



(RESEARCH ARTICLE)



## Sheltering hope: A case study on the urgent need for care and support for homeless people in Nepalese society

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### Abstract

Homeless means person with no home to his/ her own living support by others. Worldwide, we can see many homeless people living in the street, by the mercy of development institutions, relatives, and through care centers. In context of Nepal, homeless people are raising day-by-day reasoning many social and cultural factors. This study has been designed to analysis the situation of homeless people in Nepal. A data obtained from the pilot field study during an execution of Ph.D. dissertation program tried to highlight the situations of homeless people in the study area of Makwanpur district, Hetauda city within Bagmati Province. Both a qualitative and quantitative research methods were applied in this study and try to reflect the situation analysis for the homeless peoples.

The collected data further illustrate that the homeless people are caused due to the social, cultural, and psychological reason as stated by the surveyed respondents. The study data also highlights that all respondents are residing under the care center which is taking care and providing best to survive and make them able to perform best in the society. However, many challenges arouse to run the center among which funding constrains is the major and lack of interest of the development agencies are the ongoing challenges in the present-past conditions. The study concluded as the homeless are burning issues in the Nepalese society are raising the number of challenges and all types of supports are required to manage the challenges in the coming days. A long-term policy strategy is the need of the study are, however a comprehensive survey is advised.

**Keywords:** Homeless; Need of care; Challenges; Support

### 1. Introduction

Home can be defined as a dwelling in which a person tends to create cozy, creative and fruitful societal links with other people by the way of amusing them in own space, or in which an individual can extract from such links. “Home” turns out to be a space in which an individual can specify the space as their possession, where the dwellers are capable enough to have grip of its shape and figure. (Cooper, 1995). Perhaps, this will be through command of actions and their secrecy with an approach to their place and responsibility. When it is performed, they have constructed a dwelling with a feeling of their role and status (Cooper, 1995).

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has recently been reviewing its explanations of destitution or homelessness on the basis of prevailing wide-reaching documents rather than in Europe, North America, and Oceania. To begin with it, argumentative paper, printed as Springer (2000), and the assemblance that caused from an assessment

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project (UNCHS, 2000), both of them discovered the characteristics and practicality of descriptions of destitution and homelessness.

### 1.1. Review of Existing Literature

Human life consists of plentiful right and wrong affairs. Nevertheless, human beings constantly carry on with the quest of good to better and to the best ways. They prefer simply good concerns to assist themselves to flourish and confirm as a humanitarian life. On the other hand, unpleasant affairs cause people to be sad while they undergo them or when they memorize them so that they realize challenging and inconvenient. Therefore, human life tends to be complicated for them. Among them, homelessness turns to be the grinding one. Homelessness prevails all over countries and societies in the world. So, it is identified homelessness has become the severest issue which the world has been undergoing in the post-modern era. (Whitbeck, Hoyt, & Ackley, 1997).

This means that homelessness is an international issue that exists in a lot of societies and every locality people live in and some people in the world suffers from instability due to homelessness. Natural, homelessness is not a fine phenomenon because unfortunately, it is a proof that a defect is not away from the societies that have it. Apparently, homelessness affects personal life for homeless people themselves and others (Whitbeck, Hoyt, & Ackley, 1997).

Regarding the issue of homelessness, it is required to sort out a remedy to this issue. To catch up to a solution, it requires a complete learning upon all aspects of the given issue, that's why we obtain entire evidence regarding it. For instance, we should understand the reasons to trigger it, or the effects to cause such consequences, the direct effects on people who suffer from them. Henceforth, we shall sort out the right solutions for such phenomenon or issues. It is applicable to destitute people who are seen high and low. It consists of several causes and effects for homelessness (Emmanuel Gospel Center, 2006).

In Kathmandu dale, a number of homeless people are seen in the street and specified housing. The reasons for the homelessness are emerged from shortage of housing, impecuniousness, physical challenges, unemployment, economic crisis, fall in family structure, or a meagre welfare condition (Woods, 1987).

Due to the lack of a housing and a family to survive with, a people are prone to be the down and out. Similarly, these down and outs are practically without housing. They get often habituated to fixed shelter and outdoor places in order to have a doss in the public area (Anne, Shlay, & Peter, 1992).

A phenomenology minutely observes the details of ordinary activity in our daily routine as the researches seek out in order to discover destitute people's purposes and actions of self-tending, position, character, reasons require to place such undergoing within their life-styles. Such a concept consents me to explore homeless victim's understandings, experience, performances, and involvements in such environment and other people by pragmatic acquaintance (Krause, 2017).

