Housing and Homelessness

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DECLARATION

I [type your full first names and surname here], declare that the contents of this dissertation/thesis represent my own unaided work, and that the dissertation/thesis has not previously been submitted for academic examination towards any qualification. Furthermore, it represents my own opinions and not necessarily those of the University.

Signed _____   Date_____

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1.Introduction

Mcveigh (2012) stated that the rising issue of homelessness is critical and intensifying around the globe which has raised its impacts in the developed countries also including UK. The phenomenon has broadened in its scope in 21st century. 'Homeless', the term is generally used to denote those individuals who are sleeping roughly (sleeping on streets). However, households areconsidered as homeless statutorily in the legislation if they meet the determined criteria by the local authorities. These households are not actually homeless literally in terms of living under the open sky and not having a roof over their heads, but they are the ones who are more probable ofbeingendangeredor threatened of losing or unable to continue with their present home (Department for Communities and Local Government, 2015, p. 2).

Around five to ten years before today, there was a time when it was apparent quite reasonably for labours or workers in the sector of homelessness to refer as the rough sleeps in nights are in sight. But today, the reports are showing a gradual increasing trend in this regard. During the past four years, the number of people sleeping on streets of London on a point in a year was increased by 75%which is 6,437 in 2012-13 (Henley, 2014).

In last 2-3 years, 112,330 individuals in England applied for being declared as statutory homeless for being accommodated by the authorities which is increased by 26% since 2009/10. The latest reports on monitoring homelessness research have shown that the issue is larger than it looks. During last five years, 280,000 people approached to the local authorities for support on homelessness, the trend is still not highlighted in the statistics. Furthermore, there are ample of people who do not qualify to attain the assistance from authorities in housing sector lives in private hostels with friends, family in insecure manners

are considered as hidden homeless. There was around 35,000 spaces bed available in the hostels for such hidden homeless people in England which has been declined by 4000 during last 4 years. More than a half of these homelessness services providers found their funding cut (Crisis, 2015).

1.2. Rationale of the Study

Regardless of the reason of anyone's homelessness, the implications can be damaging. The state of homelessness costs people's capacities and capabilities by skills lost, by diverting of mind regarding employment while emphasizing on accommodation, and by increasing health issues during homelessness. It also caused of losing of an individual's self-esteem, resilience and self-confidence (Crisis, 2014). Young adults are on the high risk of homelessness. During last five years, the number of young individuals who are roughly sleeping in London has doubled in which 16 to 24 year old people are reported as being homeless recently. Among the registered and documented homeless people, only 2% are found to be employed. Similarly, around 80% of the homeless households and individuals are found to be suffering from mental health issues and the average death age of a homeless person is recorded as just 47 years. Further, such people are more likely to be victimized of violence 13 times than the general people (Crisis, 2015). This increases theconsideration towards the causes and the measures to control homelessness and the need to widespread the scope of study and researches in this context in order to overcome the issue.

1.3. Significance of the Study

Out of 4 in each ex-homeless individuals/ households, 1 found itself in a difficult position and possibility of losing their current tenancy. Isolation and loneliness are the key reasons usually compounded with the choices regarding their place of accommodation. Thus,

it is significant to build people's abilities, confidence and capabilities for empowering them to enable them to be in control of their lives towards shifting from homelessness to a sound state (Crisis, 2014).The findings of this study would enable the reader in perceiving the circumstances and the aspects of homelessness in UK. Furthermore, it would be useful for authorities of housing sector in attainting the idea of key factors, causes and consequences of increasing homelessness and housing issues in UK and the measures to overcome those challenges. Moreover, this study would contribute in the present literature regarding the homelessness and housing with the statistics and current and previous trends in the sector.

1.4.Aims and Objectives of the Study

The core aim and objective of conducting this study are as follows:

- To investigate the significance anddimension of the issues of homelessness in UK

- To identify the causes and consequences of homelessness in UK

- To examine the current measures and strategies and the potential measures by the authorities of housing sector to lessen homelessness

- To assess the helpfulness of safe and affordable housing facility in reducing homelessness in the UK

- To provide recommendations and suggestions for future betterment and declining in current trends of homelessness in UK.

1.5.Research Questions

On the basis of aims and objectives of the study, the research question which is going to be addressed in this study is:

- Are the authorities in housing sector in UK efficiently providing equal access to housing to each homeless individual without any discrimination?

