



STREET MENDICANCY AMONG SENIOR CITIZENS: A CASE IN TARLAC CITY

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Abstract: This case study research was established and analyzed the cases of street mendicancy among senior citizens in Tarlac City that covers the year 2022. The researcher used a purposive sampling technique and used instruments such as interview guide, documentary analysis and observation analysis to effectively achieved the objectives of the study. The respondents interviewed were 30 cases of senior citizens that participated in the study who shared their learning experiences from their current life situation and difficulties in streets.

Index Terms - Street, mendicancy, senior citizens.

I. INTRODUCTION

Poverty represents the most serious obstacle to a secured old age. Globally, the population of people aged 65 and up is growing faster than all other age groups combined. The United Nations indicated that the year 2017, older people population increased in 13%, and their share of the global population is expected to rise to 21% in 2050. (United Nations, 2019).

One of the socioeconomic issues facing both industrialized and emerging nations is street mendicancy. According to Kumar et al. (2016), Mendicancy is a socioeconomic issue that is committed by underprivileged and handicapped men, women, and their children in order to survive and it generally affects the children and old aged group and are suffering for the basic needs such as clothes, food and shelter.

Due to the rising population of the aged group, homelessness became a complex issue that has emerged in all modern societies because of the underlying factors affecting the individuals regardless of the country's level of wealth. Homeless individuals are often described as people sleeping on the streets as it creates disadvantages such as poverty, exclusion, discrimination, neglect, vulnerability to diseases and incapacity to access services.

In Ethiopia, the number of elderly people who are homeless is rising and meeting the needs of the elders is a challenge due to the decline in the traditional familial health care systems resulting from poverty, urbanization, migration, and diseases such as HIV or AIDS. While earlier research looked at the causes of and difficulties faced by elderly individuals who are homeless, little is known about on how older persons manage homelessness in a setting with few aging services.

Moreover, in most cases, a growing number of elderly people struggle to exist without a caretaker and often engaged themselves in begging, side hustles, and other means of informal livelihood. (HelpAge International, 2013).

In addition, in Canada, it is projected that there would be an increase in older persons experiencing homelessness due to the unmet needs, a lack of initiatives and direction for addressing their needs, as well as the worsening consequences of poverty, high housing costs, and inequality. There is a substantial gap in the response to homelessness among older people, which is why there is a high level of concern. Older homelessness refers to those who are "getting old on the streets" and, in certain situations, falling into homelessness later in life. While teenagers, women, indigenous people, and LGBTQ individuals are included in the current policies and activities to eradicate homelessness in Canada, the subpopulation of those aged 50 and beyond is given less attention.

People's health and lives suffer when they are homeless, whether they live in a tent, a vehicle, or in a homeless shelter. While there has been plenty of media coverage of homelessness, less attention has recently been paid to the news that the homeless population is aging. A few studies on older homeless people have been conducted since the late 1980s, and they have discovered that many become homeless for the first time in later life, raising questions about why this occurs, the unmet support needs of older people, and how their homelessness can be prevented. (American Society on Aging, 2021)

Also, due to the emergence of homelessness in highly urbanized cities and other areas are becoming increasingly evident. Homeless families can be seen with their push carts, on the side streets or sidewalks, on the lawns of buildings, and in parks looking for the opportunities to earn or a place to spend a night. According to the findings from the UN Center for Human Settlements, that homelessness is linked to the urbanization of poverty. It driven the poor people to live in the streets of urban centers in which it provides them the opportunity to beg money and other occupations to earn a living including illegal activities.

In the Philippines, despite being known as one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies, is also experiencing a homeless crisis, with a population of 106 million people, there are approximately 4.5 million who are reportedly homeless estimates

from the Philippine Statistics Authority, including children and aged group which majority of these live on Manila's Street and alleys. Homelessness in the Philippines is caused by a variety of factors, including job loss, insufficient income or a lack of a stable job, domestic violence, and natural disasters. (The Borgen Project, 2020)

According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development of the Philippines, families on the streets represents 75% of the homeless population, who earns their livelihoods on the street, created a community among themselves in public spaces. Including these populations are the displaced families who lost their homes due to the natural disasters and they often leave their countryside homes to find jobs in the cities as well as the families who experienced abuses at home.

Lately, several blue-collar Filipinos, including port workers, have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing joblessness and homelessness. The implementation of lockdowns affected 11 million workers in the informal sector alone, and the number of homeless Filipinos increased last year, and the situation in poor urban communities was very concerning, but the situation for the homeless was even worse. (Maritime Fairtrade, 2021)

Furthermore, the Philippines is starting to experience the effects of the aging global population. According to current data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), which was cited by the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM), the proportion of elderly Filipinos 60 years and above in the population has increased over the past 20 years, reaching to 8.5 percent in 2020 from 5.9 percent in the year 2000. Although increased longevity and improved health at older ages are some of the twentieth century's highest achievements, the US Department of Health and Human Services noted that these trends also presented significant challenges. They highlighted that societal aging could have an impact on economic growth, work and retirement patterns, family functioning, governments' and communities' ability to provide adequate resources for older adults, and the prevalence of chronic disease and disability. According to POPCOM, 55% of the country's senior citizens did not receive a pension in 2019, those without retirement income were automatically classified as persons living in poverty. (Philippine Daily Inquirer, 2022)

In late 2012, the Department of Social and Welfare Development launched the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Homeless Street Families (MCCT-HSF), designed for the homeless parents and children to provide an immediate assistance and services in terms of education and housing grants. The program aims to aid the homeless families that will enable them to find an alternative from the harsh life on the streets and addressing them into social protection system for the long-term goal.

Recently, Senator Win Gatchalian reintroduced a legislation that seeks to establish nursing homes for elderly people who are abandoned or homeless in every city and municipality of the Philippines. Nursing homes for the homeless and abandoned elderly, under this proposal, must provide comfortable living quarters, adequate food and clothing, medical consultation or treatment, health care, and counseling, among other things. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will manage and maintain the nursing facilities in accordance with Senate Bill No. 950, also known as the "Homes for Abandoned Seniors Act of 2022," in collaboration with the relevant local government units and the task of constructing the nursing homes will go to the LGUs. This proposal is in line with the mandates under the Article X III, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the protection of the welfare of our seniors is assured. It states that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

The researcher is currently enrolled in a graduate program, and one of the most important concerns and observations she has made is about the life of senior citizens mendicants and how they cope with their situation, as well as the story behind their involvement in street mendicancy. Hence, this study aims to describe the cases of mendicancy among the senior citizens in Tarlac City. This will also identify the government's intervention initiatives, to provide measures towards helping the senior citizens find alternatives to the harsh life on the streets, as well as integrating them into the social protection system from the potential harm and abuse of street life.

II. STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

This study aimed to gather data about of street mendicancy among the senior citizens in Tarlac. Specifically, this study sought to address the following questions:

1. To describe the profile of senior citizen mendicants in terms of:
 - 1.1 Age
 - 1.2 Sex
 - 1.3 Financial Support
 - 1.4 Educational attainment
 - 1.5 Health Status
 - 1.6 Place of Residence
2. To narrate the stories of street mendicancy among senior citizens in Tarlac City.
3. To identify the government's intervention initiatives for the senior citizens engaged in street mendicancy.
4. To proposed measures to help the senior citizens involved in street mendicancy.
5. To determine the implications of the study to Public Administration.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature makes use of a variety of terminology, including "mendicancy," "beggars", "homeless," "rough sleepers," and "street people, street dwellers." The variety of terminologies employed can present issues when defining the subject's emphasis and area of research, as well as when choosing participants. Regardless of the term employed, these has a negative effect on a person's life, including poverty, marginalization, victimization, abuse, vulnerability to illness, and difficulty accessing resources. People who are homeless are not uniform; they may have unique characteristics, diverse origins, and particular conditions. (Bas, 2021)

According to the research conducted by Addis Ababa, Capital of Ethiopia City, the Government Labor and Social Affairs Office (2015) a population of 10,253 people are involved in begging, with 2,351 which make up to 22.9% are composed of the elderly beggars in Addis Ababa. The elderly can be classified according to their chronological age, functional age, biological age, and retirement age. In developed countries, life expectancy is high, and the retirement age from active public economic activity is 65 years, with the elderly defined as people aged 65 and up. In developing countries, life expectancy is low, and the retirement age is 60

years. Therefore, people aged 60 and up are considered elderly. Ethiopia accepted the UN definition because it corresponded to the world's official retirement age of 60 years or older (UN, 2012).

Several research indicated that begging represents two perspectives: personal disorganization, indicating the individual's failure to adjust to the cultural environment, and a symptom of social disorganization. The beggars on the street also represents an unorganized society that is unable for people to adjust properly. Their very existence appears to be dependent and parasitic. Terminologies pertaining to begging is as well referred to by various terms such as panhandling, mendicancy, tramp, rough sleepers, and cadgers, more commonly known as homeless (Iqbal, 2013).

Population aging demands a focus on aging and homelessness in study and policy, globally. Youth, younger adults, and young families are typically the focus of current homelessness knowledge and practices, with elderly persons receiving much less attention. Older people unique needs, combined with shifting age structures, highlights the urgency of understanding and responding to the needs of older people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming so in late life. They are depicted as an "invisible population," but as the population increases, more older people are likely to become homeless. (Grenier et al., 2016)

Additionally, an aging population is a diverse group that is influenced by health, non-health, and societal factors. Increased life expectancy may result in severe age-related conditions, issues, and challenges, necessitating the establishment of more and more well-equipped elderly care centers and nursing services. (Samad et al., 2018)

According to Menka & Hassan (2013), their main issues include inadequate income, health issues, a lack of food, clothing, and shelter, ignorance of passersby, inadequate nutrition, homelessness, exploitation, donors' impolite behavior, police harassment, feelings of embarrassment or shame, and emotional insecurity. The issue was that they were unable to access basic public services and were forced to live in unclean conditions while earning insufficient money for their way of life. Beggars frequently experience health issues since they are prone to a variety of illnesses because of their unsanitary living circumstances, poor diets, and unhealthy lifestyles. They don't wash their hands before eating or drinking. Many of them suffer from numerous infectious diseases.

Some surveys in the United States indicated that a significant shift in its population's average age is rapidly approaching. Based on the demographic projections, the population of Americans 65 and older will grow from 36 million in 2003 to 87 million by 2050. This means that by 2030, one in every five Americans will be over the age of 65, posing significant challenges for future generations. Due to a such significant population shift, the importance of promoting age-friendly environments and resources in urban areas is becoming increasingly urgent. Current efforts to prepare for the growing elderly population by establishing age-friendly spaces have greatly aided both older adults looking to age in place and those living in group or assisted living facilities. (Kerr et. al, 2012).

Similarly, the study of Woolrych et al. (2015) indicated that age has a significant impact in terms of the needs and conditions of homeless people. As part of a new ageing population, the number of older homeless people is growing, and they face more disadvantages than other age groups experiencing homelessness. Recent restrictions in social welfare policies, rising poverty rates, and a lack of suitable housing supply have made homelessness more visible among the elderly, leading to an increase in research on homelessness in later life.

Furthermore, according to an article in Pakistan, The Tribune (2022), due to population aging, elderly beggars can be seen in various parts of the city, particularly in public places such as the bus stand and the railway station. Many of them come from good families, but because their children have neglected and abandoned them, they have turned to begging as their source of income.

Related to the study of Abdi (2012), for these old individuals, begging is the only way to deal with their reality of having no one to assist them; it is not something they choose to do. But the reasons behind begging are multifaceted or differ depending on the type of beggars in the past or current socioeconomic, medical, and other events. Thus, it is impossible to identify a single significant reason why people turn to begging. Therefore, the causes of begging can only be discovered through study that considers specific circumstances and those with firsthand experience (Wubshet, 2012).

In Canada, data indicates that Toronto has the most homeless people in the country as well as cities in Alberta also have a significant rate of homelessness. It is also challenging to estimate the number of elderly persons who are unsheltered, provisionally sheltered, or at risk of homelessness because Statistics in Canada bases its data on the number of people residing in shelters (Statistics Canada, 2012).

Different perspectives on what constitutes homelessness, the realities of moving around, such as the lack of a stable or permanent residence, and various counting techniques all contribute to the complexity of this problem. Some studies estimate the number of homeless people at a given time using a point prevalence count. Researchers conduct a survey of shelter users and count the number of people in "homeless hotspots" on one night to arrive at their findings (Gaetz et al., 2013).

