

A State of the Art Review on Homelessness and Poverty

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ABSTRACT: *The research included a 'rapid evidence evaluation' of the current evidential basis just on connections between poverty and homelessness, as well as an examination of relevant academic and grey literature from the United Kingdom and other developed countries. Homelessness has been widely defined for the purposes of the study to include rough sleeping or residing in buildings not meant or fit for human habitation, staying with near and dear ones because the person concerned has no home of their own and rental housing accommodation for homeless people (e.g. a hostel or night shelter). The JRF's working definition of poverty was used, which is defined as "where a person's resources are insufficient to fulfill their basic requirements. This article highlights homelessness as a social problem that exists in many societies and countries around the world. This phenomenon has become one of the biggest social problems facing the world in the twenty-first century. This encouraged the writer to investigate this phenomenon in his article. The article addresses some of the causes that lead to homelessness from the writer's point of view, the consequences of it, and the problems of homeless people. The writer mentions two main reasons for homelessness: lack of learning among homeless people and the use of drugs and alcohol. Whilst the writer states that the disease in homeless people is considered the most important effect of homelessness. As for the problems suffered by homeless persons, the writer determines the three most prominent which are poverty, hunger and loneliness.*

KEYWORDS: *Homelessness, Habitation, Hunger, Loneliness, Poverty.*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Historical context

Poverty has long been recognised as a prelude to homelessness for the majority, but not all, of the population. Individuals who have gone through it, Even in light of the UK's current situation, As a result of the (post)-recessionary economic climate, which is characterised by escalating social cuts, the experience of the impoverished people continue to be adversely impacted by homelessness [1].

1.2 Homelessness as a Result of Poverty

Poverty's importance in explanations of homelessness causation has shifted throughout time, but it is now nearly generally acknowledged that poverty is a significant contributing factor. Although there are occasional (rare) instances of wealthy people becoming homeless as a result of a personal crisis, scientific data constantly and compellingly shows that poverty is a common denominator carried by the overwhelming majority of homeless persons in the UK and worldwide [2]. However, while there is widespread agreement that most people are 'poor' at the time they are becoming homeless and thus lack the funds and resources to 'ride out' crisis situations without becoming homeless, there will be less evidence and agreement about whether the bulk of citizens grew up in poverty, or have experienced 'life-long' poverty. There are some signs that this is the case, however the evidence to support (or reject) this claim is currently lacking [3].

Poverty's impact on homelessness is influenced by macro-level structural circumstances like welfare regimes, housing, and labor markets, as well as complicated interconnections between these and micro-level variables like individual vulnerabilities (e.g., illness and/or drug abuse). Specifically, the impacts of poverty as a causative impact may be mediated (arrested or worsened) by a variety of variables, including the level of protection given by welfare regimes, support programs, and people's access to cultural, financial, and/or human resources [4]. In light of recent financial downturn and ongoing healthcare reform in the UK, there has been concern about a rise in the frequency of "middle-class homelessness." Recent research, on the other hand, indicates that the significant causal connection among poverty and homelessness has been maintained in the present economic climate, at least to date, with homelessness negatively affecting the poorer sections of society.

1.3 Poverty as a Result of Homelessness

Evidence also indicates that the overwhelming majority of homeless persons in the United Kingdom, whether they are non-statutory homeless people or even the heads of statutory needy population, has low wages, is jobless, and relies on welfare payments. Only a tiny percentage of homeless and previously homeless individuals engage in the paid employment, and those who do usually continue to suffer economically [5]. The frequency of debt among previously homeless families, particularly those housed in the private leased sector, has been a source of worry. Furthermore, there is considerable concern about the effect of welfare benefit penalties on people who are homeless, given evidence that they, particularly young people and those with complex needs, are adversely impacted.

As a result, the recent provision of exclusions for rough sleepers and homeless individuals in assisted housing from the need that they seek or prepare for employment in order to maintain welfare benefits eligibility has been welcomed. A lack of secure housing, work disincentives affiliated with the social assistance benefit system, vulnerabilities and support needs, low levels of education, limited (or no) work experience, and employer discriminatory treatment are among the many obstacles that homeless and formerly homeless people face in accessing and maintaining paid employment in the mainstream workforce. Individuals with special needs, such as co-occurring drug misuse difficulties, mental illnesses, and/or institutional care experiences, are especially vulnerable to these challenges [6].

Evidence also suggests that individuals who are homeless or have been homeless and are able to find paid employment suffer in-work poverty, in part because their jobs are frequently low-paying and entail unstable short-term contracts. It is uncertain whether or not this scenario will last, and if so, for how long, although substantial increases in income seem improbable given the restricted pay advancement opportunities associated with the majority of unskilled employment. As a result, current data indicates that neither providing permanent housing nor facilitating homeless people's access to paid employment will be adequate to raise the overwhelming majority of homeless individuals out of poverty on their own. In summary, poverty is far more hard to overcome than homelessness; the former is chronic and cumulative, whereas the latter is episodic [7].

