



DETERMINANTS, NEED ASSESSMENT AND SOLUTIONS OF YOUTH HOMELESSNESS IN MALAYSIA

Dr. Parveen Kaur, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities, University Malaysia Sarawak, Malaysia, sspkaur@unimas.my

Dr. Arif Jawaid, Academic Director, Lahore Garrison University, Pakistan

Koh Hooi Ming, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University Malaysia Sarawak

Dr. Mohd Sohaimi Esa, Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Language Learning, Universiti Malaysia Sabah

Muhammad Akram Somroo, Department of Mass Communication at The University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan

M. Ikram Ul Haq, Lahore Garrison University, Pakistan

Abstract: Homelessness is a global phenomenon that brings tyrannical consequences to the society. The purposes of this study are to investigate the determinants of youth homelessness, the needs of homeless youth population and probable solutions in solving this issue. Mixed method (including Qualitative and quantitative approaches) is applied in collecting the data and information. Convenience sampling and purposive sampling method are employed in selecting the samples. There are seven homeless respondents and ten volunteers participated in this research. The determinants of youth homelessness from the perspective of homeless youth and volunteers were investigated. Besides, the needs of homeless youth were studied. The framework and solutions in addressing youth homelessness were analyzed in the discussion. Researcher had come out with few recommendations in enhancing and modifying the framework in addressing this issue.

Keywords: Youth, Homelessness, Determinants, Needs, Probable Solutions

I. INTRODUCTION

Homelessness is a complex social issue as no country is excluded from the proliferation of this issue (Adib, et al., 2016). There are innumerable people who do not own a permanent shelter over their heads or have enough money to purchase the basic indispensable elements of life (Fulton, Kut, Morianos & Spencer, 2010). The population of homelessness is diverse which includes individuals from all ethnic groups, diverse generation and ages group, gender, marital status, individual from urban or rural areas as well as people who are with physical or mental problems (Martens, 2002). The understanding of homeless is varying based on different perspectives and situation. Red Deer & District Community Foundation (2009) categorized homeless into absolute, relative, chronic and episodic homeless. Australian Bureau of Statistics used three different types of homelessness as the standard cultural definition of homelessness in Australia such as primary; secondary and tertiary (Cool Australia, 2015). Homeless youth are the people under the age of eighteen who are lacking care from parents, guardians and institutions (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007; National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016). The term homeless youth is frequently utilized as an umbrella term for an extensive assortment of youngsters comprising unaccompanied youth, street youth, systems youth, runaways and throwaways youth (Moore, 2005). Youth who are experiencing homelessness are referred as the youth people (between ages of 13 and 24) who are living independently of parents or caregivers, have lack of social supports which are important in the transition from childhood to adulthood (Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, 2017).

Homelessness is often debated as one of the results from the economic system – capitalism. During the Industrial Revolution, the perspectives of mercantilism are widespread in the society and affecting the lifestyle of the social members (Fulton, et al., 2010). In other cases, homeless is defined not only with the characteristics and conditions of the homeless people but also along with social phenomenon. From the view of French social law, the group of homeless people is often considered as the subsection of the group of people who are associated with social problem. The definition of social problem is typically alluding to social conditions that distort or harm society (Best, 2013). To end homelessness, the only way is to recognize the determinants. Majority of youth do not chose to be homeless (National Network for Youth, 2017). House of Commons (2005) stated that the leading cause of homelessness was the lacking of accommodation of friends and family. There was evidence showed that increase in housing prices contributed to the rising of homelessness. Homeless Link (2017) stated that individual circumstances and structural factors (poverty, inequality, unemployment, housing affordability and supply, welfare and income policy) cause the homelessness.

Accordingly, this article has four objectives. First, it seeks to study the determinants of youth homelessness in Malaysia from the individual perspectives. Second, it seeks to study the determinants of youth homelessness in Malaysia from the community perspectives. Third, it tends to recognize the needs of homeless youth in Malaysia. Fourth, it tends to investigate the probable solutions in overcoming the youth homelessness in Malaysia.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview of Youth Homelessness Globally

In U.S. the issue of homelessness was widespread among the poor immigrant young people who were unwanted and unneeded in the workforce during the 1800s because people were striking on searching economic chances (Moore, 2006). Based on the study of US Department of Justice, there were an estimated 1,682,900 homeless and runaway youth in 2002 (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007). A study conducted in 2005, of 20 cities in the United States, showed that there are 13% of homeless people who have steady jobs but they are still unable to support themselves and their family members (Resource Center as cited in Fulton, Kut, Morianos & Spencer, 2010). A survey conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Education showed that an estimated 4.2% of high school students in Massachusetts are homeless; a study found that on a given night in January 2007, there is an estimated 671,888 people were homeless with 58% of them resided in shelters while 42% did not have any shelter in America (Fulton, Kut, Morianos & Spencer, 2010).

There are countries in Asia and Oceania also influenced by the homelessness issues. In Australia, there were estimation 105,237 homeless people (Homelessness Australia, 2014). In Cambodia, more than 180,000 people lived in the informal settlements (Youth Exchange, 2003). 40% of the population lives in subsidized housing areas where around 1,400 of people are homeless in Hong Kong because of lack of affordable housing (City University of Hong Kong, 2014). India was estimated to have 78 million homeless people including 11 million of street children (Business Standard, 2013). In Japan, there is an estimated 5,534 homeless people recorded in January, 2017 (JIJI, 2017). It is estimated that about 44% of the urban population in Philippines were living in slums; 1.2 million of children were estimated living on the streets (UN-HABITAT, 2009). The capital, Manila recorded as the city with largest homeless population in the world with 3.1 million homeless people (Laccino, 2014). In 2012, the South Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare classified 4,921 people in homeless population (Herald, 2012).