1.6.Methodology

The study is grounded on the qualitative design due to the nature and objects of this study which is to analyse and identify the factors, causes and consequences of homelessness in UK with the analysis of performance of authorities in housing sector. Furthermore, in qualitative design, the current study is based on the secondary research in which the data either theoretical or statistics are gathered from the secondary sources like official websites of the government institutions, corporations and NGOs which are operating in the area of homelessness, research articles and papers, annual reports etc.

1.7.Key Terms

The key terms cited and used for searching and collecting the data both theoretical and statistical facts and figures in this study are: Homelessness in UK, statistics of homelessness in UK, Government's measures and strategies for homelessness remedies, etc.

CHAPTER TWO: FINDINGS

2.1.Introduction/Rationale

Homelessness is a condition in which people are convicted to live without a shelter. It is not only a matter of shelter but also of deprivation, in which victims face poverty and are deprived from healthcare, education, and basic necessities of life. People who acquire shelters on temporary basis are also considered homeless. It is now becoming a vital phenomenon of the 21st century in most of the developed countries as well as in UK (McVeigh, 2012; Crisis, 2015). In 2004 it was observed that approximately 2,744 people were deprived of shelter on a single night across England which indicates a 5% increase in the statistical data of homelessness of 2010. According to a report of the homeless monitor research last year about 280,000 people urged to their local authority for assistance (Crisis, 2015).

The number of people living in temporary accommodation was 68,560 families on September, 2015. No one knows the exact figure of hidden homeless people in England, but a study of the housing policy statistics indicate that, almost one from ten adults faces homelessness at least once in his lifetime. Certain categories of people are more likely to be homeless. These include people which are less publicized, lack in interaction with friends and families, language barriers, and people involved in drug addiction or other legal situations. The most likely cause of homelessness at this stage is unemployment and low incomes. This causes unavailability of resources and abandons people from basic necessities of life (Henley, 2014).

Crisis (2014a) illustrated that during the years of 2011-12, almost 9.8 million people were victim of poverty in UK. It has been argued that poverty and homelessness are connected to each other and things become worst, when debt gets involved in it.

About 29,050 people applied for homeless assistance to the authority in 2015. Among them 50% were accepted. In cases where the authority realize that a certain household is eligible for assistance, and has no fault in becoming homeless the authority accommodates them with a shelter. For the ease of fair selection, the authority has categorized households in certain priority groups. These priority groups include pregnant women, physical or disable people, dependent children, and previously sentenced people. After assessing their needs, if the authority does not find the selected household as the proper candidate for the priority group, they advise them to find their accommodation on their own (Department of Communities Local Government, 2015a).

In the light of this rationale, this chapter has designed to highlight certain factors of homelessness in UK. In this context, in following sections, cause of homelessness have discussed along with their general consequences and with special reference to UK. The final section tried to explain the developments which UK government has already taken to counter those initiatives, which recently brought into action.

2.2.Causes and Consequences of Homelessness

Crisis (2014b) explained that in general the causes of homelessness are of two types: personal and social. At personal level, the reason of being homeless for males are drugs, leaving facility (hospital, care, prison), and relationship failure. In similar manner, women ends up as homeless due to physical-mental abuse by family member, husband or partner, including physical-mental health issues. On the other hand, at social level, non-availability of affordable houses, high poverty level, unemployment, weaknesses in benefits system, and discrepancies in social housing sector are major cause of this phenomenon. Fitzpatrick, et al. (2000) and Pleace, et al. (2008) also agreed that relationship breakdown is one of the significant factors behind homelessness, in which nearly 30% families have effected. They

called it as trigger to initiate the process of homelessness. It usually occurs between the partners or with adult children due to physical abuse. Similarly, eviction or threats to evict the families from household by landlords another vital cause for homelessness.

Fitzpatrick (2006) plainly stated that in realist context, the main causes of homelessness in UK are poverty, lack of space, and domestic violence which converted it as constant and giant social problem of English society.

Jones (2006) revealed that in England, the declined rate of homelessness acceptance coordinated with the low tide of affordability, which Pawson (2007) discussed that this declining rate of affordability shrinking the scope of house-ownership in England. Consequently, in case of tenancy, there is rise of homelessness and their scope for home proprietorship tends to evaporate.

Wilson (2015) summarized all these causes of homelessness in following chart, which illustrates them from 2010 to 2015.