An article on Addressing Homelessness in Metro Vancouver (2017) indicated that homelessness is a region-wide problem in countries such as Vancouver, British Columbia, and Canada, affecting all communities from downtown Vancouver to suburban and rural areas within Metro Vancouver which affects all residents, regardless of income level, who live and work beside people the suffering on the streets, in tent cities, and in temporary shelters, or who, with 60,000 households in working poverty in the region, may themselves be in a position of high susceptibility to becoming homeless. The Metro Vancouver plan also described that one of the difficulties of older homeless persons encounters, most notably the possibility that health issues linked to poverty could raise the probability of homelessness in old age.

Similarly, the Drummondville plan (2012) acknowledged the complicated needs of elderly service users have for physical and mental health care, as well as the difficulties they encounter in getting the treatment they require. For instance, older adults may also experience significant physical health demands in addition to the more prevalent mental health conditions and/or substance abuse. Older individuals have a difficult time integrating into services and programs and are frequently excluded because of their behaviors. Due to these difficulties, elderly individuals have limited access to the services they require since they either refuse to use them or do so reluctantly. The situation of elderly persons who are homeless poses a severe challenge and exceeds the capacity of community organizations that are tasked to provide assistance.

One Canadian project discovered according to the study of Rothwell et al. (2016), a lack of resources for homeless persons between the ages of 50 and 65, with older people complaining that neither the programs nor services available met their needs. Concerns exist over the suitability of the assistance offered to elderly homeless people. Accessing supports and services may also be hampered by problems utilizing government services. Language is a major obstacle to older homeless persons receiving housing and support services, and many older homeless people may not receive all the government help for which they are eligible.

A study in Spain stated that there are significant social and financial disparities in people's ability to access home care. Senior citizens typically have more complex needs. Due to the public system's inadequate home and personal care coverage, these disparities

may worsen in the future. Therefore, a lack of public policy measures could result in more unmet requirements because they often have more disabilities, physical illnesses, and social demands compared to younger persons. Due of the negative economic and social effects, their unmet requirements should be recognized and anticipated. The government can create new public policy initiatives by knowing the nature and scope of their unmet demands. (Herr et al., 2014)

Similar to the study by Getenash (2016), which emphasized that elderly people are left to rely on kin relationships due to the lack of support from the state and the extreme poverty, elderly people spent the majority of their lives engaged in daily labor activities, whether in reciprocal relationships where they are helped by their children and where they also contribute to the household such as house-chores and where they have to survive on their own by begging.

Additionally, it has received minimal attention from decision-makers, social workers, and other charity organizations. Given that the rate, persistence, and incidence of begging implies a failure of public interest and social policy, this might come as a surprise. Begging has been considered "offensive" or a "problem" since the 1800s, and it is still illegal in the majority of the world's nations. For instance, begging or collecting alms is illegal in Australia, and anyone caught doing so will be punished (Vagrancy Act, 2012).

The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing significant and rapid demographic change. The aging process is changing at an unprecedented rate, with the timing and pace varying across the region. The Philippines, for example, has a growing elderly and young population. The proportion of people aged 60 and up in the population will rise from 6.7% in 2010 to 11.4% in 2030. Resulting as the government faces the burden of improving health and social services, this demographic change may place a strain on the country's resources. The government must then prioritize which segments of the population will be targeted. (Carandang, 2019)

Moreover, very few research has been conducted on elderly Filipinos. Up until now, only two nationally representative surveys conducted in 1996 and 2007 have been used to emphasize their wellbeing and state of health. Carlos claimed that there is little research on topics affecting senior citizens, such as social security and poverty, health challenges, and abuse. She estimated that it might be because they make up a much smaller portion of the population than young people do. De Leon added that, at best, little has been spoken about the difficulties and worries of the Philippine aging population in conversations about the country's progress. Although the government has started social welfare initiatives, she continued, their implementation still faces difficulties, largely because their problems are not understood. (De Leon, 2019)

Similarly, the difficulties of older people in Ethiopia, experience necessitate a variety of means of support, including begging. Elderly people's reliance on a single economic coping strategy hindered them from leading stable lives. Older individuals strive to ensure the stability of their financial future through asset accumulation, asset diversification, and the support of their families and communities (HIA, 2011).

The senior citizens also made an effort to handle their problems on their own by working odd jobs and doing other things that generated revenue such as mendicancy and begging. However, when they were unable to resolve their issues on their own, they rely on the institution to provide them with support for their basic needs (Abdi, 2012).

In 2015, the Philippines had 7.5 million older people aged 60 and up, accounting for 7.5% of the total population. 55% of these people are older women. Official poverty estimates place 16% of older Filipinos in poverty, with a much larger proportion living in economic insecurity just above the poverty line. (Rappler, 2020)

According to the 2019 Longitudinal Study on Ageing and Health in the Philippines (LSAHP), many older people surveyed 60% live with at least one child and are financially reliant on their family. While 70% of mothers and 55% of fathers say their co-resident children give them financial support. However, a large number of their children also have day jobs and working as daily wage earners. In these conditions, adult children are struggling to make ends meet, let alone pay for their parents' basic needs like food and medicine. The situation of other elderly populations, such as the homeless, is more terrible recently due to pandemic. Many at-risk elderly people, especially the disabled and care-dependent, will be in danger because reports say that spousal violence and neglect increase during quarantine times. These underlying issues are not merely from the result of the COVID-19 outbreak; rather, it has highlighted the vulnerability of many older women and men as well as the weakness of the social protection system in the Philippines.

Manila, as the Philippines' capital, is a gathering place for majority of the population of street dwellers. More than 190,000 people live on the streets in pushcarts and makeshift homes, digging up through garbage for a living. They are street dwellers with no regular source of income and no permanent address. Children play in the streets, rummage through trash, and are denied formal education and begging is their source of income to survive daily. (Reyes, 2019)

In general, people are frequently removed from the social safety net due to a number of factors, leaving them to beg on the streets. Natural disasters, accidents of all kinds, including those involving vehicles and at work that render a person permanently or temporarily unable to do their job duties, and other causes of begging can be structural and highly circumstantial. Other factors that contribute to begging are the death of a family breadwinner, serious illnesses, or health problems, losing a job due to a variety of circumstances, cuts to social services and benefits, domestic violence, etc. Most of them started asking for money for one or more of the reasons, and some of them became targets for criminals (Cheng & Kumar, 2012).

Several studies are conducted on homelessness, street dwelling, and street beggars that focuses on children and young people, but the cases of senior citizens are limited, and such research is necessary particularly those involved in street mendicancy.

Based on the study of Oluwole (2016) found that physical defects were the top cause for begging, which may not be unrelated to the fact that, like income, disabled beggars had other motivations for begging activities regardless of their educational attainment and household sizes. In another area, there were strong correlations between the complete set of socioeconomic factors and disability-related homelessness in Nigeria's Ibadan Metropolis. According to the findings of a 2015 study on beggars by the Addis Ababa city government's labor and social affairs office, there are 10,253 registered beggars, 3,439 (33.5%) of whom are disabled and use begging as a source of income in various regions of the city. Similar to the present study, the focus is on how the senior citizens engaged in mendicancy as their source of income and the study also focuses on the different factors that led them to street life regardless of their educational attainment.

Buklsa (2013) also confirmed in the case study conducted in Nigeria, that a family background of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and other forms of financial maladjustment attitude causes some individuals to flee from home and become street beggars. There is a strong link between socioeconomic status and street begging. Homeless charity crisis estimates that more than 80% of beggars are homeless people who beg and are among the most vulnerable members of society, often trapped in poverty and other socioeconomic opportunities. It is considered dangerous and defaces the community. Similarly, the present study focuses on the stories of senior citizens to find out the underlying factors and their relationship with their family through an in-depth interview.

Results from the study of Kassa et. al. (2021), most frequently, economic concerns have been cited as the main cause of most of the elderly beggars' involvement in the begging life. The situation of elderly beggars is rooted in the family's economic and social situation. Most respondents provided data, and it shows that the lack of material and financial resources has encouraged people to drift into a new life of begging in various parts of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. Many of the respondents to this empirical study on the respondents were enticed to work as beggars on the streets for a variety of reasons related to the economy. Poverty and a lack of farming land/landlessness are two economic factors that drive respondents to seek alms from the public in the study area. With no other option or alternative for survival, many of these people resort to begging on the streets in front of churches, at traffic lights, and around commercial areas, relying on the Ethiopian culture's traditional generosity. However, the present study will be conducted in the City of Tarlac and the participants are the senior citizen mendicants to know the variety of reasons that led them to street begging.

Adamek et al. (2021), emphasized that among the coping strategies used by homeless older people, begging was the primary source of income used to mitigate their challenges. Throughout the in-depth interviews conducted, all three types of study participants revealed that begging is the primary, and often only, option for homeless older people because their health issues prevent them from meeting their own basic needs through employment. Participants in the study beg for various items such as food, drinking water, clothing, money to purchase food and medicine, sleeping materials, and local drink. The observational data also showed that older people beg in numerous places around the town, including on the streets, in churches, and other public spaces. Homeless older people gather in groups to obtain food and drink when there are celebrations in the community. Furthermore, present study will also be conducting an in-depth interview with senior citizens engaged in street mendicancy. These participants can be seen in different streets of Tarlac City to ask for their basic needs such as food, clothing, and money.

Three significant factors that contribute to begging were identified by a case study in the Indian state of Telangana, such as destitution, neglect of the elderly, widows, orphans, and physically and mentally challenged individuals, and a lack of institutional support. Every beggar has a different motivation for begging. During the field survey, beggars identified several causes, including debt, crop failure, business failure, health issues, domestic violence, social exclusion, natural disasters like drought, flood, and other similar events, homelessness, accident, suicide, alcohol consumption, divorce/separation, family issues, and other issues. Shockingly, 52% of begging individuals had prior paid labor experience in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. For a number of reasons, including crop failure, the viability of their occupation, and others, quit their occupations and started begging. (Kailash et al., 2021) Similarly, the present study participants were identified through a case study to narrate their stories and the researcher will also conduct a field survey to discover the different factors behind their engagement in street mendicancy.

Furthermore, the results of the 2012 Women's Agenda for Change in Cambodia study show that several issues, such as landlessness, domestic violence, a lack of resources and access to them, a husband who is unable or unwilling to support the family, debt, poverty, widowhood, natural disasters, and unemployment, cause people to migrate to urban areas and engage in begging activity. However, the present study focuses on the cases of street mendicancy among the senior citizens.

The main issues that older beggars experience have been identified through study or a Greater Bombay survey. The issues include: overpopulation in the area, which puts pressure on the land and makes it unable to support the people; tenure systems and holdings that are divided, combined with large families and unprofitable farming practices; debts; famines, floods, and epidemics that weaken the community or make life difficult for it; family dissolutions; and emotional and financial limitations placed on a man or a woman after deserting; misbehavior and delinquency; physical and mental disabilities; chronic and pernicious diseases; physical and mental incapacities; inability to find employment; lack of willingness to work; religious bias and vows that bind one to the mendicant order; anti-social attitudes and child lifting; lack of facilities for training for employment; lack of institutions providing for the welfare of the detached, abandoned, and disabled; lack of social security measures and absence of social responsibility; obvious attraction to drugs and alcohol. (Dagnaw, 2019). However, they differ in terms of the scope of the research. The main focus of the present study is to study the profile of senior citizens, their stories, current government initiatives in helping those engaged in street begging.

One of the major reasons that many elders live their lives by mendicancy from the public to meet their basic needs has been identified as an economic problem and poverty is the primary motivator for all beggars. The researcher also discovered that many elders engaged in beggar activities as a result of poverty. In the begging business when they were unable to meet their basic needs, they moved places to places to seek a better life through begging. Because according to them, begging is regarded as a viable option for children or the elderly unless they are without other means of support, and it is also regarded as a last resort for people who have found themselves in poverty (ILO, 2014). The current study being conducted will also discover the challenges faced by the senior citizens in street life to point out whether they receive assistance from the government as well as to analyze the assistance in case their needs are not met.