2.2 Youth Homelessness in Malaysia

In Malaysia, there is no official definition of youth homelessness (Wong and Omar, 2015). Youth homelessness is defined by the terms of 'youth' and 'homelessness'. According to the Youth Societies and Youth Development Act 2007, youth is defined as the individual who is in the age range between the ages of 15 to 40 years old (ascited in Yeon, Abdullah, Arshad, Ayub, Azhar & Suhaimi, 2016, p. 336). Hussin (2016) stated that the social pattern of homeless in Malaysia can be seen from three aspects such as socio-demographic, socio-economic and socio-cultural. Based on the statistics provided by the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry, there were 1,646 homeless people throughout Malaysia in 2010 (Join soup kitchens, 2014). There were 1,387 homeless in Kuala Lumpur; 150 homeless people in Georgetown, Penang; 99 homeless people in Johor Bahru, Johor and 10 homeless people in Kuching, Sarawak (Shahidan, Syahira, Hidayah, & Suberi, 2015). According to Social Welfare Department, there is only 1% of homeless youth population in Kuala Lumpur; most of the homeless people are senior citizens with age range 60 years old and above (Penang Institute, 2015). The numbers of homeless community are increasing in all countries around the world including Malaysia (Homeless World Cup Organization, 2016; Irsyard, 2016; Adib, et al., 2016). According to the report by Viapude (2013), the destitute and homeless in Penang numbered at 288 in 2012 indicates a significant decrease from 445 in 2009. Based on the statistic published by Knoema (2017), the percentage of the homeless population in Malaysia is 103% of the human population in 2014. National Welfare Foundation (2012) implemented Anjung Singgah Project in helping the homeless community. This project is to provide temporary shelters, meals and intervention centers in helping the homeless people to meet the survival challenges as well as not to be outdated by the flows of national development. In Sarawak, there were total 461 homeless people benefited from this project since the implementation (Mail, 2017).

Based on the report by Loh (2013), volunteers from non-governmental organizations in Penang claimed that there were possibly only two free-of-charge stay-in shelters and several day centers set up and managed by NGOs that help the needy and homeless in Penang. The volunteers claimed that there is slow

respond and no action from the government on their pleas for a government shelter (Loh, 2013). Kawan Penang is a center started by Youth with a Mission (YWAW) to provide support, care and improves the life quality of the street community (Penang Trails, 2016). Kechara Soup Kitchen (KSK) is the other NGOs in Malaysia which provides help to homeless people. KSK is a non-religious community action group that supports the homeless community in Malaysia by distributing the food, basic medical aid and counseling to the homeless people and the urban poor (Hati, n.d.). There is a Pitstop Community Café in Kuala Lumpur providing essentials to homeless people under their Project Tikar initiative (Hong, 2016). Bless Street is an initiative by the Community Excel Services and Street Ministry. This initiative aims to honor and bless the homeless community in Kuala Lumpur. According to the Jerry Teo, the coordinator from the community, having interactive activities helps the volunteers and homeless people in cultivating their friendships (The Star Online, 2016).

2.3 Determinants of Youth Homelessness

There are three inter-related categories of youth homelessness causes such as family issues, financial issues and residential instability (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007; National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016). Disruptive family conditions like physical or sexual abuse, strained relationships, addiction issue and parental neglect are the main reasons that cause youth homelessness. A study showed that 46% of runaway or homeless youth had been physically abused while 17% of young people were forced into the undesirable sexual activity by their family or household member (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2007). In Massachusetts, the amount of high school students who are homeless has been increasing (Fulton, Kut, Morianos & Spencer, 2010). There are various reasons behind this issue such as escaping the abusive environments or being chased out of their homes by their families upon their 18th birthday. Some of the youth asked to leave their family because their parents cannot afford to care for them or unable to provide them the specific needs of mental health and disabilities (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016). Divorce is one of the family disorganization form that causes homelessness. This is because relationship breakdown is a prevalent contributory factor of homelessness stated by Professor Tony Warnes (as cited in Yani et al., 2016).

Additionally, low least wages make it troublesome or difficult to gain a sum adequate to pay the month to month costs which drives a few families to request that their youngsters leave the home (Van Wormer, 2003). In Kuala Lumpur, one in five homeless people who were interviewed stated low wages as the factor of homelessness (Food Not Bombs, 2014). Minimum Wages Order 2016 was implemented to adjust the minimum wages for employees. The present minimum wage is RM1000 in Peninsular Malaysia while RM920 in Sabah, Sarawak and Federal Territory of Labuan (Ministry of Human Resources, 2016). This could be said it a poverty wage especially for citizens who live in the urban areas or developed states in Malaysia. The paid or wage is insufficient to accommodate the high living cost. People are forced to become homeless because the unaffordable living cost such as prices of properties (house, cars and etc.) and the prices of goods (food, clothes and etc.) and services (health and safety). With limited commitment of resources for safety-net services in the market-oriented and industrial nations, people might fall into the situation of extreme poverty and result in homelessness (Martens, 2002).

Wright, et al., (1998) stated vagrancy is a phase of private shakiness that is by living in bent over lodging. They view youth as living in bent over lodging when they have no other place to go and are incidentally taken in by others. Robertson (1996) stated that some of the youth who were living in the residential or institutional placement were homeless after discharged because they are too old for the foster care. After leaving care from the placement, youth rarely own anyone to turn for help during difficult times. Over 22% of youth with foster care become homeless for one day or more after the age of 18 (Casey Family Programs, 2005). "Aging out" from the foster care system, youth is more likely to become homeless at an earlier age and remain this situation for a long period (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2016). The youth have to live on their own without or with limited supports from others. This may turn into the homeless situation.

A volunteer stated that the homeless in Penang are made up of vagrants, individuals who have mental illness, the drug addicts and the youths who come from other states and could not find jobs or were cheated of their salaries (Loh, 2013). The inadmissible work opportunities are one motivation behind why youth are destitute. All it would bring for somebody with a low paying activity to wind up plainly destitute is a lay-off (Fulton, Kut, Morianos & Spencer, 2010). With the downturn in the economy, cutbacks have put many individuals on the streets. Additionally, some of the people are cheated by the employer. There are stories shared by three homeless men. One of them is Mohd Anuar (40 year old divorcee) who was

cheated of his salary by a security company; he stated that he was stranded for a few weeks and it was too much for him until he went back to Johor Bahru (Kechara Buddhist Organization, 2017). The other man who had a history of mental illness was found near to Selayang, he claimed that he was taking shelter in one of the nearby huts since he lost contact with his family members (Kechara Buddhist Organization, 2017).

