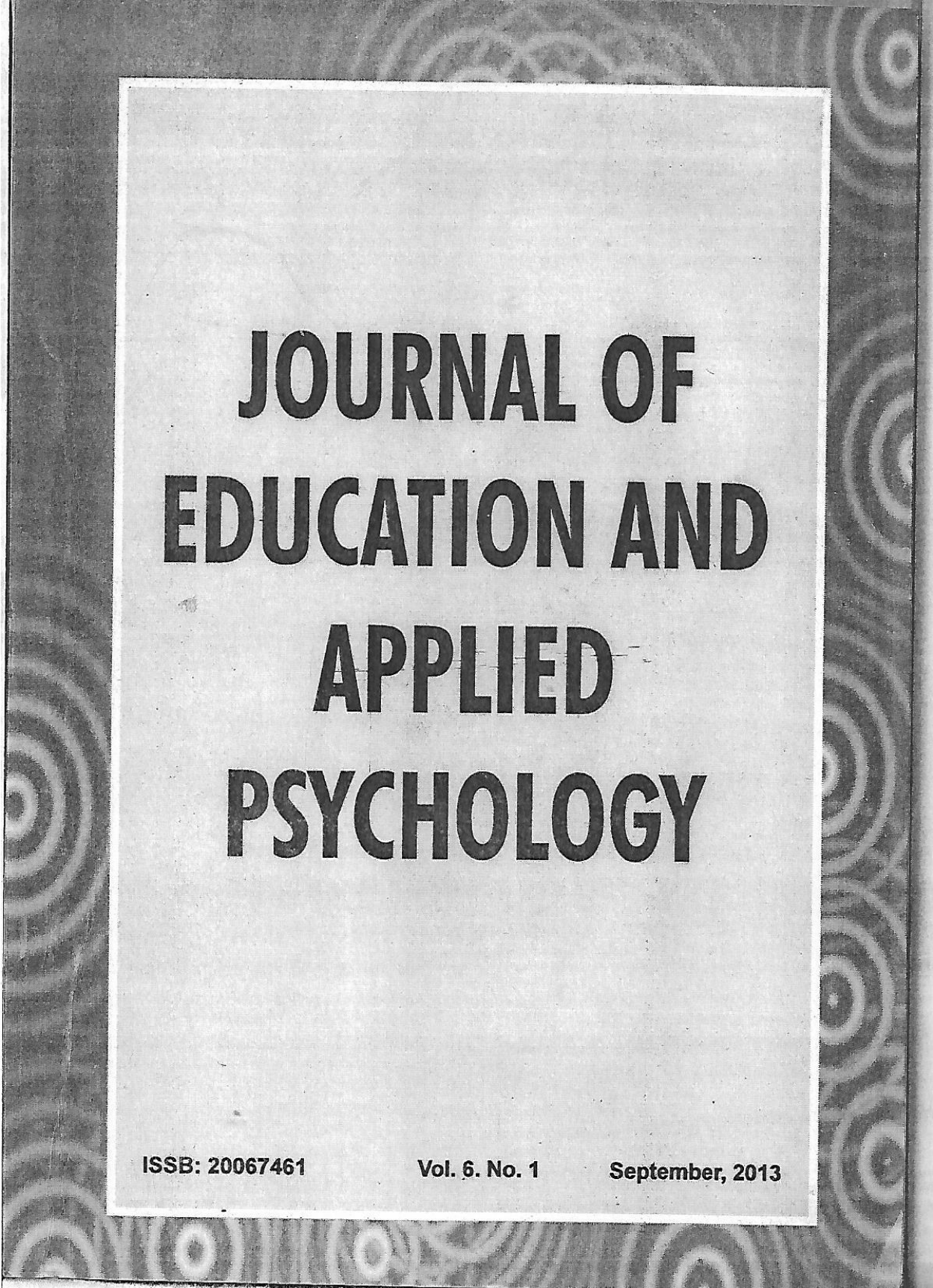




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ATTITUDE OF CIVIL SERVANTS TOWARDS THE PROVISION OF REHABILITATION CENTRES FOR BEGGARS IN KWARA STATE