Furthermore, economic problems weakened social bonds among family members, relatives, friends, neighbors, and the community at large, as well as the tradition of providing support to older people because of economic crisis, which drove them to begging. According to Reddy (2013), the subject does not receive any support from the family, close kin group, and relatives are very poor, so they are not extending their support to the subjects in terms of food and other essential economic elements, so many of the old parents have been left with no choice but to resort to begging. Through the data gathered in the present study, the researcher will find out whether the lack of support as well as the economic crisis are the reasons, they have turned into street mendicancy.

Consistent with the findings of Cheng & Kumar Elders (2012), elders need help and support from their children or other support providers, but the deaths of their children, the husband/wife and breadwinner or their support providers were also the main factors that brought them under begging. Additionally, due to accidents of varied kinds like temporary conflict, traffic accidents and work-related accidents that cause loss of ability to figure temporarily or permanently and therefore the death of an income earner in families were the factors to started begging. Challenges of the senior citizens will be discovered through their stories as the researcher will conduct an interview to narrate their stories to find out whether their circumstances impacted from the lack of support from their family.

The study conducted by Paguirigan (2019) he mentioned that while the Philippine government has implemented several social protection policies and programs to ensure the well-being of older Filipinos, more effort is needed to meet the needs of the poor and vulnerable older persons. Similarly, the researcher will analyze the existing government assistance as well as the programs from the CSWD to find out whether there are implemented policies designed for the welfare of the senior citizens particularly those involved in street mendicancy.

According to the findings of Carandang et al. (2019), senior citizens have an unmet need for financial security, owing to the high rates of informal labor and the vicious cycle of poverty. They were unable to save for their retirement because they had to

prioritize their families' needs over their own. These findings were consistent with previous research on the labor market and social insurance coverage in the Philippines. However, the present study focuses on the life senior citizens in street mendicancy as well as their profile and this will not cover the financial security and their retirement.

Mandigma (2016) cited poverty incidence as one of the factors influencing pension coverage in the nation. Thus, to contribute to achieving financial security in old life to support the needs of elders, the findings highlighted the significance of extending social protection to informal workers and reducing the rate of poverty. The scope of the research will not cover the factors related to pension; however, it will analyze the existing support designed for the senior citizens and the importance of meeting their needs.

Asis (2016), the Philippines levels of poverty, inequality, and vulnerability have not changed in recent years despite the country's strong economic progress. One in five Filipinos, or 21% of the population, were said to be living in poverty as of 2018, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. Additionally, among the eight fundamental sectors in the Philippines, senior citizens had the sixth-highest prevalence of poverty, and about 40% of them still lacked financial security. This data demonstrates that a significant portion of older citizens in the Philippines lack the resources required to maintain a decent standard of living. The present study will not focus on the financial security of the senior citizens; however, it will look into the resources available and whether these resources can help them improve their welfare through the recommendations and implications of this paper that can be adopted by the policymakers.

According to the Fullero & Miranda (2019) study, one of the new themes for the elderly is "survival." Although elderly people who are institutionalized are unable to work, they nevertheless view employment as a means of ensuring their survival. In addition, because they are institutionalized, the facility takes care of their bodily needs. The strategy used by institutionalized elderlies to survive is to create new life while making sure their history is preserved. Genetically, people are predisposed to strive to survive. To survive, one must have the willpower to put in significant effort, persevere, do everything is necessary to assure survival, and progress beyond survival to security. Physical requirements for food, drink, and air as well as protection, shelter, warmth, and health are all part of survival. In order to survive, one must also require protection and enough money to cover basic expenses. Different from the present study, the participants are the senior citizens who are street mendicants, and it will not cover the institutionalized elderly because the main objectives of the study is on how the senior citizens are able to cope up and survive with their day-to-day activities in the street asking for their basic needs.

As stated by Santos (2019), everyone has their own Quality World. The study revealed that, despite the differences between institutionalized elders, similar methods of meeting their needs were discovered. People try to meet their psychological needs by imagining the most important images in their minds. Institutionalized Elders behave in this manner because they are constantly attempting to meet their basic human needs. Survival, belonging, power, freedom, and fun have been identified as the five basic needs built into people's genetic structure. Understanding and applying the five basic needs to improve quality of life has recently been studied. Similar in terms of coping up, survival and other basic needs of the elderly can greatly impact the reason why they turned into begging, however, different from the scope of the research because the present study focuses on the stories of the senior citizens and the government current assistance they receive.

Tuliao's (2020) research looked into the factors that influence subjective well-being in community-dwelling Filipino senior citizens. The study emphasized the critical factors associated with subjective well-being among Filipino community-dwelling senior citizens. Low subjective well-being may be protected by psychological resilience, positive self-rated health, and perceived social support. He emphasized that they should build psychological resilience and social support networks in the community to improve their subjective well-being. As a result, the local government may implement community-based resilience programs and encourage senior citizens to participate actively. However, the present study will not cover the psychological well-being of the senior citizens.

According to Rutkowski (2015), another workforce issue for older people in the Philippines is that many Filipinos are underemployed, with low education and a lack of decent jobs causing problems for both younger and older workers. Older Filipino workers are frequently at a disadvantage compared to younger workers because they are less likely to obtain an adequate education and secure salaried employment. Moreover, the profile of the senior citizens will be analyzed in the present study to determine whether they have low education that led to their engagement in street mendicancy.

The recent establishment of the Institute of Aging at the University of the Philippines Manila demonstrates how aging is now gaining national attention in the Philippines. This new emphasis on aging must also revitalize evidence - based research by incorporating larger, more diverse samples of older Filipinos to capture the various cultures found across the country (Badana & Andel, 2018). The present study will also be conducted using the evidence-based research and through the observational data.

Villegas (2014) concluded that research on aging in the Philippines remains a subject that is severely under-theorized in research. Even though older Filipinos appear in national reports, current empirical studies involving older adults appear to be lacking in the Philippines. The Philippines' major universities are home to research institutions that study a wide range of topics; however, the University of the Philippines Manila is currently the only major institution with an established center specifically for aging research. Most of the research on older Filipinos appears to focus on perceptions of aging, older Filipinos' quality of life, and older adults in the workforce. Moreover, the need for the present study is needed for it focuses on understanding the street mendicancy among senior citizens specifically in Tarlac City as this can serve as an additional information for the research on aging in the Philippines.

IV. METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the method of research, subjects of the study, methods of gathering data, research instruments as well as the statistical treatment of the gathered data.

3.1 Research Design

The researcher employed the use of qualitative case study design to determine the cases of street mendicancy among senior citizens in Tarlac City. According to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (2022) in the US, a qualitative case study narrates the story of a real-world problem that individuals or groups had to deal with and how they solved it. It includes a concise but thorough account of the facts of the situation as well as expert observation to help the audience understand the causes of the problem, the forces that drive the solution, the effectiveness of implementation, lessons learned, and connections to relevant theories, concepts, policies, and tools. When it's important to gain a thorough understanding of an issue, event, or phenomenon in its actual, everyday context, the case study method is especially effective. In line with this, the present study aims to narrate the cases of senior citizens among street mendicancy. This also identified the government's intervention initiatives for the mendicants

senior citizens to proposed measures to help the senior citizens and to determine the implications of the study to Public Administration. To gather the necessary data needed in the study, the researcher used documentary analysis, interview, and observation.

3.2 Location of the Study

The study was conducted in the City of Tarlac, Philippines where it is one of the urban areas of the city.

3.3 Conceptual framework

Economic Research Institute for ASEAN (2019) cited that the economic well-being is one of the important dimensions of older persons that are key to policy development; these dimensions include the activity levels such as work, retirement, and leisure and health where physical, mental, and emotional are important in creating a social protection for the elderly.

In this context, the framework of the study is demonstrated in Figure 1. This study revolves around the analysis of the street mendicancy among the thirty (30) senior citizens as the respondents of the study in Tarlac City. As reflected in the figure, data were identified from the participants in terms of their age, sex, financial support, educational attainment, and health conditions. Shared information such their life stories, and government support were also obtained. In addition, learning experiences and coping challenges were obtained through an in-depth interview and documentary analysis, observation, and interpretation are also presented. As such, this was the basis of proposed intervention measures to improve the welfare of the senior citizens. Lastly, the implications of the study to public administration are presented.

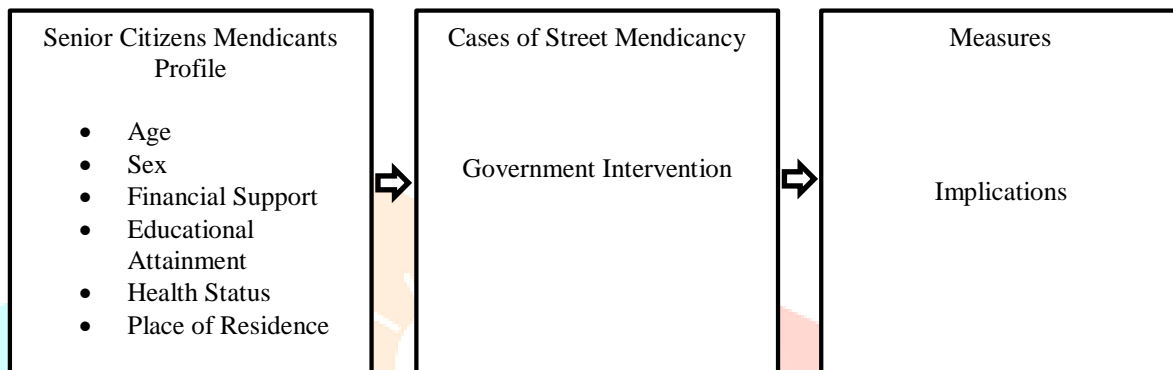


Figure 1. Paradigm of the Study

3.1 Population and Sample

In qualitative research, purposeful sampling is commonly used for case identification and selection in order to provide information-rich cases related to the subject of interest. Purposive sampling is utilized in the study upon identifying the respondents. This type of technique is commonly used in qualitative research to identify and select information in order to make the best use of limited resources. This entails locating and selecting individuals or groups of individuals who are particularly knowledgeable about or experienced with a phenomenon of interest. In addition to knowledge and experience, the importance of availability and willingness to participate, and the ability to communicate experiences and opinions in an articulate, expressive, and reflective manner. (Palinkas et al., 2016). In this case, the participants of the study were twenty (30) senior citizens engaged in street mendicancy in Tarlac City.

The interviewed population of this research are twenty (30) senior citizens engaged in street mendicancy. The data of the senior citizens are gathered through field survey and the criteria to select participants for interview and observation were age 60 years and above; those who senior citizens residing in Tarlac City.

3.2 Data and Sources of Data

By means of data collection method, the researcher has utilized a direct interview, documentary analysis and observation as the instrument to conduct the study.

Interview Guide. Understanding about the subject matter is acquired through direct association with the participants by direct face to face communication, visiting their day-to-day activities where they reside and wander in the City of Tarlac and listening to their life narrative in a way that fits the study objective. This was conducted in the natural setting in attempt to make sense or describe phenomena based on the stories of participants.

Documentary Analysis. This is a methodical approach in reviewing or evaluating documents that can be used to provide context, generate questions, supplement other types of research data, track changes over time, and validate other sources (Dalglish et al., 2020). The researcher requested for the existing documents about the programs and projects of the City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) designed for the senior citizens engaged in street mendicancy in Tarlac City where the programs and assistance designed for them were obtained through the direct interview of the researcher in the CSWD office.

Observation. Observational data was made and a picture about the present scenario of the current issues and situation regarding the street mendicancy among senior citizens which served to provide a framework for evaluation and analysis of the research.

3.3 Ethical Consideration

Data collection is done through verbal informed consent, voluntary participation, and privacy protection with the research participants to assure the study's ethical nature. All the participants interviewed are 60 years of age or older. Each participant has received information on the study's purpose, potential advantages, risk, and withdrawal options. All participants are also asked for their oral consent and will be aware that the information acquired will be used with utmost consent and confidentiality and would only be used for academic purposes.

3.4 Statistical Tools and Instruments

This section elaborates the proper statistical/econometric/financial models which are being used to forward the study from data towards inferences. The detail of methodology is given as follows.

3.4.1 Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics were used to process the data obtained from the data collection procedures and respond to the objectives' statement of the study. Thus, the demographic information of senior citizens was analyzed and summarized using frequency count, percentage distribution, and rank.

3.4.2 Frequency Count. Making a frequency distribution is the most practical way to arrange data. Bluman (2013) defines a frequency distribution as the arrangement of unstructured data in a table using classes and frequencies.

