



Homeless and Public Shelter: A Study on Government Initiative to Support Children

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ABSTRACT

Homelessness may be a major issue in India. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights defines 'homeless' as those that don't sleep in a daily residence thanks to lack of adequate housing, safety, and availability. Street children are poor or homeless children who survive the streets of a city, town, or village. The objective of the study is to review the increasing number of homeless children, to know the interconnection between illiteracy and homelessness. The researcher has followed inquiry with a convenient sampling method. The sample size covered by the researcher is 200. The result observed from the analysis from the opinion of the The male respondents between the age of 26 - 30 years have seen more homeless children than the feminine respondents between the age of 18 - 25 years and therefore the post graduates above the age of 30 years have agreed that illiteracy may be a cause for homelessness quite the high secondary graduates below 18 years aged. Thus, the paper suggests that homelessness can't be defined by one cause. The difficulty contains a posh mixture of societal and individual causes. Individual causes of homelessness impacts a considerable percentage of the population with afflictions like mental disease and addiction. Society has impacted homelessness with decreases in affordable housing and limited funding compared to the scope of the difficulty. The opinion of the general public also influences the solutions developed on local and national levels.

Keywords: Homelessness, Street Children, Unemployment, Poverty, Loan Schemes

1. Introduction

Homelessness may be a major issue in India. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) defines 'homeless' as those that don't sleep in a daily residence thanks to lack of adequate housing, safety, and availability. Street children are poor or homeless children who survive the streets of a city, town, or village. Homeless youth are often called street kids or street child; the definition of street children is contested, but many practitioners and policymakers use UNICEF's concept of boys and girls, aged under 18 years, for whom "the street" (including unoccupied dwellings and wasteland) has become home and/or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised. Thrown-away children are more likely to return from single-parent homes. Street children are often subject to abuse, neglect, exploitation, or, in extreme cases, murder by "clean-up squads" that are hired by local businesses or police. Historically, homelessness emerged as a national issue within the 1870s. Early homeless people lived in emerging urban cities, like ny City. Into the 20th century, the good Depression of the 1930s caused a devastating epidemic of unemployment, poverty, hunger, and homelessness. Within the late 1980s, as an example, it had been estimated that there were a minimum of 100,000 street children in both Calcutta and Bombay. Overall, estimates for the entire number of street children in India range from 400,000-800,000. Some provisions under Indian constitution that guarantees protection for homeless children are.,Right to protection of life and private liberty. within the pavement dwellers case (Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation), the apex court held that Article 21 of Constitution gives the proper to life and gave wide meaning as, "It doesn't mean merely that life can't be extinguished or removed as, for e.g., by imposition and execution of death sentence, except consistent with procedure established by law. The apex court has included Article 14, 19 and 21 and recognized them as a deciding factor for the dignity of a private. The states are under an obligation to guard the dignity of a private by securing a household for the homeless. Article 39 (1): State policy to be directed so as to secure for both men and ladies, equal rights to an adequate means of livelihood. Article 42: Provisions to be made by the State for securing just and humane conditions of labour and for maternity relief. Article 47: Duty of the State to boost the extent of nutrition and therefore the standard of living and to enhance public health. The much more alarming issue of the homelessness was delivered to the notice of the Supreme Court within the 'right to food' case within the year 2010 (PUCL v. Union of India and Others). This led to the passing of an order by the apex court of the country to satisfy the essential need of the urban homeless to the ratio of a minimum of 1 shelter per 100,000 population in every major populated area. The order of the court also stated that the shelter homes should remain functional for three hundred and sixty five days and 24*7, and shouldn't be available just for a specific season. National Rural Livelihood Mission may be a poverty alleviation project implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. This scheme is concentrated on promoting self-employment and organisation of rural poor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target for the state – every Indian must have a house by 2022. this is often a large order. However it's possible if the state undertakes the proper kind of planning and judicious spending of funds. The top 10 health