|By|

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Abstract

The rate at which beggars are increasing on the Street is alarming. This menace is demeaning to the country and a lasting solution to this ugly incidence is needed. This study therefore investigated the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars in Kwara State. Descriptive survey design was adopted for this study. The sample comprised of two hundred civil servants randomly selected across the four Local Government Area in Ilorin Kwara State. The questionnaire titled "Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars (ACSTPRCBQ)" was administered by the researcher with the help of trained assistants. Four hypotheses were postulated in line with the research questions and tested in the study at alpha 0.05 significance level. The data collected were analysed through the use of t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical methods. Findings revealed that there were no significant differences in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the bases of gender and highest educational level, while a significant difference was found on the basis of religion and length of years in service. Based on the findings of the study, it was recommended that government should establish at least one rehabilitation centre for beggars in each local government area in order to reduce the menace of begging. Also professional counsellors should be employed so as to cater for the psychological needs of these group of people..

Key Words: Rehabilitation, Beggars, Attitude, Civil Servants

Introduction

There is no universally accepted and agreed definition of what attitudes are. Definitions of attitudes are based on the individual level of understanding and perception. Eagly and Chaiken (1998) defined attitude as a psychological tendency that is expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favour or disfavour. Attitudes are combination of beliefs and feelings that predispose a person to behave in a certain way (Noe, 2002). Gleitman (1991), defined attitude as relatively stable mental positions held towards ideas, objects or people. Attitude represents one's disposition towards an object, event, a person and a group of persons (Adelua, 2007). Ozoji (1991) viewed attitude as a tri-element concept embodying beliefs, emotion and behaviours, characterizing human beings, in intra-personal and social interactions. Allport (1935) was of the opinion that attitude is a mental or neutral state of readiness, organised through experience, exerting a directive or dynamic influence on the individuals response to all objects and situations to which it is related. According to Lynch (2005), street begging is often regarded as an anti-social behaviour issue. Mortimer (2005) defined street begging as asking for money without an exchange of service in a public place. Jelili (2006) defined begging as a practice whereby a person obtains money, food, shelter or other things from people. Olawale (2007) sees begging as the habit of someone (a beggar) soliciting for favour from others (potential donors) for survival and enrichment. A major common sight on the highway and roadsides in Nigeria is to see people in their hundreds begging for alms. These people run after fast moving vehicles while others are found within the neighbourhoods, parks and/or public places begging for alms. They usually announce their presence in an area by chanting words of needs and praying aloud. (Jelili, 2006).

The terms begging and beggar have their root from the word "beg", which Hornby (2005) defined as begging somebody for something in an anxious way. In the past, the terms begging and beggar only applied to people with physical or mental deformities. Nowadays, beggars include both able-bodied and disabled people across all ages and sex (Olawale, 2007).

The rate at which beggars are increasing in Nigeria is alarming. This is perhaps the reason why the government is proactive towards this attitude. The Lagos State Government led by Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola built homes for beggars in a bid to ensure that they all leave the streets (Akpobio, Orogun and Oyerinde 2007). In spite of these and other series of campaigns that have been staged and are being staged against this act by the government and concerned individuals, some people still believe that street begging is an alternative means through which poor people live from hand to mouth. The researcher further said that the act of begging is common in a country where the rich accumulate more wealth at the detriment of other citizen. Tambawal (2010) stated that begging is a derogatory means of livelihood and should be discouraged. However, one of the acceptable standing means of dealing with the menace of street begging is the establishment of rehabilitation programmes.

Rehabilitation is simply a process of bringing back a person with disability to live a near perfect life through medical, educational, social and vocational intervention. Rehabilitation as a process could assist the people with special needs to attain social independence and economy stability (Sokale, 2003). Furthermore, Abosi and Ozoji (1985) sees rehabilitation as a process of helping a non-productive or deviant person towards restoration through education or re-training which is often vocational or physical in nature. It therefore implies providing the beggars with the facilities that will restore their dignity and integrity and harnessing their intrinsic and extrinsic potentialities so as to enable them take their rightful place in the society. Hammed (1996) opined that rehabilitation simply means bringing back somebody who is physically disabled or delinquent to a normal life style by special treatment.

