



## Street Children and Beggars in Makassar City: Adaptive Policies in Reducing Urban Social Problems

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### Abstract

**Objectives:** Makassar City is facing an increase in street children and beggars, which requires in-depth understanding and appropriate policies for effective handling. This research aims to fill the knowledge gap regarding the dynamics and challenges of handling street children and beggars in Makassar City and provide adaptive policy recommendations appropriate to the local context.

**Methods:** This research uses a phenomenological approach to understand the meaning behind the phenomenon of street children and beggars in Makassar City from the perspective of policy implementers and the communities involved. The research process involves methodological planning, orientation to research objects and subjects, and exploration of data in the field, which is analyzed using Nvivo 12 Plus software to find patterns and relationships between the revealed aspects.

**Results:** This study reveals a significant increase in the number of street children and beggars in Makassar City from 2022 to 2023, with variations in distribution indicating the need for a specific and targeted approach. The dominant factors influencing their emergence include economic instability, family conflict, limited access to education, the influence of a hostile social environment, and lack of access to health and social services. Although the government has made various efforts, obstacles such as limited resources, lack of coordination between agencies, low community participation, and weak law enforcement remain significant.

**Conclusions:** This study recommends holistic and sustainable adaptive policies, focusing on inclusive economic programs, protection, and rehabilitation, inclusive education, creating a positive social environment, and increasing community coordination and participation to create a safe and supportive environment for children.

**Keywords:** Street children, beggars, inclusive economy, adaptive policy, inter-agency coordination, community participation, child protection.

### أطفال الشوارع والمتسولون في مدينة ماكاسار: سياسات تكيفية في الحد من المشكلات الاجتماعية الحضرية

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### ملخص

**الأهداف:** تواجه مدينة ماكاسار تزايداً في أعداد أطفال الشوارع والمتسولين، مما يتطلب فهماً معمقاً وسياسات ملائمة لضمان التعامل الفعال معهم. يهدف هذا البحث إلى سدّ الفجوة المعرفية المتعلقة بديناميات وتحديات التعامل مع أطفال الشوارع والمتسولين في مدينة ماكاسار، وتقديم توصيات سياساتية تكيفية تتناسب مع السياق المحلي.

**المنهجية:** يعتمد هذا البحث على منهج ظاهري لفهم المعاني الكامنة وراء ظاهرة أطفال الشوارع والمتسولين في مدينة ماكاسار من منظور منطوق المنهجية. يتضمن البحث تخطيطاً منهجياً، وتحديد أهداف ومواضيع البحث، واستكشاف البيانات في الميدان، وتحليلها باستخدام برنامج إنفيفو 12 بلس لاكتشاف الأنماط والعلاقات بين الجوانب المختلفة.

**النتائج:** تكشف الدراسة عن زيادة كبيرة في عدد أطفال الشوارع والمتسولين في مدينة ماكاسار من عام 2022 إلى 2023، مع تباين في توزيعهم يشير إلى الحاجة إلى نهج مخصص ومستهدف. تشمل العوامل الرئيسية التي تؤثر في ظهور هذه الظاهرة: عدم الاستقرار الاقتصادي، الصراع العائلي، محدودية الوصول إلى التعليم، تأثير البيئة الاجتماعية العدائية، وعدم توفر خدمات الصحة والرعاية الاجتماعية. رغم الجهود الحكومية المبذولة، لا تزال هناك عقبات كبيرة مثل محدودية الموارد، ضعف التنسيق بين الوكالات، انخفاض مشاركة المجتمع، وضعف تنفيذ القوانين.

**الخلاصة:** توصي هذه الدراسة ببنّي سياسات تكيفية شاملة ومستدامة، تركز على البرامج الاقتصادية الشاملة، وحماية الأطفال وإعادة تأهيلهم، والتعليم الشامل، وخلق بيئة اجتماعية إيجابية، وتعزيز التنسيق والمشاركة المجتمعية لضمان بيئة آمنة وداعمة للأطفال.