About 40% of youth in the Covenant House seek treatment for mental health (Covenant House, 2017). Mental and physical medical issues are a continuous issue for the homeless because of the reality they regularly require medication, yet can't manage the cost of it (Fulton, et al., 2010). Health issues and the criminal convictions are the interrelated issues with homelessness. Individual may become homeless because of the burden of health problems; people may face health problems because of homelessness. Individual who owns criminal histories may end up homeless; people may involve in crime because of homelessness. These factors are correlated. Previous presence of mental disorders can lead to homelessness. According to Ducq, et al., (1997), in the United States, Great Britain, Australia and Canada, one-third of homeless adults were found to have prior history of psychiatric hospitalization. Many homeless people are suffering from mental illnesses like depression, schizophrenia, substance abuse, psychotic and personality disorders (Martens, 2002). According to Martens, (2002), stress and depression were positively associated for the Canadian street youth. Isolation from the social networks increased the level of depression among the homeless mothers, additionally, the limited health services brings impact to their illness (Bogard, et al., 1999). Herman, et al., (1998) found that 15% of a specimen of American insane patients had encountered no less than one scene of vagrancy earlier or inside two years of their first hospitalization; in more than 66% of these cases, the underlying homeless period had happened before the primary hospitalization.

Substances abuse or addiction is one of the determinants and also the effects of homelessness. Martens (2002) stated that many homeless mothers used illegal drugs or alcohol. Raynault, et al., (1994) found in a Canadian specimen a relationship amongst vagrancy and a 3.8-crease expanded danger of substance mishandle. Drake, et al., (1991) detailed that 10 to 20 percent of destitute people had double conclusions of extreme mental issue and substance manhandle. The individuals who had been destitute five years or more announced high rates of liquor manhandle and unlawful medication mishandle (Winkleby & White, 1992). Craig and Hodson (1998) noted likewise that constant substance manhandle was related with poor result as far as conveying a conclusion to vagrancy. Destitute, subordinate men in American and German demonstrated a high commonness of co-dreary mental issue, for example, temperament issue, nervousness issue, sedate manhandle/reliance and maniacal issue (Fichter & Quadflieg, 1999).

'Identity' is also as a reason contributing to youth homelessness. In Canada, LGBTQ youth disproportionately experience homelessness. Based on Williams Institute (as cited in National Coalition for the Homeless, 2014), 40% of the homeless youth served by the agencies were identified as LGBT. LGBT people often experience difficulty in finding a suitable shelter that accept their identity and respect them (National Coalition for the Homeless, 2014). They were discriminated and often face higher risk of violence, abuse and exploitation. Accidents or natural disaster can be one of the determinants that contribute to homelessness. About 14 million people were becoming homeless on average each year as the result of sudden disasters (Thomson Reuters Foundation, 2017). Eight of ten countered in the South and Southeast Asia experienced the highest levels of displacement and housing loss, for instances, in China, there are 1.3 million people uprooted each year. For individuals who came from very low income background, the disasters become a contributory factor to homelessness due to the high costs in repairing their housing areas (Yani et al., 2016).

2.4 Needs of Homeless Youth

The Street Needs Assessment (SNA) conducted by the City of Toronto in 2013 categorized the needs of homeless people into housing needs and service's needs (City of Toronto, 2013). From the study, there are more than nine people out of every ten people who participated in the survey stated that they wanted to get into permanent housing. In Fullerton homelessness needs assessment report, there are 5 most needed services that ranked by the homeless people in the survey such as transportation services, shelter, career services, dental services and central resource center (Bogle & Stickney, 2014). National Network for Youth (2017) collected the opinion about the need of homeless youth from the homeless youth throughout the United States and categorized the opinions as the "Words of Wisdom from Homeless Youth". First, homeless youth want a connection to family. Second, homeless youth want a safe living place.

Third, homeless youth want self-sufficiency. Fourth, homeless youth want help from caring adults. Fifth, homeless youth want a future.

In the study of Rice and Barman-Adhikari (2014), internet can serve as a “resource of stability” for homeless youth. Homeless youth need internet and social media in order to expose to resources. A recent study showed that homeless youth were utilizing Internet in searching for the information of health (Rice & Barman-Adhikari, 2011). There are homeless people used internet in looking for jobs and housing as these are critical needs for homeless youth that can lead them toward a long-term stability and away from the homelessness (Milburn et al., 2007; Milburn et al., 2009; Rice & Barman-Adhikari, 2014). Besides, internet and social media enable homeless youth to create and maintain their social networks. Karabanow and Naylor (as cited in Rice & Barman-Adhikari, 2014) stated that internet and social media provide the opportunities for the homeless youth to communicate with non-street connections such as their family, friends and caseworkers; this provide support and motivation to homeless youth to look for more resources in exiting from the homeless situation.