Chart 1: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty by reason for loss of last settled home, financial years 2010/11 to 2014/15, England[1]
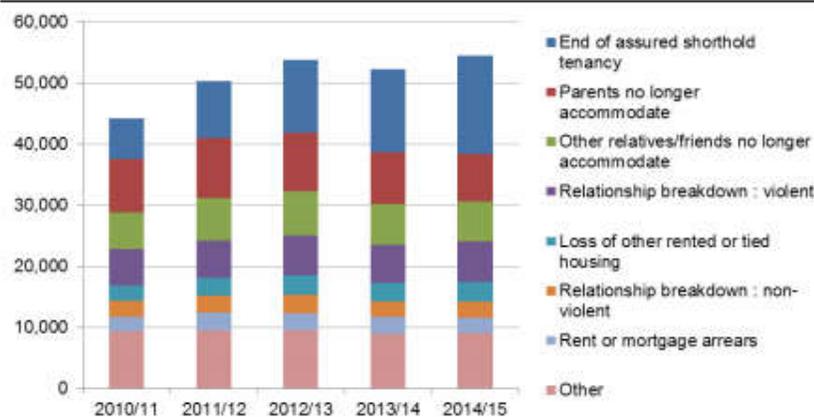
Wilson (2015) further highlighted the structural causes of increased homelessness that public investment in housing sector has remarkably cut during 1990s. However, things improved and investment increased up to £4 billion during the years of 2003-4, but the development of social housing did not reached up to the mark like earlier, mainly due ti

increased cost of lands and construction. Apart from it, nearly 1.7 million council home were sold at national level under the scheme of Right to Buy between 1979-2011. On one hand, it enable numerous families to purchase their personal property and improved the community level benefits but, on the other hand, it reduced the huge number of social houses from government ownership and restricted local authorities to provide housing to homeless households, families, and individuals.

Crisis (2014b) further enunciated the immediate consequences of homelessness that it damages capabilities of individual, in the form of loss of skills, loss of cognitive processing towards getting job, and health problems. At psychological level, it destroys their self-confidence, self-esteem, resilience and generates loneliness, isolation, and feelings of deprivation.Homeless Link (n.d) has illustrated the consequences of homelessness in following picture, which also highlights the approximate statistics of personal and social problems, which these people go through with.

Experience of homeless people compared to general population

The health related impacts of homelessness are quite pertinent and addressed by numerous scholars as well. Collins (2002) discussed that in UK the health of homeless people are always in jeopardy, even if they get adjusted in temporary housing. The reason is that these house are either located in far flung areas, have poor sanitary and hygiene, or overcrowded all the time. Therefore, the inhabitants always remain vulnerable for health

issues. By illustrating the psychological impact of homelessness, Stearman (2010) explained that those people who sleep on streets have 11% chances to develop mental health problem, unlike to those who sleep in hostels and have 8% chances. It eventually leads to rise in suicides. Stearman (2010) cited Crisis that such people have 35% chance to go for suicide, in order protect themselves, in which young people are most prominent.

Morago (2010) mentioned one of the significant aspect that homelessness is a kind of stereotype or stigma, which prevent the person to get decent job, employment, and training. The issue in not limited to job only but it also extends to proper health facilities, housing services and other basic benefits, like having a bank account. Those who get able to find a job are usually crushed with high charges of paid accommodation by local authorities that the purpose of having employment kills itself. These people are also likely to become part of criminal and violent activities, however, they are often assaulted in sexual, physical and mental context by general population.

2.3. Developments and Initiatives to Address Homelessness

Busch-Geertsema and Fitzpatrick (2008) stated that in England local authorities were directed by government to take necessary steps to prevent those who were threatened by homelessness. Nonetheless, the English statutory system is more concerned resolving the homelessness crisis, instead of preventing it. In this regard, from 2002, government itself took initiatives to deal with this issue and introduced the Homeless Act (2002), which bound the local authorities to design strategies to thwart and relieve the homelessness. ODPM (2005) revealed that national authorities have established a national target to reduce the number of statutory homeless people up to halve by giving them temporary accommodation from December 2004 to 2010.Pawson, et al. (2007) highlighted the developments which

taken by UK's local authorities with other agencies to address the issues of homelessness. In this regard, following table has designed to illustrate them.

Enhanced housing advice	This framework established the connection with private landlords and give outreach services to most vulnerable victims. In addition, it helps families to retain private or public rented tenancies.
Rent deposit schemes	It specifically facilitate those tenancies which are privately rented.
Family mediation	This program has designed to target youth homelessness and to prevent it. In this regard, it not only act as reconciliation body between parents and children but between partners as well. It also helps youth to have access of family support so, they may live independently.
Support for victims of domestic violence	It involves the sanctuary schemes for physical abuse victims against their violent partners. It involves support for resettlement, planned moves, and services for crisis intervention.
Tenancy sustainment	It helps vulnerable tenants to maintain their tenancy. It involves multiple activities such as, budgeting, claiming benefits, accessing health, and furnishing accommodation etc.