**الكلمات الدالة:** أطفال الشوارع، المتسولون، الاقتصاد الشامل، السياسة التكيفية، التنسيق بين الوكالات، مشاركة المجتمع، حماية الأطفال.

## 1. Introduction

Taking a study on handling street children and beggars in Makassar City is essential for several reasons. First, Makassar City is one of the largest cities in Indonesia with a significant population; as reported by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2023, the population of Makassar City will reach around 1,474,393 people (BPS, 2023). As a big city, Makassar faces various social challenges, including the problem of street children and beggars, which require serious attention from the government and society (Papalapu et al., 2016). Data reported by the government also shows a significant increase in cases of street children from year to year. According to reported data, the number of street children rehabilitated increased significantly from 2021 to 2022, increasing by 66% from 469 to 712 cases. Therefore, this study can provide a deeper understanding of the social and spatial dynamics in Makassar City and provide more appropriate and practical policy recommendations for dealing with this problem.

Handling street children and beggars is very important because it concerns the younger generation's future and overall social welfare (Muda et al., 2022). Street children and beggars are a group that is very vulnerable to various risks, such as exploitation, free sex, violence, drug abuse, and disease (Noreña-Herrera et al., 2016; Onayemi et al., 2024; Resende, 2013; Roshanfekr et al., 2020; Sohail et al., 2021). Without effective intervention, they not only miss out on a childhood that should be full of learning and development opportunities but are also at significant risk of being trapped in a lifelong cycle of poverty and powerlessness. Providing access to education, health services, and social protection can help them get off the streets and have a better chance of achieving a brighter future.

Apart from individual impacts, dealing with street children and beggars is essential for overall welfare and social stability. Their presence on the streets of big cities often reflects stark social and economic injustice, which can tarnish a city's image and hinder economic growth. Investment in holistic and sustainable treatment programs helps reduce the number of street children and beggars and improves safety and quality of life in the community (Mathiti, 2006). Empowering them through education and skills training also creates individuals who can contribute positively to social and economic development, strengthen social cohesion, and reduce long-term social burdens (Sharma & Samina, 2023).

Street children and beggars are often found in big cities due to rapid urbanization and stark economic inequality (Bajpai & Tripathi, 2023), causing many people to move to cities hoping for a better life but living on the streets (You, 2019). Without effective intervention, they are often trapped in cycles of poverty and social marginalization, hindering their ability to reach their full potential and contribute positively to society. A holistic approach involving protection, rehabilitation, education, skills training, and social reintegration is essential to ensure that street children and beggars get a fair chance to develop and achieve a better future. With coordinated and sustainable efforts, these two groups will likely be empowered to play a more active role in community development.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child provides the basis for government policies in dealing with the problem of street children and beggars in various countries (Kaushik, 2014). Developing countries often combine regulations to suit budgetary and other resource constraints, while developed countries tend to implement more child rights-based policies with a comprehensive prevention approach. Despite this, the number of street children and beggars throughout the world remains a serious problem, especially in developing countries where more than 650 million of the world's 1.2 billion people living in poverty are children (Haile Sebrat, 2015). Efforts to address this problem vary from one country to another, ranging from rehabilitative approaches to improving education and demographics. However, significant challenges remain in reducing the number of street children and beggars and improving their quality of life.

The phenomenon of street children and beggars is in the spotlight of social studies, especially in the context of developing countries such as Indonesia, India, and the Philippines. In Indonesia, Child Protection Regulation Number 23 of 2002 is a reference in handling cases of street children and beggars with a rehabilitative approach (Boothby & Stark, 2011). With the number of beggars and street children in India, the government is focusing on improving education and mental health facilities (Nath et al., 2016). Meanwhile, beggars and street children became the focus of government attention in the Philippines, and efforts were made to introduce the Urban Basic Services Program and National Projects (Porio et

al., 2020). This reflects the social challenges that society and the government must face in dealing with this problem.

