

An Empirical Study on Survival of Homeless People in Southern Mumbai

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Abstract

Shelter is one of the most important component of human life. One of the main reason for homelessness are the migrants in search of employment, financial upliftment, education etc. Homeless are the unstable population in almost every aspect of survival. They can be defined as individuals insufficient to fulfill the basic necessities of shelter due to economic imbalance. In this research, we studied the homeless people of Southern Mumbai, their lifestyle and survival. Through this study, we understood that the survival of homeless people in big cities like Mumbai is challenging but such challenges make them adopt skills for their survival though not uplifting them completely.

Keywords: Homeless, Migrant, Society, Lifestyle

I. Introduction:

Mumbai is a densely populated city of more than 20 crore people in the area of 603.4 km² on India's west coast of Maharashtra. Mumbai is one of India's quickly developing city and this attracts the people who are in search of employment as specially the migrants from the poor community, this community migrates to Mumbai without any background support, financial planning or any other basic requirements of survival later makes them homeless. Being financial weak they are unable to rent or buy home/properties so they live at roadside footpaths or remote corners of the city. Living in the streets is too challenging as this homeless has to deal with the government officials such as the police, municipality, developers, locals and many more. In the Southern most region of Mumbai, the population is around 3,145,966 in which 11,915 are homeless.

II Review of Literature:

Richa C & Nita S (2016) has mentioned a report from 2011 census in which it was founded that there were 1.77 million homeless people in India, which were about 0.15% India's total population. The quickest people who get add on India's homeless population were the migrants in search of employment and seeking improvement in their standard of living.

Shruti G mentioned that by the orders of SC, commissioned by state government and also the BMC there were 11,915 homeless in Mumbai but 21,000 homeless in the whole state as per the survey. There were 19 BMC-run shelters in which 12 were allocated to children. A few

activists claims that only 33 shelters offered by BMC's development plan as there are up to 2.5 lakh homeless in the city.

III Objectives of the study:

- To study the survival of homeless people in Southern Mumbai.
- To understand the reason behind their homelessness and since when.
- To know their challenges & insecurities being homeless.

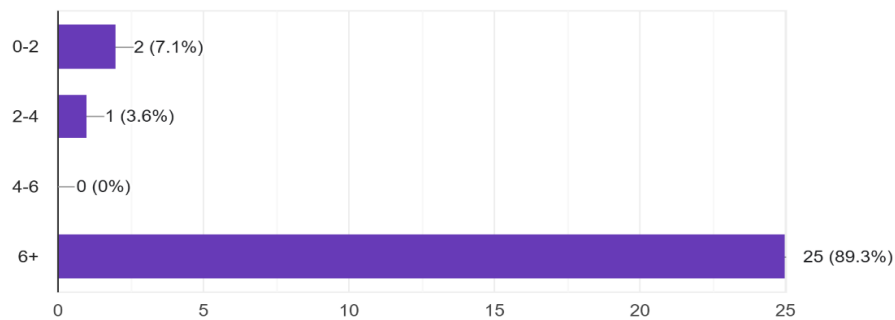
IV Data Collection:

The paper is based on both secondary data as well as the primary data. The secondary data help us to get the official numbers and previously done research and in primary data sampling was done in such a way that 28 homeless were interviewed in south Mumbai, the sample of the responses collected are representative of homeless people in Southern Mumbai.

V Data Analysis & Interpretation:

For how many years are you homeless ?

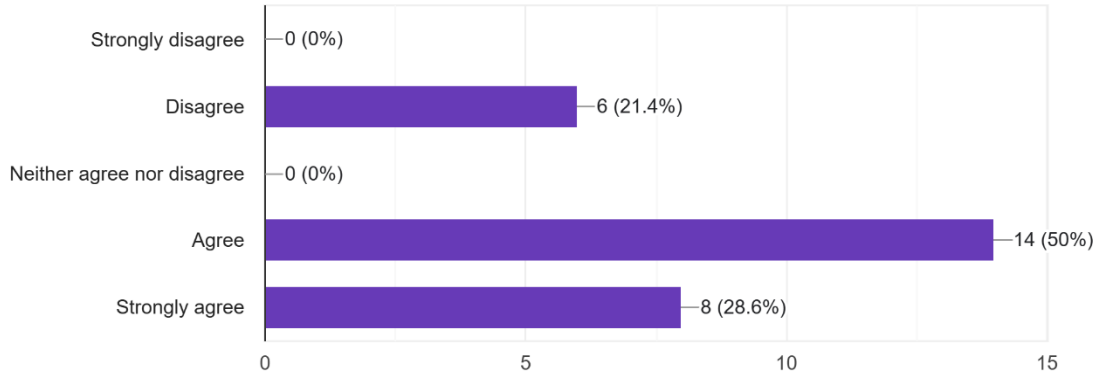
28 responses



There are 89% people who were homeless more than 6 years while 7.1% were homeless in between 0 to 2 years only and only 3.6% people were homeless in years between 2 to 4 years.

