# Introduction

# Homelessness refers to the condition of individuals or families who lack stable, safe, and permanent housing. People experiencing homelessness often face a lack of a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This condition can manifest in various ways, ranging from living on the streets, in shelters, in temporary accommodations, or in places not intended for human habitation, such as abandoned buildings or vehicles.

# Homelessness is a complex and multi-faceted social issue that affects individuals of all ages, backgrounds, and circumstances. It can be a temporary or chronic situation, and the causes of homelessness are diverse, often involving a combination of economic, social, and personal factors.

# Case of study

# Treating the biggest society`s crises

# Homelessness is one of the biggest new problems that threatens every society in the world, however, the question is what is this issue? Is it personal problem or is its social illness? Or how we should treat this illness? Is there any solution?  Deborah Padgett is a professor at the NYU Silver School of Social Work whose research centers on homeless adults and mental health services. That might have answer to our questions at her article:” Outrage and fear about homelessness never seem to lead to the obvious choice” she talks about how different cities in the US treat the problem and how it is affected the society in overall.

# First, she starts with incident that happened in NYC about homeless person attacking strangers and this is sight of their illness, and how this cause outrage in the city. She mentions that anger is not the answer and praise the community that are helping this people although, homeless society are the one who finally pay the price, form dealing with this ugly situation to politic tactics that resulted in their disadvantage:

“Starting in mid-March, massive sweeps in subways and highway underpasses removed 239 of the 244 encampments known to city authorities. Of those rousted, only five agreed to go to a shelter – an indication of the dangers and discomfort of crowded shelters. This scenario is played out in cities around the country.

Having watched such clearings, I am left with a sense of futility as encampment residents helplessly watch their worldly belongings tossed into sanitation dump trucks, then make plans to regroup at another location.”

Here she talks about the police strategy to deal with them.

But, she offers new ways as well such as “Housing first” which replaced shelter based policies for mentally ill patients, therefore, patients can have home to themselves with support from government in all bases.

Also, she mentions about LA and NYC`s strategies and in recent years, for example, NYC spend billions on shelters to deal with this unfortunate situation however California tend to provide home to homeless people with problem these homes may be tiny but they are still private place for them.

This demonstrate how different cities treat them

“To paraphrase [Malcolm Gladwell](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2006/02/13/million-dollar-murray), sometimes it is easier to manage homelessness than to end it.”

Although, due to covid-19 providing hotels or motel rooms for homeless people is another challenge for the cities like LA or Seattle

But, in the recent years after covid-19 some accommodation has been provided for homeless people but, some of them have moved back to shelters from hotels.

in conclusion, LA focused on providing the needs of the people who are in need by the housing strategy However, Ny focused on police forces and shelter dominations.

This is the reflection of the how our society react to facing issues, some tend to treat every one in the same way and process it as the struggle is same for everyone, and it replicates, the equal society just like it is communism, every one are the same and have to be treated the same.

And the other that try to respect and solve the problem in another way, by understanding everyone`s needs and requests.

This is representing the individual perspective over community perspective, one is considering both ideologies and behavior and one is acting with anger and force to manage the situation at the best way possible.

However, in this case of study we can also view the barriers for each as well for instance: laws and policies that prevent these actions over and over; from visible to hidden holds.

**Dominant Ideologies**

**Blame and Individual Responsibilities**: There are arguments that link homelessness to personal shortcomings, implying that people are entirely to blame for their situation because of their own negligence or bad decisions.

**The Invisibility of Structural Causes**: Systemic problems such a lack of affordable housing, economic inequalities, mental health disorders, and substance misuse are often disregarded as important causes of homelessness.

**Temporary Problem Perception**: Some believe that homelessness is a temporary or episodic problem that people may easily get over on their own with little assistance.

**Normalization of Homelessness**: In some situations, people accept homelessness as an inevitable part of living in an urban environment.

**Stigmatization**: There may be social perceptions that those who are homeless are completely to blame for their circumstances, which promotes stigmatization.

**Alternative Perspectives**

**Systemic Inequities**: Counter-ideologies frequently draw attention to the major role those larger systemic problems like income inequality, a shortage of affordable housing, and institutional impediments play in the cause of homelessness.

**Criticism on the Predominant Discourses:**

**Individual Blame and Stigmatization**: Opposing the stigmatization and dehumanization of those who are homeless, counter-ideologies contest the prevailing discourse that lays all the blame on the homeless person.

**Insufficient Policy Reactions**: Detractors point out that the prevailing narratives frequently overlook the structural reasons for homelessness and depend on reactive, short-term fixes rather than proactive, long-term ones.

