

VAGRANT COMMUNITY AND THEIR BASIC NEEDS: A CASE STUDY BASED ON THOTALANGA HOMELESS PEOPLE

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Abstract: This study explore a unique side of the homeless people with their requirement of the basic needs and the struggles they face to accomplish their needs. This cross-sectional, observational study was conducted in one of the marginal areas of Colombo – Thotalanga. This is a significant area for such research since many homeless people can be encountered in the area. Two groups were selected for the study – a) 50 people were selected for the questionnaire survey among the public from Thotalanga using purposive sampling method; b) 50 vagrant people were chosen by snowball sampling method for the interview. Overall information was collected from 100 persons. The society’s perspective of homeless community is low and disappointing. Very few people are ready to help the poor with their basic needs. According to the homeless people’s statements, they struggle a lot and neglected by the society often in many ways. As a recommendation from the study, there needs to be more effective coordination of services across ministries and departments by providing housing models, temporary tents, mental health and sanitization facilities support, education and food.

Keywords: Basic needs, Homelessness, Perspective, Vagrant community

Introduction

Homelessness is highlighted as a social problem that exists in many societies and countries around the world (Alowaimer, 2018). People abandoned for various reasons become homeless and are known as vagrants. A program in Canada defines homelessness under four categories - living on the street; staying overnight in a temporary shelter; staying in places not meant for human habitation and moving continuously among temporary housing arrangements provided by strangers, friends or family. Though homelessness is seen as a wide-ranging problem, and every county is facing this issue in different ways. Though there are possibilities to mitigate the issue, it is continuously ignored by the respective authorities as well as the larger population, and therefore has become a more complex social and public health phenomenon than the absence of a place to live (Mabhala. et.al, 2017). Homelessness is a problem in many perspectives: social, economic, cultural, health, and environment.

There are more homeless people in urban areas than in the rural sector (Taylor, 2018). Homelessness tends to be concentrated in urban areas, especially in developed and industrialized cities where social and economic inequalities are high and the safety of socially vulnerable populations are low. Being homeless and helpless impacts the vagrant in several ways – As one example living a life trying to manage different climate settings and social conditions is a heavy burden. Homelessness is not the result of a particular person’s fault. Rather homelessness is created by various factors such

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