3.4.2.1 Percentage Distribution. A percentage frequency distribution is a type of data visualization that shows the percentage of observations for each data point or grouping of data points. It's a great way to express the relative frequency of survey responses and other data points. Percentage frequency distributions are frequently represented as tables, bar graphs, or pie charts. (Shapiro, 2015)

The formula for the computation of percentage distribution is:

% = $r/b \times 100$, where:

% = Percentage

r = Number of cases in the group

b = Total number of cases in the population

3.4.2.2 Rank. This is a type of data transformation in which numerical or ordinal values are replaced by their rank when data is sorted.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Profile of the Senior Citizen Mendicants

Thirty (30) senior citizens involved in street mendicancy were interviewed to present the profile of the respondents and their life narratives and challenges in their day to day begging activities. For confidentiality purposes, the interviewee names were not included. The information and tables below, shows the characterization of the senior citizens mendicants. This includes their age, gender, financial support, educational attainment, health conditions and place of residence.

1.1 Age of the Cases

The cases were grouped into four age brackets. One group consisted of 60-69 years old; another were 70-79 years old; 80-89 years old and those who were more than 90 years of age.

Table 1
Description of the Cases as to their Age

Age	<i>f</i>	%
60-69	12	40.0%
70-79	4	13.3%
80-89	9	30.0%
90 & above	5	16.7%
TOTAL	30	100

The ages of the cases were clearly shown in Table 1. It is indicated that twelve or 40.0% were comprised of 60-69 years old; four or 13.3% belongs to 70-79 years of age; nine or 30.0% from the age bracket of 80-89 years old; and five or 16.7% belongs to 90 and above years old. This means that most of the respondents from age 60-69 years old represents the highest percentage of the population of senior citizens involved in street mendicancy. Furthermore, in United States, Country of Montana is a home to one of the oldest populations in the US. According to a recent survey conducted on Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults 2022, people in their 60s have become the second-largest age group served in shelters, with approximately 44% struggling with housing in the previous year. It also stated that people in their 80s and 90s had nowhere to go and that the shelter had to turn some of them away because it was not designed to meet their needs.

1.2 Sex of the Cases

Sex was also included in the profile variables. The senior citizen street mendicants cases were grouped as males and females. Data are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Table 2
Description of the Cases as to their Sex

Sex	<i>f</i>	%
Male	18	60%
Female	12	40%
TOTAL	30	100.0%

As observed in the Table 2, eighteen or 60% belonged to the male sex while twelve or 40% comprises the female gender. This indicates that the male population of street mendicancy is greater than the female population. In addition, based on the findings of Singh (2020) a gender study reveals that, in contrast to rural areas, begging is a male-dominated activity in urban areas. It also demonstrates that male begging prevalence is generally higher than female prevalence, not only at the national level but also across almost all countries.

1.3 Financial Support of the Senior Citizen Mendicants

The cases were classified into four categories according to the financial support that they receive, these categories were determined based on the interviews done with the participants. This was made to determine as to what kind of support that they receive. This includes support from children, family members, government. This is shown in the table below.

Table 3
Description of the Cases as to their Financial Support

Financial Support	<i>f</i>	%
Children	2	6.7%
Family Members	2	6.7%
Government	5	16.7%
Nobody	21	70.0%
TOTAL	30	100.0%

Table 3 shows the frequency and percentage of the financial support that they have. It reflects that 21 or 70% belonged to the number of senior citizens mendicants without any financial support from the three categories indicated in the table above which has the highest percentage. Five or 16.7% were the ones who received government support such as cash assistance. 6.7% bracket represents the two senior citizens receiving support from their children and family members. Majority of elderly mendicants who were interviewed said that the deaths of their parents, spouses, breadwinners, as well as the absence of support providers and their health condition were some of the factors that pushed them to street life. Additionally, findings from the study on Senior homelessness: A Needs Assessment (2021) in California, many older adults become homeless because they lack an economic safety net. They experience catastrophic events with desperate financial consequences and may resort to actions that seriously affect their health and safety in order to make ends meet. Insufficient retirement income, a lack of social and financial safety nets, unaffordable housing, inability to continue working due to poor health or perceived ageism, a crisis such as job loss, illness, or death of a spouse are all causes of financial distress.

1.4 Educational Attainment of the Senior Citizen Mendicants

The senior citizens level of education was categorized into four groups. High School, elementary, preparatory and no formal education at all.

Table 4
Description of the Cases as to their Educational Attainment

Education	<i>f</i>	%
High School	2	6.7%
Elementary	10	33.3%
Preparatory	5	16.7%
None	13	43.3%
TOTAL	30	100.0%

Another demographic piece of data shows that most mendicants only completed primary school, and some of them did not even complete their primary education. Table 4 shows the education level of mendicants in the City of Tarlac. The education achievement of the senior citizen mendicants shows that 43.3% represents the thirteen respondents who didn't receive any formal education; ten or 33.3% have reached but not finished elementary education, while two or 6.7% out of 30 respondents graduated from elementary and attended high school but not finished the curriculum. Based on the United Nations, World Social Report in 2020, it indicated that the low levels of education can be attributed to high level of poverty, and it is the root cause of elderly on the begging activities. Because of this, social inequality is a result of the unfavorable effects of social and economic development. Furthermore, poverty is a factor that will encourage people to beg. Every person and every member of a family needs enough money to get by or to live comfortably, which includes being able to pay for things like food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, education,

childcare, and child welfare. Families that are below the poverty line are unable to provide for their needs. Poverty is the main reason older people choose to live a life of begging among the factors that drive people to do so.

1.5 Place of Residence

The table 4 indicates the spot or streets where the senior citizen mendicants usually reside or begs according to the location they mentioned as well as to where the researcher interviewed the participants. Six brackets are indicated in the table below.

Table 5
Description of the Cases as to Place of Residence

Place of Residence	<i>f</i>	%
San Isidro	8	26.7%
F. Tañedo	9	30.0%
San Vicente	4	13.3%
San Roque	2	6.7%
Paraiso	3	10.0%
San Miguel	4	13.3
TOTAL	30	100.0%

All the above-mentioned senior citizen respondents took part in the interview; they are living in various neighborhoods and streets throughout Tarlac City. The highest percentage of respondents, nine or 30% live in various businesses located throughout the streets of F. Tañedo; and eight or 26.7%, were found in San Isidro, while four others, or 13.3%, belonged to other categories. Some participants were sleeping in streets with their push carts and bicycle, some others were living under the bridge of San Isidro. Similarly, findings on Asia Pacific, Faces of Homelessness in 2017 states that, families on the street spend most of their time and earn their livelihood on the street, they return to their home communities on a regular basis. They usually move around the city in a multipurpose *kariton* or a pushcart on which they keep their belongings, transport items needed to earn a living, and sleep. Some of these families form a community and choose a regular place to stay the night.

1.6 Health Conditions of the Mendicants

Being exposed to different health problems is one of the major challenges of elder beggars as the researcher understood from the study and upon conducting the interview. The respondents explained that they are exposed to different health problems. During the interview, they explained as their age increases their capacity also decrease the prevention of disease and they are subjected to different illnesses and their health condition worsens in relation to their begging lives. On the other hand, the cold weather condition in streets caused muscle weakness, joint pain, pain on their bone, caused for lack of feeling and problem of walking. In addition to this, many of the interviewed senior citizen mendicants explained that they repeatedly faced health related problems and they are affected by diseases and disabilities which need long term medical care and treatment. But many of them explained that they couldn't get treatment for these health problems due to lack of money to go to hospital for consultation and check-up. Concerning health checkup, majority of them they were not checked their health condition, lack of follow-ups and checking's of health situation of elder beggars to be the most determinant factors that upset the poor health conditions. Not only financial constraints but also individual caregiver also constrained, and the medicine cost is not affordable for them.

According to their story, they had faced difficulties to do and lead their lives due to this. Furthermore, one can notice that lack of health is one problem of elder beggars that forced them to beg. Based on the observation during the data gathering, that the elder beggars eat without washing their hands and their foods are from the leftover trash in the streets and they don't even have pure water to drink, for hygiene, and some of them are even share sleeping places, their environment has bad smell, and these things bring about different diseases and aggravate their health to be challenged. On top of that, they explained that they frequently faced physical injuries. Some of them had even no shoes to cover the feet and walk on bare foot. Hence, there is a situation when sharp materials such as rust metals and broken glasses penetrate their feet while walking or begging. These injuries mostly experienced those elder beggars who have full and partial sight problem. Regarding this, the researcher also observed that wound, ulcers and skin allergies on the feet and hands of some interviewed elder beggars, which is an indication of the exposure to such condition.

The health problems such as sickness, disease, disability, and impairment are fundamental reasons for begging explained during the interview. As presented in their life narrative, those participants had different health problems, like sight defect, difficulty walking, blindness, partial hearing impairment, joint problems, and occasional body shaking, problems of hypertension, severe headache, diabetes, heart attack, and depression. They explained that these physical and health problems worsened their lives resulting in an increase their vulnerability to begging.

Table 6
Description of the Cases as to their Health Condition

Health Condition	<i>f</i>	%
Eyesight Problem	10	33.3%
Problem of Walking	9	30%
Disability	5	16.7%
Body pain and body shaking	4	13.3%
Hearing impairment	2	6.7%
TOTAL	30	100.0%

As indicated in the table above, several health conditions are the major challenges of the thirty (30) senior citizen mendicants. Where 33.3% are experiencing eyesight problems, 30% are having difficulties with their overall physical well-being and 13.3% includes body pain and body shaking due to their age and two of the senior citizens have hearing impairment.

2. Life narrative of Senior Citizen Mendicants

Below is the summarized interview in the form of narratives based on participants' experiences and reasons behind their mendicancy lives. The analysis subject demonstrates the reasons behind neglect and elderly experiences in their old age life in the street. Thus, to fulfil the ethical standards of the study, the participants name is not included throughout the narrative analysis.

Case 1. DPWH Employee

This 85 years old senior citizen is from Paraiso, Tarlac City with five children and they are originally from Visayas Region. He worked different jobs during his early years to make a living and to support his family. He only completed his education until his second year in high school and started working as a farmer to be able to help his parents for their basic needs. Back in his early years, he started working as a farmer, construction worker, jeepney driver and a contractor worker under the Department of Public Works and Highways with the help of his engineer friend.

He left his family in Visayas to work in Manila because of several problems that he had and because of the pending case in court that almost ruined his life. According to him, he can't be able to work in their hometown due to what happened and because there are a lot of opportunity in Manila, so he decided to leave and grab the opportunity offered to him to better sustain the education of his children, and it is a big opportunity that his engineer friend gave him. Later, due to certain situations, he lost contact with his family and because of the sudden death of his friend, his contract as a construction worker ended and so he decided to work as a jeepney driver.

He started working as a jeepney driver in Tarlac for almost twenty years and it all started when his friend from one of the construction sites he worked invited him. Not long after, he started having problems with his eyesight and due to this he can no longer drive and because of financial difficulties and without much savings he didn't have a chance to consult a doctor. He tried reaching his family but to his surprise, his wife is already living with someone else. Due to what happened for the past years, his health condition weakened because of old age, and he started begging for money, asking people for food and clothes for his everyday needs. He also collects food in streets to save it for later. He wanders from places to places with his bicycle and without a home to go to, he sleeps in every corner of the establishments to spend the night. He said, begging for money and living his life in the streets is the only way he can think of to survive, and he's been living like this for fifteen years. When I asked for his family, he gave up and decided to stay in Tarlac because in his mind, he doesn't have any place to go in his hometown in Visayas, he doesn't want to be a burden to his children. The only dream that he had is for his children to finish their education and nothing else.

Case 2. Old Bachelor

This old bachelor is 64 years old who is the son of a farmer. His both parents are farmers who lived in San Isidro, Tarlac City. He is the eldest among his four siblings. They are living a poor life and due to this he never got the chance to attend school but instead, he helps his parents in farming as he is the eldest son and at an early age, he had a big responsibility ahead in supporting his family.

At the age of seventeen, he started working in construction sites to have a better income and to better sustain the needs of his siblings in their education as well as the maintenance medicine of his parents due to cancer. Because according to him, his life got even harder due to the condition of his parents resulting in setting aside his dream of going to school and without anyone to support his family due to his parent's condition, he started working multiple jobs in construction sites and he's also driver of delivery trucks. Not long after, he lost his parents due to weakness because of their health conditions. Due to this, he became a bread winner of their family. He served as a guardian for his four siblings just so he can support them in their education.