Babatunde, Gbade and Akinola (2007) classified rehabilitation services into four. These include medical, educational, vocational and social rehabilitation. Rehabilitation centres aims not only at training the client but also at intervening in their immediate environment as a whole in order to facilitate social interaction (Adelua, 2007). Rehabilitation centre have full-time staff of allied health professionals representing those disciplines necessary for the rehabilitation treatment of the type of the client they serve. According to Eyo, Usoro and Usoro (2007), a rehabilitation counsellor works with client in overcoming deficits in their

skills. The scope of guidance and counselling services is multidimensional as it focuses on numerous aspects of human functioning in the society. Rehabilitating the beggars into the society is no doubt one of such aspects which depend primarily on counselling services to the rehabilitates.

Statement of the Problem

Beggars can be found in every state in the Nation and it is undisputed that they constitute obstruction on high ways and streets. Series of government efforts to curb this menace has been an exercise in futility. Kennedy (2001) revealed that beggars on the street are often killed by road accident and they are likely to be victims of illegal drug trafficking due to promises of better life by ring of traffickers. Forell, McCarron and Schetzer (2005) also explained that many beggars are also victims of police torture and brutality.

Many researchers have worked in this area such as Sokale (2003) who carried out a study on using Community Based Rehabilitation Programme for people with special needs in Nigeria. It was discovered from the finding of the study that Community Based Rehabilitation programme is an effective programme that could make the people with special needs to survive in the modern competitive world. The researcher is also aware of the research work conducted by Odebode and Macaulay (1996) on using Institution Based Rehabilitation Programme for people with special needs in Oyo state. The study revealed that Institution Based Rehabilitation programme should be encouraged. This study aims at looking at the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars in Kwara State.

Research Question

The following research questions were raised to guide the conduct of the study:

1. What is the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars?

Research Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were postulated to guide this study:

1. There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of religion.
3. There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of highest educational level.
4. There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of length of years in service.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was the descriptive survey. The choice of descriptive survey is based on the fact that it provides information about the characteristics within a particular field of study with the purpose of providing a picture of situations, as they naturally exist (Burns & Grove, 1995).

Sample and Sampling Technique

A civil servant is a person in the public Sector employed by the government. The population for the study comprised all civil servants in Ilorin metropolis while the sample consisted of two hundred respondents to be selected from the four Local Government in Ilorin Kwara State. This include Ilorin East, Ilorin, West Ilorin South and Asa LGA. Purposive sampling technique is considered appropriate for the study because it is a form of non-probability sampling technique which is characterized by the use of judgement and deliberate effort to obtain representative samples by including presumable typical areas of groups in the sample (Hassan, 1998). Purposive sampling technique was used to select four local governments in Ilorin metropolis. According to Daramola (1995) defined simple random sampling as sampling technique in which each element or characteristic of the population has an equal chance of being included or selected in the desired samples. Simple random sampling was used to select 50 respondents from each of the purposively selected Local Governments in the State, thus making a total of 200 respondents.

Instrumentation

The instrument that was used for data collection for this study was tagged "Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars Questionnaire" (ACSTPRCBQ). The questionnaire comprised two (2) sections; A and B. Section A focused on the demographic data of the respondents which included information on gender, highest educational level, work type, location and years of working experience. Section B contained twenty (20) items which sought to establish the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars. Sequel to the suggestions of experts, necessary amendments were made on the questionnaire and after which the instrument was adjudged valid and suitable for this study. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained by using the test re-test reliability method. The instrument was administered to a group of twenty (20) civil servants in Ilorin metropolis, who did not form part of the respondents for the study and after an interval of four weeks. The same instrument was administered to the same group of people. The two sets of scores were correlated using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient formula. The correlation co-efficient obtained was 0.75 which was said to be high enough.

Method of Data Analysis

The method adopted in analysing and interpreting the data collected includes frequency counts, t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). Adana (1996) noted that t-test is well suited for testing difference among two or more independent variable which would enable the researcher to generalize the result from a sample of the target population. The t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were used to analyse all the hypotheses generated for the study.

