenon of child beggary in any region of the world because it encourages children and pushes them to beg and leave school seats, due to the social conditions in

which the child lives, which leads to children descending for the purpose of begging due to poor social conditions.

3.1 Parents' marital status:

It means the distribution of the population according to the marital status and the position of the individual, whether he is married, single, divorced, or widowed. (Saleh, 1999,p323) The age and gender structure have a significant impact on the proportions of the population included in these four groups, and the social and economic conditions contribute to determining them and their trends; therefore, the marital status is constantly changing, as it reflects a clear picture of the prevailing economic and social conditions of society. It is evident through the analysis of the data of Table (3) and Figure (4) that the level of the father and mother's condition, which are related, came with the highest percentage, amounting to (43.0%), and this may be due to some families, forcing the children to go down for the purpose of begging, especially if the guardian is unable to work in order to provide The requirements of his family, while the level of the father and mother who are divorced ranked second with a rate of (24.1%), and this may be attributed to the divorced people's lack of interest in their children and allowing them to go out to the street for the purpose of begging due to family disintegration, while the father married to another woman ranked third with a percentage of (19.0%), while the last rank was the mother married to another man with a percentage of (13.9%), and this may be

due to the fact that a woman married to another man is not entitled to keep children if her first husband is alive, except in some cases, which leads to a decrease The proportion of children beggars within this case.

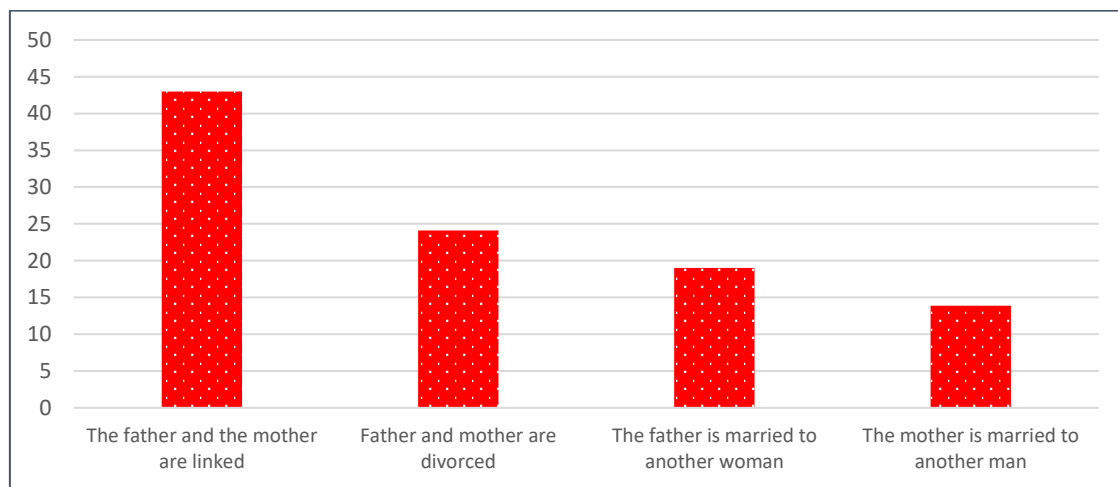
Table (3) *Distribution of beggary children by parents' marital status in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*

Parents' marital status	Number	The ratio%
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The father and the mother are linked	34	43.0
Father and mother are divorced	19	24.1
The father is married to another woman	15	19.0
The mother is married to another man	11	13.9
Total	79	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure 4: *Distribution of beggary children according to the marital status of the parents in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*