2.5 Framework in Solving Youth Homelessness

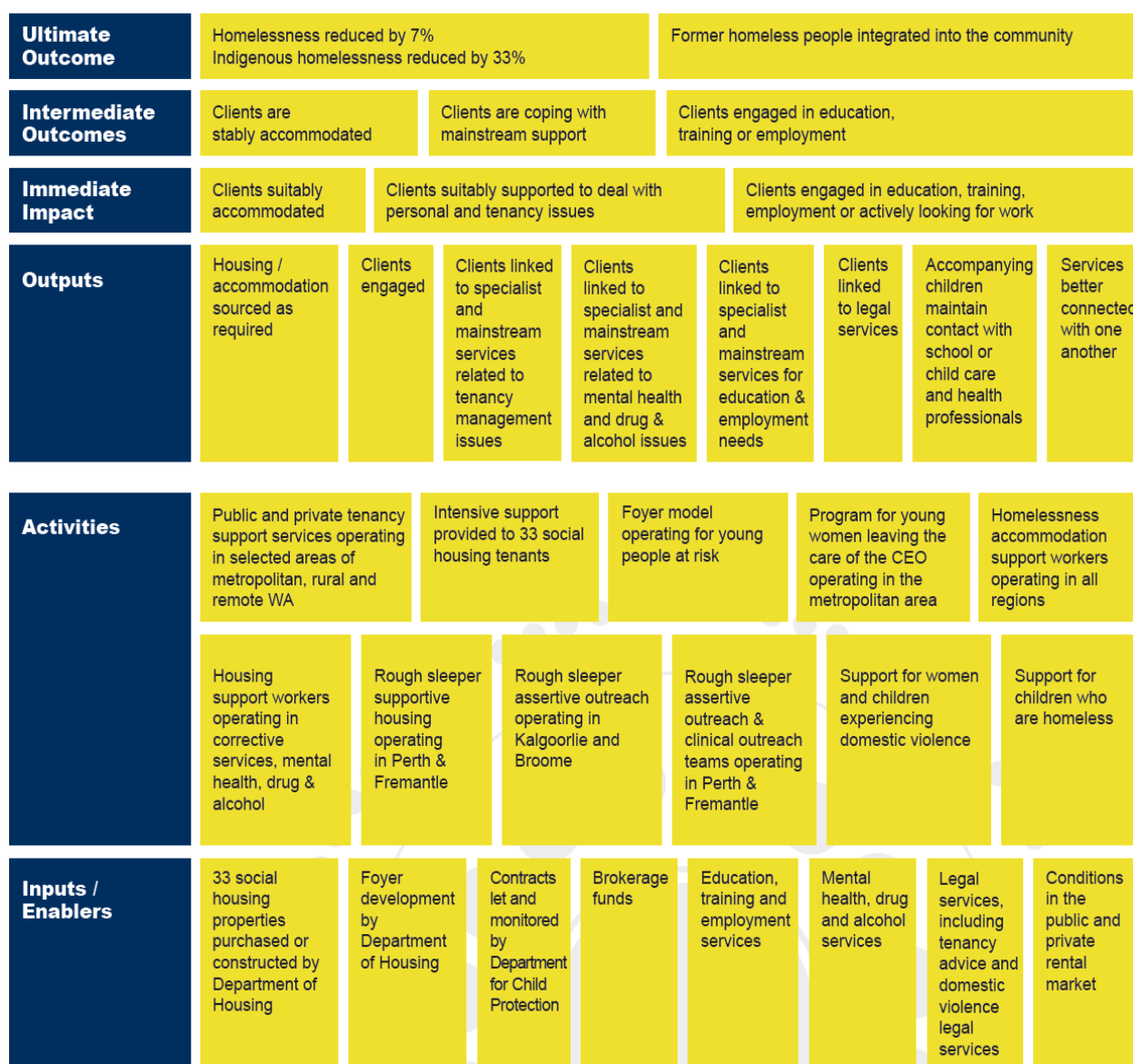
In this research, researcher chose “The State Plan” which was proposed in Western Australia during 2010 to 2013 as the framework in understanding the issue of youth homelessness. The State Plan recognizes a vital vision to address homelessness and speaks on dedication and reestablished center around interceding right on time to avert and diminish homelessness in Western Australia (Western Australia Child Protection, 2013). The State Plan diagrams the results and key standards for actualizing an enhanced incorporated way to deal with homelessness. The State Plan expects to convey every single applicable organization and administration to cooperate to open doors and enhance conditions for individuals who are in danger of, or encountering homelessness. It likewise distinguishes the activity regions to help adaptable and responsive administrations for individuals when they are destitute and to keep individuals from slipping over into homelessness. The Western Australian Council on Homelessness has been instrumental in building up the vision, results, controlling standards, activity territories and duty laid out in the State Plan. The community services sector, the academic representatives and the ex-officio members from key State and Commonwealth government departments are involved in the Western Australian Council. They support the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA) and the new National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH). There are three focused key strategies which are (1) Early intervention and prevention; (2) A better integrated service system; (3) Breaking the cycle of homelessness.

Researcher chose this framework in solving youth homelessness as the model in guiding this research is because this State Plan provides a detailed diagram which listed the direct and efficient way in addressing the issue of homelessness. NAHA provides critical safety new accommodation and support services in eight categories such as homeless youth, family, general, outreach support, private rental services, domestic violence, meals & day centers and single adults. There are three departments involved in this State Plan which is Department for Child Protection, Department of Housing and Department of the Premier and Cabinet. In addition there are agencies like Mental Health Commission, Drug and Alcohol Office, Department of Corrective Services and Western Australia Police. All the agencies collaborate to achieve the NPAH initiatives. In the strategy of ‘Early intervention and prevention’, there are eight initiatives stated in the State Plan: (1) Safe at home and domestic violence outreach; (2) Private rental tenancy support; (3) Public tenancy support; (4) Support for young people leaving child protection; (5) Foyer homeless young people; (6) Housing support workers for mental health; (7) Housing support workers for corrective services; (8) Housing support workers for drug and alcohol. Next, there are six initiatives employed in the strategy of ‘Breaking the cycle of homelessness’: (1) Street to Home (including Assertive outreach, mobile clinical, outreach team and housing support workers); (2) Support for children (including supports for homeless families); (3) Remote rough sleeper (including the assertive outreach); (4) Housing support workers for homelessness; (5) A Place to Call Home (33 social housing dwellings); (6) Keeping Kids Safe (domestic Violence).

Figure 1 shows the outcomes of the State Plan which indicates the successfulness and efficiency in solving homelessness issues in Western Australia. In this figure, there are lists of ultimate outcome, intermediate outcomes, immediate impact, outputs, activities and inputs/enablers. The information on effectiveness of the State Plan 2010-2013 was reported in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Annual Report on Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) 2014-2015 (Western Australia Department for Child Protection and Family Support, 2016). The number of people who accessed SHS was 23, 021. SHS provided

information which is important to inform policy programs and governments, reflect the task of specialist homelessness agencies as well as evaluate the outcomes of homeless people. These services achieved 100% participation in the national Specialist homelessness service collection (SHSC). In conclusion, researcher would like to find out the probable solution in solving the youth homelessness issues in Malaysia based on this framework. Through analyzing this framework and comparing with the data collection in the field, researcher would like to suggest the probable solution in helping the homeless youth population at the same time find out the solution in preventing youth homelessness.

