**COURSEWORKS**

**MODULE TITLE: RESEARCH SKILLS**

**ACADEMIC YEAR: 2022-23**

**ASSESSMENT PERIOD: TRIMESTER 2**

# 1.0 Introduction

Multiple individuals worldwide are affected by the serious social issue of homelessness. It is a complicated issue that results from a number of social, economic, and personal variables. In addition to having an effect on individuals and families, homelessness has wider societal and economic repercussions. To establish effective policies and initiatives to address this issue, it is essential to comprehend the causes and consequences of homelessness. We will study some of its negative effects, like poor physical as well as mental health outcomes, economic and social repercussions, feelings of isolation and despair, as well as some of its causes, such as poverty, social factors, and personal concerns, in this assignment.

# 2.0 Analysis

## 2.1 Cause 1

A vital reason for homelessness is poverty. Poor people frequently experience high levels of home insecurity and may find it difficult to pay the substantial expenses of housing, particularly in urban places (Farrugia and Gerrard, 2016). A large part of low-income households' spending goes towards housing, leaving little money for other essentials like food, clothing, as well as healthcare. People who are unemployed or stuck in low-paying occupations may find it difficult to pay for basic essentials, such as housing. Apart from that, a person's capacity to earn a greater wage may be further limited by a lack of scopes to vocational or educational options, which would then continue the cycle of destitution and homelessness. People who are poor can be more susceptible to other issues, like, substance misuse and mental health disorders. These problems may worsen housing insecurity and raise the possibility of homelessness. Without the right resources and assistance, individuals and households who reside in poverty could identify it difficult to escape the cycle of poverty and homelessness. In order to prevent and end homelessness and establish a society with greater equity and justice in which all individuals have a choice of secure, reliable, and affordable housing, it is essential to address poverty and its underlying causes.

## 2.2 Cause 2

Another vital contributing reason to homelessness is social situations. Some of the more prevalent social reasons that cause homelessness include domestic abuse, family dissolution, and prejudice. Domestic abuse victims could feel insecure in their own homes and be compelled to flee to find protection. This may increase their risk of being homeless by leaving them without a long-term, reliable, and secure place to reside. Homelessness can also result from a family breakup, especially for young individuals who might struggle to locate alternative lodging. Numerous factors, containing disagreements between parents, neglect, or abuse, may contribute to this. Young individuals could be more likely to experience homelessness if they cannot get the resources and help they need. Homelessness may also be affected by discrimination on the basis of ethnic background, racial background, or sexual orientation (Belcher and DeForge, 2012). Because of systematic bias and discrimination, marginalized individuals could face issues obtaining housing, jobs, and other resources. Apart from that, raising the likelihood of homelessness, discrimination can result in additional problems like poverty and a lack of scopes to healthcare and education. To effectively address social issues, a holistic strategy needs to be utilized , one that addresses systemic bias and discrimination as well as giving assistance and resources to those who are victims of domestic violence and their families. We can endeavour to build a society with greater equity and justice where all individuals have access to secure, reasonably priced housing by addressing these issues.

## 2.3 Cause 3

Homelessness can also be influenced by personal issues, like, mental illness, substance misuse, and physical limitations. People who are dealing with mental health problems or substance misuse could identify it tough to keep their jobs or to find secure homes. Apart from that, such issues could worsen and raise the likelihood of homelessness in the absence of adequate assistance and services (Peterie *et al*. 2020). Housing insecurity can also be a result of physical impairments and long-term medical issues, especially for those who may find it difficult to get access to necessary support services or healthcare. These problems can also restrict people's career options, making it tough for them to purchase housing or get the resources they require to keep a secure place to live. Access to mental health and treatment for addiction, disability assistance, and other essential healthcare resources are all critical components of a comprehensive approach to dealing with personal concerns. We can fight to prevent and end homelessness and build a society with greater equity and justice where all individuals have access to secure, reliable, and affordable housing by offering assistance and services to people dealing with personal issues.

