Perceptions of Homelessness Around the World

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Objectives and Goals

- To provide communities with a thorough understanding of the perceptions associated homelessness.
- To encourage communities to help homeless people.
- Goal: To expose the seriousness of homelessness. To not generalize homelessness.

What is considered "homeless?"

"an individual who lacks housing..a person who lives on the streets; stay in a shelter; mission; single-room occupancy facilities, abandoned building or vehicle, or in any unstable or non-permanent situation."
(Section 330 of Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. , 254b)]

Homelessness in Europe

Out of the 374 million inhabitants in the European Union, 1.8 million people pass each year through services for homeless people, and 1.1 million people may be dependent daily on the help they receive from public services, voluntary organizations, and charities.

Homeless in the United Kingdom

Homelessness re-emerged at the end of the 1980's as a result of the conservative government's change in social policies.

According to a telephone survey:
- 2.94% of the UK citizens consider that economic factors are the main cause of homelessness
- 38.96% of the UK citizens think that the homeless people have a criminal record;
- 45.96% believe them to be alcoholic, and 45.15% that they abuse different other substances.

Causes of homelessness

❖ A 1998 snapshot survey done in November-December 1998 in 11 European cities

➢ revealed the perceived causes for homelessness, and the possible remedies for this situation.

❖ Drugs and alcohol consumption
➢ Cambridge 61%
➢ Vienna 58%
➢ Moscow 56%

❖ Lack of jobs
➢ Vienna 91%
➢ Cambridge 66%
➢ Berne 62%
➢ Petersborough 57%

❖ Poor housing availability due to high costs of rent, etc.
➢ Bucharest 62%
➢ Zagreb 61%
➢ Vienna 58%

Definitions of Homelessness in Europe

There is no unitary definition of homelessness in Europe, thus the varying statistics and public perception over the phenomenon.

Examples:
Belgian homeless statistics refer only to those people registered in temporary hostels and shelters, and ignore families and people living in caravans and campsites.
In the United Kingdom homelessness is most often defined as "rough sleeping", an expression that refers to the people who have no shelter and are sleeping outdoors or in the cars.

Stigma associated with homelessness in different European cities

❖ 93% of the people living in Peterborough thought that the homeless people are dangerous

❖ 6% of them were afraid of being attacked by homeless persons.

❖ people considered homeless people to be dangerous
- ➢ Berne 88%
- ➢ Belfast 87%
- ➢ Cambridge 77%

Homeless people in Moscow

Stigma associated with homelessness in different European cities

❖ Residents thought that the homeless people carry diseases. This perception was prevalent in
  ❖ Vienna 90%
  ❖ Moscow 64%
  ❖ Bucharest 41%
  ❖ Kiev 35%

Solutions for Reducing Homelessness in European Cities

❖ More employment opportunities
  ➢ Zagreb 89%
  ➢ Vienna 87%
  ➢ Moscow 62%
  ➢ Bucharest 58%
❖ More affordable housing
  ➢ Vienna 72%
  ➢ Turin 43%
  ➢ Cambridge 41%

❖ An increase number of shelters for those who cannot afford houses
  ➢ Vienna 63%
  ➢ Cambridge 62%
  ➢ Moscow 58%
  ➢ Zagreb 56%
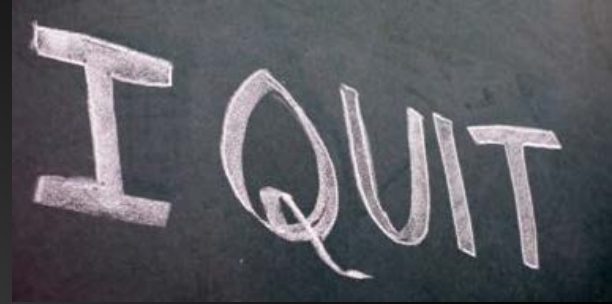
Japan's Homelessness

History

- Social problem since early 1990s: economic bubble burst.
- Instability of Asian currencies → Economic crisis → Increase in # of rough sleepers.

Stigma

- High school kids: rough sleepers as dropouts and failures in life.
    - Attack, abuse, kill, vandalize
- Few movements to develop vocational ability and overcome discrimination.

Meaning

- *Furou* or *Runpen*
- "Rough sleepers": live in public spaces
- "Homeless": unstable accommodations and cannot forge healthy and cultural life.