Figure 1: The Diagram of Hierarchy of Intended Outcomes- National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH).



Adapted from WA Homelessness State Plan, by Western Australia Department of Child Protection, 2013, Retrieved from <https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/servicescommunity/Documents/WA%20Homelessness%20State%20Plan.pdf>. Copyright 2018 by Department of Communities Child Protection and Family Support. Adapted with permission.

2.6 Theoretical Framework

The framework for this research is based on Pierre Bourdieu habitus. It refers to socially ingrained habits, skills and dispositions. How do people perceive the social world around them and react to it. Costa

and Murphy (2015), reported that habitus allows researcher to explain why social agents occurs and reconstruct social world. It is more than just collective experiences, it justifies individuals perspectives, values, actions and social positions. In cultural adaptations or acculturation, the kind of habitus developed and ingrained in individuals are investigated. Bourdieu (1977) ,stated that the structures of a particular type of environment produce habitus, systems of durable, transposable dispositions, the structuring of practices and representations which can be objectively regulated without in any way being the product of obedience to rules. It is often described as theory of social action and identity construction. Our body serves the ground of self of formation of culture behavior and identity. They are specific embodied schemes of dispositions acquired through diligent and long term practice. Habitus describes the body, mind and society complex resulting from socializing practices in a range of combat and martial arts. It is a state of mind and a bodily state of being. At individual level, a person's biology, gives him or her unique habitus. The person is also shaped by collectivity of group to which he or she belongs. There are varying degrees of habitus. The process of acculturation is made possible by highly embodied dimension of Silat practice, which requires one to develop the necessary dispositions and strategies for construction of Silat habitus.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Research And Data Collection Methods

This research employed mixed method in data collection. Qualitative method is used to study the determinants of the youth homelessness, their needs and to investigate the probable solutions in reducing the homeless issues through in-depth interview. Quantitative method used is to tabulate the demographic profile and the closed-ended data collected. The determinants of youth homelessness will be categorized as into individual factors, relational factors and structural factors. In this research, the visits to the areas or shelters around Penang Island were scheduled in order to better understand homelessness. There are few shelters visited by researcher such as Kawan Center, Anjung Singgah and Kechara Soup Kitchen. In-depth interviewing can help researcher in seeking deeper information and knowledge which usually concerns very personal matters such as an individual's self, his or her lived experiences, values and decisions, occupational ideology, cultural knowledge or perspectives (Gubrium & Holstein, 2001). Structured interviews are constructed with the series of pre-determined questions. This will be applied when interviewing the homeless youth in understanding the determinants and their needs. Semi-structured interviews consist of the components of structured and unstructured interviews; additional questions might be introduced to the respondents during the interview in expanding the issues (Boyce and Neale, 2006, p.3). The secondary data were collected by using documentation review method. Secondary data were mainly used in describing and analyzing the exited solution in treating the homelessness by the government and private sectors. Through the comparison and analysis, researcher would like to come up with some probable solutions.

B. Research Population and Sampling

The research population in this study was selected from Penang Island. The research population was divided into two categories. The first category is the homeless youth. The second category is the volunteers from several organizations. Despite their gender, both men and women within different age group (in between 15-40 years old specifically for homeless youth) are considered as the unit of analysis for this study. In this research, researcher chose to use convenience sampling method and purposive sampling in the sample selection for the interviews. Convenience sampling is based on the data collection from the members of a certain population who are conveniently available participating in the study while purposive sampling used when researcher select the participants in the members of the population by relying on her owns judgments (Dudovskiy, 2016). These two sampling methods let the researcher be able to get close and personal enough with the participants. At the same time, allow them to share the details regarding on the youth homelessness.

C. Research Instruments

The questionnaire used in this research was in the qualitative and quantitative form. The series of questions regarding the determinants of youth homelessness and solutions are set. There are two sets of questionnaires which is specifically applied to homeless youth and volunteers. There is another set of questionnaire on need assessments of youth homelessness which is specifically for homeless youth only. The questionnaire was in two languages which are English and Bahasa Melayu. Tomm's typology of lineal,

circular, strategic and reflexive questions was developed and applied to the research interviewing (as cited in Darlington & Scott, 2002). Researcher formed the lineal, circular and reflexive questions in order to study the determinants of youth homelessness, their need assessment, as well as the solutions for youth homelessness.

IV. FINDINGS

Objective 1: The Determinants of Youth Homelessness In Malaysia From The Individual Perspectives.

The determinants are categorized into three main factors which are individual factor, relational factor and structural factor. Participants are allowed to state more than one factor to elaborate more on their situation clearly (as shown in figure 2). The main factor of youth homelessness is analyzed by using quantitative method and tabulated in the figure 3. There are four respondents stated that individual factor is the main determinants of youth homelessness; two respondents claimed that relational factor is the main determinants while only one respondent denoted that structural factor is the main determinant of youth homelessness.

Figure 2: The Determinants of Youth Homelessness.