He started begging during the pandemic and stopped working as a tricycle driver due to his eyesight problem cause of ageing. Without anyone to support him, he started begging to sustain his daily needs. According to him, the pandemic and his health circumstances are the reasons that led him to street begging. He would always sit at the overpass of the SM City Tarlac in which there are a lot of passersby so people would notice him. Given that the area is one of the populated in the city. Even though he is involved in this kind of activity, he considers this as a job for him to earn money and with the help of his friend whom a tricycle driver, he shared with him a little space from their home so he can have a place to go and spend the night.

Case 3. Blind Man

A senior citizen aged 74 years old who is blind since he was 7 years old. He is from Sto. Niño, Tarlac City. His parents were farmers and due to his condition, he didn't have a chance to attend school and his parents took care for him because of his health condition until they passed away due to ageing. He has a daughter who resides in Pangasinan, and his wife died early after giving birth and his daughter is the one supporting him and would sometimes visit him when she got the chance and enough money.

His daughter is working at a clothing shop in one of the urban areas of Pangasinan. She is fifteen years old and other than working in a clothing shop, his daughter also works part time in a mini grocery store near also in the shop where she works. Moreover, the support from his daughter is not enough to sustain his everyday needs and he can't be able to fully depend in his daughter so he started begging for money in the streets while playing a guitar so people would notice him. He would always wander in different streets of San Vicente Tarlac with the help of the people around him and the tricycle drivers who help him transport to places he wished to go where there are populated areas of the city and since he is differently abled, all he could do was play a guitar so people would notice and give him money and food during the day and according to him, he do have a place in Sto. Nino, Tarlac where it is a small and vacant lot surrounded by kariton and woods.

He is a mendicant for half of his life, and he doesn't have anyone other than his daughter to support him but during the pandemic, his friends helped him to avail the government services such as cash assistance and he wishes that the government should create a program or project that are designed to help those people who also lives in the street and has the same condition as him.

Case 4. Orphaned

This 85 years old senior citizen from San Isidro, Tarlac City. According to her, since she was 7 years old, she is already homeless. She only remembers that she didn't know who her parents were and there is only one person who helped her back in the day, a woman whom she calls aunt. Her aunt somehow adopted her, but they spent their life on the streets where begging is their source of income to fulfill their daily needs. They often wander in the city to beg for food and money.

Being accustomed to street life, she decided not to marry because according to her, her life is hard enough and having a family is not an option for her and because she didn't receive any formal education, she is afraid that what happened to her will also be the same for her children. Aside from being a mendicant, when she was eighteen years old, she tried to find a work where she

can earn money and to be able to increase her source of income. So, she started first as a dishwasher and an assistant in a small canteen in F. Tañedo street since she grew up in the area, there are some people who are nice to her. She also accepted a job as a bathroom cleaner in one of the bus terminals in the city and during the weekend, she accepts laundry clothes for handwash for extra income.

During the pandemic, life became unbearable for her because given her poor situation, it worsened due to the crisis, and she was also having difficulty doing physical activity because she quickly gets tired due to ageing. She wants to consult a doctor, but her situation doesn't allow her given she don't have any in her pocket. She wants to ask help in the government, but she is afraid that they wouldn't help her as she also lacks the knowledge on how to avail these services given that she is illiterate for the reason of receiving no formal education.

Case 5. Barangay Officer

This 76-year-old participant is from San Roque, Tarlac City. His parents were farmer and has five siblings. During his early years, he also helps his parents in farming when there is no class. He attended elementary school until grade five and he didn't pursue higher education due to financial difficulties and poor situation. He married at the age of twenty-five and had three children and his wife passed away at the age of fifty-eight due to diabetes. He served in the government as barangay officer for ten years as their source of income to sustain the medicine of his wife and for their daily needs.

He started begging when he reached the age of seventy due to his inability to work because of eyesight problem and this is the only way that he thinks would help him earn money to buy basic needs and medicine for himself. His children can't fully support him because of their poor situation as well as they did not finish high school and started building their own family thinking that they can escape their poor life. After serving the government as a barangay officer for ten years, he worked as a tricycle driver and a farmer in their barangay so he could still earn money to support his family.

He said that ageing is one of the challenges that he had to face because compare to his early years, he can still be able to fulfill his duty as a father and earning money is easier because he can work with his physical strength and abilities but with his condition, the only way he can think of is to beg money in the streets so he will not be a burden to his children. Because his weakened joints and eyesight problem and given his age, he couldn't think of any way to support himself other than engaging in street activities.

Case 6. Metal Factory Worker

The respondent is 87 years old senior citizen, unmarried, from San Isidro, Tarlac City. His father is a construction worker, and his mother is a vendor every weekend in the public market and a housewife attending to his seven siblings, and he is the second eldest in the family. He graduated elementary school and pursued high school education only until his first year because of his mother suddenly became ill due to joint problems from overworking. He had to support his family as a means of leaving school and decided to work, so he was hired at a hardware store in his early years as assistant and a delivery driver of construction materials. Also, he spent his youth working in different construction sites as his source of income with the help of his father.

According to him, working as a labor is not permanent. There are days when the contract is done, he has no other means of earning money. So, his friend helped him to secure a job in a factory in Manila where they supply metal materials in different regions of the country. At the age of thirty-eight, he had an accident in the factory where he works resulting him to lose his right leg, preventing him to work physically. Due to a non-stop support for his siblings and parents, he didn't have a chance to build his own family. After the accident, he goes back in his hometown Tarlac with his family taking care of him.

After his parents died years later, his other siblings are taking care of him attending to his needs until he reached the age of sixty-five, where his siblings can no longer care for him because they are struggling too with their own family and it's a lot of work given his disability, though they are supporting him a little for his basic needs, it is still not enough and is not a consistent help. Due to this, he started taking care of himself as a means of begging and living in the streets for twenty years now. During the interview, he mentioned that sometimes he is struggling to remember due to his age and without anyone to look after him, he continues to ask other people for money and food so he could still eat every day. Even though he wants to ask for the government assistance, he doesn't have anyone to assist him.

Case 7. A Family under the San Isidro Bridge

This respondent is 62 years old, from San Isidro, Tarlac City. She lives under the San Isidro bridge with his family. According to her story, the life she is in right now is very different from when she was young because she could still go to school but only until elementary, and they have a home of their own and their life is simple yet perfect for her. Her parents are both working as a vegetable seller in the public market and their home is not far from the city. Years ago, their home is one of the demolished properties in Tarlac due to the problems in the landowner. That time, she already has a family of her own since she married at a young age. Seven children and a husband who is a drug user. Since her parents' income can no longer support their needs, they started begging and living on the street leaving both her parents so that they can no longer be a burden to them since her parents are also old and their income in selling vegetables aren't sufficient to provide for all of them and one of the problems that her parents faced is their body's weakness due to aging.

Her husband is in jail due to drug abuse. Since then, she has no choice but to earn money in all the ways she can think of. She attended school but can't be able to finish elementary because at a young age, she supported her parents in the market. Due to her background of education, she can't find a proper and permanent job to sustain the needs of her five children and without a home, they build their own shelter under the bridge of San Isidro and started collecting card boxes and bottles with her pushcart while begging for money. Fifteen years as a mendicant in the streets. Back in the day, three of her children is in the care of DSWD for social protection and for them to have a proper education.

She can't be able to depend to her other children as the three of them left their hometown until she lost contact with them. Her two eldest children are still living under her care, and they have no work, and they still depend on her nowadays. According to her, it is sad that their life never got better, the dream of believing in her children is far from what happened to her family.

Case 8. Bottle Collector

A 68-year-old senior citizen, unmarried, from San Isidro, Tarlac City. His parents passed away at an early age due to heart disease and stroke and he is left with the responsibility of taking care of his two siblings to survive every day and his parents didn't leave them any financial support as they were unemployed back then. He completed school only until preparatory because of the poor situation that they are living and as he grew older, he must look for a way to earn an income for him to support his siblings as the eldest. They allowed them to live under the care of their grandparents so they could still have a home.

He started working several part times jobs for them to survive after their parents passed away. He worked in a burger shop in the city every weekday to be able to send his two siblings in elementary school so they could one day be able to support themselves as they grow older. During the weekend, he would look for another source of income as a helper in the public market where he earns a little but enough to buy food and other basic needs. Given his hard work to earn money, is not enough to further support his siblings in their education in high school as he is the only one supporting them.

According to his story, life is not easy for them, as much as he wants to support the education of his siblings, the effort and money that he earns every day is merely enough for them to survive. Not long after, they had to move-out in their grandparent's house after they passed away because their relatives sold their home to cover the debt and other expenses of their grandparents and it is the only inheritance their grandparents left with their children. Due to this, his sibling started to live on the streets, and he started also collecting bottles from the different houses to sell them so they could earn. People would always help them by giving food and coins and it became their routine to beg money in different places where there are crowd of people. They are beggars and a bottle collector for almost half their lives. They have no one to support them but themselves even though he's having severe headache sometimes that he can't afford for him to consult a doctor because of their poor situation.

Case 9. Half Paralyzed Man

61 years old, San Vicente, Tarlac City. Eldest in the family and his sister is the only person that he's with since their parents passed away early. At the age of ten, half of his body is paralyzed resulting in limited physical activity. He didn't even know what condition it was because during those times his parents are struggling to earn money and because of their life situation and his health condition, they didn't afford to support his education as well.

Even though he is differently abled person, he also tried working to earn money such as selling vegetables and helping his parents in farming. Not long after, he started collecting garbage materials such as bottles, can, metals, boxes, and such in exchange for money to buy food and other basic needs. Due to his life struggles, he decided not to build a family of his own for the fear of passing down the poverty.

As a part of the household of his sister, he continued begging in the street for food and money as well as collecting recyclable materials in order to not be a burden to the family of his sister. He never dreamed of anything but for his condition to be better as well as for his sister. He's been a street beggar for ten years and even though he sometimes experiences bullying from other people because of his condition and physical appearance, he continues to do it because that's the only way he knows to still earn money.

Case 10. Limb loss

This is a 63-year-old senior citizen who is a differently abled from San Vicente, Tarlac City. Her left leg is amputated since she was six years old due to accident. She only completed preparatory school and didn't continue due to her being disabled. Her parents are both working as a farmer back in the day. Due to a health disease, her parents both died early due to cancer because they couldn't afford treatment. She started begging in the streets because she doesn't have anyone to support her as she is the only child and given her disability, she can't be able to work normally, she started begging in the street so she could feed herself. Her place of spot is along the streets of F. Tañedo and she usually lay down in the city Cathedral where it is one of the crowded area in Tarlac. When asked about her relatives, she said she didn't know them because her father is originally from Mindanao and her mother is from Manila.

According to her, without much knowledge and as a mendicant for almost her life, she didn't receive any assistance from the government that can help her also because no one would help her to avail the programs of the government.

Case 11. The Maid

A 94-year-old mendicant from Central, San Miguel Tarlac City. A daughter of Hacienda Luisita farmer and she has nine siblings. She is the eldest and when she was ten years old, her mother gave her to her aunt so she can have a proper education because according to her mother, her aunt is kind of well-off in life and this decision made by her parents was for her own good. But her experienced is far from what her parents told her.

Her aunt didn't send her to school, instead she forced her to do house chores and laundry in their home in exchange for a little money for their family. Because a family with nine children is hard for her parents to support them in their daily needs and even their education. The same thing happened to her when she married at the age of twenty-four and she has ten children. According to her, since she didn't experience attending school, majority of her children didn't also receive proper education and all of them didn't even finish high school due to their financial struggle. She mentioned that her children inherited it from her because her married life is an escape from the life that she experienced with her aunt and still they couldn't afford to send all her children to school. Her children started to build their own family, some of her daughters had early pregnancies resulting for her to continue earning for money and started to work as a maid in the city.

Her husband on the other hand is also a farmer in Hacienda and at the age fifty, he became ill, and his health condition worsened due to goiter and prostate cancer. That's the time when she started begging for money to sustain the needs of their family because her husband incapacity to work. She started asking for help and cash so she can send her husband in the hospital but years later, her husband passed away. She continued begging for money in the street so she can also support her grandchildren.