1.4 Interventions' Effectiveness and Cost

Several initiatives have tried to disrupt the connections between homelessness and poverty. Efficient homelessness prevention estimates targeting 'at risk' households or those who have previously experienced homelessness have been shown to act as 'buffers,' safeguarding them from homelessness even in the face of challenges structural factors such as high unemployment or deteriorating housing conditions. Rental deposit programs, family mediation, tenancy assistance, and financial counseling are examples of such efforts [8].

Nonetheless, it is generally believed that, in order to effectively and efficiently break the connections between poverty and homelessness, 'main' prevention, which addresses the structural source of homelessness, is required, i.e., macro-level interventions that decrease societal poverty levels and unfairness and increase the availability and affordability housing. These seek to increase housing availability, accessibility, and affordability, as well as alter elements of the 'welfare settlement' (such as the amount of income benefits, housing allowances, and employment protection, among other things). Figure 1 illustrates the Homelessness and poverty in rich countries.

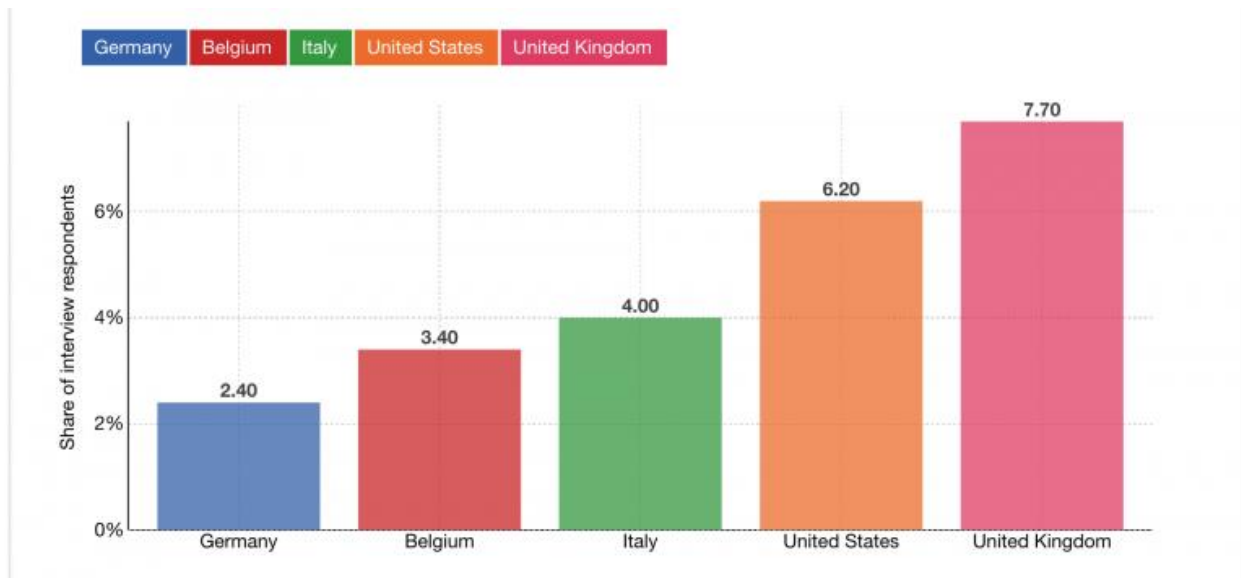


Figure 1: Illustrates the Homelessness and poverty in rich countries [Our World in Data].

A variety of programs have tried, among other things, to guarantee that individuals who become homeless do not become poor in the long run. Employment, training, and education programs; Foyers; social businesses; Emmaus communities; money management and the financial inclusiveness efforts; and individualized/personal budgeting are just a few examples. The majority of them have emphasized paid work and/or workforce training as a means of escaping poverty, thereby mirroring homelessness and broader social policies. All of these programs, which intervene after individuals, become homeless, report a variety of beneficial psychosocial and other results, including increased self-esteem and the acquisition of new skills, credentials, and/or job experience. A number are also claimed to save the state money and/or provide wider societal investment returns, such as via welfare benefit savings, tax gains, and/or savings in health and criminal justice.

However, none of them has a very good record when it comes to helping the homeless and previously homeless individuals get out of poverty. In terms of job acquisition and retention, the results are usually mixed at best, and in some instances, disastrous. Furthermore, as previously said, service users who do find paid employment are seldom financially better off. To summarize, it is very difficult for such efforts to make significant progress in reducing poverty in the present structural environment. As a result, stakeholder expectations about their capacity to do so should stay reasonable.

2. DISCUSSION

Poverty and homelessness are closely connected. Housing, clothing, food, childcare, health care, and schooling are often out of reach for the poor. Usually, it is housing which must be cut, since it consumes a large portion of income. Poverty is defined as a lack of basic requirements or the inability to meet and maintain basic needs. Poverty is a major problem because it impacts the average individual, who makes up a large percentage of the world's population. Absolute and relative poverty are the two types of poverty. Absolute poverty is defined as a person's inability to meet fundamental necessities such as food, housing, and clothes. When someone is impoverished, they are unable to meet their basic requirements and are therefore labeled as such. Relative poverty refers to poverty that is related to the individual's socioeconomic position [9].

