

There rapid transition to housing act of 2012



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There are various definitions for homelessness in different countries. For instance, Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2012 inclusion criteria (USA) defined homelessness as individuals who do not have a fixed residence and for those who live in a place that is not suitable for habitation of human (Geertsema, Edgar, O'Sullivan and Pleace, 2010). While European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion (ETHOS) defines a person as homeless if they are roofless (Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless, 2012). However, in Australia, homelessness is categorized into three definitions.

The first definition is individuals without regular accommodation, the second definition is individuals living in shelters or temporarily with family or friends and the third definition is living in substandard housing such as boarding homes (Homelessness Taskforce Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Commonwealth of Australia, 2014). The United Kingdom is the only country with a statutory response to homelessness who do not have a place available for occupation, should be provided with a place (Minnery and Greenhalgh, 2007). So the reasons for them to be homeless vary. Basically, the factors that lead to homelessness can be divided into two, which are structural and individual factors.

Structural factors are factors resulting from social, political or especially economic structures that could directly cause a person at high risks of homelessness. Factors such as shortage of economical rented housing, poverty of country and natural disasters are grouped into structural factors. Family disorganisation, loss of job, poor education, poor physical health,

mental illness and addictions are grouped into individual factors, which are personal characteristics that could lead to homelessness (Johnson, Scutella, Tseng, Wood, 2015).

Proponents of structural reasons mostly support that individual reasons of homelessness are more common compared to structural factors (Blau, 1992; Barak, 1992; Hoch & Slayton, 1989; Wright, 1989, as cited in Thomas Main, 1998). Researchers are arguing among themselves about what is the main reason for homelessness. Some of them say that structural factors are the main reasons, some of them say individual factors are the main reasons. This confusion is because of the different main causes of homelessness. One of the structural factors that lead to homelessness is lack of affordable housing (Cohen, 1999). In United States, people will choose to live with their relatives or friends while others, especially those without social networks, will not find a home at all without the existence of economical housing (Krivo, 1989; Rossi, 1989, as cited in Elliott and Krivo, 2012; Joint Center for Housing Studies, 1993 as cited in Shinn, 2012). In addition, reducing federal support for public housing construction, lack of units in private market, growing waiting lists for public housing, increasing home ownership costs, more frequent displacement and abandonment of residential buildings have all operated to reduce the supply of affordable housing that cause the increase in homelessness (Hartman, 1986; Hope and Young, 1986; Hopper and Hamberg, 1986; Huttman, 1988; Rossi and Wright, 1987; Wright and Lam, 1987, as cited in Elliott and Krivo, 2012; Dolbeare, 1991 as cited in Shinn, 2012).

Eventually people are unable to find alternative living arrangements, short of emergency shelters and finally sleep on the street (Elliott and Krivo, 2012; Shinn and Gillespie, 1994). In Yemen, the housing shortage is 787,069 units including the replacement of some of unsuitable units. There is no housing supply by the government until now. Most people do not have the ability to afford own houses and become homeless people (Alhabebi, 2007; Alaghbari, 2008 as cited in Alaghbari, Salim, Ali and Dola, 2009). In Australia, the lack of affordable and economical housing is the result of government policy which has cut the availability of public housing and it will cause people in danger of being in state of homelessness especially for older people (Fopp, 2002; Kavanagh 1997; Lipmann 1999, as cited in Morris, Judd and Kavanagh, 2005). The social housing stock dropped 'from 6.1 percent of all housing in 1996 to 5.1 percent in 2003' and it is estimated the government funding for the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA) fell by 54 percent between 1994 and 2004 (McClure, 2004; Powell and Withers, 2004, as cited in Morris, Judd and Kavanagh, 2005).

In UK, there is a decrease in low-cost housing stock caused by conversions of rentals to private ownership. And the market could not provide sufficient suitable accommodation at a reasonable price (Adams, 1986; Hopper, 1988; Greve, 1991, as cited in Bhugra, 1996; Pleace, 1998). For example, London has 742,000 council units and a waiting list of 306,000 applicants (Department of Environment, 1993; Greve, 1991, as cited in Bhugra, 1996). The second structural factor of homelessness is economic changes (Elliott and Krivo, 2012).

In France, industrial restructuring lead to income loss for blue-collar workers or loss of access to employment and housing (Firdion and Marpsat, 2007, as cited in O'Sullivan, Geertsema, Quilgars and Pleace, 2010). In New York, there is a link between recent recessions in economy and increases in homelessness (O'Flaherty and Wu, 2006; Cragg and O'Flaherty, 1999, as cited in O'Sullivan, Geertsema, Quilgars and Pleace, 2010). In US, the economy change from manufacturing to service industries has increased the proportion of unstable, low paying jobs which do not provide enough income to support monthly housing costs (Elliott and Krivo? 2012). In Canada, global and domestic changes in the economy such as trade liberalization and deindustrialization had a direct influence on the growth of poverty and lead to growing numbers of people winding up on the streets (Gaetz, 2010).