Collaboration between government, non-governmental organizations, and broader society is needed to create sustainable solutions. The government needs to implement policies supporting essential services, such as free education, access to health, and legal protection for street children and beggars. Non-governmental organizations can play a role in running rehabilitation and reintegration programs, providing skills training, and creating employment opportunities for them. The wider community also needs to be involved in this effort by supporting social initiatives, not discriminating, and providing moral and material support. With the synergy of all parties, the problem of street children and beggars can be handled effectively, creating a more inclusive and socially just society and ensuring that all individuals have equal opportunities to develop and contribute positively to the country's development.

Although handling street children and beggars has become the focus of extensive studies, there still needs to be a more in-depth understanding of local cases, such as in Makassar City. Previous studies are general and must highlight this city's specific dynamics and challenges. Apart from that, previous research is also minimal in providing policy recommendations that are adaptive and appropriate to the local context of Makassar City. Therefore, there is a need for more in-depth research to analyze the problem of street children and beggars in Makassar City and present policy recommendations based on a comprehensive understanding of local dynamics and the challenges the authorities face in dealing with this problem effectively.

However, some literature still supports this study; previous findings highlight several important aspects of handling street children and beggars in general. First, research emphasizes the need for a holistic approach that includes education, health, protection, and social reintegration to provide practical solutions to this problem (Haque & Chakrabarty, 2023). Second, cross-sector collaboration is essential for achieving significant results (Pabia et al., 2022). Third, policies based on children's rights must accommodate the unique needs of street children and beggars (The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health, 2023). Fourth, emphasizing preventive and rehabilitative approaches rather than repressive treatment highlights the importance of understanding the root causes of problems and providing sustainable solutions to prevent children from getting trapped in street life (Rizk et al., 2017).

This research problem is related to the increasing number of street children and beggars in Makassar City, which poses serious challenges in the context of urbanization and social development. Makassar City, as one of the largest cities in Indonesia, is facing increasing social pressure with the increasing population of street children and beggars. Even though the government has carried out various interventions, this problem remains difficult to overcome due to the complexity of the causal factors, such as economic instability, family conflict, and limited access to basic services such as education and health. This research aims to identify the root of the problem and evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies, with the final aim of formulating more adaptive and contextual policy recommendations in an effort to reduce this urban social problem in Makassar City.

This research aims to fill the knowledge gap regarding the dynamics and specific challenges faced in handling street children and beggars in Makassar City and present policy recommendations that are adaptive and appropriate to the local context. By understanding more deeply the local conditions and factors that influence the phenomenon of street children and beggars in Makassar City, it is hoped that this research can provide a valuable contribution to stakeholders, including the government, non-governmental organizations, and the wider community, in designing and implementing practical and sustainable programs to address this problem.

## **2. Method**

This research adopts a phenomenological approach to reveal the meaning behind the social phenomenon of street children and beggars in urban areas. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to understand social reality from the perspective of policy implementers and the communities involved. By focusing on the experiences and perceptions of street children and beggars, a phenomenological approach allows researchers to explore the public spatial contribution

to this phenomenon in depth and understand its connection to street culture and related subcultures. The main aim of this approach is to understand how individuals experience and perceive social phenomena, including deviant behavior, as well as to understand the relationship between consciousness, cognitive actions, and aesthetic appreciation of the object of study.

This research was carried out through three interrelated stages. The first stage is to develop a research methodology framework, which includes research design planning, literature search, and determining research objects and instruments. The second stage is research orientation to ensure the suitability of the research objects and subjects with the stated objectives. This involved focusing on street children and beggars in Makassar City and involving field workers, victims of streets, and community members as research subjects. This interview was also addressed to the Police and Social Services as implementers of state policy in handling cases of street children in Makassar City. The third stage was data exploration in the field, where researchers were directly involved in the activities of street children and beggars, conducting observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation to explore the factors causing their involvement in this behavior.