Are you homeless by birth?

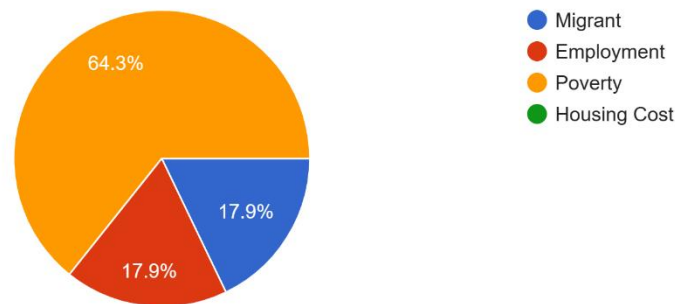
28 responses



50% agreed that they were homeless by birth and 28.6% strongly agreed while 21.4% disagreed that they were homeless by birth.

Why are you homeless?

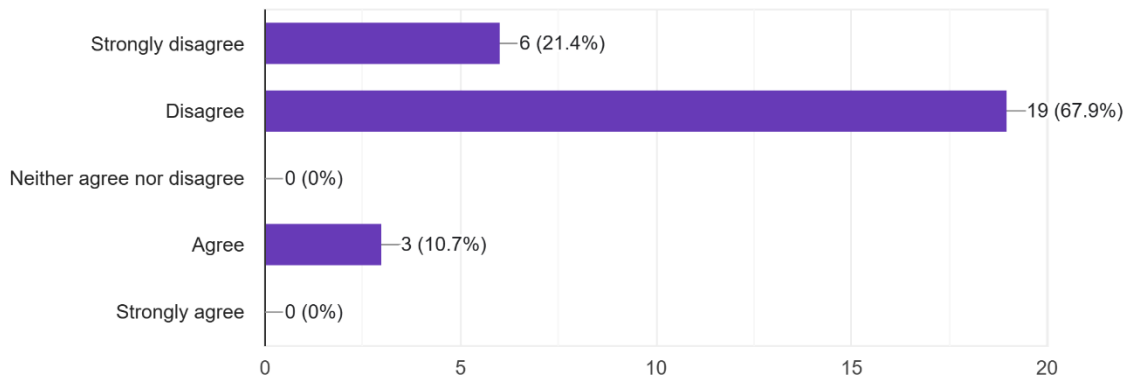
28 responses



64.3% homeless said that they were homeless because of poverty and an equal number of group said i.e. 17.9% told that they were homeless due to being migrant and for employment.

Due to homelessness, did you faced any mental or health issues?

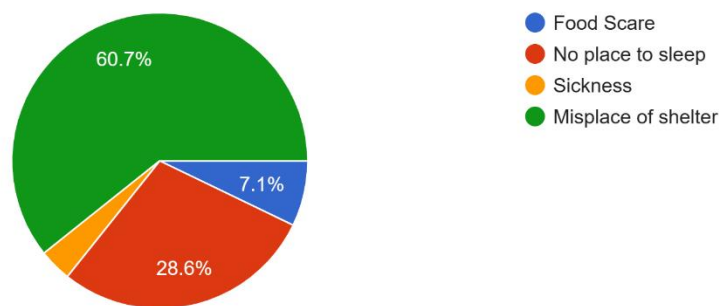
28 responses



Surprisingly asking about if being faced any mental or heath issue 67.9% homeless said they disagreed and 21.4% strongly disagreed if they faced any such issues but 10.7% agreed on it.

What are your challenges during seasonal changes ?