Japan's Homelessness

Statistics

Estimated by Ministry of Health and Welfare:
- 2000: 20,000 rough sleepers
- 2001: 24,000 rough sleepers
- 2003: 25,296 rough sleepers
- By end of 2003: 30,000 rough sleepers

Rapid increase in number of:
- self-declared bankruptcies (14,625 in 1985, 43,414 in 1995)
- job-hopping (0.5M in 1975, 1.51M in 1995)
- domestic violence (2,418 in 1999)

They live in: parks, train stations, streets, banks, riverbeds

Features

- Rough sleepers: single men over age 55, day labor construction
  - *Yoseba*: day labor market in Japan's large cities
- Rough sleep in and around *Yoseba*

Japan's Homelessness

Poor Social Security:
- Family welfare-based property and saving.
- No job → No money → No accommodation.
- Lead to extension of inequality between rich and poor.

Responsibility for Housing:
- Central government does not take responsibility for housing.
- Difficult to obtain public housing.

Rapid Change in Socio-Demographic Structures:
- 50+ yo day labor construction workers suffer alienation from labor market.
- Instability of family structures: decrease in family size, increase in divorce rate, increase in # of single households, increase in longevity.

Japan's Homelessness

Effects of Further Unstable Employment
- Increase in risk of young and elder employees to become rough sleepers.
- Growth in instability of employment status.
- Economic buffer: young and female workers.
- Cut off: middle-aged and elderly workers.

Implications
- Japan's central government take responsibility for housing.
- Hold cooperative activities at Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) like Kamagasaki Support System, Osaka, 1996.
    - Provide with food and community-based activities.
    - Attempt to improve situation of rough sleepers.

Kamagasaki Support System

Association Benefits
- Assistance and advice provided.
- Sincerely looks after homeless.

Future Problems
- Staying warm.
- Government shelters for jobs, but nearly impossible.

Homelessness in Mexico and Latin America

Homeless was defined as a person who has no income of his or her own to satisfy basic needs, and who does not have a place to live.

Homelessness Youth in Mexico and Latin America

Youths of the street

❖ Do not attend school
❖ Have poor family connections
❖ Leave home due to physical, psychological and sexual abuse
❖ Most likely to be involved in criminal activities due to being exposed to the streets

Youth on the street

❖ Attend school
❖ Live with family
❖ Work on the streets to help family
❖ Usually work with parents

Gender Roles

❖ The majority of child workers are boys.
  ➢ Usually associated with the belief that men are the head of the household
❖ Girls tend to work or help out at home thus, less likely to be found in street settings.

Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala

http://socialdocumentary.net/exhibit/Hilary_Duffy/1277

Causes of Homelessness in Latin America

❖ The primary cause of street youth in developing countries
  ➢ poverty
    ■ due to the stress imposes on families

Latin America Youth

The following structural factors combined with a state of poverty to push millions of children onto the street to help generate the income families desperately need.

Contributing Structural Factors

- High birth rates
- Rural-to-urban migration
- Inadequate housing
- Economic stagnation
- Unequal distribution of income
- The absence of government assistance programs

Institutions

❖ Research suggest that street youths actively move from the street to institutions and then back to the streets.

➢ The streets do not require youths to follow by rules.
➢ they set their own rules.

Solutions

Interventions for families must address the needs of families as well as children.
While for children and adolescents solutions must include:
- ❖ After-school programs
- ❖ recreational centers
- ❖ programs that emphasize career building opportunities.

Factors that will lead to success

❖ The creation solutions that target long-term goals rather than short- term fixes

❖ Providing programs that reduce family stress and help them provide for their children