issues faced by homeless children are as follows., Mortality and unintentional injuries (bruises, cuts, burns, etc.) Musculoskeletal disorders and chronic pain. Hunger and nutrition. Skin & foot problems. Infectious diseases. Dental problems. Respiratory illness. Chronic diseases and disorders. Sexual & reproductive care. Mental health issues. There are 0.77 million homeless people in India, or 0.15% of the country's total population, consistent with the 2011 census consisting of single men, women, mothers, the elderly, and therefore the disabled. Total number of homes has increased from 52.06 million to 78.48 million as per 2011 census. There's a history of modest progress on individual homelessness. There was a six-year period of declines between 2011 through 2016. However, that trend is slowly reversing. Individual homelessness has increased for the second year during a row: up 3% from 2016 to 2017, then another 2% from 2017 to 2018. There are 0.77 million homeless people in India, or 0.15% of the country's total population, according to the 2011 census consisting of single men, women, mothers, the elderly, and the disabled. There are 18 million street children in India, the largest number of any country in the world, with 11 million being urban. In January 2018, 552,830 people were counted as homeless in the United States. Of those, 194,467 (35 percent) were unsheltered, and 358,363 (65 percent) were sheltered. The overall homeless population on a single night represents 0.2 percent of the U.S. population, or 17 people per 10,000 in the population. The UK homeless charity Shelter estimated in 2017 that the number of people in the UK who were entirely homeless or in temporary accommodation was 300,000. Crisis estimates there are roughly 12,300 rough sleepers in the UK and also 12,000 people sleeping in sheds, bins, cars, tents and night buses.

Objectives

- * To know about level of aids given to the homeless children by the government
- * To study about the increasing number of homeless children
- * To understand the interconnection between illiteracy and homelessness
- * To examine the problems faced by homeless children

1.1 Review of Literature

(Mansor-Lefebvre et al.) assessed characteristics of homeless children in interviews with 82 homeless families, including 156 children, living in 14 Massachusetts family shelters. Developmental delays, severe depression and anxiety, and learning difficulties were common among the children. Based on the use of research screening instruments, about half the children were found in need of psychiatric referral and evaluation. (Thomson and Davis) analysed homeless children in families are increasing in numbers across the country and have been noted to have frequent health problems. The health status of homeless children was assessed on multiple dimensions through a parental report in a survey conducted with 196 homeless families in 10 shelters in Los Angeles and 194 housed poor families. (Landers) concluded that both homeless children and poor children with homes generally had worse scores than most other comparison groups of children at school. Unless action is taken to improve the lot of all these children, it is likely that many will continue to have significant problems that will seriously hamper their ability to function. (Biggar) examined the psychological adjustment of 159 homeless children in comparison with a sample of 62 low-income children living at home. In each group, ages ranged from 8–17 yrs. As expected, homeless children were found to have greater recent stress exposure than housed poor children, as well as more disrupted schooling and friendships. Child behaviour problems were above normative levels for homeless children, particularly for antisocial behaviour. (Wang) says that during the past 10 years, the number of homeless families has increased in every region of the United States. Despite several studies of this population, there is little data regarding the cognitive functioning of these homeless children. (Quint) discussed that school-age children in both groups did not differ significantly on most measures. Preschool homeless children exhibited slower development and more emotional-behavioural problems than did their domiciled peers, and significantly fewer were enrolled in early childhood programs. (Holloran) examines the differences in academic performance, adaptive functioning, and problem behaviours of 145 elementary school-age children who had experienced homelessness and a matched group of 142 mobile children with low socioeconomic status (SES). (Beker and Boxill) determined the health status of children in homeless families, we performed a population-based, cross-sectional survey of a probability sample of 82 homeless families having a total of 158 children 17 days to 17 years of age living in emergency shelters in King County, Washington. (Phillips) notes that street life for children and adolescents in India provides few cognitive developmental opportunities that would lead to a better life, but does provide survival and crisis coping skills. It was found from a study of 100 street children and adolescents who return home every evening; the subjects work, interact with peers, and have generally positive relationships with parents. (Dogra and Dwivedi) found that children who are identified in severe and very severe categories of abuse should be worked with in a follow up study with the help of governmental and nongovernmental agencies working in the field for child welfare. Different forms of abuse are prevalent in street children in India. This area of study needs attention both by the researchers and the social workers. (Chopra) reviews available Indian studies about VSM among street children and documents the extent of misuse, experienced benefits and harms, and risk factors. Reported perceived benefits include enhanced physical strength, decreased shyness, sleep induction, feeling good, and numbing physical and psychological pain. (Ganesan and Human Rights Watch (Organization) carried out the research with an aim to map the socio-economic realities of street children in Jaipur city, India. In-depth interviews were conducted in a “casual-conversation” manner with 200 street children, profiles of their background, incidence of migration, familial contacts, clothing and food, work experiences, play and entertainment, personal habits, peer interaction, attitudes toward self, family and society; and aspirations and expectations were studied. (Savarkar) draws upon the classical frameworks of consequentialism and Kantian ethics to address the problem of business ethics examined in this study. Critically unravelling the linkages between consequentialism and neoliberalism, we support the Kantian framework for addressing the ethical lacuna presented in this research. In examining consumption of correcting fluid as a stimulant by homeless children, we argue that the profit imperative guiding the marketing strategies of the retailers and the largest producer of this product should be institutionally checked. (Singh) concluded that evidence-based mental health interventions for children experiencing homelessness are long overdue. Universal screening, treatment plan development, and support of adaptive systems