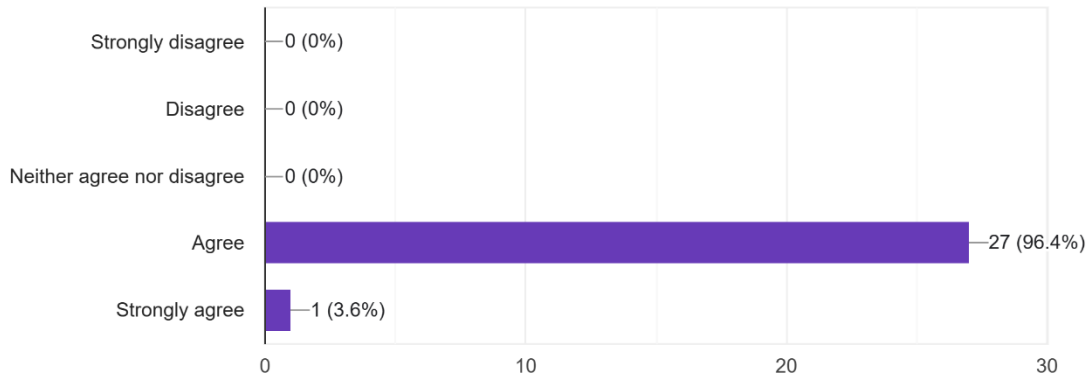
28 responses



In seasonal challenges 60.7% said the main issue they face is misplace of shelter. 28.6% said they have no place to sleep and 7.1% have to face food scare.

Do you have basic necessities, for your survival ?

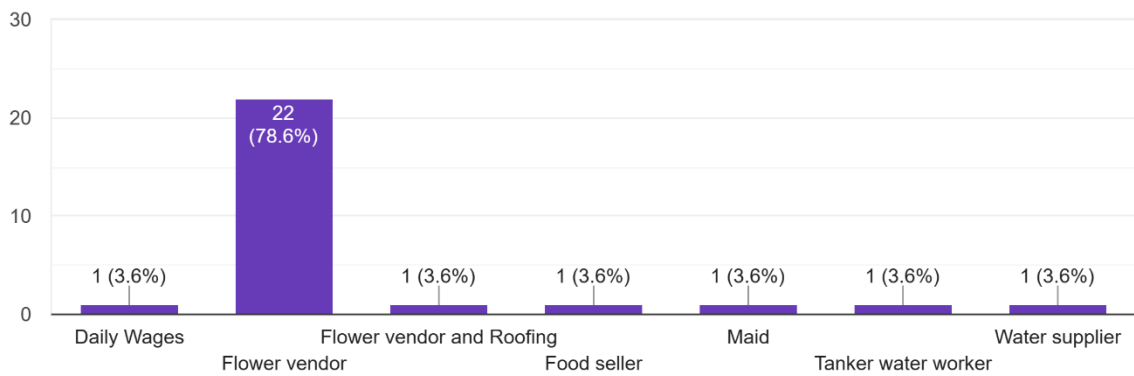
28 responses



96.4% homeless agreed that they have basic necessities for survival and 3.6% strongly agreed.

What are your sources of earnings?

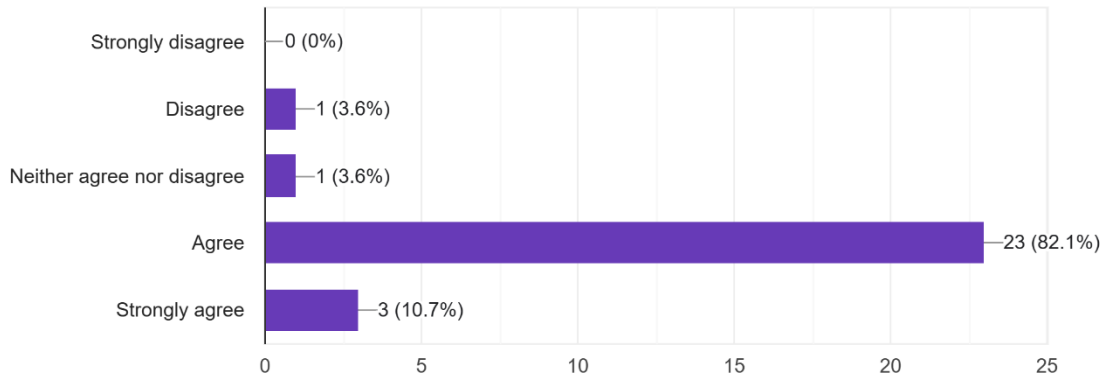
28 responses



Asking about their source of earning a huge number homeless i.e. 78.6% worked as flower vendors while others i.e. 3.6% homeless worked as daily wages earner, roofing work on seasons, maid, tanker water supplier and water supplier.

Are your skills sufficient enough for your earnings?