Results

The information gathered was statistically presented through the use of frequency counts and simple percentage. The t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were used to test the generated hypotheses. The respondents' personal data were analysed with the use of simple percentage as indicated in the tables that follows.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Gender

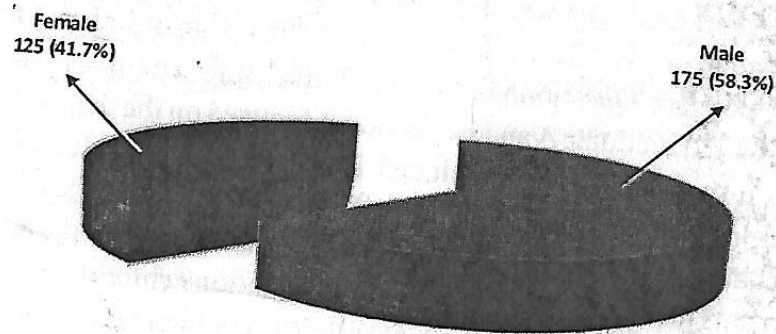


Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents on the basis of gender. It indicates that 175 (58.3%) of the respondents were males while 125 (41.6%) were females. This implies that there were more male respondents that participated in the study as compared to their female counterparts.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by Highest Educational Level

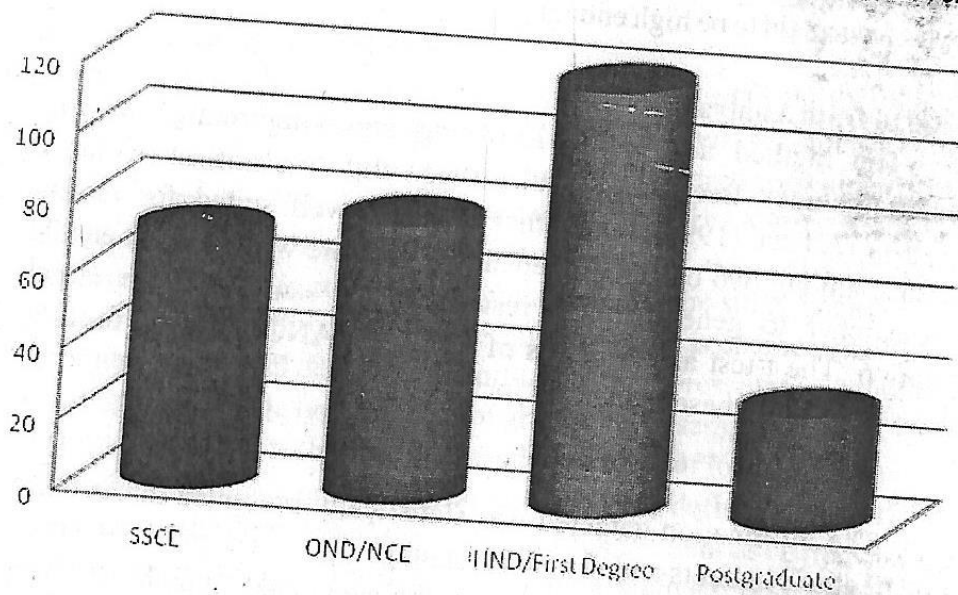


Table 2 shows the distribution of respondents on the basis of highest educational level. It indicates that 71 (23.7%) of the respondents were SSCE holders, 78 (26%) were OND/NCE holders, 119 (39.7%) were HND/First Degree holders, while 32 (10.6%) were Postgraduate Degree holders. This implies that there were more respondents with HND/First degree that participated in the study as compared to other respondents with other educational qualification.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Length of Service

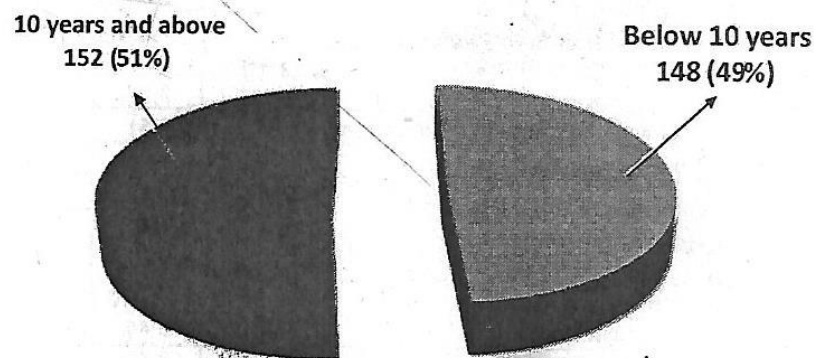


Table 3 shows the distribution on the basis of length of service. It indicates that 148 (49.3%) of the respondents had spent below 10 years in service and 152 (50.7%) had spent 10 years and above in service. This implies that there were more respondents who were 10 years and above that participated in the study as compared to those below 10 years.