Case 12. Street Sweeper

The respondent is 94 years old, with two children, from Carangian, Tarlac City. He was a farmer during his early years as well as his parents. He is the youngest in his four siblings and their life can be considered as simple with their parents supporting them. He obtained elementary education but didn't pursue any higher education due to the sickness of their parents, so he decided to work at an early age as an assistant of the carpenter in their neighborhood.

According to him, this way of living is helping him get through every day and for him it is enough because he can give his parents the support that they need for everyday with the help of his siblings. He married at the age of twenty-nine, but his wife left him with their two kids because of their poor situation. At the age of forty-five, he started collecting recyclables items while begging for money to better sustain the education of his two daughters and sometimes work as a street sweeper for additional income. He also collects garbage the different neighborhood in the city riding his bicycle in exchange for a little payment so he can still provide for their needs.

He is experiencing weakness due to aging, but he doesn't have any choice but to continue begging for money and collecting materials in the streets that he can sell just to earn money to support himself even though his two daughters are supporting him, it is not consistent and not enough for their needs especially her two daughters have her own family to feed. He's been a street

mendicant and a garbage collector for half of his life. As much as he wants to depend on his daughters, he doesn't want to be a burden to them because they have a poor life too.

Case 13. Carwash Boy

The respondent is 94 years old, unmarried from San Isidro Tarlac City. His parents were both sidewalk vendors selling different kinds of street foods. Their source of income was enough to support him and his five siblings in their education. He attended school and finished until elementary education and worked early in helping his parents in their source of income because his mother was diagnosed in tuberculosis, and they need money to sustain her medicine and treatment. But during those times, selling street foods is merely enough for their basic needs. So, he decided to beg money in the street at a young age while also working as a carwash boy in the city. He earns a little by doing all these things and at the age of nineteen, he started looking for different source of income such as doing labor work. He worked as a carwash boy and a construction worker for fifteen years to be able to support his family and after his mother passed away due to the disease, his father also became ill with the same condition as his mother.

Thirty years as a street beggar and the reason behind it was, after his father passed away, he doesn't have anyone to take care and support him. He's been living as a mendicant for thirty years and he often wanders in F. Tanedo streets.

Case 14. Ice seller

The respondent is 60 years old, from San Nicolas, Tarlac City. His parents are both farmers and passed away when he was eleven years old due to diabetes and heart attack. He only finished preparatory school because they didn't afford for their education as they are trying to survive every day.

During his teen years, he works at a junkshop as an assistant and a delivery boy in the public market. He also sells a bulk of ice in the city back in the day. His life turned to begging when the pandemic hit and due to lockdown and quarantine restrictions, he lost all his source of income. He started begging in the streets and asking people to give him any part time job, but no one wants to hire him as they are also struggling financially due to pandemic. Nowadays, he collects garbage in different streets in the city while asking for money and food to support himself. He also wanders in the neighborhoods to collect the garbage in exchange for money.

He also mentioned that if he wouldn't work, no way he can be able to survive and sustain the needs of his wife and five children. He can't just wait for the support of the other people because it is not enough to feed his family even the government cash assistance is not reaching them.

Case 15. Call boy in Jeep Terminal

The respondent is 64 years old, from San Nicolas, Tarlac City. He is an orphaned and there is a man who adopted him since he was five years old. Because according to him, that man "uncle" saw him in the terminal and decided to adopt him.

He didn't go to school but instead, he always tags along while his uncle while he works in the terminal of jeep in the city. Later, he grew up in the terminal and works as a call boy and a jeepney driver to earn money for the both of them. At the age of 22, he got married and has 5 children which they didn't go to school either due to their financial difficulties. He also started begging for money when pandemic came and due to the restrictions of the lockdown, he lost his source of income and started selling recyclable materials such as bottles that he picked up in the streets.

He considered that life in the street is like having a permanent job. Even though it is not pleasant to look at, he has to do it because this is the way that he can earn money. Three of his children is still living with him in the shelter near the terminal in the public market and he still provides for them because he already has a grandkids where he needs to sustain.

Case 16. Junkshop Worker

The respondent is 60 years old from Paraiso, Tarlac City. His parents are farmer in Masbate City. He started living in Tarlac City when he was eight years old when his uncle decided to take care of him so he could study. He finished elementary school but didn't pursue high school due to lack of funds to support his education because his uncle got married and must support his 2 children.

He started working as a janitor of the school near their residence and serve there for fifteen years while working at a vulcanizing shop as assistant to earn extra money to support himself and his uncle for their daily needs. Also, at the age of 25 he got married and has two son who he still supported nowadays. His goal is for his children to finish college degree that's why he's still working different ways to earn money. When the pandemic and there came the lockdown and restrictions, he lost his job and started wandering the streets in search for materials and can be sell in the junkshop while asking people for some money to continue supporting his two sons in their education.

Even though he has health concerns in his body, he kept on ignoring it because according to him, being a burden and inheriting the responsibilities of being a father to his sons is not an option for him. He also tried asking for the government support but none of the programs in their barangay are fit for him to be eligible to avail. Still, he continues asking for the help of other people in order to have money to support his family and to be able to have a consultation with the doctor regarding his health condition.

Case 17. Widowed

The respondent is 69 years old, from Paraiso, Tarlac City. She is a daughter of a tricycle driver and has a mother who washes clothes. She is the third eldest in the family and has eight siblings. Four of them are men and the rest are women. Six of them are married and has a family. She was not able to finish her elementary school and decided to stop studying and work instead to help her mother.

She marries at the age of seventeen and years later, her husband passed away during their ten years together due to cancer. She was left with five children to take care of. She worked in a small canteen in the city as a dishwasher to earn money and she also do laundry for extra income to support their daily needs. During those times, she managed to send her children to school and the two of them obtained their high school education while the three build their own family at a young age and didn't complete their secondary education. Her two daughters had early pregnancies where she had to provide and take care of because they are both left with nothing but a baby to support. With this, she worked extra job to have a better income at least. She worked as a vegetable seller in different neighborhoods in Paraiso and San Miguel so she can have an income while she works as a dishwasher and do laundry at the same time.

Her life in the street started when the pandemic came. She was left with children and a grandchild to support and feed for them to survive while her other children still supporting her, but it wasn't enough for them to buy their food and basic necessities. At the age of sixty-seven, she received a pension from the barangay occasionally and due to her health condition, she decided to continue beg in the street for the reason of not being able to work anymore physically due to her difficulty in walking and her body is also weak because of overworking from the past years providing for her family. She didn't know fully her health condition because she couldn't afford to have a consultation.

Case 18. Cafeteria Helper

This participant is 87 years old, from San Miguel, Tarlac City. Her parents were both working back in the day, her mother as a cook in a small canteen in their barangay while his father is selling different furniture with his friend in the city. She finished elementary school and didn't continue because her parents are working, and she needs to take care of her four siblings while their parents were away.

During her early years, she wants to pursue her education, but they didn't have any money to support her dream. So, her mother allowed her to work in a small canteen where she also works, and her siblings are under the care of their father because he didn't have any job at the time. Her four siblings can be able to attend school but same as her, they didn't also complete their education due to their financial situation. Their income in a small canteen is not enough to provide for them as her father is also unemployed and has a difficulty finding a suitable job and permanent source of income.

At the age of twenty-three, she had a family of her own. Her husband who is a carpenter and they have five children. Years later, her husband died due to involvement in drug abuse incident. She was left with her five children and a responsibility in helping her parents financially due to their poor situation as well. Her life on the street started when several problems and financial difficulties as the provider for their family pushed her off aside from working different sidelines to be able to earn and according to her, she's been living like that in between her twenty years of life.

Case 19. Factory Tailor

This respondent is 80 years old from San Vicente, Tarlac. She is a daughter of a jeepney driver and a housewife. She has two siblings, and she is the eldest. She did attend school but only obtained elementary. Their life is poor as well, so she didn't continue her education in high school. His father is still supporting his parents financially from his income as a jeepney driver while her mother sometimes helps her friend sell vegetables around their neighborhood so she can earn as well.

According to her, her life with his parents is simple. Not until she got pregnant at an early age. Due to her early pregnancy, she decided to keep her child even without support. At the time, she is still under the care of his parents and one of her friends offered her a job as a tailor in Manila. She accepted the opportunity because she has a responsibility to sustain her baby and her parents. She worked in Manila for five years and came back to her hometown to take care of her daughter and due to the health condition of her mother, she can no longer care for her child. She started again to look for another source of income to help her father support their family. Not long after, her father also stopped working because of the accident. She was left with the responsibility in sustaining the needs of her family. She continued to work as a tailor in the city, but the income is not enough for them to buy food.

While working, she started begging in the street. Asking for money to provide for her family and to buy medicine for her parents. Nowadays, due to her age, she continued to beg in the street, and she usually travels from the city and in Capas Tarlac so she can earn a little to support herself because she doesn't have anyone, and her daughter is in abroad and they lost contact with each other. If she didn't look a way to earn an income, no one would sustain her needs.

Case 20. Fruit Seller

The respondent is 83 years old from F. Tañedo Street. His father is the only one who raised him, and he never met his mother. His father runs a small vulcanizing shop, and they are living with his father's parents and with their help, he can be able to study primary education. He attended high school but only until first year because they can no longer support him due to financial problems because his grandparents are in a bad state due to their health condition and his father's income in the shop wasn't enough to support their needs as he must provide for the treatment and medicine of his parents. During that time, he helps working in the shop while his father is working as a part time jeepney driver.

Seeing his father struggling earning an income, at the age of fifteen he started working as a fruit seller in the city's public market. He sells a basket of fruits by travelling the streets of F. Tañedo so the owner would give him some money. Over the time, he started to learn the ways in their vulcanizing shop while selling fruits from time to time.

He never had a child of his own because he his busy working and taking care of his father as he is the only child. His mendicant life started when his father passed away due to ageing, and he must sell their home to pay for the debt that his father left him. He is begging in the street for fifteen years. He wants to find a job but due to his age, it is hard enough for him, so he decided to live on the street and beg people for money and food.

Case 21. Welder

The respondent is 85 years old. His father is a welder, and his mother is a housewife. He has five siblings, and he is the second eldest among them. He grew up having a very poor life where they struggle to make ends meet because his father's source of income is not enough for them. Due to their situation, he never had the chance to go to school even though he wanted to. He decided to find a work in a farm to help with their daily needs.

At the age of fifteen, his father taught him his skills as a welder and with this, he was able to secure a job in the construction sites in the city. He also experienced working in Manila as a welder and he managed to help his family financially and he was able to send his siblings to have a primary education. Years later, he had a family of his own and two kids but after some time, his wife left him and his two kids because of his addiction in alcohol and drugs. He managed to work in construction sites even though his family left him because of the urge to earn money due to his addiction.

According to him, he started begging in the streets during the pandemic and he never got the chance to see his two children and he totally lost contact with them. He is experiencing joint problems and his eyesight is no longer normal compared before due to his ageing. He doesn't have anyone to support him which led him to live on the streets and beg money to feed himself.

Case 22. Laundrywoman

This 77 years old laundry woman is from San Miguel, Tarlac. She is the daughter of a farmer and a housewife. She is the second eldest in the family and has three siblings. Their parents couldn't send her to school because his father's income from farming is not enough for their daily needs and she only obtained preparatory school.

During her younger years, to better support her family she started accepting laundry clothes and worked as a babysitter for extra income to help her parents and siblings. She also sells vegetables around their neighborhood every weekends. At the age of eighteen, she got pregnant, and her husband is a farmer. They have four children, and their life situation is the same as what she experienced during her childhood years. They also couldn't be able to send their children in school because of their financial status and due to the responsibility of helping her parents because they are still living under their care. Their life is far from comfortable because she also experienced problems with her husband due to alcohol addiction which led to a lung disease which prevented him from working and because of this, she had to be the one to look for an income for their family.

Her life in the street started when she was fifty-five years old because of the pandemic. She didn't have anyone to support her because her children left her and started their life on their own after their father passed away because he couldn't get treatment. She is a mendicant for twenty years and she didn't expect to spend her remaining years homeless without the care of her children and she is trying hard to survive on her own.

Case 23. Carpenter

This respondent is 73 years old from San Isidro, Tarlac. His father is a carpenter and his mother passed away after giving birth to his younger brother. He has one brother and one sister, and he is the eldest among them. His father managed to support his education until grade school, but he couldn't support them fully because his income as a carpenter is only enough to cover their food and other basic needs and his father is still supporting his parents a little with what they have from his income.