Respondent	Determinants of youth homelessness		
	Individual Factor	Relational Factor	Structural Factor
1	<p>Behavior/Attitude: Runaway- need for independence</p> <p>Addiction: drug abused</p> <p>Employment issue: unemployed- lack of qualifications</p>	<p>Family issues: abandoned by parents/families</p>	
2	<p>Behavior/Attitude: Runaway-need for independence</p> <p>Addiction: drug abused</p> <p>Employment issue: unemployed- lack of qualifications</p>	<p>Family issues: parent-child conflict & abandoned by parents/families</p>	
3	<p>Employment issue: unemployed- lack of qualifications</p> <p>Health issue: mental illness- depression</p>		<p>Challenges in obtaining housing: lack of affordable housing, lack or housing policies or poor policies, poor structure and administration of housing benefits & overcrowding</p> <p>Financial issue: low income,</p>

			<p>poverty & high living cost</p> <p>Employment issue: Lack of opportunities of employment-Due to gender discrimination, respondent cannot find a suitable job. Most of the employers prefer man as their employees.</p> <p>Issues related to discrimination on identity: low qualification-only achieved local education level (graduate from local university)</p>
4	<p>Employment issue: unable to work</p> <p>Health issue: physical illness- kidney disease</p>		<p>Challenges in obtaining housing: lack of affordable housing and housing policies & overcrowding</p> <p>Financial issue: poverty and high living cost</p>
5		<p>Family issue: parent-child conflict, abandoned by parents/families & separation</p>	<p>Challenges in obtaining housing: lack of affordable housing, having no references & overcrowding</p> <p>Financial issue: low income, poverty & high living cost</p>
6	<p>Behavior/Attitude: Poor anger management</p>	<p>Family issue: divorce</p>	<p>Challenges in obtaining housing: lack of affordable housing, having no references & overcrowding</p> <p>Financial issue: poverty & high living cost</p>
7	<p>Behavior/Attitude: Greedy- Respondent 7 stated that he was dreaming to gain a big amount of wealth in a short period so he paid all his money in investment on certain business. Finally, he was cheated and lost all the money.</p> <p>Addiction: Gambling- He loved to try his luck by</p>		<p>Challenges in obtaining housing: lack of affordable housing & overcrowding</p> <p>Financial issue: low income, poverty & high living cost</p>

	gambling. He thought that he can earn money in a short period through gambling but he lost all his money and properties.		
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Figure 3: The Main Factor of Youth Homelessness.

Respondent	The main factor of youth homelessness		
	Individual factor	Relational factor	Structural factor
1	Addiction: drug abused	-	-
2	-	Family issue: parent-child conflict	-
3			Employment issue: Lack of job opportunities due to discrimination
4	Health issue: physical illness-kidney disease	-	-
5	-	Family issue: conflict with wives and children	-
6	Behavior/Attitude: Poor anger management	-	-
7	Behavior/Attitude: Greedy	-	-

Objective 2: The Determinants of Youth Homelessness In Malaysia From The Community Perspective.

According to the information provided by the participants in this research, the researcher found out most of the volunteers agreed that poverty is the main determinants of youth homelessness. Four volunteers out of ten respondents stated that poverty in terms of wealth or love and social relationship can lead to homelessness. Besides, income gap of the country and the high living standard are the other factors that are related to the poverty factor. These three determinants are interrelated. Moreover, two participants agreed that addiction is the main factor of youth homelessness. One of the respondents stated specifically on drug addiction. He mentioned that drug addiction is the most difficult to cure among other addictions like alcohol and gambling. There is a participant agreed that lack of religious support and social support will bring the issue of youth homelessness. Only one participant agreed to the issue of single parent caused youth homelessness. Researcher categorized the determinants of youth homelessness into three categories: individual factors, relational factors and structural factors. In individual factor, there is only one variable which is addiction. This factor is stated by two respondents. 3 respondents agreed to relational factors, there are three variables such as (1) lack of religious support and social support, (2) poverty in terms of love and social relationship and (3) single parent. 5 respondents suggested structural factors; there are three variables such as (1) poverty, (2) income gap and (3) high living standard and cost.

Objective 3: The Needs of Homeless Youth In Malaysia.

The Perspective of Homeless Youth.

Respondent 1 claimed that social support is the greatest need as support from adult or professional can help him get basic living necessities and can help him survive from drug addiction and homelessness. **Respondent 2** said drug treatment is his greatest need to be fully recovered from drug addiction so that

he can start a new life. **Respondent 3** claimed that employment is the greatest need to fulfill her basic necessities. **Respondent 4** mentioned financial support is his greatest need because he needs money to get treatment for kidney disease and get a suitable shelter. **Respondent 5** claimed social support is the greatest need based on his current situation. He needed social support to help him to search for an affordable house and suitable employment. **Respondent 6** denoted that social relationship is his greatest need as he wanted to rebuild his family relationship and make up for his mistakes in the past. **Respondent 7** thought affordable house is the greatest need for him. This is because he still can afford the basic necessities based on his current situation but house is unaffordable. He needs a safe and suitable place to stay.

The Perspective of Community

According to the information provided by the participants as shown in figure 4, the researcher found social support is the main need of homeless youth in the perspectives of community. Five participants (42%) agreed that social support including social relationship and social acceptance is needed by the homeless population. There are two participants (17%) claimed that religious support is the main need of homeless youth. There is one participant stated that assistances from adult and professional are needed by the homeless youth; one participant claimed that financial support is important. Other than that, one participant thought employment is the main need of homeless youth while one participant stated that basic needs of living is necessary for the homeless population. There is only one participant claimed that government support is the main need of homeless youth.

Figure 4: The Main Need of Homeless Youth



Objective 4: The Probable Solutions in Reducing The Youth Homelessness In Malaysia.

Part 1: Solutions in Helping Homeless Population

Based on the information from the interview, the researcher concluded that most of the participants think that social support is the best way in helping the homeless population. This social support includes spending time in accompanying the homeless youth. This is to understand the problems and needs of the homeless youth in order to come out with probable solutions in helping them. Other than that, social relationship is an important element in social support. Through forming a good social relationship, homeless youth can definitely change their state of homelessness. One of the participants stated that helping the homeless youth in changing their behavior and attitude surely can help in reducing the issues of homelessness. In addition, suitable advices should provide to homeless population. Through education and skills trainings, homeless youth can develop their surviving skills and get employment. Welfare support from government is another method in helping the homeless population by providing the financial aids or other benefits. A participant claimed that increasing job opportunities will definitely help the homeless population in changing their state of homelessness.