The interview guide in this research was prepared by first conducting a comprehensive literature review regarding the phenomenon of street children and beggars, as well as relevant policies in handling this problem. Based on this review, interview questions were designed to explore the experiences, perceptions and views of various stakeholders, including street children, beggars, social workers and law enforcement officers. The number of interviews conducted was 20 interviews, with interview locations spread across various points in Makassar City which are known to have a high concentration of street children and beggars, such as traditional markets, terminals and densely populated areas. The duration of each interview varies between 45 to 90 minutes, depending on the complexity and depth of information obtained from each interviewee.

After the data is obtained, the next step is to transcribe the data using analysis software such as Nvivo 12 Plus. This process begins by importing the interview audio or text files into the software. Next, the data is divided into smaller analysis units, such as phrases or sentences, to facilitate the analysis process. Each unit of analysis is then given a label or code based on the themes or concepts that emerge. During the transcription process, researchers can also add notes or context clarification for each piece of data. Nvivo 12 Plus makes it easy to organize and manage data systematically, which helps researchers identify patterns and relationships between aspects that are revealed during data collection. In addition, units of analysis such as Cases Classification and Project Map are used to visualize relationships between themes and group data according to relevant categories, thereby strengthening understanding of the phenomenon under study.

### 3. Result

#### 3.1. *The urgency of handling street children and beggars in Makassar City*

The following is data on the number of street children and beggars in Makassar City for 2022-2023. This data is essential for understanding the trends and distribution of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City and designing appropriate policies to handle them.

**Table 1. Number of street children and beggars 2022-2023 in Makassar City.**

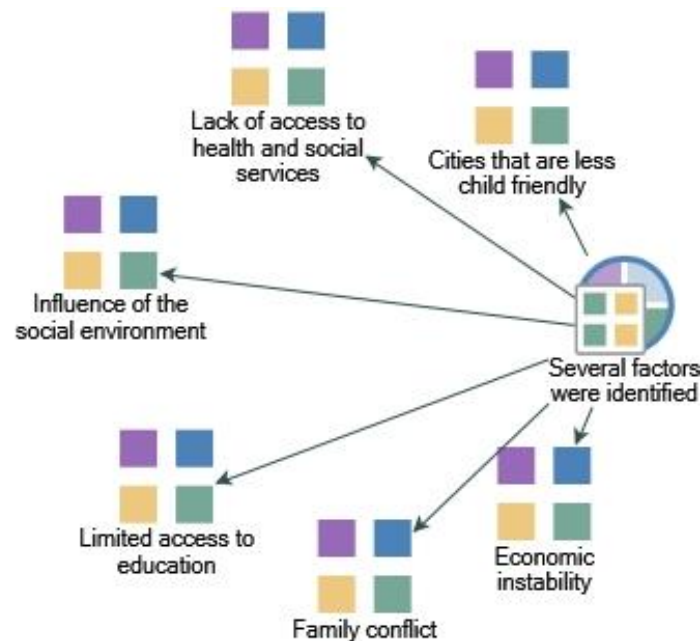
District	2022		2023	
	Street children	Beggar	Street children	Beggar
Biringkanaya	43	23	44	41
Tamalanrea	45	7	47	8
Ujung Tanah	17	5	18	4
Tallo	18	4	20	5
Wajo	12	4	15	6
Bontoala	27	5	28	5
Panakkukang	35	12	39	14
Ujung Pandang	29	10	32	13
Makassar	35	14	40	15
Manggala	24	14	29	16

District	2022		2023	
	Street children	Beggar	Street children	Beggar
Mariso	26	27	30	29
Mamajang	26	25	30	32
Rappocini	24	26	32	30
Tamalate	44	30	48	34
Sakarrang Islands	0	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>256</b>

The data presented in Table 1 shows that the number of street children and beggars in Makassar City has increased from 2022 to 2023. In 2022, the total number of street children was 405, while the number of beggars was 208. However, in 2023, the number of street children increased to 454, while the number of beggars rose to 256 (BPS, 2023). This increase reflects changes in social and economic dynamics in Makassar City, which need serious attention.