Homelessness in the United States

United States

610,042 Americans are homeless

65% (394,698) living in emergency shelters or housing programs

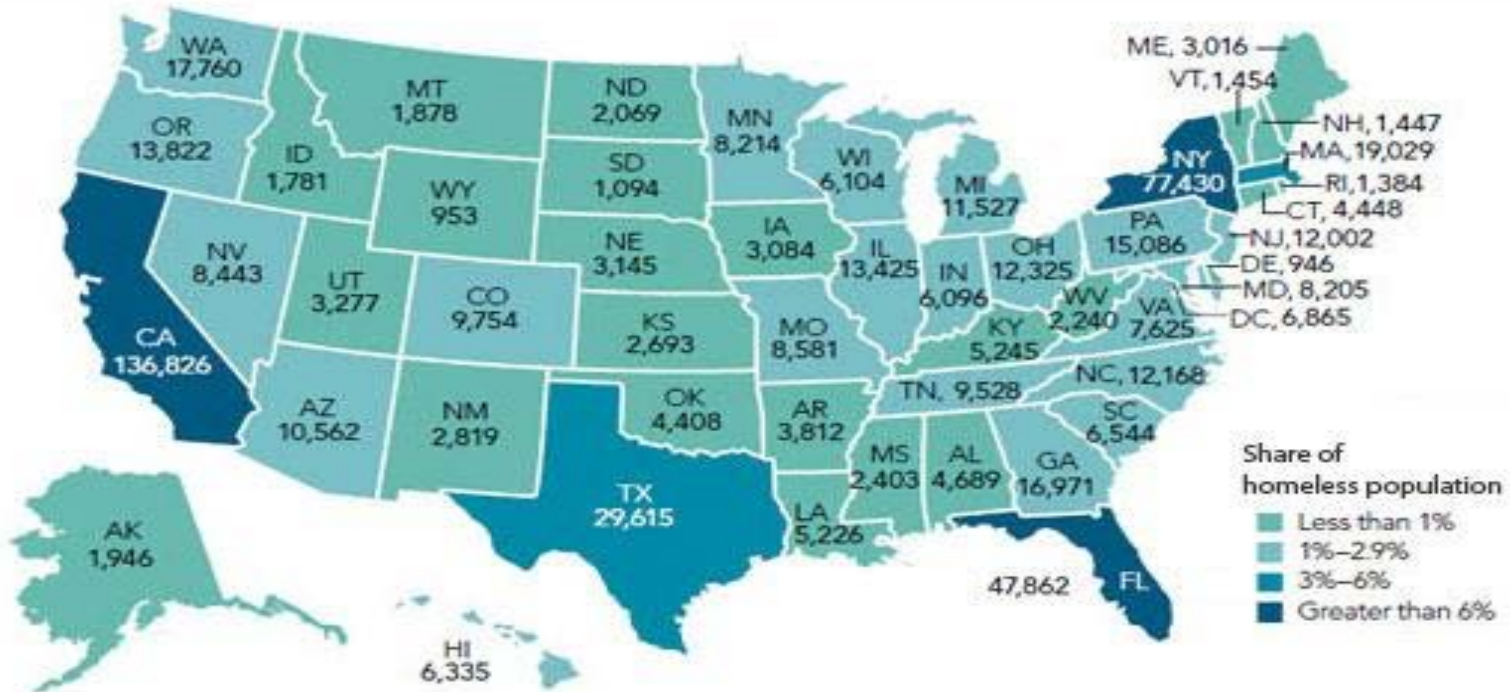35% (215,344) living unsheltered locations(streets, bridges)

AGES: TYPE

- 23% Under the age of 18   -85% Individuals

- 77% Adults (over 18)   -15% Families

State by State

Estimates of U.S. homeless population by state, 2013

State by State

Most States in United States with highest amount of unsheltered homeless:
1. Wyoming 73.8%
2. California 64.9%
3. Florida 64.1%
4. Alaska 62%

State by State

HOMELESS POPULATION (610,042)
- 22% California (136,826)
- 13% New York (77,430)
- 8% Florida (47,862)
- 5% Texas (29,615)

Causes of Homelessness in U.S.

1. lack of affordable houses
2. lack of needed services
3. mental illness
4. drug abuse

Homeless Veterans in the U.S.

23% of Homeless Population in the U.S. are Veterans
- 97% Males
- 25% have used VA Services

"Right to Rest"

A bill that may be passed in the state of Colorado
This bill would give the right for homeless to sleep in public areas without facing any punishment. Supporters say how this bill is going to defeat discrimination against homeless in many cities in Colorado

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. 2010

This is a Federal Plan supported by President Obama to lower the homeless rates in the United States.

"Ending homelessness is possible. However, the country must make adequate investments in effective interventions in order to achieve that goal. Using the tools available (e.g. broad dissemination of information, Federal guidance, technical assistance, and competitive awards) USICH and Council agencies have supported communities' efforts to implement evidence-based practices and maximize efficiencies wherever possible."

Homeless in San Jose, CA

-According to a census report done in July 2013, the report found that there are 4,430 Homeless living in San Jose. There are 7,361 in Santa Clara County.
- San Jose has one of the largest homeless communities on a per- capita basis of any city in the Country

CASE STUDY:
The Jungle- San Jose, CA

- The Jungle was located along Coyote Creek and home to 200-300 people
- Many attempts to close the Jungle was made but never successful until December 19, 2014.

"Most of the people who live there didn't choose to be homeless, but now they are, the Jungle meets their basic needs"

- Within the Jungle were successful adults who were unfortunate to lose their careers during the recession of 2008
- There is a form of "crude system of governance" within the Jungle according to an article published in the Mercury News; "Anytime a person breaks the rules, they are asked to leave the Jungle."

Downtown Street Team

Mission Statement:

Downtown Streets Team is ending homelessness by restoring the dignity and rebuilding the lives of unhoused men and women. Serving the community through work teams prepares members for permanent employment and housing.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XChjCfrLOVE

We hope that we enlightened you all about the seriousness of homeless and how it affects many people around the world.

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