Homelessness

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Author Note

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Homelessness is regarded as the result of various interactions within risk factors which can be ranged from the individual to environmental circumstances, and the socio-economic structures. The homeless individuals experience housing status changes which consist of being on the streets, an emergency shelter, and permanent and transitional housing.

# Global Impact

It is traditionally stereotyped that homeless people are often middle-aged alcoholic males. In reality, however, most of the homeless people are ethnically diverse, young people who are members of families(Nooe & Patterson, 2010). In America, homeless people are often Hispanics and Africans which represents the disproportionality of homeless people in comparison to the overall population. It is also observed that the homeless in rural and urban areas mostly went through various doubling up stages with friends and families before they become visibly homeless. The continuous increase in the number of homeless people both internationally and on national level, reflects the negligence in the provision of fundamental human requirements in the capitalist society. In 1980, when for the first time the issue of homelessness aroused the number of poor people increased. For instance, it is also noted that most of the homeless people came from 20% of the lowest class population who ranks extremely poor(People, 1988). The census done by U.S. estimates that African Americans made half of the homeless population and more than 1/3 are living on the street.

The industrialized societies mostly regard homeless people as a third world nation in which poverty is uncontrolled. However, the issues of homelessness are present in every country. The categories of homeless people are seasonal, handicapped, mentally ill, and the impoverished homeless(Wright, 2000). Despite being the wealthiest country of the world, it is estimated that almost 2.3 to 3.5 million people face homelessness in the U.S. According to PBS research, almost 1.5 million more people became homeless because of the economic recession. According to the UN homeless population census, around 100 million people are homeless around the world. In Australia, almost every one in every 200 people is homeless. The mission Australia reported that the reason for homelessness is income inequality and poverty while the secondary factors are alcoholism and mental illness. It is also reported that domestic violence is also one of the major reasons for homelessness in Australia. Despite the fast growing economy of India, the highest rate of homelessness is in India with 78 million people in India regarded as homeless(“Us and them”, n.d.). While France, is mostly effected by the refugee crisis which raised the number of homeless people. It can be observed that the major reason for homelessness throughout the world is poverty and economic recession.

The major effect of globalization related to housing is based on the increased price of houses globally. It is recorded that the residential property in the developed economies is recorded to be enhanced by $20 trillion to more than $60 trillion from 2002 to 2003(Kenna, 2008). It is also reported that the unusual housing boom in relation to the incomes of these countries increases homelessness.

The issues arise through homelessness are mostly mental health related issues. Although if studied closely, it can be observed that various factors play a vital role in homelessness. Various economic forces contribute to housing insecurity and poverty situation both locally and globally. The major reason for homelessness is the economic crisis.

The reason for homelessness is similar worldwide which is an economic crisis that results in high unemployment and low wages which increases the homeless population both locally and globally(“The Economics of Homelessness”, n.d.). As the forces of globalization concentrated wealth in major cities, which resulted in huge number of migration from small cities to big cities which increased the houses prices. In recent years, the major global concern is the lack of economic opportunities and expensive houses which resulted in homelessness.

## Potential Solutions

One of the proven homelessness solutions was developed in the city of New York which latterly replicated globally and is named 'housing first'. The approach of housing first is based on constructing supportive houses. The main objective of this is moving homeless individuals who are affected by abuse and mental disorders to subsidized houses(“Proven Solutions—Coalition For The Homeless,” n.d.). It is observed that people without a home, when moved to the apartments, experienced improvements significantly related to their health issues. The approach, housing first, is less costly as compared to institutional and emergency care which consists of shelters and hospitals.

One of the unsuccessful solutions for homelessness is 'Winter Night Shelter' because of strict policy it is not providing shelter to the victims of domestic abuse as well as creating issues for people with disabilities. Some of the clients also reported that the local authority is providing poor services.

As the major reason for homelessness is gaps in housing affordability, it is required that the government must reduce the prices for the people having middle and lower-income. It is required that the government must address the affordability gaps difference and should invest in affordable rental houses that help homeless individuals and families.

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