Table 4: Mean and Rank Order of Responses on Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars in Ilorin Metropolis

Table 4: Mean and Rank Order of Responses on Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars in Ilorin Metropolis

S/N	Items	Mean	Ranking
2	can better the lives of beggars in various ways	3.61	1 st
17	can work out well with proper orientation for beggars	3.57	2 nd
12	can assist the beggars to overcome the feelings of inferiority complex	3.56	3 rd
13	is a means of helping the beggars to live a more fulfilled life	3.55	4 th
5	can be of benefit to all beggars	3.54	5 th
9	can improve standard of living of the beggars	3.54	5 th
10	is a means of making beggars become more useful to themselves	3.53	7 th
8	is the solution to eliminate beggars from the street	3.51	8 th
14	can empower beggars with the ability to make choice in life	3.51	8 th
3	can make beggars to be economically independent	3.50	10 th
15	can help beggars make judicious use of their time	3.47	11 th
19	can make the beggars realize money from other sources apart from begging	3.47	11 th
11	is encouraging and effective	3.47	11 th
6	is not a waste of government resources	3.44	14 th
4	needs to be made available to every beggar	3.40	15 th
18	must be made compulsory for every beggar to use it	3.32	16 th
16	is the only means to make the beggars become functional members of the society	3.19	17 th
7	is needed to enhance their emotional stability	3.03	18 th
20	can boost the nation's economy	2.97	19 th
1	is meant only for handicapped beggars	2.67	20 th

Table 4 shows the mean and the ranking of the items responded to by the respondents. The item 2 was ranked 1st with the mean score of 3.61 and states that in my own opinion, provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars 'can better the lives of beggars in various ways'. Item 17 was ranked 2nd with the mean score of 3.57, and states that, in my own opinion, provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars 'can work out well with proper orientation for beggars' while item 12 was ranked 3rd with the mean score of 3.56, and states that, in my own opinion, provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars can assist the beggars to overcome the feelings of inferiority complex. However, item 1 ranked 20th with the mean score of 2.67, and states that in my own opinion, provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars 'is meant only for handicapped beggars'.

Hypotheses Testing

*This section presents the results of the four (4) null hypotheses that were generated and tested using t-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical methods. The t-test statistics were used to compare the mean score, standard deviations and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of the respondents' opinion with a view to finding out if there was a significant difference. The results are presented in tables below, followed by their interpretations.

Hypothesis 1: *There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars based on gender*

Table 5: Mean Standard Deviation and t-value in Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars on the Basis of Gender.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value
Male	175	67.29	8.61	198	1.09	1.96
Female	125	68.63	8.04			

The above table shows that the calculated t-value is 1.09 while the critical t-value is 1.96. Since the calculated t-value is less than critical value, the hypothesis is accepted. This means that there is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of gender.

Hypotheses 2: *There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of religion.*

Table 6: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of Respondents on the Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars on the Basis of Religion

Source	Sum of squares	Df	Square Mean	Calculated F ratio	Critical F-ratio
Between Groups	326.688	3	108.896	1.57	3.00
Within Groups	13714.492	196	69.972		
Total	14041.180	199			

*=Significant, $p < 0.05$

The above table shows that the calculated f-ratio is 9.65 while the critical f-ratio is 3.00. Since the calculated f-ratio of 9.65 is greater than the critical f-ratio of 3.00 at 0.05 alpha level of significance 199. Thus the hypothesis is rejected. By interpretation therefore, this means that there is significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of religion.

Since there is significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of religion, Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used as a post hoc test to determine the type of religion that was responsible for the significant difference.

Table 7: Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) on Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars on the Basis of Religion

Duncan Grouping	N	Mean	Group	Religion
A	102	68.87	3	Islam
B	6	67.83	1	A T R
C	92	66.59	2	Christianity

Table 7 shows the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) indicating the significant difference noted in the ANOVA table. Group 3 with a mean score of 68.87 differed significantly from Groups 1 and 2 with mean scores of 67.83 and 66.59 respectively. All the groups differed from one another but the significant difference noted was as a result of the mean of group 3. Hence, the significant difference noted on the ANOVA on table 7.