3.2 The parents' life status:

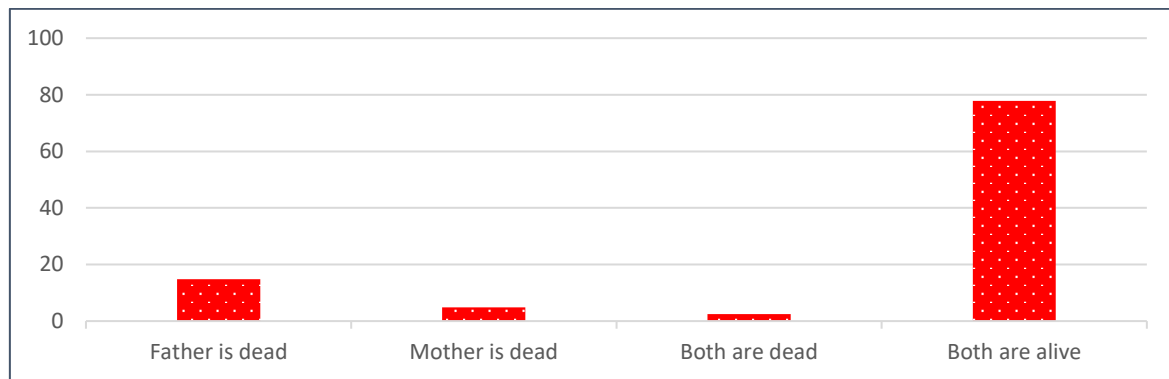
By the life situation, it means the presence of both or one of the parents alive. Parents and other guardians are the primary responsibility for the care and upbringing of the child, but the family and relatives have the right to raise the child in the absence of one or both parents alive. It is clear from the observation of Table (4) and Figure (5) that both of them are alive and ranked first with a rate of (77.8%), and the reason for this may be due to the low standard of living for these families, because Al-Muthanna Governorate was classified as the first governorate in terms of poverty, according to the statistics of the Ministry Iraqi planning in the year (2021), in addition to the humiliation

of some of the beggary because of the economic return to it, while both of them occupied the last rank with a percentage of (2.5%).

Table 4: *Distribution of child beggars according to parents' life status in Samawa city for the year 2021.*

Parents' life status	Number	The ratio%
Father is dead	12	14.8
Mother is dead	4	4.9
Both are dead	2	2.5
Both are alive	63	77.8
Total	81	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure 5: *Distribution of child beggars according to parents' life status in Samawa for the year 2021.*

3.3 Educational status of beggars:

Education represents an essential axis in the life and culture of the population in general; Because of its great role in improving the educational situation of all family members, whether children or adults, the high level of education increases awareness and responsibility for them, which shows the level of the inverse relationship between the educational level and children's beggary, meaning the higher the level of education in the family in general and the children In particular, the phenomenon of beggary decreases with him, and this situation applies to advanced societies, because of their economic, security and social stability. (Khoury, 2002,p20)

It is clear from Table (5) and Figure (6) that the phenomenon of child beggary occurs at most educational levels but at varying rates. The most feasible and the greatest benefit from his education, especially with the high rate of unemployment among the educated and low income for some families in the study area,

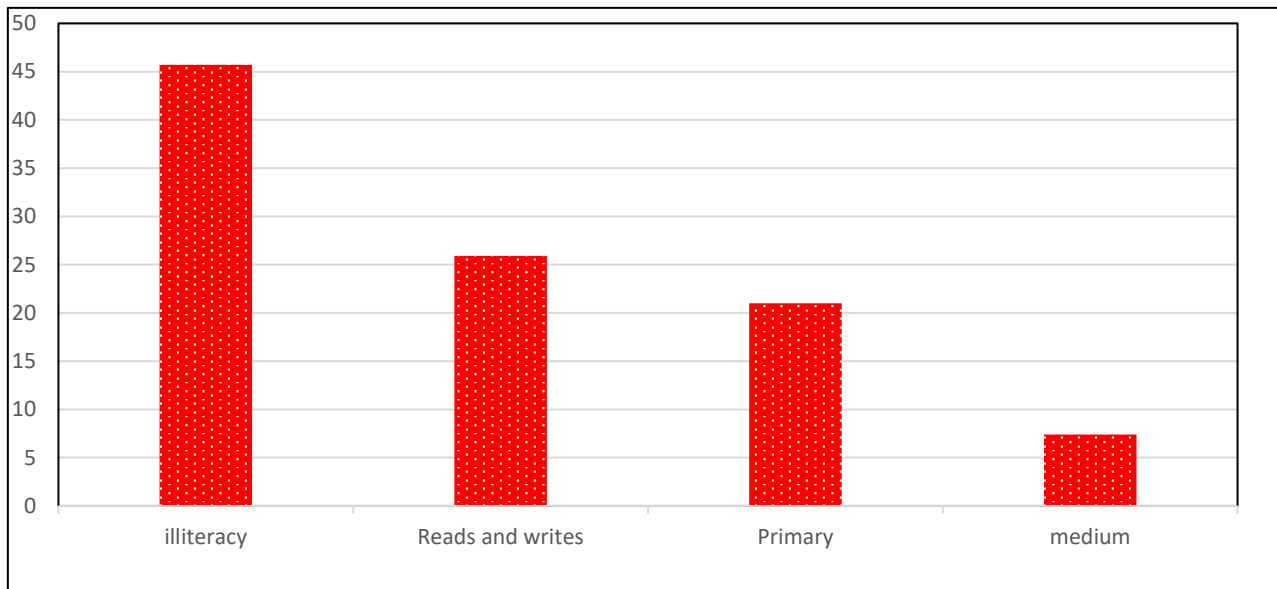
while the educational level in the read and write qualification came in second place at a rate of (25.9%), while the educational level came in the primary qualification in the rank The third, with a rate of (21.0%), while the last rank was the share of the educational level in an intermediate qualification, at a rate of Age (7.4%).