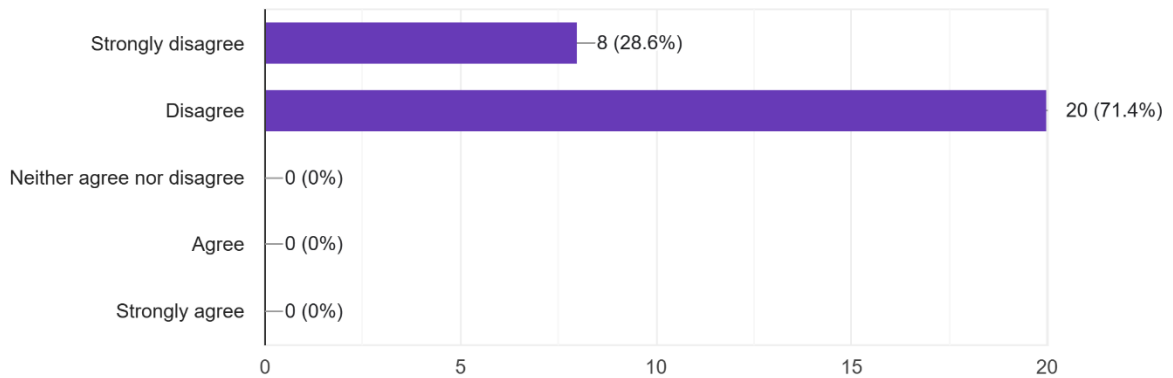
28 responses



82.1% of homeless agreed that their skills are sufficient enough for their earning and 10.7% strongly agreed. While an equal percent i.e. 3.6% disagreed and neither agreed nor disagreed.

Due to homelessness did you got engaged into wrong activities?

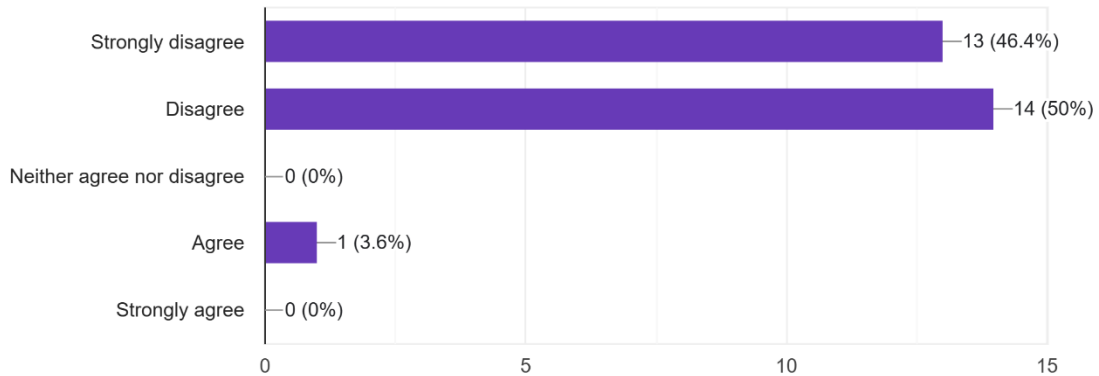
28 responses



When asked about being engaged in wrong activities 71.4% disagreed and 28.6% strongly disagreed.

Are you aware of government schemes for homeless people?

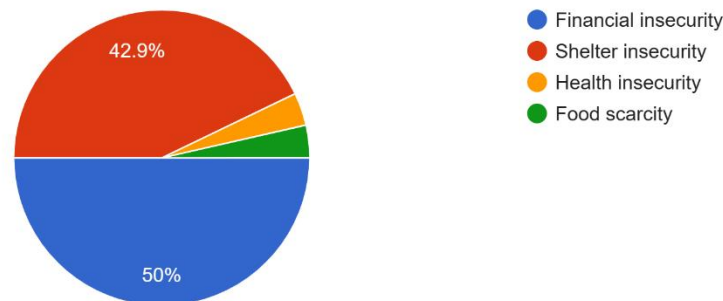
28 responses



50% of homeless disagreed when asked if they were aware of any government schemes and 46.4% strongly disagreed but 3.6% were aware of government schemes.

What is the hardest thing being homeless?

28 responses



The hardest thing being homeless was financial insecurity responded by 50% homeless and 42.9% had shelter insecurity and remaining had health insecurity and food scarcity.

VI Findings:

The main idea of the research was to find out the current situation/ survival of homeless people in Southern Mumbai. The result of this research shows that respondents were surviving in Southern Mumbai for more than 6 years because the actual reason being homeless was poverty while others were migrant in search of employment. These homeless had basic necessities and skills for their survival but their major concerns were about shelter and financial insecurity.

VII Conclusion

Through this study, it is derived that homeless people in southern Mumbai are facing challenges in terms of various factors as compared to the people settled and well established. Being homeless by birth and migrant with no financial and background support are the people closest to be the homeless.

The homeless have enough skills for their survival but for them shelter, security and financial upliftment are their priorities.

References

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