

## **Public Perception and Use of Health Facilities in Nigeria: The Case of Beggars in Sabon Gari Local Government, Zaria, Kaduna State**

**By**

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### **Abstract**

*In every society, the choice of whether to utilize health care facilities or not is made by the people. In Nigeria, not all categories of people in the society utilize the available health care facilities such as hospitals and clinics, due to factors which vary from person to person or group to group. This study therefore, examines beggars' perception of and/or disposition to health care facilities in Sabon Gari, Local government of Kaduna State, Nigeria, with a view to knowing whether beggars utilize the health facilities in the area or not, and identifying the factors which influence their utilization or otherwise of the facilities. Both the primary and secondary data were explored for the study while the questionnaire and interview methods were used in data collection. Results have shown that beggars do not utilize health care facilities in the area because they perceived that the facilities are not meant for low socio-economic status persons. The study recommended that the government should organize intensive campaigns among beggars and other low socio-economic status persons on the need to change their perception of health facilities in their communities.*

**Keywords:** Utilization, Social status, Healthcare, Perception