that focus on positive parenting and children's self-regulation are essential. (Kumar et al.) explored the determinants of initiation and continued use; drug user social networks; psycho emotional deprivation and frustrations of these children; socio-cultural aspects like work driven need; others' attitudinal response towards them and their work; parental support or the lack of it; and strategies for prevention of this misuse. (Lamsal et al.) says that adolescent street boys are a highly mobile population and difficult to reach. They are recognized to be vulnerable to substance, physical and sexual abuse. Our objective was to conduct a study among adolescent street boys of Mumbai City to assess substance, physical and sexual abuse and the factors associated with them. Most of the studies on adolescent street boys were conducted either in observation homes or via surveys. (Balagopalan) examines narratives of personal experience from homeless street youths in urban Indonesia. Following current research on narrative and victimisation, the author identifies the processes of identity production required for survival in a world of rejection, deprivation and violence.

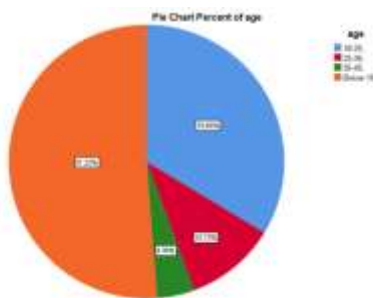
(Banaji) suggests that children face several challenges in their search for food, safety, employment, shelter and medical care. They commonly depend on their peers, non-governmental agencies, and their own resourcefulness to survive on the streets. While the majority use positive mechanisms to cope with their daily stresses, some children also employ maladaptive strategies such as using alcohol, drugs, and visiting prostitutes. (Hanson et al.) argued that poverty and the education of the poor has to be looked at in a context much broader than the global recession or the national economic slowdown. It was referred in particular to the neoliberal discourse advocating low-cost private schools as solutions to the education of poor children, a discourse that preceded the meltdown. There are serious implications that follow that must be urgently addressed. (Mittra et al.) concluded that there is a significant and growing number of adolescents who separate early from their families and become homeless. These youths are heterogeneous in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, but the majority come from families that have been disruptive or dysfunctional in some way.

1.2 Methodology

The research method followed here is Empirical Research. A total of 204 samples have been taken out of which is taken through convenient sampling. The data are collected online. The sample frame taken by the researcher is social media. The independent variable taken here is Gender, Age and Educational Qualification. The dependent variables are the increasing number of homeless children and the interconnection between illiteracy and homelessness.

1.3 Analysis

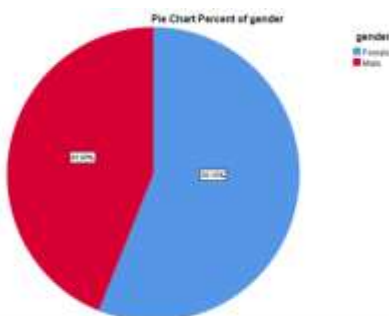
Figure 1



Legend:

Figure 1 :represents the overall performance of the sample population regarding their age, that they belong to which age category less than 18,18-25,25-35,35-45.