Table (5) *Distribution of child beggars by educational status in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*

Educational Status	Number	percentage %
Illiteracy	37	45.7
Reads and writes	21	25.9
Primary	17	21.0
Medium	6	7.4
Total	81	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure (6) *Distribution of child beggars according to the educational status in the city of Samawa for the year 2021*



4. The economic characteristics of children's beggary:

There are economic characteristics included in the phenomenon of child beggary in the city of Samawa the occupational status of the parents, the rates of money that beggars receive and the return of housing, as well as the economic reasons that lead to beggary, and economic crises often lead to a high percentage of beggars, especially children, and one of the most important Economic characteristics cite them.

4.1 The professional status of the parents:

The profession means that it is a set of jobs that require specific skills that the individual performs through training practices, and the role of the profession is clearly evident in directing human thinking and aspirations (Reason, 2010,p74).Therefore, its study is among the most important economic characteristics of child beggars, because the profession has an economic, social, and psychological impact on the sustainability of life of the population and their standard of living.

It is clear from the analysis of the data in Table (6) and Figure (7) that the profession of the unemployed ranked first, with a rate of (54.3%), and this may be due to the low standard of living and the lack of job opportunities, while the profession ranked second in the level of self-employment. At a rate of (33.3%), while the profession at the level of retired came in the third rank with a percentage of (8.6%), while the last rank of the profession's share was at the level of an employee at a rate of (3.7%), and this may be due to a number of reasons, including High income, which will be able to support his family and his understanding and awareness of the difficult life requirements.

Table (6) *clarifies the profession of the guardian of child beggars in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*

Guardian's work	Number	percentage%
Officer	3	3.7
Retired	7	8.6
free business	27	33.3
Unemployed	44	54.3
Total	81	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure (7) shows the profession of the guardian of child beggars in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.



4.2 Rates of money earned by children beggars:

Some take beggary as a profession that sometimes brings in great financial returns, and some inherited the profession from parents and their families who preceded them to practice this phenomenon without hesitation or feeling embarrassed. To the reasons, the economic factor is one of the most important factors responsible for child beggary, and it is a reason that is growing in societies that have gone through wars, natural disasters, or streams of massive immigration. (Buhairi, 1999, p. 11) Poverty and low economic levels also contribute to child beggary. It is clear from the analysis of the data in Table (7) and Figure (8) that the child receives a value of (5000-10,000 thousand) dinars, ranking first with a rate of (42.0%). His family was able to provide for his needs, in addition to the low level of income for some classes of society, while the value of (1,001-15,000) came in second place, at a rate of (25.9%), while the value of the funds was more than (15,000 thousand and more) dinars in the third place, with a percentage of It

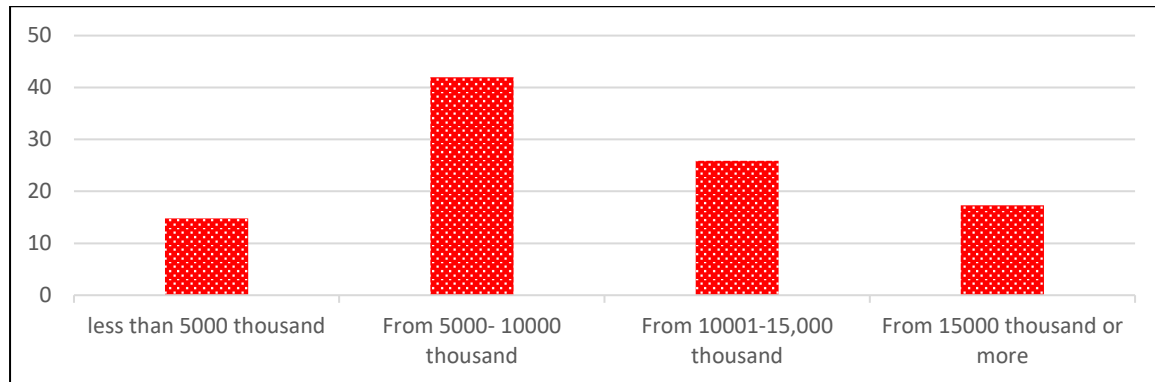
amounted to (17.3%), while the last rank of the share of the value of money was (less than 5000 thousand) dinars, at a rate of (14.8%), and this may be because children beggars are at young ages.

