

Position Paper: Homelessness

Homelessness is a term that refers to living in a house that is below the minimum standard or it is deficient in providing secure occupancy. There are three categories of homelessness which are known as primary homelessness, secondary homelessness, and tertiary homelessness. People can be considered as a victim of primary homelessness if they are living in the streets whereas people who move between temporary shelters that include the houses of relatives, neighbours, friends and availing emergency accommodation are subjected towards secondary homelessness. In tertiary homelessness, people are the residents of hostels or in private houses without having the facility of a private restroom (Hanson-Easey, Every, Tehan, Richardson, & Krackowizer, 2016) . There is some variation in the definition of homelessness concerning different countries or different authorities in the same state or region ("Glossary defining homelessness, 2014). United States government's Statistics of homelessness also include people who do not have a proper shelter to sleep so that they are compelled to sleep in such a place whether its public or private that is not designed for the cause of sleeping (United States Department of Health and Human Services, 2017). It has been observed that in most cases homeless people have failed to attain and maintain safe, protected, and satisfactory housing due to economic instability as both homelessness and poverty are interconnected with each other. According to the research that was conducted in 2005, approximately 100 million people are homeless around the globe ("Global Homelessness Statistics – Homeless World Cup, 2017).

People are subjected to homelessness due to numerous critical causes such as mental illness, poverty, poor social conditions, and isolation. This study investigates 3 different aspects relevant to homelessness and it explores the previously presented researches that were conducted in this regard.

Summary of the Chosen Articles

Nishio, Akihiro, et al. "Relationship between non-communicable diseases and

background characteristics among homeless people in Nagoya City, Japan.” *PloS one* 14.7 (2019): e0219049.

Akihiro Nishio has investigated the relationship between homelessness and disabilities. The author conducted a study where he compared the cause of homelessness and barriers to escaping homelessness (Nishio, 2019). To carry out this investigation he gathered some individuals who were suffering from mental disorders and different other disabilities and the total number of individuals who had participated in this experiment was 114. This examination was conducted by utilizing an adult intelligence scale in which participants were required to fill out a questionnaire related to the causes of their homelessness and barriers that prevent them to escape from it. The outcomes of the experiment have revealed that the participants who were subjected to disabilities due to homelessness were involved in bad relationships with their families. “Associations between the test values for non-communicable disease and mental disorder/intellectual disability, as well as personal backgrounds of homeless people, were determined from the analysis of data gathered in the complex survey” (Nishio, 2019). It has also been portrayed by the findings that many individuals thought that financial disparity was the main reason behind homelessness.

The results of this study exhibited that individuals with psychological disorders were severely affected by homelessness. Studies showed a higher rate of homelessness in individuals with mental illness or intellectual disability than the general population in western countries. There was a barrier for individuals with a disability or mental illness

to escape homelessness. “It has been realized that only a few homeless people could escape their situation and those who do, sometimes return to their street life, despite the availability of social welfare for homeless people in Japan” (Nishio, 2019). These findings have proved that there is a firm association between disabilities and homelessness. The authors have suggested that further research should be carried out to monitor the changes that can occur in the future.

Mabhala, Mzwandile A., Asmait Yohannes, and Mariska Griffith. "Social conditions of becoming homelessness: a qualitative analysis of life stories of homeless peoples." *International journal for equity in health* 16.1 (2017): 150.

Mzwandile A. Mabhala and his fellow researchers have examined the social conditions of the individuals due to which homelessness occurs to present a hypothetical description. The methodology used for carrying out this investigation is constructivist grounded theory. Most of the participants of the study thought that the lack of supportive schooling is one of the major causes of their troubles. “They all expressed the belief that had their schooling experience been more supportive; their lives would have been different. Lee explains that being in trouble with the authorities began while he was at school” (Mabhala, 2017). The findings have portrayed that individuals who show less amount of resilience towards life challenges are more vigilant towards homelessness.

Homelessness is more concerning in terms of the social and public health of an individual than not having a secure place to live. “It is increasingly acknowledged that homelessness is a more complex social and public health phenomenon than the absence of a place to live” (Mabhala, 2017). The findings of this study have exhibited different behavioural reasons for homelessness. The participants involved in this experiment were of the view that the social conditions in which they were raised had played a key role in

leading them towards homelessness. These poor conditions include insecure employment, non-supportive schooling, and a smaller number of careers developing opportunities. However, this study has some limitations as it has only investigated the social and economic factors. The authors have suggested that further studies should be conducted to find out the other aspects that are relevant to homelessness.