At the age of twelve, he started looking for a source of money to support his father. He worked as a dishwasher in a small cafeteria in the city and he also assist his father in carpentry work so he could learn and one day and make it his livelihood as they have a small shop in their house. He wants to continue his education but as the eldest son, he had to support his siblings so they could continue studying. He planned to go back to school when he had enough savings back then, but his father was diagnosed with cancer, and they tried all the possible ways for his father to get treatment by borrowing money and tried to borrow money and sell their house to support the treatment of his father but after several years, he passed away. He was left with nothing but debt and a sibling to support.

Giving all his years taking all the responsibilities, he managed to help his siblings in their education and obtained until high school. He worked as a carpenter for several years and due to aged, he started begging in the street as he doesn't have any family of his own. His siblings still support him as much as they can, but they can't afford to help him in his condition as he was differently abled due to joint disease. His siblings have their own family and also struggling to survive on their own.

Case 24. Housewife

This senior citizen is 80 years old. She is a daughter of a therapist and a construction worker, and they are from San Isidro, Tarlac. She is the second eldest among her six siblings. She only finished primary school and did not pursue high school due to her parents' livelihood can't fully support them. Her younger years was spent working as a babysitter to earn an income while her other siblings are in school. Her eldest brother is also working in different places with their father as a construction worker so they can be able to support their sibling's education and for their daily expenses as well.

At the age of twenty, she got married and her husband is a construction worker and a part time jeepney driver. Her husband is hardworking and fully supported them in their needs and they can be able to send their four children in school but only until primary school because they couldn't afford to send them into high school due to the insufficient income and due to her being a housewife with no source of income because she had to take care their four children especially her youngest is sick and diagnosed with lung disease resulting for the expensive treatment and maintenance which prevents them to further support their children's education in high school.

She started asking people in their neighborhood for money to sustain the hospital treatment of her youngest child. According to her, she continued to beg money in the streets, and she treated it like a job to support her family. Until she reached the old age, and after her husband passed away, her children left her because they can no longer take care of her and support her needs, she started sleeping in the streets of F. Tanedo.

Case 25. Cashier Woman

The 68 years old cashier woman is the daughter of a janitor and a tailor originally from Mindanao and has five siblings. She came here in Tarlac City when she was 6 years old together with her aunt because her aunt married a resident in Tarlac, and they run a small sari-sari store while her uncle is a farmer. They didn't send her to school because according to her aunt they couldn't afford it at the time because her aunt still supported her parents financially due to their age and health conditions.

At the age of seventeen, she worked as a cashier in a small grocery store in San Isidro Tarlac. Even though she didn't receive any education, she has a knowledge in mathematics that's why she secured a job as a cashier with the help of her aunt's friend. She decided to be independent and support herself because she can no longer stay in her aunt's house due to some financial difficulties with their family. At the age of twenty, she got married and her husband is a delivery driver of truck, and they lived together in a small apartment in the city. Since they are both working, they can afford to rent and send their three kids in school. One day, her husband had an accident resulting in a severe injury which requires a lot of money to fully afford his treatment. Due to the accident, her husband was unable to drive, and work which resulted in unemployment. She became a mother and a father at the same time to provide for them.

After several years, they became homeless because she couldn't afford to provide for their expenses because her income from the grocery store wasn't enough and later became unemployed because the store stopped its operation, and she had a hard time looking for a job given that she didn't have any educational background and their hard-earned savings is gone due to the hospital expenses and medicine of his husband from the accident. They created a shelter in the city near the terminal and public market and started collecting recyclable materials that can be sell in exchange for money and food and they are living a mendicant life for almost twenty years.

Case 26. Coconut Vendor

The respondent is 81 years old from Tarlac City. His father is a farmer, and his mother runs a small window vegetable store in their house. They are from barangay San Miguel, Tarlac. He is the eldest among his seven siblings and one of them is sick due to a heart disease. As the eldest, he had to take care of his siblings and help in their household and in their store that resulted in setting aside his dream of attending school and their parents' income wasn't enough to support their education as well because half of it goes to the treatment and medicine of his brother. At the age of fifteen, while taking care of his siblings, he also started to sell coconut juice and vegetables around their neighborhood.

At the age of twenty, he got married and had eight children. To better sustain the needs of his family he started looking for an opportunity to work in Manila. He worked in a factory where he earns just enough for their basic needs. While his family is still living in his parents' house while he is away working because they couldn't afford to rent, and his wife is helping her mother in their mini store, and she continued selling coconut juice around the neighborhood just like what he did for their extra income. They managed to send half of their kids in high school and the other is only until primary school because they have a big family and couldn't fully support their education and half of them started supporting themselves and left their home to find their life.

He started begging due to old age without anyone to take care of him. According to his story, he lost contact with his children after he got sick because they refused to take care of him and due to their financial struggles as well. He sleeps in different streets in Tarlac City and often wanders in F. Tanedo to beg people for food and money.

Case 27. Jeepney driver and a farmer

The participant is 66 years old from Tarlac City. His parents were separated, and his mother and grandparents are the one who took care of him. He attended school until elementary because his mother couldn't afford to support his high school education because his mother has no source of income at the time, and they are still reliant on the care of his grandparents.

At the age of 16, he started working as a part-time farmer to earn a little and help his mother in their financial struggles. Not long after, his mother got an opportunity to work abroad as a domestic helper. Since his mother is the second eldest among her seven siblings, she had to work and find a source of income that could support them. His mother is the breadwinner in their family and decided to work abroad to sustain his needs as well as their family while his father had another family, and he didn't get any support from him.

At the age of eighteen, he got married and had five children, his wife is unemployed same as him and they have no source of income and the only support they have is from his mother. Several years later, his mother got sick, and she had to go home. He then started to work several jobs so he could support his children as well as his mother. He goes back to farming and not long after he started to work as a jeepney driver. He started begging in the street because his wife was diagnosed with cancer and because he doesn't have any source of income to sustain the needs of his family and he had to support his mother in her medicine. He is a mendicant for twenty years and he became homeless after her wife and mother passed away and because his children have their own family to feed and they neglected him, and he didn't get any support from them.

Case 28. OFW Worker

The participant is 90 years old. His parents are farmer, and they are from San Isidro, Tarlac City. He had nine siblings, and he is the second youngest among them. He didn't have the chance to pursue his education due to their poor situation and his parents doesn't have any means to fully support all of them in their education as their source of livelihood is just enough to cover their daily needs and they are also living with their grandparent's home as they couldn't afford to buy or rent for their own.

He was a construction worker back in his younger years and most of his time he spent it helping his parents in farming. At the age of eighteen, he got married and had seven children and her wife is a vegetable seller in their neighborhood. Their life is the same as the situation he grew up where they are also struggling financially and couldn't also afford to send their children in school. At the age of twenty-seven, he had the opportunity to work abroad as a construction worker with the help of his friend and he worked there for several years, and he managed to send his children until high school until he had an accident resulting in losing his one leg making him disabled and preventing him to work physically. He had to go home at the time which led them to an even more poor situation.

He became a mendicant at the age of seventy-two. According to him, he was neglected because his family can no longer take care of him and it requires a lot of effort to tend to his needs and this all happened when his wife passed away due to weakness and several health problems due to old age.

Case 29. Fisherman

The respondent is 91 years old from Caranguian, Tarlac City. His father is a farmer, and his mother is a housewife. He has eight siblings, and he is the eldest among them. He grew up in Zambales with his grandparents. He managed to attend to school only until elementary education because his grandparents were struggling back then, and they are the ones who support themselves financially and they rely mostly in selling fish products in the market.

His younger years were spent helping his grandparents in their everyday lives such as helping them in selling fish products in the market. He also learned how to ride a boat and earned a living with it with the help of his grandfather. At the age of twenty-four, he got married and had three children and several years after, his grandparents passed away due to old age and health problems, and they had to go back to their parents in Tarlac City so he could provide for his wife and children because they didn't have a home after his grandparents passed away. He continued working in Zambales as a fisherman for several years and continued to sell fish products in the market and he stopped when he had another opportunity for him in Tarlac as a construction worker with the help of his uncle who also works as a manual worker back then.

He is a mendicant for twelve years and according to his story, when he experienced several age problems due to his age that prevented him to work and to provide for his family, his children had a hard time taking care of him and they also couldn't support him any longer for his needs as they are also struggling to support and feed their family and children and their source of income was merely enough for their children's needs.

Case 30. Waitress

The participant is 65 years old, from San Vicente, Tarlac City. She is a daughter of the welder and her mother died in an accident and her father worked hard just for her to pursue elementary school. She didn't have the chance to finish her education due to financial struggle and because her father is the only one who supports her and her six siblings. After her mother passed away, she has no choice but to stop her education because she is the eldest in their family and she needs to take care of her siblings. They are living with her grandmother's house, and she sometimes helps with the chores while her father was away for work.

The same fate happened to her when her husband died in a motor accident, she stood up being the father and mother in the family and had been supporting her five children while they are living under the care of her father. She worked as a laundrywoman in their neighborhood so she could earn even just a little and with the help of her friend, she started working as a dishwasher in a small canteen in the city. And she also worked as a part-time waitress at night where her friend got extra income. Her life continued like that for several years to be able to help his father and sustain the education and daily needs of her children.

She is a mendicant for seven years and she started the street life when she got health problems due to overworking several jobs daily to earn income. She got joint problems, severe headache, eyesight problem and her physical condition is far from her

normal condition before. Her children are supporting her a little but according to her, she doesn't want to be a burden that's why she started and continued begging other people for money.

Synthesis of the cases

In this study, various learning experiences has shared by the senior citizens in which different factors behind street mendicancy were involved. The following are the categories, street mendicants families' ways of livelihood, early life economic status, access to education and years of street begging.

2.1 Street mendicants' families' ways of livelihood. It would be important to start evaluating the members of the homeless family's employment prospects if we are to take into account their potential to one day leave life on the streets. Table 6 provides the descriptive statistics for the main sources of income or livelihood of the heads or their parents. Among the sample, twenty-two or 36.7% are farmers, nineteen or 31.7% do not have any means of living, 11.7% are vendors, while 3.3% are drivers, 6.7% are construction workers. The remaining six or 10% have other forms of livelihood, such as janitor, mechanic, tailor, cook, therapist, and carpenter.

Table 7
Livelihood of Street Mendicants Family Heads

Category	<i>f</i>	%	Rank
Farmer	22	36.7%	1
None	19	31.7%	2
Vendor	7	11.7%	3
Construction	4	6.7%	4
Driver	2	3.3%	5
Janitor, Mechanic, Cook, Carpenter, Tailor, Therapist	6	1.8%	6
TOTAL	60	100%	

To provide a perspective of the current economic situation of senior citizens, the researcher inquired about their early life economic status. Senior citizen mendicants are asked to think about their family whilst they were growing up, from birth to age 16 and assess if their family then was financially well-off, about average, or poor. Table 6.5 shows that twenty-six or majority of the senior citizens represents 86.7% grew up in what they considered poor families, whereas three or 10% grew up in families that were financially just about average; 3.3% grew up in well-off families. No significant gaps across sex and age exist.

Table 7.5
Early Life Economic Status

Category	<i>f</i>	%	Rank
Poor	26	86.7%	1
Average	3	10%	2
Well-off	1	3.3%	3
TOTAL	30	100%	

2.2 Living Conditions. The study participants explained that poor access to housing especially a place to sleep makes them highly worried. Majority of them described during the in-depth interview that they frequently sleep in the streets, under the bridge or under unoccupied houses or lot and some of them still lives with their families and friends but begging on the streets are their very source of livelihood. It is very challenging for elders especially those who don't have anyone to go to but themselves. Table 8 shows the living conditions of the senior citizens mendicants.