Table (7) shows the rates of money that children beggars receive in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.

The value of the money a beggar child receives during the day in dinars	Number	percentage%
less than 5000 thousand	12	14.8
From 5000- 10000 thousand	34	42.0
From 10001-15,000 thousand	21	25.9
From 15000 thousand or more	14	17.3
Total	81	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure (8) shows the rates of money those children beggars receive in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.



4.3 Ownership of housing:

Housing is one of the necessities of the basic requirements of life and is no less important than the requirements of eating, drinking, and clothing, and housing is one of the most important problems facing most of the population, as housing has become one of the important requirements of life and the individual cannot carry out his social tasks unless he is provided with appropriate and decent housing (Lahmoud, 2015,p103) and this was approved by the United Nations Human Rights Document in 1948, as the demand for housing increases from year to year due to the population increase in the community of the study area. Housing has an important impact on the behavior of family members and the nature of social interaction among them, as housing and its returns are a prominent focus in the occurrence of various problems.

It is clear by reviewing the data of Table (8) and Figure (9) that the level of the random housing household ranked first with a rate of (48.1%), and the reason for this may be due to the inability of these families to buy a housing

unit or even rent housing due to their low level of income, In addition to the movement of some residents from the countryside towards the city and their concentration in the slum areas of the city, while the level of rent housing came in the second place, at a rate of (34.6%), while the last rank was the share of the king's housing level at a rate of (17.3%), which may be attributed to the reason This is because families that own a housing unit are less prone to the phenomenon of their sons begging compared to some other families

Table (8) *Distribution of child beggars according to the ownership of housing in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*

Ownership and type of dwelling	Number	percentage%
King	14	17.3
Rent	28	34.6
Random	39	48.1
Total	81	100

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure (9) *Distribution of child beggars according to their household ownership in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*



4.4 The main economic reasons for child beggary:

Economic factors and causes are among the most important factors leading to child beggary, given the existence of a strong relationship between poverty unemployment, and low family income (Dhahi. 2021,p151), and child beggary. The poor family survives (Al-Adaili, 2019,p189). Table (9) and Figure (10) show that the cause of poverty is the most economic reason that leads to children begging at a rate of (34.6%), and this may be due to the difficult financial conditions of some families in light of the harshness of life and the difficulty of living and the corresponding rise in the prices of some commodities And foodstuffs, which represent the minimum for a decent living, while unemployment came in the second place at a rate of (25.9%), due to the lack of job opportunities and the emergence of Covid 19, which led to a complete cessation of all activities and sectors, while in the third place came the reason for pressure by parents or one of them, with a percentage It reached (21.0%), because some families became interested in the phenomenon of beggary because of its high economic returns and the

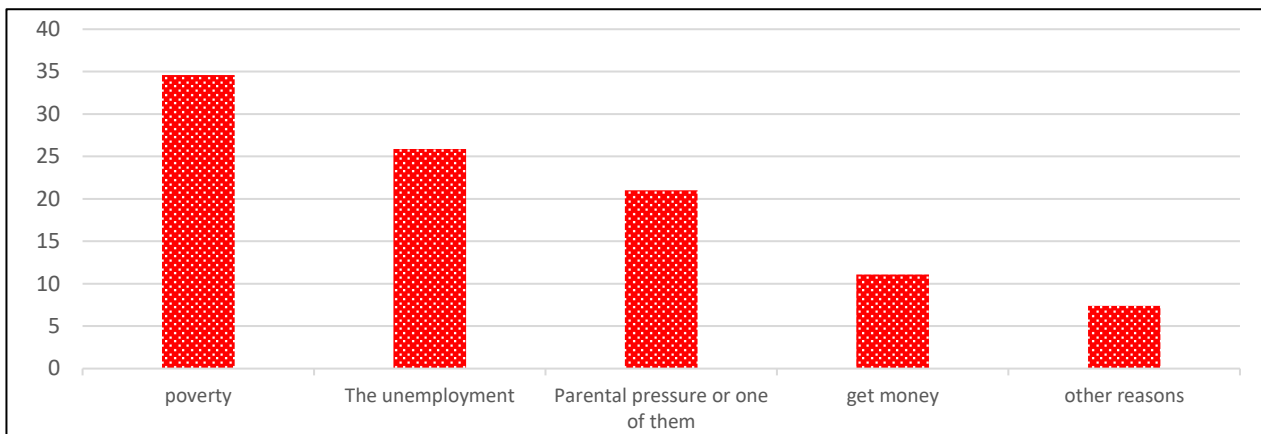
lack of accountability by the competent authorities. As for the fourth place, the reason for obtaining money came with a rate of (11.1%), while the last rank was for other reasons, with a percentage of it amounted to (7.4%).

