



Cause And Effect Essay

Cause And Effect Of Homelessness

Homelessness is described as not having a permanent place or home to reside. The home can be either in shelters or in the streets. There are several many reasons why people become or choose to be homeless, and the accumulation of the factors varies from one individual to the other. Homelessness does not choose whether a person is a youth, he, or she has a family and if they are single adults. Some of the factors that result into homelessness are as listed personal choice, poverty, substance abuse, domestic violence, limited assistance services, unemployment, and limited support services. The effects of the homelessness also vary and are felt differently by the communities, the homeless, and the business communities (Friedman and Danny pp. 19). Some of the effects of homelessness are personal, health, abuses, family, and the society. Despite having many reasons why people are homeless and their effects, this paper is only going to touch on the few common ones.

Poverty is one of the highly rated factor causing homelessness. Poverty is well known as the ability to be poor. Some other researcher refers to it as the state of earning below a dollar. In occasions where you have nothing to count on as income, you are forced to choose your priority right. Is it transport, childcare, food, healthcare, or housing, which one of this should be coming first? Many homeless peoples are usually employed; this is concerning the survey conducted in the US. However, the wages are not always enough to ensure their housing stability (Shinn and Marybeth pp.20-22). Many of these employed individuals were found not to be having good jobs, jobs that can provide high job security and the living wages. Still, on employment, unemployment is also another major cause of people losing their homes. When people lose jobs or graduate from institutions and fail to get another within a reasonable time, in many cases, they will not be able to rent or mortgage on

the speculated time or not able to pay at all. They will be forced to look for shelter elsewhere thus becoming homeless.

Domestic violence is another cause of homelessness. This disorder involves the many occasions where children, women and some men who are physical, mentally and emotionally abused. Families where the parents go to war on many occasions always leave one of them homeless (Friedman and Danny pp. 19). This violence may be due to several domestic reasons, but still, it results into homelessness. Another cause of homelessness is the mental illness and substance abuse. According to the statistics carried in the USA, it was found that this factor contributes up to only 8% of all the factors causing homelessness. Youths and children around the age of 15 are the most affected by the substance abuse. Mental illness does not choose on age, but it may be due to biological factors or social factors (Shinn and Marybeth pp.20-22). The family members reject most of the culprits while others run from their homes making them homeless.

Some people can also choose to go homeless. This is often rare but should not be overlooked. Based on the individual's reasons, which in many cases is due to the rural- urban migration or just someone tired of the burden of life (Nooe., et al. pp. 105-120). They will choose on looking for the new shelter that in many cases is hard to find making them homeless.

Homelessness has so many effects on the community, business community, and the homeless themselves. Death is one of the effects. Homeless people die for various reasons; some may die from being abused, beaten, or murdered, some from malnutrition and due to lack of food and some may die from drug overdose. Out of four deaths from homeless individuals, one of them has to be murder. Also, the homeless person has his/her life expectancy reduced by 20 above the ones who are not homeless (Edidin., et al. pp. 354-367). Homeless children and adults are also at a greater risk for serious health problems. The homeless are always exposed to unsanitary living conditions and on many occasions feed on unhealthy food.

Common health problems among the homeless are leg ulcers, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, pneumonia, and HIV/AIDS among others.

Homeless children lack the stability in their schooling leading to the adverse effects on their academic performance. This is because they no longer have the required conditions for study. Children who are homeless also experience hunger, poor mental and physical health and missed educational opportunities. Homelessness results from many street children and high rate of insecurity in the cities. Crime rate increases steadily with the rising unemployment, which causes homelessness. The business community starts to make fewer profits in the areas mostly affected by the homelessness. The security is threatened, the business also requires customers, yet most of them are homeless and unemployed (Nooe., et al. pp. 105-120). Finally, homelessness results in family and clan breakdowns. In cases of the domestic violence, families are usually broken making them live in a sad and unhappy life. It is, therefore, advisable for the nations to understand the population and the causes of homelessness to construct a strategy on how to prevent it.

Edidin, Jennifer P., et al. "The mental and physical health of homeless youth: a literature review." *Child Psychiatry & Human Development* 43.3 (2012): 354-375.

Friedman, Danny. "Social impact of poor housing." London: Ecotec (2010).

Nooe, Roger M., and David A. Patterson. "The ecology of homelessness." *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* 20.2 (2010): 105-152.

Shinn, Marybeth. "Homelessness, poverty, and social exclusion in the United States and Europe." *European Journal of Homelessness* 4.1 (2010): 19-44.