**Neglect of Root Causes**: Counter-ideologies criticize the failure to address issues that contribute to the cycle of homelessness, such as a lack of affordable housing, mental health services, and economic inequality.

# Structures and Institutions

The structural level of homelessness encompasses the societal and governmental frameworks that either contribute to or mitigate the issue. In addressing homelessness within the structure of society, we examine the interplay between housing markets, employment opportunities, and social safety nets.

## Affordable Housing Crisis:

A critical examination of the availability of affordable housing reveals that the shortage is a significant structural barrier that perpetuates homelessness. The rising cost of living, coupled with stagnant wages, pushes the economically vulnerable out of their homes. This structural challenge is exacerbated by urban development policies that prioritize high-income housing developments over affordable units, further diminishing the housing options for low-income individuals.

Government Housing Policy:

Government policies on housing play a pivotal role in either alleviating or aggravating the homelessness crisis. The allocation of funds to housing assistance programs, the establishment of rent control laws, and the support for public housing initiatives are determinants of the structural support provided to those at risk of homelessness. The efficacy of these policies in preventing homelessness reflects the political will and societal values regarding the right to shelter.

Funding for Homelessness Prevention:

Investment in homelessness prevention programs is a structural approach that can significantly impact the issue. Funding for mental health services, addiction treatment programs, and emergency shelters can intercept the path to homelessness. However, the scarcity of resources and the prioritization of funds often leave these essential services underfunded, which reflects a structural deficiency in addressing the root causes of homelessness.

Employment and Economic Stability:

The link between employment, income levels, and homelessness cannot be overlooked. The lack of job opportunities that offer living wages is a structural issue that fuels the cycle of homelessness. Economic policies that focus on job creation, fair wages, and support for those unable to work due to disability or other reasons are crucial in preventing homelessness.

Social Services and Support Networks:

The structure of social services, including healthcare, education, and welfare, influences the incidence of homelessness. The accessibility and quality of these services can determine an individual's ability to maintain stable housing. Social support networks, both formal and informal, provide the necessary assistance to those facing housing instability. The strength and reach of these networks are a reflection of the structural commitment to combat homelessness.

In conclusion, the structural level of analysis highlights the necessity for comprehensive and coordinated efforts from government policies, economic frameworks, and social services to address and prevent homelessness. It is not enough to merely manage the symptoms of homelessness; structural changes are required to eradicate the root causes and ensure that every individual has access to stable, safe, and appropriate housing.

The Triangle Model you've mentioned, incorporating structural, cultural, and individual levels of analysis, is a comprehensive approach to understanding and addressing the complex issue of homelessness. Here are some potential solutions at each level of the Triangle Model:

**Solutions**

a. Affordable Housing Initiatives:

- Advocate for and support initiatives that increase the availability of affordable housing.

- Work with policymakers to create and implement policies that promote affordable housing development.

b. Government Housing Policy:

- Collaborate with policymakers to evaluate and improve existing housing policies.

- Lobby for increased funding for social housing programs and homelessness prevention.

c. Supportive Services:

- Increase funding for support services such as mental health counseling, addiction treatment, and job training to address the root causes of homelessness.

2. Cultural Level Solutions:

a. Public Awareness Campaigns:

- Launch campaigns to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions about homelessness.

- Use various media channels to educate the public about the diverse factors that contribute to homelessness.

b. Community Engagement:

- Organize community events that bring together individuals experiencing homelessness and the wider community.

- Encourage community members to volunteer with local homeless shelters and support services to build empathy and understanding.

3. Individual Level Solutions:

a. Personalized Support Plans:

- Implement individualized support plans that address the unique needs of each person experiencing homelessness.

- Connect individuals with case managers who can provide ongoing assistance and guidance.

b. Employment Opportunities:

- Collaborate with businesses and organizations to create job opportunities specifically tailored for individuals experiencing homelessness.

- Develop job training programs to enhance employability and self-sufficiency.

4. Cross-Cutting Solutions:

a. Collaborative Partnerships:

- Foster collaboration between government agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and the community to create a coordinated approach to tackling homelessness.

- Establish partnerships to share resources, information, and expertise.

b. Prevention Programs:

- Develop and implement preventive measures to intervene before individuals and families become homeless.

- Focus on early intervention, addressing issues such as job loss, mental health challenges, or family breakdown before they escalate.

By addressing homelessness at these multiple levels, you create a holistic and sustainable approach that considers the interconnectedness of structural, cultural, and individual factors contributing to the issue. Implementation will require collaboration, persistence, and a long-term commitment to making positive systemic changes.

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