Table (9) *shows the main reasons for children begging in the city of Samawa for the year 2021.*

Main business reason	Number	percentage%
Poverty	28	34.6
The unemployment	21	25.9
Parental pressure or one of them	17	21.0
get money	9	11.1
other reasons	6	7.4
Total	81	100.0

Source: Ministry the work and affairs Social and the study field.Iraq

Figure (10) shows the main reasons for children begging in the city of Samawa for the year 2021



5. Conclusions:

1. The study showed that the phenomenon of child beggary is concentrated in the central region sector, as its rate reached (33.3%), and this may be attributed to the activity of the population movement for the purpose of shopping and the high income for shop owners in this vital area, which contributed to the descent of child beggars, and this sector It is witnessing clear human movements and economic activities, as it represents the nucleus of the city, where the main commercial markets, cafes, medical clinics and recreational jobs are concentrated, which is characterized by the crowded movement of shoppers. Because of the lack of population movement in the area.

2. The study showed that the number of male child beggars outnumbered female children by (75.3%) compared to (24.7%) for females. This may be due to the prevalence of social customs and traditions that see girls going to the street or to any other place for the purpose of begging as an unacceptable matter with many considerations. Including religion, custom and the prevailing customs, especially since the residents of the study area are characterized by a clan character, which leads to their strong adherence to those customs and traditions that prevent the girl from leaving the house.

3. The study showed that the phenomenon of child beggary occurs at most educational levels and at different rates, and the highest percentage of the level was in the qualification of my mother, at a rate of (45.7%), because

some families see the child going to the street and getting money more feasible and the greatest benefit from his education, especially with the high Unemployment rate among the educated and low income for some families in the study area.

4. The study showed that the cause of poverty is the most economic reason that leads to children begging, at a rate of (34.6%), and this may be due to the difficult financial conditions of some families in light of the harshness of life and the difficulty of living and the corresponding rise in the prices of some commodities and foodstuffs, which represent the minimum requirements for a decent living.

5. The study showed that the parents' survival came at the highest rate (77.8%), and the reason for this may be due to the low standard of living for these families; Because Al-Muthanna Governorate was classified as the first governorate in terms of poverty, according to the statistics of the Iraqi Ministry of Planning in the year (2021), in addition to the subjugation of some to beggary because of the economic return to it.

6. The study showed that the largest number of child beggars get a value of (5000-10,000 thousand) at a rate of (42.0%), and the reason for this may be due to the child's accustomed access to money and his lack of dependence on his family to provide for his needs, as well as the low level of income for some strata of society.

Suggestions:

In light of the findings of the study, the following recommendations and suggestions can be included:

1. The necessity of carrying out extensive and in-depth field studies to know the extent and characteristics of the phenomenon of child beggary, preparing a national strategy to address it, and knowing the economic variables that contribute to its rise.
2. Activating the role of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in order to expand the provision of assistance to poor and needy families and improve their economic situation so that they do not push their children to beg, increase interest in evening education and provide material incentives that encourage children to continue studying, as well as strengthening measures to reduce school dropout rates.
3. Revitalizing the role of the psychologist and social researcher to follow up the children and treat their psyche, take them towards education and learning, and rescue them from the loss that is their fate if they remain in the practice of the phenomenon of beggary.
4. Providing loans and small projects with the aim of finding a job opportunity for one of the parents, with the need for the relevant government agencies to follow up and supervise these projects in order for them to succeed in the near future.
5. Activate deterrent laws for those who exploit children and force them to beg and punish them through various means and methods such as imprisonment, fines, and other means.
6. Providing job opportunities and containing unemployment suffered by large segments of society, especially the youth, taking into consideration the most disadvantaged and affected segments.

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