Raising Number of Homeless Children and Preventive Measures

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ABSTRACT

Homelessness is an important and strong social issue that has become social inequality and injustice in otherwise affluent communities. Although problems connected with home-lessness can be discussed in vivid spheres, social doubts arise such as why homeless people 'lack ambition, why they are socially adaptive, why they are ignored by the larger part of society, and why they are considered to be a group underneath somewhere outside the social system. The main objectives of the study are To find out the effectiveness of government functioning in controlling the increase in the number of homeless children in society, opinions as to where large numbers of homeless children in society are found and the best measure for inhibiting the number of homeless children in society. The researcher has followed empirical research with a random sampling method. The sample size covered is 200. The results observed from the analysis of the study are that the Majority of Respondents felt that the government functioning in controlling the increase in the number of homeless children in society is not effective enough that is the reason why the Strict government implications and safe shelter infrastructure has to be taken care and it's observed that homelessness children in high in urban areas compared to the rural area where once was considered as the hub for such issues since in present cities are often flocked by people in hope of livelihood but unbearable living costs often lead to debts and burden and this leads to the homelessness of children.

Keywords: Homeless children, Social exclusion, Structural interventions, Societal policy, Government Intervention.

INTRODUCTION

Attention to homelessness first rose in the early 1990s, Even now due to rising population and increased cost of living, housing problems are once again an issue. The homeless are perhaps the most neglected section of society, appearing as unsettled, with no fixed home, tramps, beggars, indigents, and the underclass. All these symptoms are connected with social issues that create a divide between homeless people and the rest of society. Homelessness is a vital social issue that has become social inequality and injustice. problems associated with home-lessness are various but among children, it's because Few children who ran away from their homes, Due to family incapacity to bear the expenses of the child they end up engaging in begging, living on footpaths, Children engaged in work in godown and shops. These issues relating to homelessness have a huge investigatory aspect as causes of these issues are majorly unemployment, where people in search of livelihood flock to cities and towns but only a few sustain the rest of them struggle. homelessness is identified as a major and growing worldwide social problem.

Presently Government initiatives are not directly taken to prevent homelessness as of now government bodies alongside NGOs and other social organizations vide shelter houses and safe homes protection is provided. But there are no proper legislations to regulate the shelter homes since even in these shelter homes it was observed that children were subjected to abuse by caretakers, or engaged in labour works and trafficking. So, the homeless have significantly magnified rates of exposure to violence and low social support. homeless people were considered to be aimless people living out of society or on its wrecks who had, for different reasons, given up their earlier lifestyle or behaved that was considered normal. Homelessness is estimated to affect a hundred million people globally, Although a vast population in the world has some form of dwelling, roughly ½ the world's population does not have proper housing to be considered adequate.

The UN estimates that over 1 billion people are not properly housed. Further, homelessness is not only confined to underdeveloped or developing nations but is a misconception due to its complexities in terms of socio-economic and structural problems. The Mental Health Act was a vital factor in setting the homelessness in the US. a

homelessness charity Crisis, a home in the UK is not just a roof overhead for the homeless: it also provides a purpose, a new identity, security, a sense of belonging and a place of emotional well being to all homeless.

In Comparison Homelessness although is a major issue in India still not properly addressed as above nations since the Indian Government has taken an initiative namely "Deendaya" which aims at providing safe shelter for the homeless despite the efforts still safety and security at these safe homes or any charity homes is still questionable since a lot of cases are reported of children in safe homes are exploited, abused by caretakers still there is no law or regulations as to this issue. The UDHR defines the term 'homeless' as those who do not live in a regular residence due to a lack of adequate housing, safety, and availability. The main aim of the study is to understand the causes of homelessness of children and measures that need to be taken to control homelessness.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Programs and interventions are for the sake of the wide public. While these programs do not always have homelessness curtail as their objective, they have the effect of reducing the threat of becoming homeless (**Hipple et al., 2016**) preventive efforts aimed at members of a particular group, such as school-based initiatives and anti-oppression schemes for individuals facing disparity, in particular indigenous Peoples (**Biggar 2001**) It also includes programs focused at lower earning people, such as the basic income being implemented as provide basic livelihood to below poverty families so that they don't end up homeless (**Cronley et al. 2020**) where such prevention measures applies to all those who are unfavorable to ensure they do not become homeless (**Gultekin et al., 2020**). Prevention steps are not only taken to support families and individuals who are homelessness but also to prevent their children also becoming homeless, especially to prevent any kind of exploitation of these children on street like sexual abuse, Inducement of drugs, Trafficking (**Chimdessa and Cheire 2018**). The Housing First model in the US is a type of tertiary prevention by providing homeless individuals with housing and support, Especially to prevent substance abuse in homeless youth where a person under this programme is required to receive a treatment exchange of housing (**Gaddis et al. 2018**). In order to effectively curtail homelessness, all three various ways of prevention must take place simultaneously i.e Prevention of homelessness, Providing basic needs, Housing support (**Gewirtz, 2007**). But most of the prevention measures that prevail globally exist as a secondary prevention method (**Kanak et al. 2018**).