Part 2: Solutions In Stopping or Preventing Youth Homelessness

Based on the information from the interviews, education can be concluded as the best way in stopping or preventing youth homelessness. Five respondents claimed education can definitely prevent the issue of youth homelessness. A respondent stated that awareness of the society regarding homelessness should be increased in order to prevent it. Through education, the information and knowledge can increase people's awareness on this issue. There are two respondents mentioned that welfare policies and system should be

enhanced in order to stop or prevent youth homelessness. Besides, a respondent stated those detention center and rehabilitation programs are important to reduce the risks of homelessness specifically for the individual who suffered in addiction or those who own crime history. There is only one respondent said that there is a need in improving the city arrangement and management in order to overcome the problem of overcrowding of the place which can prevent youth homelessness indirectly.

V. DISCUSSION

5.1 Definition of Homelessness

The definition of homeless is complicated as the term can be explained based on different context and circumstances. Homeless can be defined as an individual who does not own a shelter which means that people sleep at the roadside, at the park, under the bridge or any public places. We change the term 'shelter' to 'home', the definition changes. As stated by Arthurs (2008), home provides protections from the elements with the sense of security and safety; it is a place where individuals meet their spiritual, physical, intellectual, social and emotional needs. Home is a place that you carry out your life with the person close to you like family or partners. A person who does not own a home means he or she does not have close social relationship with family, relatives or friends. We change the term 'shelter' to 'house', the definition of homeless changes. House is a physical property that can be purchased or rented. If a person does not own a house means the ownership of the house or land becomes the determinants of his or her homelessness. Homelessness can mean different things to different people with different perspectives and experiences. The statistical definition proposed by Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) outlined three important keys in determining homelessness. Homelessness is defined as:

"When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless in their current living arrangement:

- Is in a dwelling that is inadequate; or
- Has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or
- Does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations." (Western Australia Department for Child Protection and Family Support, 2016, p.8).

Based on the experiences in participating activities in Kawan Center Penang and Kechara Soup Kitchen, researcher found the organizations did not clearly state the definition of homelessness. Most of the people who received help from these organizations are urban poor people. One of the respondents from Kawan Center Penang stated that they welcome anyone who needs food, a temporary rest place, free clothes and bathroom. Kechara Soup Kitchen also prepares food and some necessities for the people who visit to the center without applying any specific system in recognizing the homeless people. Whoever aged between 40 to 60 years old are eligible to claim the things at the center. Researcher thinks that definition of homelessness is diverse, complex and flexible. It can be changed when applied to different contexts. We cannot define homeless with only one aspect but with all aspects. To come out a good solution in helping the homeless population and preventing the homelessness issue, the method in addressing the homelessness should be clear especially the definition and characteristics of homeless.

5.2 Determinants of Homelessness

There are many determinants that contribute to the existences of homeless youth in Penang which can be categorized into three main factors such as individual factor, relational factor and structural factor. Researcher thinks that the determinants of youth homelessness are interrelated. The main factor of homelessness of one of the respondent is drug addiction. However, this determinant cannot be separated with the other determinant which is family issue. He mentioned that he ran away from home because of parent-child conflict. After he ran away, he found a job as a waiter and he got temporary shelter. Then, he met few friends who taught him to use drugs. This caused him to suffer in drug addiction and lost his job. Thus, he became homeless. Homelessness does not come as the result of a single event; it happens because of a series of interconnected events which are complex, overlapping problems (Rusenko, 2015). All the determinants are interrelated as if one of the factors changes, this may change his homeless status.

The determinants of high income gap of the country will influence the other determinant of poverty rate of the citizens. There is a relationship between these two factors where the higher the income gap of the

country, the higher the poverty rate of the citizens. The increase of the number of rich people will increase the living standard and cost of people. To successfully address homelessness, we should comprehend individual's personal struggles, in addition, more extensive basic social and financial issues. The former will help us in creating the pathways out of homelessness, while the latter will show the method to keep future homelessness from happening. Through understanding the background of the homeless youth and the relationship between the determinants of homelessness, more suitable and responsive solutions can be suggested to help homeless population at the same time prevent youth homelessness.

5.3 Needs of Homeless Youth

There are several needs of homeless youth such as social support, social relationship, welfare support from government, basic needs of living, education, drug treatment, good housing policies, affordable housing, employment and job opportunities, income and financial aid. Among these needs stated by the respondents, social support is the greatest need of homeless youth. From the perspectives of community, there are several needs stated such as religious support, social support, social acceptances, financial support, basic necessities, counseling services, assistances from adults and professionals, education, addiction treatment, illness treatment, employment and government support.

Social support is the main need because it can bring other needs together to the homeless youth. With social support, the basic needs of living can be fulfilled through donation or welfare benefits from government and other organizations. In addition, social support helps homeless youth in terms of mental and physical. Counseling services are provided to the homeless youth through social support from specific organization. The adults and professionals can provide their advices and responsive solutions to the homeless youth in overcoming their issues. Religious support can also be provided through the religious events organized by the social organization. Support in terms of physical like information of affordable housing, financial aid or treatment can be introduced by the professionals through social support. Apart from that, the opportunities of job and education can be increased through the social support given by the professionals or people who have more networks and experiences. These needs can be fulfilled with the social acceptances of the society and their supports to the homeless population.

Researcher thinks that the basic needs of living are the short term easement that is capable to maintain our lives in particular moments. According to Bradshaw (1972), the needs explained in the framework of State Plan were considered as normative needs where the needs are measured and determined by authority. In researcher's opinion, instead of giving the homeless youth the basic needs, government should provide more opportunities for the homeless youth to learn the skills in escaping poverty cycle. Thus, the researcher suggests the framework in solving youth homelessness should focus more on felt needs and expressed needs. Bradshaw (1972) stated that a person does not demand a service unless he or she feels there is a need; however, it is common for the felt need not to be expressed by demands. Therefore, it is important to collect perspectives not only from the homeless population but the opinions from community are vital to determine the real needs.