Philips, Amy. "*Homelessness and Its Impact on Children.*" ACAMH, 23 Oct. 2019,

Amy Philips has investigated the adverse effects of homelessness on children and their incapability to grow from the attitude flourishment during that period in their life. School teachers have also played a key role in this investigation as they have provided their observations regarding the conduct of homeless children in classrooms. Previously conducted researches have revealed that a large number of children were reported homeless in 2018. "An estimated 131,000 children were reportedly homeless last Christmas" (Phillips, 2019). The number of children who were a victim of homelessness was anticipated to rise by 2019.

The primary aim of this article was to analyse the previously conducted researches in this regard and to provide suitable recommendations to eradicate this disparity. Homeless children have been subjected to depression and other psychological syndromes due to isolation from their peers, and they have also undergone adverse childhood experiences such as sexual abuse from the members they are staying with, which imposes destructive impact on their mental and physical developmental and they are more likely to suffer numerous mental ailments. According to the research, 71% of homeless children are at risk of adolescent drug abuse. "Research produced in America shows the increased risk of adolescent drug abuse among the homeless population, with 71% of homeless children reporting drug or alcohol abuse disorders" (Phillips, 2019). This exhibits a long-lasting influence on their future behaviour, and it has increased the risk of being visible and confronted with drug dealers which makes it tough for the homeless child to escape.

Moreover, a child suffering from homelessness is subjected to lack of sleep and it is observed by the teachers that such children most frequently fall asleep in the class. These children have been living in crowded areas where the people had bad sleeping habits due to which these children are affected by sleep disruption. Homeless children were found to have less mental stability as compared to the children and it was also observed that the girls were more affected by homelessness than the younger boys. The author has suggested that these children should be supported and motivated by their teachers and by other members of society.

Discussion

In this examination different studies have been explored which had diverse perspectives regarding homelessness. In the first source that has been used in this research the author, Akihiro Nishio has investigated the relationship between homelessness and disabilities by conducting a study in which he compared the cause of homelessness and barriers to escaping homelessness (Nishio et al.). The findings of his research proved that there is a firm association between disabilities and homelessness. Furthermore, the author also suggested that further research should be carried out in this regard to monitor the changes that can occur in the future. The primary aim of this research was to examine the fact of whether non-communicable diseases are a cause of homelessness and findings of this proved that this fact is true. Secondly, the work of Mzwandile A. Mabhala and his fellow researchers was explored in which they have examined the social conditions of the individuals due to which homelessness occurs to present a theoretical description (Mabhala et al.). The outcomes of their work depicted that the social conditions of the people in which they were raised play a key role in leading them towards homelessness. These poor social conditions include insecure employment, non-supportive schooling, and a smaller number of careers developing opportunities. The last study that has been discovered in this research was carried out by Amy Philips who had investigated the adverse effects of homelessness on children and their incapability to grow from the attitude flourishment during

that period in their life. Findings of her portrayed that homeless children were found to have less mental stability as compared to the children and it was also observed that the girls were more affected by homelessness than the younger boys. The author suggested that these children should be supported and motivated by their teachers and by other members of society. These researches were diverse as they have studied different aspects regarding homelessness. These articles have different definitions of homelessness as each one of them has focused on a different issue regarding homelessness. All these articles were of different points of view and different areas have been explored in this research. These researches were limited and there was a noticeable gap among them and the most prominent drawback of these researches that none of them had provided any suitable solution can have an everlasting effect in restricting this problem. Furthermore, it is recommended that researches of a broader magnitude should take place to investigate this haunting issue of homelessness and to provide suitable suggestions for the eradication of this issue.

Conclusion

Homelessness refers to living in a house that is below the minimum standard or it is deficient in providing secure occupancy. There are many causes of homelessness such as poverty, psychological disorders, and poor social conditions. Studies have also revealed that children have suffered most of the consequences of homelessness as it leads them towards various physical and mental abuses. Studies on a larger scale should be conducted in the future to investigate this issue and to provide a proper solution for eradicating this problem.

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