These measures to prevent homelessness are vital but solely can't uplift the plight of the homeless. Proper Structural and systemic interventions required at the level of primary prevention are needed to provide the scheme, implementation, and funding for individual initiatives to give out best outcome (**Arnaud et al., 2018**) Prevention requires a proper systems approach, where each preventive authority or organization works in union with another only then each of the categories has implications for primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention initiatives (**Rotheram et al., 2019**) As above, the classifications are not hidden; homelessness prevention requires an increased level of cooperation between all levels of Govt, between systems and institutions, and coordination at the community level (**Hosseinnataj et al. 2019**) In the last few decades, Canadian policies have begun to turned from controlling homelessness to finding solutions, especially the expansion of the Housing important approach across the country because Housing model gives out housing and support for flocks experiencing homelessness with no housing requirements.

Organisation and Agencies are better in helping families who are living on the brink of homelessness when they are not bound down by strict bureaucracy and rules. They must have the ability to meet needs such as helping with transportation, supplies, permits for jobs or short-term rental service (**Garvey et al., 2018**). The response to child homelessness has included enacting laws that aim to protect the rights of these children, such as those guarantee their inclusion in education. This is achieved through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as provided for the "No Child Left Behind" slogan . But there are many other programs and funding plans in place to help homeless children (**Duffield, 1997**). Housing subsidies can curtail homelessness for the poor. A national study showed that provision of housing subsidies to families receiving public help reduced homelessness by seventy four percent (**Institute of Medicine and Committee on Health Care for Homeless People, 1988**) prevention of family homelessness with plans such as eviction prevention are poorly enacted and lack comparison groups so it is difficult to tell how much they help (**Tyler, Schmitz, and Ray 2018**).
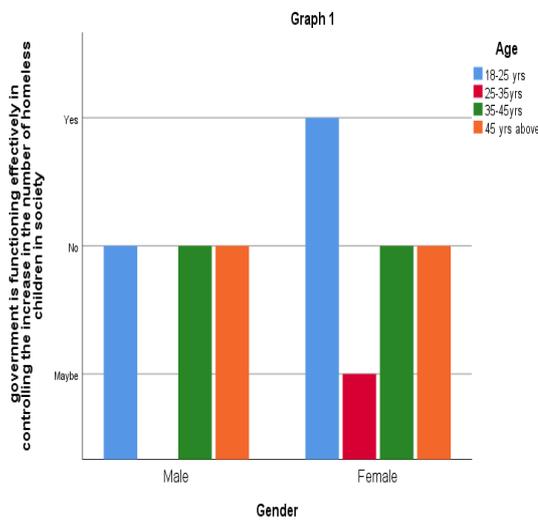
Poverty can affect children's health adversely on developmental, mentally and behavioral change through various variables. Several of the constructs by which poverty and its peril effects are particularly connected to the situation of homeless children (**United States Congress, 2009**) Homeless children living in motels and hotels, like homeless children in shelters, often experience high levels of flocking, typically by the number of people per room (**Mayo-Wilson et al., 2019**) individuals becoming homeless enter this state where the root cause is having scarce income resources. Because family homelessness is a temporary and not a permanent condition, almost all homeless families will eventually be re-housed (**Kerman et al. 2020**) Children who become homeless are at risk for, or have already faced, other major issues as well, such as exposure to violence, which can impact child physically and me mentally

regardless of whether they are living under roof or not **(Desmennu et al. 2018)** All such children fall under the definition of homelessness. There is barely any follow up data about these children after being sheltered, and one more reason to this is that most of the research works published on homelessness among children were results of scenarios such as recession and boom in housing **(Gauvin et al., 2019)**.
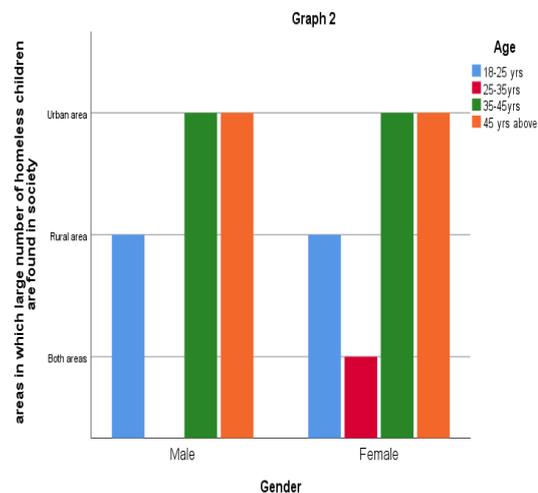
METHODOLOGY