Hypotheses 3: There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of highest educational level.

Table 8: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) of Respondents on the Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars on the Basis of Highest Educational Level.

Length of Service	N	Mean	SD	df	Calculated t-value	Critical t-value
Below 10 years	148	65.93	8.51	198	3.14*	1.96
10 years and above	152	69.58	7.93			

Table 8 shows that the calculated f-ratio is 1.57 while the critical f-ratio is 2.60. Since the calculated f-ratio of 2.35 is less than the critical f-ratio of 3.00, the hypothesis is accepted. This means that there is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of highest educational level.

Hypotheses 4: *There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of length of service.*

Table 9: Mean Standard Deviation and t-value in Attitude of Civil Servants towards the Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Beggars on the Basis of Length of Service.

Source	SS	Df	Square Mean	Cal. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio
Between Groups	1252.699	2	251.733	9.65*	3.00
Within Groups	12788.481	197	69.644		
Total	14041.180	199			

*=Significant, $p < 0.05$

Table 9 shows that the calculated t-value is 3.14 while the critical t-value is 1.96. Since the calculated t-value of 3.14 is greater than the critical value of 1.96. Thus, the hypothesis is rejected. This means that there is significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of length of service.

Discussion of the Findings

Majority of the respondents agreed that provision of rehabilitation centre can better the lives of beggars in various ways. O'Toole (1991) explained that rehabilitation process consists of a planned, orderly sequence of services which are beneficial to the people. The study revealed that the male and female civil servants do not differ in their attitude towards the provision of rehabilitation centre for beggars. This finding corroborates with the report of Akpobio (2007) who stressed the need for a rehabilitation centre by citing the examples of rehabilitation centre at Ikorodu Lagos as a good case study. In this centre about 4000 destitute have been housed and catered for thus ridding the street of beggar.

A significant difference was found in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of religion. In terms of religion, Abang (1986) opined that alms giving is regarded as one of the pillars of Islam, where by beggars are believed to bring blessings to others and in so doing, provides them with an opportunity for earning merit. Therefore, the wealthy give alms in fulfillment of religious obligation. The plausible reason why religion was significantly different in this study might be due to the fact that respondents are of different religious affiliation and as such they differ in their views on street begging. In the same vein Ahamdi (2010) reported that begging is not indecent and therefore should not be despised.

Irrespective of the educational qualification of the respondents no significant difference was found in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars. This finding agreed with Ahamdi (2010) who observed that civil servants have a positive attitude towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars and the Civil servants also indicated that helping beggars with rehabilitation centres will have a positive effect on human life and in turn, the beggars can contribute their own little quota to the development of the society.

Civil servants differed in their attitude towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars based on length of service. This is in line with the submission of Jelili (2006) that those who have been in service for a very long time show more concern towards beggars and they also have more positive attitude towards provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars because they have been relating with them. However, the newly employed staff are naïve about the attitude of beggars on the street. Rehabilitation as a process could assist these set of people to attain social independence and economy stability (Sokale, 2003).

Conclusions

From the analysis of the data and interpretation of results, the following conclusions were made:

1. Respondents are more of the view that the provision of rehabilitation centres can better the lives of beggars in various ways as well assist these beggars to overcome the feelings of inferiority complex amongst others.

2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of gender and highest educational level.
3. A significant difference was found in the attitude of civil servants towards the provision of rehabilitation centres for beggars on the basis of religion and length of service.

Recommendations/ Counselling Implication

Government should establish at least one rehabilitation centre for beggars in each local government area in order to reduce the menace of begging. They should also have a comprehensive, well defined and continuous rehabilitation programme for beggars. Professional rehabilitation counsellor should be employed, they can help in the rehabilitation centres by organising workshop, seminars, lectures and programmes that could be of benefit to the beggars. Beggars should see rehabilitation programmes as a way of empowering themselves for a better living. The rehabilitation counsellor is trained to equip the beggars with skills that will make it possible to create conducive environment for the beggars and integrate them back into the society after the rehabilitation programme.

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