Wilson (2015) also discussed some of the significant policies designed by government to tackle this issue. In this regard, on July 2010. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has issued the press release to protect and utilize £6.2 billion in housing sector, which has been saved by Whitehall and emergency budget. It has been also mentioned that government invested £2 million in Gold Standard Program, which is responsible to

prevent the major causes of homelessness. Similarly, £10 million also invested in National Homelessness Advice Service to equip them with best resources to deal with this problem. Government also funded Homeless Link, which is an umbrella program to make liaison among all local authorities regarding homelessness. Apart for all these developments, government also focused on legislative improvements to bring long lasting change, in this context, the Localism Act 2011 has reformed which allowed flexibility to local authorities in moving homeless families to better accommodation.

Buckingham (2009) attempted to explore the impact of government funding in the form of contracts and tendering, on voluntary organizations of Southampton which are focused to provide services for homelessness. It has been found that their services have improved to tackle the issue of homelessness, but it instigated the rivalry among these organizations.

Crisis (2014b) suggested that in order to control the extent of homelessness, there is a need to give trainings to homeless people, in order to build their confidence and empower them to take control of their life and choices, so they can come out of this physical and mental torture. In the contrary, Crisis (2014a) tends to agree with Morago (2010) and revealed that Housing Benefit itself prevents individuals to gain new skills and capabilities. For example, those are above the age of 18 and studying more than 16 hours a week, he/she cannot claim the benefit. In addition, the recent cuts to Housing Benefit is also likely to cause more troubles for people to have sustainable accommodation and tended to strengthen the phenomenon of homelessness.

Department for Communities and Local Government (2015b) explained that in legislative manner, the issue of homelessness in UK has initially addressed in Housing Act 1996, which further improved in the form of Homelessness Act 2002. Before these developments, the Mobile Homes Act 1983 used to provide tenure security and rights to

residents. Warnes, et al. (2003) explained that the Homelessness Act 2002 has prioritized the needy groups, in which adults have been targeted who were earlier in armed forces and those who were living in foster care under local authority. This act was also milestone in the way that it finally authorized local authorities to take the action against homelessness in practical manner.

Wilson (2015) highlighted that in spite of having number of troubles in hand, government has initiated numerous programs and policies to counter homelessness. In this context, it is intended to save £315 million to purchase settlements between 2019 and 2020. Similarly, government is also willing to increase its funding up to £139 million over Spending Review Period. There is a plan to disburse £40 million on Department of Health to renovate the hostels and accommodations for youth, which has a danger of homelessness.

As the UK is a significant member of European Union (EU), hence, EU's initiatives also influences the developments within UK regarding homelessness. In this context, European Consensus Conference on Homelessness (2010) presented certain strategies which collectively drew by the Council and the Commission to address anti-poverty policy. These strategies asserted that homelessness should be prevented in first place, to reduce the number of eviction both from houses and welfare institutions. This issues should not be discussed through temporary crisis management, rather, it needs long-term policy development. An approach of 'housing first' (p.1) should be adopted. Finally, there is a need to enhance governance, in which leadership of public figures should be prioritized, stakeholders must participate efficiently, and there should be large consensus on agreed solutions.

CHAPTER THREE: DISCUSSION

3.1.Background of Analysis

In previous chapter, an attempt has been made to evaluate the situation of homeless in UK. In this regard, brief statistics have presented to illustrate the severity of condition, along with causes and consequences. It also highlighted the role of government to facilitate the housing sector and improve the conditions for housing facilities for homeless people. By continuing this course, this chapter has been designed to discuss the key themes of homelessness in UK. In this regard, a thorough evaluation has conducted with reference to broad theoretical developments and issue of homelessness in other countries.

3.2.Discussion and Analysis

The thorough analysis of chapter of findings helped to generate following key themes of the study.

3.2.1. Personal Causes of Homelessness

In findings, it has been discussed that the personal causes of homelessness slightly vary between males and females. The formed faced this phenomenon mainly due to substance abuse, leaving certain facility like prison, homecare, or prison. However, the latter got victimized mostly because of physical abuse by husband or partner or other family member and health issues which involves both physical and mental aspects. Relationship breakdown is a constant cause for both genders (Crisis, 2014b). This factor has further emphasized by both Fitzpatrick, et al. (2000) and Pleace, et al. (2008) that nearly 30% families get effected and breakdown, which swells this phenomenon at national level. With respect to it, physical abuse with adult children is also a likely cause. Wilson (2015) indicated that between 2010

and 2015, almost 40,000 young adults lost home because, parents refused to accommodate them and 30,000 were rejected to accommodate by friends and relatives. Similarly, almost 23,000 people lost home due to violent relationship breakdown and 14,000 due to non-violent breakdown, during similar time period.