Education is the most essential need for everyone in order to get a suitable career and live a decent life. Otherwise, he or she will have a difficult time surviving. Homeless individuals, particularly youngsters, will be unable to learn essential life skills if they do not get an education. According to studies, almost three-quarters of homeless children drop out of school. One of the major causes of homelessness, however, is a lack of education or training among homeless individuals. Homeless individuals are subjected to a slew of obstacles that prevent them from attending school or from attending on a regular basis. He just seeks life, despite the fact that they are barely surviving. Transportation is also a stumbling block. Families that are homeless reside in locations distant from schools and are housed in shelters that are insecure. This is because it is simpler to find a safer and less expensive refuge outside of the city center. For example, since the rent in the fields is less than in other areas of the city, homeless people are forced to reside there away from schools. Furthermore, university tuition is a barrier to study or training for many individuals, particularly homeless people. According to Desjardins when asked about obstacles to training in 2008, about 38% of Canadians said that training is too costly and that they could not afford it. This proportion is high even among non-homeless individuals.

As a result, the proportion of homeless individuals is unquestionably greater, owing to their lower socioeconomic status. Also, since this figure comes from Canada, one of the wealthiest nations in the world, it is likely that the proportion is greater in other societies. Furthermore, the poor health of homeless individuals makes it difficult for them to attend school. Some of them are unable to walk on their own, making it difficult for them to attend school. Some of them are blind and alone, making it difficult for them to attend courses on their own. As we all know, encouragement is essential for everyone's success. Homeless individuals are losing motivation to study or, at the very least, grow. Because the majority of them live alone, they have no friends or anybody to encourage them. As a result, whether they are studying or exercising, they have the same sensation. It implies they are uninterested in doing anything, even if it is very important to them.

Homelessness has a wide range of consequences. His illnesses are the primary cause of homeless people's effects. The majority of them have health issues. Some of their illnesses, such as cancer, are incurable or permanent. They are also at risk for serious illnesses including hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. Some of them are also non-chronic. Humans suffer from illnesses for a variety of causes. One of these reasons is because homeless individuals have a hard time getting to hospitals and health care (Hospital discharge of homeless people, 2012). The fact that they are unconcerned about their personal cleanliness is another factor. Whereas, some of them go for extended periods of time without showering, perhaps up to three months in a row. But what about the grounds behind their refusal to bathe. There are many reasons for this, one of which is that they do not have homes, which means they do not have a place to shower. Furthermore, one of the primary causes is a lack of awareness.

No one informs them that ablution is extremely important for their health where they are. As a result, the majority of them are unaware of the significance of ablution to their health. This is because the majority of them do not have relatives or friends, which means they have no one to assist them learn about health issues that may have arisen as a result of a lack of ablution. Furthermore, the majority of governments across the globe does not communicate with children and do not demonstrate the dangers of not washing. Furthermore, a significant percentage of homeless adolescents suffer from psychological symptoms such as sadness, anxiety, and behavioral problems.

One of the problems is poverty. Homeless individuals have many challenges that must be addressed. One of the problems is poverty. They lack the financial means to guarantee that they have a place to stay and eat. Whereas the majority of them are unemployed or have difficulty finding work. It all boils down to the fact that they are unable to get employment, implying that they have no means of income. Loneliness is one of the problems that homeless people face. Homeless people's emotions of loneliness may have serious consequences for their spiritual, physical, and emotional health. Anxiety, hostility, depression, poor self-concept, alcoholism, and psychosomatic illnesses have all been linked to loneliness. As a result, all of these responses stemming from loneliness must be addressed. This issue will be addressed by identifying groups that will care for homeless individuals and serve as a gathering place. As a result, they will get to know one another and will no longer be lonely [2], [10].

3. CONCLUSION

The study found that there is a bidirectional connection among homelessness and poverty. Existing research indicates that poverty is a forerunner to homelessness for the large majority (but not all) of those who experience it, and that the large bulk of those who experience homelessness suffer from lower average earnings, whether they are receiving unemployment benefits or working. Primary homelessness prevention seems to be the most successful way of combating both homelessness and poverty, as well as breaking the connections between the two, although secondary and tertiary interventions may help to decrease the extent of homelessness and the severity of the impact on individuals who are impacted. Other initiatives that help individuals as they become homeless have numerous advantages, but they are unlikely to be able to pull them out of poverty, at least in the present structural environment.

The report highlights the need for the homelessness sector to shift its focus from "income maximization" to a more ambitious emphasis on poverty reduction. This is frequently reflected in a concern with ensuring that all advantages to which people are eligible are obtained. This would focus emphasis on increasing access to adequately well-paid employment or out-of-work benefits, as well as enhancing the broader welfare safety net. Long-standing demands for more affordable housing and broad implementation of a "living wage" remain important, as do attempts to fight the "poverty premium," or the disproportionately higher costs that "poor" people pay for items like home utilities and consumer credit. The study also emphasized the need to (re)examine the relationship between the benefits system and paid work, since paid employment must be able to react more flexibly to informal and part-time work if it is to play a role in poverty reduction for homeless and previously homeless individuals.

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