The research method followed in the study is empirical research. The sample size of the research is 200 have been done through random sampling. The sample frame is collected through a questionnaire posed to the general public in public places. The Independent variables of the study taken here are gender, age, educational qualification of respondents. The dependent variables of study are Public opinion as to whether the government is functioning effectively in controlling the increase in the number of homeless children in society, areas prone to large numbers of homeless children in society, and the best measure for inhibiting the number of homeless children in society. The analysis of data collected is interpreted and represented by graphs.
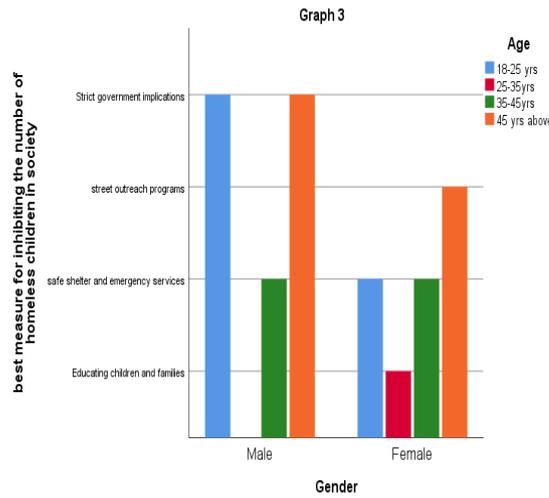
ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

(Fig.1)

Legend : From fig.1, it is observed that it exhibits the age distribution of the respondents among different genders and their opinion on whether the government functions effectively in controlling the increase in the number of homeless children in the society.
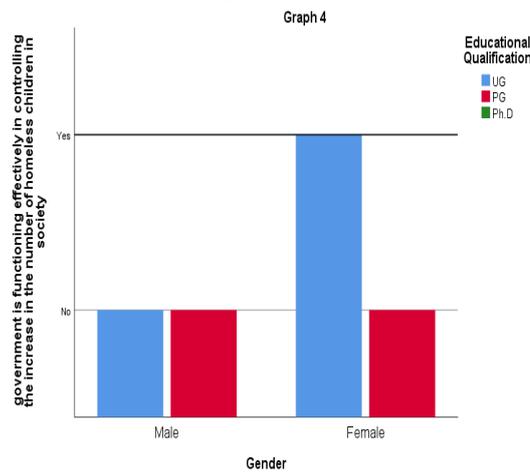

(Fig.2)

Legend : From the fig.2, it is observed that it exhibits the age distribution of the respondents among different genders of the respondents and their opinion on the large number of homeless children in the society, especially in which area.
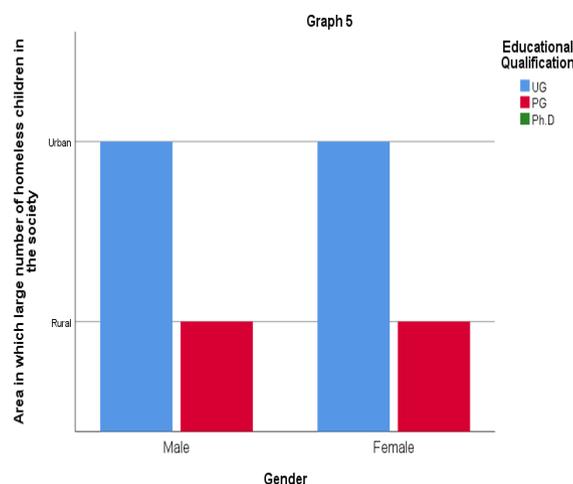

(Fig.3)