These aspects were solely recognized in the context of UK, thus, Slumdogs (n.d) strengthened these points with the example of India that the country has 1billion population, from which 63% are living in slum areas. It has been found that divorce, disability, and drug addiction are basic personal causes of homelessness. Tipple and Speak (2009) further broaden the issue and illustrated that in developed countries there is a general perception that homeless person is himself responsible for his condition. It is his apathy, addiction, and laziness, which ends him up in such situation.

In the light of discussion conducted by both findings and literature review, it has been evaluated that personal causes of homelessness are core of the problem. In case of divorce or breakup, partners seem to be unable to find suitable accommodation for themselves within limited resources. Similarly, the drug abuse is likely to destroy their cognitive abilities due to which they are not able to sustain healthy life and end up on streets. In similar manner, when young adults are thrown out by their parents and relatives, usually they have no awareness and ability to contact suitable authorities due to which they continue to live on streets for longer basis.

3.2.2. Social Causes of Homelessness

In addition to personal causes, the chapter findings also highlighted the social factors which contributes to homelessness in British society. In this context, Crisis (2014b) discussed that the lack of affordable houses, poverty, unemployment, weaknesses in welfare or benefit system, and internal issues of social housing system are basic sources to intensify

homelessness. Fitzpatrick (2006) also agreed with these reason and explained that in context of theoretical development, the realist school of thought also convinced with these social reasons. Nonetheless, he also added that scarcity of space as another element. Fitzpatrick, et al. (2000) and Pleace, et al. (2008) collectively asserted that the role of landlords is another likely cause of this phenomenon. Mostly, they threaten families to evict the space or raise the rent.

With respect to these findings, Ballantine and Roberts (2010) introduced a whole new dimension on homelessness that migration is another cause of homelessness in general context. These migrated people are usually homeless and sleep on streets, under bridges, subways, parking lots, and sidewalks. Until before 1980s, developed countries were unfamiliar with this idea and after 1980s this phenomenon has begun taking shape and now converted in to standard social problem. Ballantine and Roberts (2010) cited the work of renowned sociologists David Snow and Leon Anderson (1993), who focused homelessness in American society at micro, meso, and macro level. They asserted that American society has certain standards for being respected person. At micro level, the self of homeless person is most important concerned. He lacks property, family, and respectable job therefore, he is not considered entitled to be given due respect. At middle level, family and social organization play important role in discussion of homelessness, while at macro level, wage labor issues, employment trends, and social policies of government are main causes to fuel homelessness in USA.

This debate has revealed that society has very strong role to precipitate the phenomenon of the homelessness. There are multiple factors which seems to complement each other and trigger the process. For example, poverty leads to deprivation which in turn causes health issues and personal issues and eventually leads to homelessness. Similarly, the migration seems to be a new factor to cause homelessness, in which literature review gave the

example of America. Nonetheless, the current migration crisis in Europe from Middle East is also very relevant example, in which European countries are devising certain policies to cope with likely consequences, in which homelessness is also very significant.

3.2.3. Structural Causes of Homelessness

It has been found that the structural causes of homelessness in UK occurred mainly due to government's lack of efficiency and capability. In this regard, Wilson (2015) discussed those structural reasons which caused homelessness between 2010 and 2015. It revealed that due to increased rent or mortgage, almost 11,000 inhabitant lost their home. Similarly, loss of rented or tied housing caused 23,000 to vacate their living space. Finally, due to the end of guaranteed short-hold tenancy nearly 50,000 people got homeless in UK between 2010 and 2015. Wilson (2015) also revealed that the reduced investment on housing sector by government in 1990s became source of long term homelessness in UK. Situation got recovered in the years of 2003 and 2004, but it was not able to recover the previous standards due to high prices of lands and construction. Another important cause of homelessness was government's policy Right to Buy between 197 and 2011, it facilitated middle class to own the houses, but it caused considerable burden on social housing sector. The housing sector got crippled and was unable to provide homes to homeless individuals and families.

In context of literature review, Kerr (2011) agreed that the lack of affordable housing is most significant structural cause of homelessness. Farrugia (2015) asserted that poverty is a structural cause along with type and nature of housing stocks both by public and private owners, and availability of welfare benefits.