5.4 Probable Solutions of Youth Homelessness

5.4.1 Suggestions from Community

Based on the results collected from the interview, there are several solutions in helping the homeless youth proposed by the participants. Some participants mentioned that spending time in accompanying the homeless youth in order to understand their problems and needs is the way in helping the people. Most of the respondents agreed that social support is the best way in helping the homeless youth population. Social support is the main method in helping the homeless youth in order to achieve other needs and assistances. There are many solutions in preventing youth homelessness suggested by the participants such as education and technical trainings, religious and belief system, employment, detention center and rehabilitation programs, stable social relationship (including family, relatives, friends and colleague), enhancing the welfare policies, city arrangement and management, increasing the number of affordable houses and advocating social awareness. Among the solutions recommended by the participants, education is the best way in stopping or preventing youth homelessness. Education act as the early intervention in overcoming youth homelessness, at the same time, it can be the method in helping the homeless youth to transform their homeless status.

5.4.2 SUGGESTIONS

There is need of comprehensive response to youth homelessness. Researcher would like to suggest enhancement of the solution in order to help the homeless youth population and prevent youth homelessness. First, clear statement and standard definition about homelessness should be outlined and proposed. As stated by Alhabshi and Abdul Manan (2012), there is no proper and adequate definition of homelessness in Malaysia. Standard definition of homelessness should be developed in order to have clearer understanding about homelessness. The definition of youth in Malaysia also recommended to change to a more standard and clear statement. The range of ages 15 to 40 years old is not suitable in defining youth as it involves different stage of human development. At the same time, it is important to differentiate the homeless, beggars and urban poor people. Second, the determinants of homelessness should be organized and analyzed. Government departments and other social agencies should concern about the background and experiences of the homeless population. The relationship between determinants should be clearly identified in order to find out the root cause of the youth homelessness.

Third, homeless people should be categorized in different groups based on their ages and current situation such as degree or level of homelessness. Homeless population in Malaysia should be divided into youth group and elder group with the standard definition of homelessness. "The Risk, Trigger, Trap Road to Homelessness" was found in the Calgary and Edmonton plans in ending homelessness (Red Deer & District Community Foundation, 2009). There were three categories identified in this plan such as risk, trigger and trap. People who categorized in the 'risk' are those who experienced one or more risk factors of homelessness. Those who are under the category of 'Trigger' are the person who encounters a trigger event or incident. People who are caught in the 'Trap' of homelessness are finding themselves up against multiple and cumulative barriers. Therefore, homeless youth should be organized into different groups in order to have clear image about their issues and provide them the suitable and responsive solutions.

Fourth, the needs of homeless people should be highlighted in every solution. Homeless youth have to be included as the central stakeholder in consideration of the problem because they are those who suffered and go through the experiences, thus they are the most suitable people to reorganize themselves. Felt needs and expressed needs are fundamental in understanding the real needs of homeless people in changing or improving their current situation. Normative needs should not be dominant as these are not the actual needs from the perspectives of the people who experienced the struggles of homelessness. Fifth, researcher thinks that there is a need to develop a central, integrated data management system. This is to ensure the information and statistics are updated over the time. Researches regarding social issues and problem should be carried out continually to collect the latest data about the condition of the society.

Figure 5 shows the ideas of researcher in designing a suitable framework in solving youth homelessness. There are lists of Malaysia government ministry, department, agencies and non-profits organization which collaborate in helping the homeless youth and preventing the homelessness issues. Short term solutions are important in solving the momentary needs of the homeless population. Long term solutions are vital in breaking the homeless cycle and preventing the individual return to homeless status. The framework should be modified based on the local situation in order to provide responsive solutions. Homeless community must be included in the framework when addressing the homelessness issues. Determinants of youth homelessness may be different based on individual's experiences and background. Therefore, specific and responsive assistances should be suggested to aim at the particular problems.

Figure 5: The Framework of Probable Solution in Homelessness Suggested by Researcher.

Agents

Ministry of Transport Ministry of Human Resources Ministry of Rural and Regional Development Ministry of Women, Family, and Community Development Ministry of Entrepreneur and Co-Operative Development Ministry of Health Ministry of Education Ministry of Higher education Ministry of Housing and Local Government Ministry of Youth and Sports Prison Department Credit counseling and management agency Human Resources Development	CASE (Centre for Advancement of Business, Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship) CRC (Community Recycle for Charity) EWRF Kelab Kebajikan Rakyat Malaysia Malaysian Care Shine The World World Vision Befrienders Malaysia Good Shepherd Assembly of God Church MIASA (Mental Illness Awareness and Support Association) SOLS Health Women's Centre for Change Rising Hands Association	Desa Bina Diri (DBD) Ops Oaseh Anjung Singgah Kawan Penang Kechara Soup Kitchen Dapur Jalanan Food Not Bombs-KL Institut Rakyat Kaseh4U Kindness Need to Feed the Need Reach Out Malaysia Region of Love The Nasi Lemak Project			
Homeless Society	Determinants of homelessness Needs assessment				
Social Temporary services Assistances and advices Social relationship Donation Food Shelter Basic necessities Financial aid and advices Health services	Short term solutions	Education (moral development, family and social relationship, sex and diseases) Skills trainings (interpersonal skills, technical skills) Information assistances Employment Housing supportive services (housing models) Rehabilitation programs and religion support (control of behavior and attitudes) Counseling services (provides advices and psychological supports) Health care services (mental and/or physical illness) Social assistances (regular check on individual condition in order to prevent reenter to homeless)	Long term solutions	Education Policies Laws and regulations Welfare system Health care services Rehabilitation programs Counseling services Transportation Migration City development projects Social Connection Social acceptance and awareness	Prevention of homelessness

VI. CONCLUSION

There are many determinants contributed to youth homelessness. This research showed there is a need to develop an effective framework in addressing homelessness issues. The key elements like definition, characteristics, degree of homelessness are important in understanding the status of homeless youth. Collaborations from government and private organization are significant to overcome the social issues. Education is expected to be the best method in promoting the awareness of homelessness. The main limitations in this research are number of respondents and validity of verbal data. Researcher was limited to involve large number of respondents in the research as considering the condition of the homeless youth. There was risk of misunderstanding when collecting the verbal data that reduce the validity of information.

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