Legend : From fig.3, it is observed that it exhibits the age distribution of the respondents among different genders and their opinion on the best measure for inhibiting the number of homeless children in society.
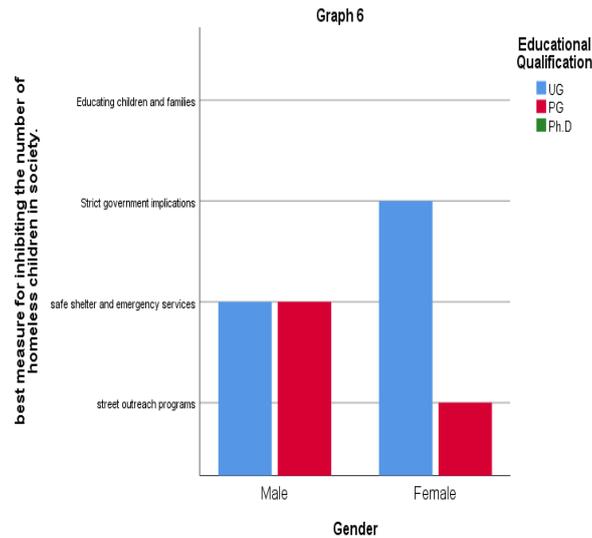

(Fig.4)

Legend : From the fig.4, it is observed that the Educational distribution pertaining to various Gender and their opinion on whether the government functions effectively in controlling the increase in the number of homeless children in the society.

(Fig. 5)

Legend : From the fig.5, it is observed that the Educational distribution pertaining to various Gender and their opinion on the large number of homeless children in the society, especially in which area.

(Fig. 6)

Legend : From fig.6, it is observed that the Educational distribution pertaining to various Gender and their opinion on the best measure for inhibiting the number of homeless children in society.

DISCUSSION

The independent variables of study are Age, Gender, Educational Qualification and three dependent variables are questionnaires asked to the General public.

For the dependent variable, THAT GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY IN CONTROLLING THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS CHILDREN IN THE SOCIETY, where majority of respondents male belonging to all the age groups and Female of age 35- above 45 and respondent sample with variable educational qualification UG, PG think government does not act effectively in controlling the increase in the number of homeless children in the society as though measures such as safe homes facilities are taken but still regulations aren't sufficient to prevent abuse of children in safe homes, initiation of proper rehabilitation of homeless families. 2ND DEPENDENT VARIABLE, PUBLIC OPINION IS WHETHER THE LARGE NUMBER OF HOMELESS CHILDREN IN THE SOCIETY ARE FROM RURAL AREAS, it is observed that majority of male and female respondents especially belonging to the age groups between 35-45 and above 45 yrs, educational qualification UG also feel that the large number of homeless children are in the Urban areas, one of the main reasons is earlier it was misconstrued that poverty is only present in rural areas by in search of livelihood and urban area having its own problems like increasing population, poverty, unemployment etc. often leads to families and children ending up as homeless and LASTLY, WHAT ARE THE BEST MEASURES FOR INHIBITING THE NUMBER OF HOMELESS CHILDREN IN SOCIETY, it is observed that majority of male and female respondents among variables age and educational qualification agree that the best measure for inhibiting the number of homeless children in society is strict government policies and safe shelter betterment and emergency services as unemployment is also one of the reasons for the increase of homeless children and also proper regulations of safe homes is required to prevent any violation in safe home where not only government participation but also community awareness programmes could help the helpless in and around.

LIMITATIONS

In research there are no findings or analysis that are universally generalisable or without its drawbacks and limitations. The major limitation of the study is a sample frame as the sample frame is from general public places where the people's personal experience or awareness on what problems homeless people face could be less among a few groups. The restrictive area of sample size is also another major drawback, also a possibility that the respondents are giving answers that they believe the researchers want and therefore creating bias.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS:

Homelessness is an exceptionally complicated social difficulty of worldwide importance. The trouble has expressed a number of societal and public policies responses over the time, controlled with fluctuations within the economic

conditions and changes inside the demographics of place and attitudes of people. In recent years, many companies, NGO, and the philanthropist have worked hard to widen and put in force policies to solve the difficulties of homelessness, and progress has been made but still government functioning in controlling the increase in the number of homeless children in society not effective enough that is the reason why it's suggested that Strict government implications and safe shelter infrastructure has to be taken care where policies and regulations with respect to safe shelter is utmost important for safety of children rescued and Moreover its observed that homelessness children in high in urban areas compared to rural area where once was considered as hub for such issues since in present cities are often flocked by people in hope of livelihood but unbearable living costs often lead to debts and burden and this leads to the homelessness of children. Vitally, the outcome of the efforts is to reduce homelessness by taking measures of basic livelihood support, regulations of safe homes.

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