It shows that structural causes are more or less political, which controlled by government in general. These causes differ from personal and social causes in the way that here an individual is not involved. Rather, it is the government and its policies which draws

the lines of homelessness. It is not necessary that all policies were bad all the time, some of them of really good but their benefits have proved as short term in nature such as, Right to Buy. This policy has improved the house ownership on one hand for middle classes, but caused huge troubles for lower classes because, housing sector was not able to provide accommodation to those living beneath poverty line.

3.2.4. Health and Psychological Impacts

By illustrating the health and psychological impacts, Collins (2002) emphasized that homeless people remain in constant danger of health issues. Some of them eventually get settled in temporary accommodation, but chances are always high, because, these houses are mostly unhygienic and over-crowded. Hence, in spite of living within certain premises these people always develop compromised immune system. Crisis (2014a) also discussed in chapters of findings about the psychological impacts that normally individual capabilities of person, which makes him an individual, get most effected by homelessness. The impacts come in form of weak cognitive processing, which includes use of skills in acquiring employment and to make sound decisions. Self-confidence, resilience and self-esteem all get influenced by this phenomenon, and tends to inculcate feeling of isolation, deprivation, and loneliness. Stearman (2010) further extended the debate by giving certain statistics. It has been found that those who have temporary accommodation in hostels possess 8% chances of mental issues, while, those who live on streets have 11% chance to advance in to mental and psychological problems.

With respect to these details, a literature review has conducted in which National Coalition for the Homelessness (2009) explained this phenomenon in inverse manner that those people who experience mental illness are more likely to have homelessness. It is due to the reason that mental illness not only prevents a person to take care of himself but also

makes him to push family, friends, and caregivers. In this regard, a personal is not able to maintain his livelihood, which eventually leads to homelessness. It has been further argued that mental illness is a major cause of physical illness in the way that due to mental disturbances, a person is not able to take basic precautions and hygiene. It usually results in to skin diseases, respiratory diseases, infections, tuberculosis and Aids. Substance abuse is also very pertinent in such people which combines with physical and mental illness, and reduces their chances of getting employment. In context of mental illness, The Queen's Nursing Institute (2012) revealed that homeless people have high chances of having schizophrenia/psychosis, mania, anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, self-harm, and personality disorder.

In this comparison, it has been evaluated that homelessness is itself a social problem but it yields general health issues in society. On one hand, the healthy individuals develop likelihood to get infected and get sick, but on the other hand, a huge burden comes on health sector as well. In this regard, government seems to tackle two issues simultaneously. In addition, it has been discovered that the increased rate of psychological and mental illness in UK's society can be associated with homelessness. This debate showed that physical and mental illness cause homelessness and vice versa, which means they seems to have strong relationship with each other.

3.2.5. Political Elements Addressing Homelessness

In findings, it has been discussed that from 2004 to 2010, UK government took certain initiatives to counter homelessness. For this purpose, it has been targeted to reduce the quantity of statutory homeless citizen by halve through the establishment of temporary accommodations (ODPM). On policy front, Wilson (2015) highlighted few significant policies initiated by government, in which Department for Communities and Local

Government (DCLG) has announced that the budget of £6.2 billion, which collectively saved by Whitehall and emergency budget, would be utilized on the issue of homelessness. Similarly, in Gold Standard Program, nearly £2 million have invested in order to address those causes which produce homelessness in first place. National Homelessness Advice Service was also given fund of £10 million to get efficient resources and equipment to deal with the issue. Homeless Link, which is umbrella program to connect all local authorities on homelessness, has also funded and invested. Similarly, now UK government is considering to counter homelessness legislatively as well, in which Localism Act 2011 is very significant (Wilson, 2015). The future programs of government are also very important and shows the seriousness and concern towards this problem. In this regard, an amount of £315 million is also in saving mode to purchase the housing schemes between the years of 2019 and 2020. In addition, £40 million also kept aside for Department of Health with the purpose of renovating accommodation centres, lodges, and hostels for homeless youth (Wilson, 2015).

These findings revealed that government has now began to recognize the severity of issue and trying to counter it in both policy and legislative context. The issues is not only of national level but also of regional level, in which initiatives taken by EU have also been briefly identified. These findings further reveals that although government is quite concerned about this issue, but there is an open observation that homelessness is not reducing as it has been expected. There is a possibility that other policy areas might have effected it and worsen the situation. For example, in section of structural causes, it has been found that the policy of Right to Buy had major chunk in initiating this problem. Similarly, there can be hypothesized that other policy areas which have no direct link with housing sector, might be effecting it and boosting the course of homelessness.