On the other hand, the first individual factor of increasing of homeless people especially children and women who sleeping on the streets as a result of domestic violence (Wee, Omar, 2015; Yani et al., 2016; Cohen, 1999).

Majority homeless women complain that they are forced to leave homes because of they are unable to bear violence anymore (Adib, Ahmad, Hussin, 2016). The victims of domestic violence always forced to find the others shelters for the purpose of protection (Roschelle, 2008).

The following statistics show that the high percentage of domestic violence which happened in different countries that lead to homelessness. There are 38% of women in Korea (Kim & Cho, 1992) and 41% of women in Tamil and Uttar Pradesh (Jejeebhoy & Cook, 1997) are beaten by their husbands. There are 52% of the women in Nicaragua are being abused by their partners

(Ellsberg et al., 1999). Most of the victims were ravaged physically and psychologically of domestic violence.

The physically ravage such as injuries, sexual abuse and bones broken that will directly leads to psychologically ravage just like stress, social isolation, anxiety and also depression. When these kind of cases happened, some of the victims choose to flee from their homes due to safety factor. They felt that their homes are no longer safe to stay and even willing to sleep on the streets. National Incidence Studies found that 67% rise of child abuse from year 1986 to 1993 in United State (Putnam, 2003). When children are abused either physical, sexual or psychological abuse by their parent, the children will live in fear, depression and having problem in academic and interpersonal relationship. After a long duration, these effects will directly destroy their childhood. Under this condition, mothers are forced to flee from homes together with their children just to save their children since they are unable to solve the problems.

In short, the significant contributor of women and children to become homeless is because of they could not bear the violence anymore. The next individual factor that leads to homelessness is they loss of job (Yani, 2016; Johnson, 2015; MacKenzie & Chris, 2008; Hertzberg, 1992; Tessler et al., 2001). The following statistics show that the high percentage of unemployment rate in different countries that contribute to homelessness. There are 89% of homeless people had ever jobless and it will cause a risk ratio of 5.45 to become homeless in America (Johnson et al.

, 1997). In Malaysia, the unemployment rates soared about 3.1% from 5.5% to 8.6% from year 1983 to 1988 (Noor, Nor, Ghani, 2007).

The Department of Statistics Malaysia (2011) found that the unemployment rate among the graduates in Malaysia had rose from 3.2% in 2007 to 3.7% in 2009 (Hanapi & Nordin, 2013). In India, the number of unemployed increased from 2.33 to 6.48 million from year 1955 to 1961 (Tilak, 1965). In South Africa, urban unemployment rate is about 29.3% at year 1997 (Kingdom & Knight, 2004).

When there are high unemployment rate in the country, many people who loss of a job will have no income to pay the rent and face the forced eviction. One of the factors that lead to high unemployment rate is the quality of the employees. Some of the employers will criticise on the employees who are lack of qualifications or some skills, like communication skills, leadership and also language. The employees who are lack of employability skills will directly affect the employment. As we know, the unemployment rate of graduates in Malaysia is high, how about the people who are with health problems and disabilities, they are also having the problems of finding a job. This condition results that homelessness is getting serious with people who are having health problems and also disabilities. Besides, teenagers nowadays request for high employee welfare when finding a job. For instances, high salary, comfortable working environment, good quality work, short working time and so on, so that is why the employers are willing to hire the foreign workers with low salary compared to local workers.

Thus, results in decreasing of job opportunity and increasing of unemployment rate. When jobless people finding for a shelter, they are having difficulties to pay the rent and also getting trust by the house owner. Therefore, they have no choice and forced to sleep on the streets. Based on what we found on this topic, it seems that more researchers agree that individual factors are the main reason of homelessness. However, the main factor of homelessness varies in different countries since different countries having different conditions and background. Both structural and individual can said to be relative to each other, because both factors can be the contributors for homelessness or one of them or neither based on the conditions of that country. For example in a developed country, although a person who are having a job and able to buy a house, the person chooses to flee from house just because of enjoying to be homeless, it is neither structural nor individual factor that contribute to this situation. In a developing country, a jobless person who are unable to pay for high rent, it is also neither structural nor individual factor that contribute to this situation.

In most of the developed countries like United States and Korea, the factor that contributes to homelessness is domestic violence, while in Canada, the factor is the change of economy. In Japan, a sharply increase of homeless people happened just after the natural disaster such as earthquake, in which earthquake destroy most of the houses in the country. There is an obviously gap between developed and developing countries in which most of the developing or under developed country like India and South Africa, the factor that leads to homelessness is high unemployment rate causes them become jobless. This is why the researchers argued among themselves about

whether structural or individual factor more contributes to homelessness since the researchers having different perspectives on the main factors based on different countries. In conclusion, both structural and individual factors can be the main factor that contribute to homelessness because the factors that lead to homelessness varies due to different countries and different background.