### 3.2. Factors influencing the emergence of street children and beggars in Makassar City

Understanding the factors that influence the emergence of street children and beggars in Makassar City is important because it can help design effective and holistic intervention strategies to prevent more children from being trapped in risky street life. It also allows the development of more targeted programs to support children affected and prevent the problem from developing further.



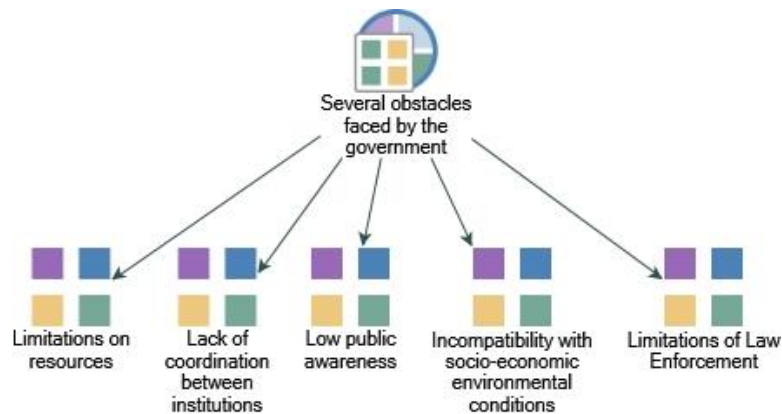
**Figure 1. Several factors influence the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City.**

Source: Processed by Researchers to Maximize Nvivo 12 Plus.

Figure 1 illustrates several factors that influence the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City, focusing on economic instability as one of the main factors. The inability of parents to provide basic needs for their children, which is often caused by poverty or economic limitations, is the main driver for children to be forced to work on the streets. These factors create an environment where children need to seek additional income or even become a support for the family, especially if their families cannot meet their basic needs.

### 3.3. Obstacles faced by the government in handling the problem of Street Children and Beggars in Makassar City

Several obstacles faced by the government in handling the problem of street children and beggars in Makassar City have been described in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. Several obstacles faced by the government in handling the problem of street children and beggars in Makassar City.**

Figure 2 illustrates several obstacles faced by the government in addressing the issue of street children and beggars in Makassar City. These obstacles include limitations on resources, lack of coordination between institutions, low public awareness, incompatibility with socio-economic environmental conditions, and limitations of law enforcement.

## 4. Discussion

The increase in the number of street children and beggars in each area also shows variations in the distribution of this problem in different parts of the city. Some areas, such as Tamalate, Mariso, and Mamajang, have significant numbers of street children and beggars, while other areas may experience smaller increases. Further analysis of the factors that cause differences in the number of street children and beggars in each region can help the government and local stakeholders design more effective strategies for dealing with this problem in a more specific and targeted manner.

The increase in the number of street children and beggars in Makassar City is a serious concern that shows the urgency of handling this problem. With significant growth from 2022 to 2023, this highlights the need for rapid and effective action from governments and other stakeholders. Street children and beggars are vulnerable to various risks, such as exploitation, violence, and disease. Without appropriate intervention, they can be trapped in a prolonged cycle of poverty and helplessness. In addition, their presence on the streets also reflects social and economic injustice that needs to be addressed to create a more inclusive and just society.

Apart from that, this study also maps various factors that influence the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City, highlighting economic instability as one of the main factors. Parents' inability to meet their children's basic needs, which is often caused by poverty or economic limitations, is the main driver that forces children to work on the streets. Apart from that, a less supportive environment also encourages children to seek additional income or even become the backbone of the family, especially if the family is unable to meet their basic needs.