3.2.6. Coordination between Local and Central Authorities

Chapter of findings has discussed one of the very important element that in UK there was considerable gap between public and private agencies due to which no improvement was visible in this issue. In this regard, Busch-Geertsema and Fitzpatrick (2008) explained that the legal system of England instructs the local authorities to deal with the issue, however, it emphasized more on resolving the crisis of homelessness instead of averting it. In this context, the Homeless Act 2002 has already discussed in above lines. Warnes, et al. (2003) further highlighted that this Act helped to prioritize the needy groups on certain standards, which brought improvements to certain extent. Similarly, it also gave required freedom to local authorities to address homelessness with respect to their own ground realities.

The study evaluates that in order to address homelessness, there is significant need to bring public and private agencies in cooperation with each other. They should help out and provide resources to each other. Public agencies might help to establish broad range policy perspective, while, local authorities can implement them at ground level. Similarly, there should be sharing of expertise between both sectors, in which trained staff should be exchanged and facilitate the government by providing their findings not only in the form of policies but also with statistics. In this regard, government might have both pictures of this problem simultaneously.

3.2.7. *Measures to Prevent Homelessness*

The chapter of findings revealed that those measures which have been adopted to counter homelessness are themselves responsible to flourish it. In this context, the policy of Housing Benefits has discussed which caused numerous obstructions for homeless people to acquire new skills and training. Those who crossed the age of 18 and still studying more than 16 hours a week, are not entitled to claim housing benefits. This situation has also got critical after several cuts in housing sector, due to which it is unable to give accommodation to

deserving population (Morago, 2010). It has been also discussed that the notion of homelessness in UK society is itself very stereotypical and general population possess quite judgmental perspective towards homeless people. It causes troubles to get health benefits, employment, housing facilities and other civic rights such as, right to have bank account. Those individuals who somehow got successful to find employment for themselves are highly crushed to pay for their accommodation that they tend to prefer homelessness instead. They not only become part of criminal groups but also become victim of criminal activities either by their homeless fellows or by organized criminals. Crisis (2014a) discussed that these people needs training and education to upgrade their life, however, the obstructions have already discussed in above lines.

In compliance with these findings, Shaw (2010) discussed that in 2006 Ruth Kelly was a Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. She announced a deal of measures in order to tackle the rising tide of homelessness in UK. In this deal, she made a commitment that by 2010 no 16-17 year old would be resident in bed and breakfast accommodation. In case of emergencies, this arrangement might not extend the period of six weeks. In addition, she also announced plans to establish mediations in more improved way and build lodging for young people. Robinson (2008) explained the barriers to homeless people's training and education that some of them are demotivated and not intended to improve their lifestyle. However, some are highly enthusiastic to bring positive change in their life and welcome the opportunities to join the college for education and training for employment. Nonetheless, some of the people remain unsatisfied about the care and welfare given by government and private agencies. This point can be justified by the points given by House of Commons (2004) that mostly homeless sector remains deprived of necessary infrastructure and equipment to educate and train its staff. In this regard, the capabilities of managers and social workers remain limited and they do not deliver the services as they are

usually expected. In addition, the lack of employee retention and uncertain availability of funds are other significant matters, which prevent homeless people to get basic facilities and stand on their own feet.

The chapter of findings asserted that homeless people are not able to have access of facilities given by public and private agencies. If somehow, they get access to these facilities, they are suppressed by crushing payments and fee, which may demoralize them. On the other hand, the literature review gave the other side of pictures, it revealed that why the homelessness's conditions are in certain way. It has been found that organizations and agencies are not able to cater all needs of homeless people, because, they themselves suffer from lack of funds and trained staff. Overall, there is low retention rate in this sector, due to which no long term initiatives can be taken. It has been also evaluated that due to lack of resources, organizations intentionally put accommodation fee and other charges on homeless people in order to fill the gap in their funds. Similarly, some of the homeless people are so demotivated that spending resources on them yield nothing but waste. They are unwilling to upgrade their lifestyle and spending resources of housing and homeless sector on them might get lost.

Overall, it has been evaluated that this discussion strengthened the debate conducted in the section of political elements which boost homelessness. Nonetheless, it showed the other dimension of the issue.

CHAPTER FOUR: CONCLUSION

This study has been initiated by keeping the following research question in perspective,

"Is the housing sector of the UK effective in providing equal access to housing with respect to homeless people?"

This question has addressed there main factors, housings sector, housing, and homeless people. In order to explain this perspective in more detailed manner, certain objectives have been designed to explain the issue in comprehensible and concise manner. The objectives aimed,

- to examine the gravity / magnitude of the issue of homelessness,

- to recognise its causes and consequences, and

- to discuss the developments of housing sector which have played a great deal to address this issue.