Table 9
Living Conditions

Category	<i>f</i>	%	Rank
Streets	17	56.7%	1
Families	10	33.3%	2
Under the bridge	2	6.7%	3
Friends	1	3.3%	4
TOTAL	30	100%	

One of the challenges of the senior citizen mendicants is a housing or finding a place to spend a night or when the weather is not in good condition especially during rainy season. During the interview, the participants described their living conditions whereas seventeen or 56.7% of the participants are wandering different places and streets to find a spot which is good to spend the night, twelve or 33.3% of those are still living with their family's home such as their parents, siblings, and children's home, two or 6.7% of the mendicants created a shelter under the bridge and 3.3% is with the care of his friend. On the other hand, study of

Henwood et al., (2012) stated that the pathway to homelessness lies within the numerous reasons behind the living conditions of the elderly which often are associated with their life experiences such as the difficult circumstances and causes of events, natural disasters, limited ability to perform activities of daily living because of physically disabled condition as well as family breakdown and or the death of a parent are associated with homelessness in earlier parts of the life course.

2.3 Years of Street Begging. Table 9 illustrates the length of years of street mendicancy among senior citizens. The categories are presented in the bracket between above ten years, 5 to 10 years, 3 to 4 years, and 1 to 2 years as indicated below.

Table 10
Years of Street Begging

Category	<i>f</i>	%	Rank
Above 10 years	13	43.3%	1
5-10 years	6	20%	3
3-4 years	4	13.3%	4
1-2 years	7	23.3%	2
TOTAL	30	100%	

As shown in the table 9 above, illustrates the senior citizens years of begging in the streets. Thirteen or 43.3% represents the number of participants who are mendicants for more than 10 years, followed by the homeless for 5 to 10 years or 20%, four or 13.3% were 3 to 4 years; and the homeless for 1 to 2 years represents the participants who are directly affected by the pandemic which pushed them to street mendicancy as one of their sources of income.

3. Government Intervention Initiatives

A growing number of Filipinos are being forced to face the country's aging issue. As a result, the Philippine government has passed laws and implemented programs to provide some social security for seniors, while emphasizing a provision in the 1987 Philippine Constitution that states, "It is the duty of the family to care for its elderly members." The following are the implemented programs to enhance the welfare of the senior citizens especially the less privileged.

A. Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Homeless Street Families

Countries have developed carefully designed programs as part of their response to the countless difficulties associated with homelessness. The Department of Social and Welfare Development (DSWD) in the Philippines launched the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer for Homeless Street Families (MCCT-HSF) pilot program in 2012. The program supports a number of interventions, including but not limited to a conditional cash transfer, with the goal of reducing the number of street families while attending to the children's educational and health needs. The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), which includes the homeless as one of its beneficiaries, will be strengthened by this program. More specifically, it aims to meet important needs like ensuring that children have suitable and long-term homes, school attendance, nutrition, and the street families' typical psycho-social functioning. The Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT) program, which was largely developed under the social protection framework, aims to extend additional social assistance to marginalized sectors not covered by the regular CCT, to provide support against risks and vulnerabilities, and to break the cycle of poverty by getting low-income families into the workforce. The government wants to connect with the poor, especially those who are homeless, through the focused MCCT-HSF. Modified refers to the distinct approach used in selecting the poor, imposing conditions, and presenting benefits and interventions (Kim, 2015). The Family Development Session (FDS) and other service innovations that address the non-shelter dimensions of homelessness are still provided by the program in addition to its distinctive regular CCT features.

B. Sagip Kalinga Project

The project "Sagip-Kalinga" is one of the programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development that aimed to rescue informal dwellers through the provision of balik-probinsya program, counseling, educational assistance, medical or hospital referral, effective parenting, and para-legal training program among others.

C. Social Pension Program for Indigent Senior Citizens

In order to fulfill its duty to safeguard the most vulnerable sector through social protection and for the complete execution of Republic Act No. 9444, the government provides Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens as help towards the elderly. The objective of the program is designed to improve the living conditions of eligible indigent senior citizens, increase their capacity to meet their daily basic and medical needs, reduce the incidence of hunger among indigent senior citizens, as well as to protect the indigent senior citizens from neglect, abuse, or deprivation.

4. Proposed Measures to help improve the welfare of the Senior Citizens Mendicants

1.Enhance the Social Pension Program. The value of the pension, however, remained at P500. But increasing this amount needs to consider the increasing population of senior citizens and the need to ensure that sufficient budget is available to cover the indigent senior citizens. The poorest senior citizens should receive more under the country's monthly social pension for the elderly in order to lift them up from poverty.

2. Increase the utilization of health insurance to match coverage expansion. Another challenge is the need to increase the utilization of health insurance to match coverage expansion. Currently, benefit utilization among Pantawid Pamilya household remains low. This may be due to the lack of awareness of benefits and the inaccessibility of Phil Health-accredited facilities. In addition, high cost of health and medical care can drive the households to reduce their consumption of other basic goods. Out-of-pocket costs still comprise 55.8% of total cost, implying that the support value is low and that the No-Balance Billing policy for indigents has minimal impact. Medicines account for the highest share of OOP among all components of total health expenditures.

3. Programs and projects

Programs and project designed in mitigating the number of senior citizens living in the streets. These programs and projects include the locating the senior citizens in their daily activities in different areas where they usually reside. This however requires the participation of the Local Government Units and the City Social Welfare and Development. For them to better understand the underlying circumstances of the senior citizens. Majority of the participants of this study, they didn't receive a consistent help from the government. 10% of the participants receive only the cash assistance from the pandemic and other than that, they didn't receive any. Even the social pension, only 2% of the participants received such monthly pension P500 from the monthly distribution of this assistance.

Table 11
Proposed Measures to help improve the welfare of the Senior Citizens Mendicants

Objectives	Strategy	People Involved	Expected Output
Enhanced the Social Pension Program	By clearly identifying the needs of the senior citizens based on their feedbacks and health conditions.	Department of Social Welfare and Development	This will increase their ability to access the necessities and health needs in their daily lives.
Increase the utilization of health insurance to match coverage expansion.	In line with the social protection program for the senior citizens, utilization by means of simplifying the access to healthcare services based on the feedback and in line with the suggestions of the community.	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation	Given their situation, access to healthcare through this will be easily availed to help them improve their health condition.
Programs and projects related to building a Nursing home.	By strengthening the social protection programs related to helping the old age group in the country such as building a nursing home in different cities and municipalities to include the mendicants in social protection program especially those who are differently abled persons.	Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Local Government Units	Number of cases of mendicancy among senior citizens is increasing and the need for nursing homes is important to include them in social protection for their welfare where their needs are prioritized and met.

5. Implications of the study to Public Administration

The researcher's main aim in this study is to address the situational problem and issues regarding the life of senior citizens involved in street mendicancy by giving relevant information to provide better knowledge for the future researchers and public administrators.

Accordingly, the implication of the present study is to provide all the information about the demographic profile, challenges, financial support that they have and their health condition as they are prone to different diseases due to ageing. Showing and knowing the different stories about the journey of senior citizen mendicants life on how they got themselves into being involved in street mendicancy and their reasons behind it. This information is important especially to the future researchers to enhanced conduct their study. To the public administrators for instance, this will help them better understand their stories and reasons of senior citizens to make alternative policies that are aimed to avoid their growing number of populations with the most possible advantages. This will also serve as their basis to improve and make better policies for the people in the community and to help them make a prevention policy program which brings about awareness as an individual, for the people and throughout the society. Also, the public administrators should establish a policy for the prevention of the growing number of senior citizens based on their challenges and reasons behind it to meet their needs.

In addition, the study can also be implied to social welfare and development. Social welfare and Development refer to the approach of development in terms of policy and practice that focuses in providing social protection to the vulnerable groups of the society such as the neglected, orphaned, persons with disability and elderly. It seeks to develop a certain program to protect the welfare of every person in the society. Also, promoting based interventions and treatment interventions through trainings and programs intended for the improvement of the welfare of the people especially the vulnerable groups.

V. Summary of Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations

This chapter presents the detailed summary of the findings, conclusion and suggested recommendations based on the data analyzed in the previous chapter. The conclusions drawn were based on the findings, whereas recommendations are based from the conclusions.

Findings

Based on the data gathered, the following findings are revealed:

1. For the ages of the cases, twelve or 40% belongs to 60 – 69 years of age. This means that most of the cases were dominated by individuals in their early years of seniority.
2. Eighteen of the respondents or 60% are from the category of male while female consists of 40%. This means that male begging frequency is higher than of female frequency.
3. For financial support, twenty-one or 70% of the senior citizen mendicants doesn't have anyone in their life to support them, which is the major reason for their involvement in street begging.
4. It was noted that the 43.3% represents the thirteen out of thirty respondents who didn't receive any formal education.
5. As to the place of residence, the highest frequency belongs to those in F. Tañedo streets which is one of the populated areas in the city, with nine or 30% of the total number of respondents.
6. In the health status, the participants health condition is one of their major challenges in their mendicant life. Majority of them are experiencing eyesight problem due to their age.
7. As to the head of family ways of livelihood, among the sample, twenty-two or 36.7% are farmers while nineteen or 31.7% of their parents do not have any means of living.
8. Predominately, 86.7% represents the highest number of respondents who are poor and are living under the poverty line in their early life economic status.
9. As to their living conditions, the participants described their living conditions in which seventeen of the respondents or 56.7% had no place to go and are living in the streets for years.
10. The length of homelessness among the senior citizen mendicants, 43.3% among the thirty respondents represents those who are living on the streets for over ten years of their life.

Conclusions

Based on the findings, the following are the conclusions drawn:

1. Most of the cases were under the age bracket between the first years of their senior life. At this age, the researcher concluded that senior citizens resort to begging when they are neglected, struggling to find a source of income and due to the circumstances of their health conditions such as their disability that hinders them to support themselves as well as their family.
2. Based on the findings, men outnumber women in the homeless population, whereas the researcher concluded that the total number of respondents reveals that men are more likely to use shelter services and are therefore more visible in the displaced population.
3. It is also indicated that without proper financial support for care, the researcher concluded that street mendicancy is often their only options when they reached the old age due to being neglected, health conditions and inability to perform daily activities.
4. No formal education concludes that one of the main challenges of the elderly during their early life is securing a job with no formal education, which leads them to engaged in informal work.
5. In terms of their place of residence, majority of the participants are living in different areas of the cities. Resulted from being an orphan, neglected, poor health condition, disability, and poor financial status.
6. Findings showed that untreated medical conditions, unclean living area, lack of medical items such as glasses and medicines are one of the several reasons behind the worsening health conditions of the senior citizen mendicants.
7. The findings also revealed a significant link between socioeconomic status and begging. This resulted in the conclusion that socioeconomic background has a significant influence on begging.
8. Results show that elderly Filipinos have generally poor overall economic well-being based in their early life economic status. Many senior citizens seem to have been living in poverty over their entire life course, as evident in the high prevalence of those who reported living in poverty in their early life.
9. Poor access to housing resulted from debt, family's death and sickness are the main contributor to their inability to provide home for themselves as well as their family that leads them to starting their life in the streets as they have nowhere to go.
10. Orphaned, neglected, old age, sickness of family member, worsened eyesight, disability, poor early life economic status and financial difficulties revealed that these are the factors that contributed to their almost half of their lives in the street.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions, the following were recommended by the researcher:

1. The government must ensure that people who are disabled or have other special needs should have the opportunity to achieve a standard of living equivalent to their fellow citizens.
2. Elderly care has become a more pressing concern as medical advances and global life expectancy rise. The study suggests that the social protection program should offer elderly people in-home care and long-term assisted care that is tailored to their needs.
3. A policy restrictions to street begging should be enacted by the government and efforts should be put in place to ensure that such policy is implemented and must make sure that these actions are put in place to include the mendicants in the proper nursing homes to include them in the social protection in ensuring their safety and well-being.
4. Poverty alleviation programs in developing countries often involve investment in education. Findings suggests that strengthening the access to education could lessen the population of the senior citizens who turned to begging as their source of income. In which achieving higher education results in better or permanent employment which associated to retirement benefits. In line with international evidence indicates that access to education influences employment and

wages, in which higher educational attainment and employment wage translate into higher household income (McNally, 2013).

5. Nursing homes and rehabilitation centers should be established in every local government area of the country where counsellors can render educational, moral, vocational, emotional, and personal-social services to the rehabilitated street beggars. It is important to note that street mendicancy ought to have a collaboration of the efforts from the government and other NGOs as well as partnership from other private organizations in order to better implement the programs for elderly social protection.

6. Collaboration and participation from other organizations can improve the well-being of the senior citizens mendicants through outreach abilities to serve and help them in terms of providing basic needs and other health medical needs assistance. The study could be a baseline data for extension program for the College of Public Administration.

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