Theoretically, economic instability significantly impacts the emergence of street children and beggars. Structural poverty theory, for example, suggests that economic instability can be a significant root cause of generational poverty, where children from low-income families tend to inherit difficult economic conditions from their parents (Stefanick & Tait, 2024). Another consequence is that where family resources are limited, such as low income or lack of access to decent work, children are forced to seek alternative ways to support themselves or their families, including by becoming street children or beggars. Thus, economic instability not only creates inequalities in access to opportunities and resources but also exacerbates the risk of children falling into street life.

Another driving factor that plays a role in the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City is family conflict. Conflict within the family environment, including domestic violence, can create unsafe and unstable conditions for children. In such situations, children may feel pressured to run away from home to seek protection or escape an adverse situation. Family conflict can include a variety of problems, ranging from arguments between parents physical or emotional abuse, to long-lasting economic problems. For some children, the streets are considered a place of refuge or escape from the insecurities they experience at home. However, living on the streets also brings new risks, including exploitation, street violence, and abuse.

Theoretically, family conflict as a driving factor in the emergence of street children and beggars can be seen through social systems theory. This theory emphasizes that the family is a system of interrelated elements, including relationships between individuals, power structures, and communication patterns (Volini, 2017). Conflict in the family can occur when interactions between family members experience significant imbalance or tension, which may arise from various factors such as differences in values, expectations, or unmet needs. This kind of conflict can damage family stability and affect the psychological and physical well-being of family members, including children. In the context of street children and beggars, family conflict can be a significant driver for children to seek shelter on the streets to escape unsafe or detrimental situations at home.

Another driving factor that encourages the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City is limited access to education. Limitations in accessing quality education or a non-conducive learning environment can be the leading cause of children leaving school and looking for other alternatives, including becoming street children or beggars. The inability to obtain an adequate education can significantly hinder their development, reducing their chances of achieving economic independence and improving their quality of life. Thus, it is essential to identify and overcome obstacles that hinder children's education access in Makassar City to prevent more children from being trapped on risky street routes.

Theoretically, limited access to education as a driving factor for the emergence of street children and beggars can be understood from the perspective of social inequality theory. This theory highlights that disparities in access to education can produce inequalities in life opportunities and social mobility (Pietropoli, 2023). The inability to access quality education or a learning environment that is not conducive can create barriers for children to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to face life's challenges. This can cause frustration and hopelessness among children, prompting them to leave school and seek alternative routes to earn a living, including becoming street children or beggars.

Another driving factor that contributes to the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City is the influence of the hostile social environment. Adverse social environments, such as the influence of peers or gang groups, can be an incentive for children to engage in street behavior and begging. This factor highlights the importance of social dynamics in shaping individual behavior, where children are vulnerable to influences from the environment around them. A less conducive environment, especially if perceived as a place where negative behavior is accepted or rewarded, can strengthen children's decisions to join street activities. Therefore, handling the problem of street children and beggars needs to involve a comprehensive approach, including efforts to improve the social environment around children to support their development and welfare better.

Theoretically, the influence of the social environment as a driving factor in the emergence of street children and beggars can be analyzed through the lenses of socialization theory and social control theory. Socialization theory highlights that individuals learn behavior and social norms through interactions with their social environment, including peers and family (Gross et al., 2015). In this context, if the environment around children provides support or rewards for inappropriate behavior, such as joining a gang or being involved in street activities, then children will likely follow this pattern. On the other hand, social control theory emphasizes the importance of norms and rules in regulating individual behavior. However, when social control is weak or ineffective, for example, due to a lack of supervision from parents or social institutions, children may feel freer to engage in street behavior without fear of consequences (Lledó Rando et al., 2023).

On the other hand, lack of access to health and social services is an essential factor influencing the emergence of street

children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City. In this context, mental health and social services are an integral part of efforts to prevent and rehabilitate street children. When children do not have adequate access to such services, they do not get the support or assistance they need to overcome the problems underlying their participation in street life. Mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, or trauma often go undiagnosed or untreated, which can worsen children's conditions and make them even more vulnerable to exploitation and street risks. In addition, social services such as rehabilitation programs or psychosocial support can also help children gain the skills and support necessary to reintegrate into society and avoid returning to the streets.

