Policy Review

Homelessness

Abstract

Homelessness is a social issue that affects individuals, families, and communities across the globe. This research provides an overview of its causes, consequences, and potential solutions. It will explore the economic, social, and systematic factors contributing to homelessness such as lack of education among homeless people, immigration, poverty, and also the use of drugs and alcohol. Government, organizations, and society should cooperate with each other to prevent and alleviate homelessness, so as to improve economic and social stability. Highlights such as supportive housing and targeted interventions hold a restoring dignity, stability, and a sense of belonging to those experiencing homelessness with the goal of creating a society where every individual has a safe and stable place to call home. For settled populations, interventions can draw on the broader support of the welfare state and the potential of labor markets, however, for migrants excluded from such services or rights, a limited number of policy tools are at the disposal of cities and their partner agencies. A number of specialized services have been developed across Europe to meet the needs of the subgroup of the homeless population.

Introduction

Homelessness is a condition that an individual fall into when they can’t stand to pay for a post to live or lack stable, safe, and functional housing. As a society, we often think of water, food, and shelter as basic human wants. However, thousands and thousands of people around the world are sleeping rough in the open air, hard concrete, parks or buses, and sheds in 2020 around 2,688 people were sleeping in rough areas in England. The UK government announced in March 2020 that the local authorities temporarily house all homeless individuals regardless of immigration status. Many immigrants wanted to move to communities established by previous settlers from their homelands.

As economic disparities continue to grow marginalized individuals and families find themselves unable to afford stable housing which leads them to homelessness and eviction. Many individuals experiencing homelessness have mental issues and also abuse substances which leads to addiction whereby they lack access to proper medical care and rehabilitation services, making it challenging for them to regain stability and reintegrate into society. The U.S. government has a program called the Homeless and Housing Resource Center (HHRC) that provides high-quality, no-cost training for health and housing professionals that contributes to housing stability, recovery, and an end to homelessness.

The scarcity of affordable housing, especially in the urban centers leaves individuals with limited options forcing them to reside in temporary shelters or on the streets. Homelessness is a reminder of the failures within our society, that necessitate a holistic approach that tackles its underlying causes, offers essential support services, and advocates for policy reforms to create a more just and inclusive community.

Background on homelessness

It is believed that the origin of homelessness started as early as 1640, the English vagrant (persons without a home) were listed as outcast individuals and the police were always after them. They would be sentenced to three days and nights and whipping was added. During the 16th century in England, the state first tried to give housing to vagrants instead of punishing them. Many colonies were driven out of their homes to seek shelter in the forests or coastal areas. They would remain idle for some time until the law was enacted to prevent idleness in the cities and those idle people were made servants or indentured servants. But as the war continued between the French and Indians, the security of some families was threatened and forced many families to become refugees across the frontier areas like New England and New York.

In 2002, research showed that children and families were the largest growing segment of the homeless population in the United States. The government came up with a ten-year plan to end homelessness which was a housing program. It only benefited people without houses in every aspect except for substance abusers.

Literature Review on Homelessness

Homelessness is a complex social issue that affects individuals and societies across the globe. The rise of housing costs and constant wages are identified as the major contributors to homelessness. These factors often push vulnerable individuals who lack access to healthcare services thus leading to a higher prevalence of chronic illness, infectious diseases, substance abuse disorders, and also mental health disorders. Japan is the only country in the world with a homeless population rate of around 0%, according to Japanese laws, begging is not allowed in the country and may be considered as a criminal offense. Syria has the world’s highest homeless rate at 29.6% of the country’s 22 million population. According to the UN, 70 % of Syrians lack access to potable water, lack of sufficient food, and the main reason behind the huge number of homeless is war.

Homelessness policies and interventions may include emergency shelters, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and prevention programs. Researchers have evaluated the effectiveness of these approaches in terms of reducing homelessness, improving stability, and enhancing overall outcomes for the homeless. Some early intervention programs target individuals and families at risk of homelessness such as offering financial assistance, counseling, and access to supportive services which help in addressing underlying factors such as unemployment, poverty, and housing instability. In almost every city on the planet, people can be observed sleeping on the streets, on park benches, or on buses. This is because homelessness affects people of all ages, sexes, and races which leads to poverty, prejudice, theft, and inequality.

Conclusion

Homelessness, and especially chronic homelessness, is a highly complex problem that communities across the world are struggling to address. Despite the diligent efforts of federal agencies and nonprofit organizations who develop and implement programs to address the challenges of homelessness, the large number of people around the world who continue to experience homelessness makes clear that much remains to be done to solve this pressing societal problem.

In conclusion, homelessness has affected millions of people around the world. Being deprived of shelter has forced many people to face this gruesome situation. Observing the issues, analyzing why the homeless results to violence to remedy their problems, and examining new and creative ways of helping the desolate, by implementing new plans to end this unfortunate dilemma.