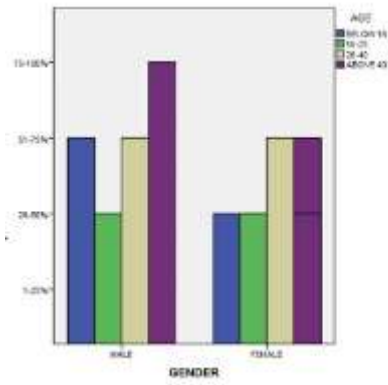
Figure 2



Legend:

Figure 2: represents the overall performance of the sample population regarding their gender, that they belong to which gender male, female, and transgender.

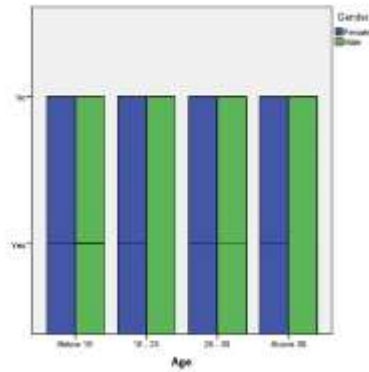
Figure 3



Legend:

Figure3:represents the overall performance of the sample population regarding their age, that they belong to which age category less than 18,18-25,25-35,35-45.

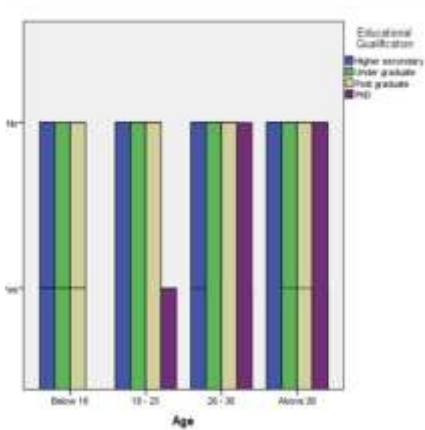
Figure 4



Legend:

Figure4: represents the overall performance of the sample population regarding their gender, that they belong to which gender male, female, and transgender.

Figure 5

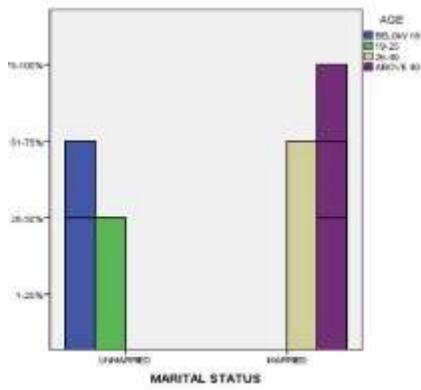


Legend:

Figure 5:

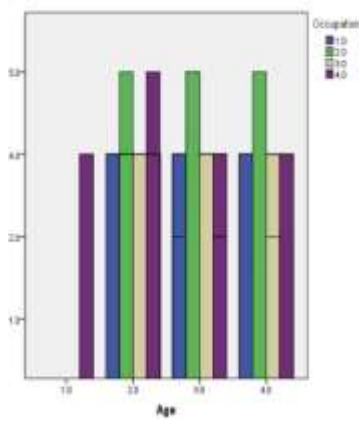
represents the overall performance of the sample population regarding their qualification .

Figure 6



Legend: Figure 6 represents the overall performance of the sample population regarding their marital status.

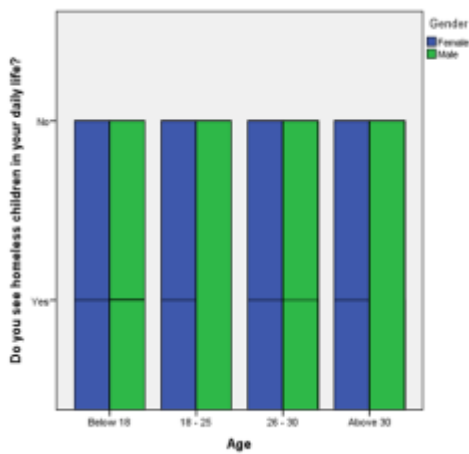
Figure7:



Legend:

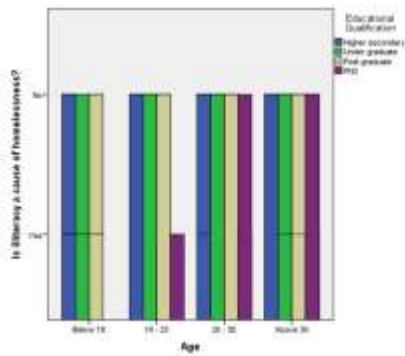
represents the overall performance of the sample population regarding their occupation.