Apart from that, less child-friendly cities are among the factors that influence the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City. When urban environments do not provide child-friendly public facilities, such as safe play spaces or informal educational facilities, children tend to look for other places to spend their time, often on the streets. Lack of access to safe play spaces can limit children's ability to participate in positive activities and develop their social and physical skills (Ehab et al., 2021). Additionally, a lack of informal educational facilities, such as learning centers or public libraries, can limit children's opportunities to learn outside the formal school environment (Roucous, 2007). As a result, they may spend their free time on the streets, increasing their risk of exposure to unsafe and potentially harmful environments.

Overall, the emergence of street children and beggars in various areas of Makassar City is influenced by several primary factors. First, economic instability is the primary driver, where poverty or parental economic limitations create an environment where children are encouraged to seek additional income on the streets. Second, conflict within the family environment, including domestic violence, can encourage children to seek protection on the streets. Third, limited access to education causes children to leave school and look for other alternatives to earn a living. Fourth, negative social environmental influences, such as from peers or gang groups, can influence children's decisions to engage in street behavior and begging. Fifth, lack of access to health and social services means children do not get the support they need to leave street situations. Lastly, urban areas that are less child-friendly, with a lack of public facilities that support children's development, also influence them to spend time on the streets.

On the other hand, the Makassar City Government also faces several complex obstacles in its efforts to handle the problem of street children and beggars. First, more resources are needed, especially regarding budget and personnel. With limited resources, the government may need help implementing treatment programs optimally, which can hamper the effectiveness and breadth of coverage of treatment efforts. Furthermore, the lack of coordination between government agencies is also a significant obstacle. The coordination that still needs to be optimal can result in overlapping programs or a lack of synergy between institutions in achieving the same goals. When various government agencies do not move in line, this can hamper the efficiency and effectiveness of response efforts.

Apart from that, the low public awareness and participation level is another obstacle. Lack of support and active participation from the community can hinder the success of government programs in dealing with the problem of street children and beggars. Successful treatment efforts require support and active involvement from all levels of society. Socioeconomic and environmental factors such as poverty, family conflict, and lack of access to education and health services pose complex challenges. The government needs to address the root of this problem holistically in order to achieve a sustainable solution in dealing with the problem of street children and beggars. Lastly, limitations in law enforcement are another obstacle. Even though regulations prohibit begging in public spaces, law enforcement against this violation may still need to be more consistent and effective. This could make the policy ineffective in reducing the number of street children and beggars in Makassar City.

In dealing with the complexity of the problem of street children and beggars in Makassar City, holistic and sustainable adaptive policies are needed. First, the government must strengthen inclusive economic programs that empower these children's parents. This can be done through providing skills training and access to micro business capital to help them increase their family income. Additionally, targeted social assistance programs also need to be improved to help families in vulnerable economic conditions. The government must strengthen inclusive economic programs with skills training,



access to micro-enterprise capital, and targeted social assistance to empower children's parents and increase family income (Leng, 2022; Sevinç et al., 2020).

Second, it is essential to implement protection and rehabilitation policies for children affected by conflict in the family environment (Madhavan, 2023). This involves efforts to strengthen child protection networks, including counseling and rehabilitation services for victims of domestic violence. The government also needs to increase accessibility to child protection services at the local level so that children who need help can easily access them. Third, inclusive education policies must be prioritized to overcome limited access to education. This involves providing quality education and equitable access for all children, including those in urban areas. The government must strengthen educational infrastructure, provide incentives for children to stay in school, and provide support programs for those who experience learning difficulties. The government must prioritize inclusive education policies by strengthening infrastructure, providing incentives, and supporting programs to ensure equal access and quality of education for all children, including those in urban areas (Alduais & Deng, 2022; Qu, 2024; Walker, 2010).