In order to achieve these tasks, chapters of introduction, findings, and discussion have been design to shed light on every dimension of this problem. First chapter introduced the topic and provided rationale for this study. Similarly, second chapter has tried to shed light on different dimensions of the issue of homelessness. In this regard, it focused causes-consequences and initiatives taken by government so far. Chapter three has discussed that findings in detailed manner with reference to literature review and tried to build the gist of this study.

In this regard, first it has been found that homelessness was not much prevalent in UK until 1980s. It began to assert itself in 1990s and now has taken a shape of huge social problem. By keeping this idea in consideration, it has been concluded that as homelessness is a relatively new phenomenon in social context, therefore, initially UK government was not prepared to recognize it as social problem and address it accordingly. Similarly, there is a

perception of the study that housing sector might be organized and uniform before the advent of this crisis. Nevertheless, this issue has seriously questioned the credibility of whole housing sector, in which public agencies and local authorities are equally included.

The study further concluded that homelessness seems to be an outcome of government's inefficiencies thus, it also proved as triggering factor for other issues in societies. In this regard, physical and mental health issues of British society is quite relevant. On one hand, there is a constant rise of mental and psychological diseases, which includes depression, anxiety, and stress. Physical health problems are also increasing in which Aids, TB, and viral infected diseases are prominent. Similarly, on the other hand, a significant element has been noticed that this rise of physical and mental diseases considerably burdening the health department and social welfare department. Health department is supposed to ensure the healthy living of homeless people, while, social welfare department is required to provide them basic facility.

In this context, housing sector, health sector, and social welfare sector needs to work with cooperation and coordination. Government has taken initiatives to fund health department to improve the conditions of hostels, and social welfare organizations have also invested to improve their resources and staffing. Nonetheless, housing sector is facing considerable problems, because most of the suitable lands have already sold and those which are available are quite expensive. Similarly, the cost of construction has also skyrocketing, in which it is very difficult for this department to build new settlements and renovate existing ones.

It has been also concluded that the local authorities had not only staffing and resources deficiency but they were also restricted by legal boundaries. The Localism Act 2002 has ended this barriers, but still there are hidden factors which prevents them to give excellent performance.

This study has extensively explained the causes of the homelessness, in this regard, it has been concluded that those causes were of multiple origins. Divorce, drugs, and violence were personal causes, poverty and unemployment appeared as social problems, while government's policies, landlords, non-availability of houses, and lack of affordable houses were structural causes. The study believes that these causes must be crushed by developing specific policy area, which would address all three issues. The reason is that these broad range of causes effects the individuals at multiple levels, which is converting UK society to abnormality. Most of the civilized norms and traditions are disappearing and a unique sort of social chaos is taking its place.

CHAPTER FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS

It has been felt that this study was limited in its scope to thoroughly address the housing sector due to lack of space and time. The study has mentioned it multiple times, but it failed to explain it separately in order to discuss homelessness in detailed manner. Therefore, it has been recommended that the future studies should evaluate the housing sector separately, in which its history, evolution, structure and policy paradigm must be dealt with in thorough manner. In this regard, it would be easier to comprehend the lacking of this entity to address homelessness in efficient manner. This study was also not able to highlight the relationship with private sector and other policy sectors, which are main sources to generate homelessness. Hence, it has been strongly recommended that to address it in specific context.

Second, it has been found that future studies should be conducted through primary data. In which any agency, be it public or private, should be selected and studied deeply. Both qualitative and quantitate research methods can be applied. In addition, focused study might also be conducted to understand the underlying and deep issues, which prevent to address homelessness competently.

Third, there is need to compare certain public and private agencies with each other in order to understand the implementation gap. Through this study, it has been understood that government and public agencies established the broad spectrum of policy performance, which seems very eloquent and easy to achieve. Similarly, local authorities also seem to have all resources to implement those policies. Nonetheless, there is always dissatisfaction among the end users, which also mention by literature review in chapter of discussion. Therefore, in order to find the implementation gaps, future studies might compare the internal environment, policy development and implementation conditions of public and private agencies.

Fourth, this study has evaluated that future researches should also focus the measures and tools through which homelessness can be countered. Both the chapters of findings and discussion revealed that those methods which are adopted to address homelessness, such as education, training or skill-development, themselves prove as counterproductive. In this context, there is a need to evaluate those micro causes which strengthens this phenomenon and cannot be tackled by public and private agencies collectively. To address this, certain policy areas, legislation, or policy document, which has influenced the subjects in negative manner, might be taken as case study and can be evaluated through primary and secondary methods simultaneously.

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