## 2.4 Effect 1

Poverty has a large and complex impact on homelessness. The ultimate result of poverty, especially in metropolitan settings, can be observed as homelessness. A lot of individuals are homeless because there is a shortage of affordable housing, and housing insecurity is frequently caused by poverty as its major cause. People who are unable to make payments for housing may be compelled to live in dangerous or crowded conditions or may even lose their homes. Because homeless people and families find it difficult to access opportunities and resources like employment, healthcare, and education, homelessness can result in a cycle of poverty. Poverty can be made worse by the costs of homelessness, which include medical bills and legal fees, making it extremely harder for people and families to leave their current situation. In addition, other problems including substance abuse and mental health illnesses, which may exacerbate housing insecurity and raise the risk of homelessness, can also be influenced by poverty. Lack of access to essentials like food and clothing can have a negative impact on health, which can worsen poverty and render it more difficult to leave the homeless. This can be accomplished via a variety of tactics, such as boosting access to cheap housing, offering chances for education and training, extending access to healthcare, and enhancing economic prospects for low-income people and families. We can build a society with greater equity and justice where everyone has access to safe, dependable, and cheap housing by eliminating poverty.

## 2.5 Effect 2

Homelessness can be greatly influenced by social circumstances, as evidenced by a number of causes including marital violence, family breakdown, and prejudice. Domestic violence victims may feel intimidated and dangerous in their homes, which may prompt them to flee and look for shelter elsewhere, leaving them homeless. Similar to this, it can be difficult to locate alternative housing when families split up, especially when young people are involved, and this could result in them becoming homeless. Conflicts between parents, abandonment, or abuse may be some of the causes of family breakdown. Homelessness may also result from discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, or ethnicity. People who are marginalised may have trouble finding housing, employment, and other resources, increasing their likelihood of homelessness. Socially induced homelessness can lead to further issues including unemployment and an absence of access to education and medical care, among others. A comprehensive approach must be used to deal with these socioeconomic problems, including tackling systemic prejudice and discrimination and offering support and resources to victims of domestic abuse and their families. Everyone has to have access to safe, affordable housing in order to create a society that offers more equity and justice. For instance, domestic violence victims may wind up in homeless shelters, temporary housing, and even on the streets if they are unable to locate a long-term, dependable, and secure place to reside. Children whose families have broken up may find themselves in foster homes or homeless shelters. People who experience discrimination on the basis of their colour, gender, or gender identity may have trouble finding work, which makes it difficult for them to make ends meet and afford housing. Therefore, tackling these social concerns is essential to lowering the number of people who are homeless.

## 2.6 Effect 3

Personal problems like mental illness, drug abuse, and physical handicaps can have a big impact on homelessness. People who are struggling with mental health issues or substance abuse may find it challenging to hold down jobs or obtain housing, which can raise their risk of ending up on the streets. Without sufficient assistance and support, these problems could get worse and increase the probability that someone would end up homeless. Similar to mental disabilities, long-term medical conditions can lead to home instability, especially if people are unable to access assistance or healthcare. People's professional alternatives may also be restricted by personal concerns, making it difficult for them to purchase housing or to get the support they need to maintain a safe place to live. The human problems that cause homelessness must be addressed through comprehensive strategies that consist of access to addiction and mental health treatment, disability support, and other important healthcare resources. For instance, people with mental health problems may not be able to maintain a job, which can cause financial instability and make it difficult to pay for housing. Addiction brought on by substance abuse might result in job loss and eventual homelessness for the addict. Physical limitations may also render it difficult to find employment, which can result in financial difficulties and unstable housing.

## 3.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, homelessness is a complicated problem with many underlying causes, such as poverty, social conditions, and individual problems including mental disorders and substance abuse. Housing insecurity brought on by poverty can make it difficult for people to make payments for housing and get access to other necessities like food, healthcare, and education. Social occurrences like domestic violence, family breakdown, and prejudice can also cause homelessness by depriving victims of a stable, long-term home. Personal problems including mental illness, substance abuse, and physical limits can make the situation much worse. It can be difficult for people with families to access possibilities and assets like work, medical care, and education due to homelessness, which can result in a vicious cycle of poverty.

# Reference list

Belcher, J.R. and DeForge, B.R., 2012. Social stigma and homelessness: The limits of social change. Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 22(8), pp.929-946.

Farrugia, D. and Gerrard, J., 2016. Academic knowledge and contemporary poverty: The politics of homelessness research. Sociology, 50(2), pp.267-284.

Peterie, M., Bielefeld, S., Marston, G., Mendes, P. and Humpage, L., 2020. Compulsory income management: Combatting or compounding the underlying causes of homelessness?. Australian Journal of Social Issues, 55(1), pp.61-72.