Furthermore, policies are needed to promote a positive and safe social environment for children. This can be done through prevention programs that involve active community participation, such as community development programs and social awareness training (Coren et al., 2013; Malindi & Machenjedge, 2012). The government must also work with various parties, including non-governmental organizations, schools, and community leaders, to create an environment supporting children's development (Abekah-Carter et al., 2024; Greeson et al., 2024). These policies will create an environment that supports children's development, improves access and quality of education, and empowers families through increased income and targeted social programs.

Apart from that, in dealing with the complexity of the problem of street children and beggars in Makassar City, a policy approach that is adaptive and responsive to environmental dynamics is needed. First, the government needs to improve coordination between institutions to ensure synergy in policy implementation. This step involves establishing a forum or cross-sector coordination mechanism that allows various parties handling this problem to share the best information, resources, and experiences. Thus, better coordination can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of handling efforts and avoid overlapping programs.

Furthermore, the government needs to encourage active community participation in handling the problem of street children and beggars. Direct support and involvement from the community, including volunteer groups and non-governmental organizations, can significantly contribute to providing services, monitoring, and assistance to vulnerable children. In addition, the government needs to increase public awareness about the importance of child protection and encourage collective awareness of this problem. By actively involving the community, policies for dealing with street children and beggars can be more adaptive to local needs and provide more sustainable solutions.

To overcome the problem of limited resources in handling street children and beggars in Makassar City, the government can also adopt adaptive policies that prioritize the efficient use of available resources. One step that can be taken is to optimize budget allocations by prioritizing treatment programs with a significant impact and proven effectiveness. In addition, the government can consider partnership strategies with the private sector and non-governmental organizations to support treatment programs, including funding, provision of facilities, or workforce training. This approach allows the government to utilize additional external resources while maintaining efficiency and accountability in using public funds.

Holistic and sustainable adaptive policies are the key to reducing the urban social problems of street children and beggars in Makassar City. In dealing with the complexity of this problem, the government needs to focus on strengthening inclusive economic programs, protecting and rehabilitating affected children, providing inclusive education, creating a positive social environment, and increasing inter-institutional coordination and active community participation. In addition, adopting adaptive policies in resource management is also essential to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of response efforts. With this comprehensive and sustainable approach, a safer and more supportive environment can be created for children to grow and develop well in society.

## 5. Conclusion

There is a significant increase in street children and beggars in Makassar City from 2022 to 2023. Variations in the distribution of this problem in various areas of the city indicate the need for a more specific and targeted approach to handling it. This increase strengthens the urgency in overcoming the problem of street children and beggars, considering their vulnerability to various risks and their negative impact on social and economic justice. This study succeeded in unraveling several dominant factors that influence the emergence of street children and beggars in Makassar City. These factors include economic instability, conflict within the family environment, limited access to education, negative social environmental influences, lack of access to health and social services, and less child-friendly cities.

The government has made various efforts to deal with the problem of street children and beggars in Makassar City but still encounters significant obstacles. One of the main obstacles is limited resources, especially in budget and personnel, which hinders the optimization of treatment programs. Lack of coordination between government institutions is also a severe obstacle, where overlapping programs or lack of synergy between institutions can reduce the efficiency and effectiveness of handling efforts. In addition, low levels of community awareness and participation and socio-economic and environmental factors such as poverty and family conflict constitute complex challenges that affect program success. Lastly, limitations in law enforcement are also an obstacle, where the lack of consistency and effectiveness in enforcing regulations hinders the effectiveness of policies in reducing the number of street children and beggars in Makassar City.

This study recommends implementing holistic and sustainable adaptive policies to reduce urban social problems of street children and beggars in Makassar City. This policy must strengthen inclusive economic programs, protect and rehabilitate affected children, promote inclusive education, and create a positive social environment. In addition, increased inter-agency coordination and active community participation are needed. Adopting adaptive policies in resource management is also essential to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of response efforts. With this comprehensive approach, a safer and more supportive environment can be created for children in Makassar City, enabling them to grow and develop optimally.

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