Figure 8 :



LEGEND: This Figure shows the gender distribution among the various age groups of the respondents.

Figure9 :



LEGEND: This Figure shows the educational qualifications of the respondents with their age groups.

RESULT:

In figure 1 It can be concluded that more responses are given by age category below 18 and then 18-25,25-35. **In figure 2** It can be concluded by saying that more responses are given by the female (56.10%) and then male (43.90%). **In figure 3** can be concluded by saying that more responses are given by undergraduate people (47.80%) then high school (38.05%) and postgraduate (14.15%). **In figure 4** it can be concluded by saying that more responses are given by unmarried people (84.88%). **In figure 5** it can be concluded by saying that more responses are given by unemployed people (84.88%). **In figure 6** Figure shows that many of the respondents have seen homeless children in their daily life. **In figure 7** most of the respondents have agreed that illiteracy is a cause for homelessness. **In figure 8** The male respondents between the age of 26 - 30 years have seen more homeless children than the female respondents between the age of 18 - 25 years. **In figure 9** The post graduates above the age of 30 years have agreed that illiteracy is a cause for homelessness more than the high secondary graduates below 18 years of age.

DISCUSSION

From figure 1.1, it is seen that most of the respondents have seen homeless children in their daily life. From figure 1.2, it is clear that the male respondents between the age of 26 - 30 years have seen more homeless children than the female respondents between the age of 18 - 25 years. Thus, it is clear that most of the respondents have seen homeless or street children in their daily life which means the number of homeless children is increasing.

From figure 2.1, it is seen that most of the respondents have agreed that illiteracy is a cause for homelessness. From figure 2.2, it is clear that the post graduates above the age of 30 years have agreed that illiteracy is a cause for homelessness more than the high secondary graduates below 18 years of age. Thus, it is clear that illiteracy is one of the major causes for homelessness and the government should take steps to increase the literacy rate of our country and also should make the existing law more effective and efficient.

SUGGESTIONS

To take care of children carefully and educate them. To create awareness among parents and other elders regarding government initiatives for children. Foster homes should be over viewed by authorities in order to maintain standards and increase safety among children from harms and abuses. Government policies should be implemented effectively by the authorities

4. Conclusion

Research has shown that homelessness cannot be defined by one cause. The issue contains a complex mixture of societal and individual causes. Individual causes of homelessness impacts a substantial percentage of the population with afflictions such as mental illness and addiction. Society has impacted homelessness with decreases in affordable housing and limited funding compared to the scope of the issue. The opinion of the public also influences the solutions developed on local and national levels. As the public opinion shifts, so follows the policies and media coverage on the matter that leads to either resistance or welcoming of long-term solutions. Solutions can also be implemented from community level to global scales. From executing mandates to build affordable housing to the creation of global and local organizations or tribes to address the array of sources of the issue, homelessness can be decreased and even eradicated. As the viral video displayed, one action can impact millions and derive meaning from one act into a multitude of solutions that help our communities' homeless. As a whole, illiteracy leads to unemployment, unemployment leads to poverty and finally poverty leads to homelessness. It is a fair way to send their kids to work, rather than sending them to school. Good education is always a foundation for a good living. Parents must not even work harder to pay their children's school fees. The government schools are free of cost and some of the schools even provide lunch for their students. Thus, it is simply the duty of the parents to encourage their children to attend school. When people get employed, automatically they could afford a good comfortable home in a few years. Even the government took initiatives and introduced schemes for homeless children and people. So, the people should be aware of the schemes and work to qualify the minimum requirement. Soon, every citizen of the country will acquire shelter as it is one of the basic needs of human beings.

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