The street or homeless people cannot precisely be clarified but the scrutiny of history since past, this issue has been wide-spread in Nepal. The study of history shows Kathmandu as the center of Nepal. The Kathmandu valley is assumed to have been identified by the emperor, Gunakamadev in 724 BC (Ghimire, 2014).

The history began from primeval time about the homeless alternatively used as dispossessed, shelter less and identity less. The custom of Haliya, Kamaiya, Badhuwa were in practice before but currently no longer existing in Nepal. Campaigns like provision of housing for actual dispossessed and displaced has started in Nepal. This expedition lessens the ongoing homelessness (Wily, 2008).

In the recent periods, summary of Literature indicating that many Orphanages, care center has been established by NGOs's, Social workers and many individuals who are more sensitive and taking this as a biggest challenge for the society. Thus, this study is mainly targeting to those homeless centers who are with people with different backgrounds and residing in the center.

The Literature suggesting preparing a specific objective such as to analysis the situation of the homeless centers. Thus, this study mainly focusing to find out the situation of the homeless people in the study area

## 2. Methods

For any scientific study methodology guided scholars to prepare a detail design for the executions. For this study a mixed method design, both Qualitative and Qualitative research method followed by the key notes of the field, observation and many other research tools will be applied to highlights the data.

Hetauda Sub metropolitan city will be the representative sample for the Bagamati Province in Nepal due to the presence of more than 4 centers of Homeless and had a better experience of the Homeless care center. A self-Structured question will be executing for this study. Since this case study is a part of Doctoral Dissertation, hence the piloting data if the study let's say some 30 self-structured questions will be use for the analysis of this study. Some 3 centers with 10 questions each will gone through and some 3 FGD and 5 KII will conduct in this study. Self-Observations and Secondary data will also use in the analysis's sections. Data will go through SPSS software. And analysis will do through table and graphs accordingly.

## 3. Results

**Table 1** Descriptive statistics summary of different variables asked with homeless people

In this summary table, various question related to socio-health and demographic information to better understand about homeless will be illustrated here.

Homeless statistics	Who are homeless?	Educational Level	Age group	Family Background	Mental situation	Higher majority?	skills?	Receiving any benefits?	Reason of homeless?	Do homeless ready for earnings?	Do people here ready for skill upgradations?	Do homeless people have any social cards for benefits	Do homeless have citizenship and birth registration?	Do required health service?	Current health situations
N	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Mean	3.35	1.48	3.03	1.39	2.16	1.39	3.42	1.74	3.61	2.06	1.71	1.68	1.61	1	2.23
Std. Error of Mean	0.171	0.091	0.199	0.089	0.186	0.1	0.159	0.16	0.269	0.146	0.124	0.085	0.137	0	0.076
Median	4	1	3	1	2	1	4	1	5	2	2	2	1	1	2
Mode	4	1	4	1	1	1	4	1	5	2 <sup>a</sup>	2	2	1	1	2
Std. Deviation	0.95	0.508	1.11	0.495	1.036	0.558	0.886	0.893	1.498	0.814	0.693	0.475	0.761	0	0.425
Minimum	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Maximum	4	2	4	2	3	3	4	3	5	3	3	2	3	1	3

(Source: Field Survey, 2022)

The summary (*Table-1*) shows that the homeless are average size and belongs to the adult age as 32.3 per cent (*Annex-2*) response the same. Whereas 67.7 per cent are from the Mixed age groups means belongs to Child as well as Senior Citizen age group. Some 51.6 per cent homeless are literate and some 48.8 per cent are illiterate in the study area. The mean value of Literacy is 1.48.

**Table 2** Mental situation statistics of homeless people

<b>Mental situation of Homeless</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>per cent</b>
Majority have a sense	11	35.5
Majority are senseless	7	22.6
Majority have partial sense	10	32.3
Chronic patients	3	9.7

(Source: Field Survey, 2022)

The Mental situation of Homeless people is with full of Sense, bit some 32.3 per cent are partial and remaining are senseless. During questionnaire interview it was found that the senseless people were carries either from the street or from the unknown places which have been reported to seen from the long time in the isolated are of the city. Hence, those were carefully treated in the centers.

A Key Informant Interview-KII with municipality officer stated that the lack of data and funding contains are the major challenges for the people to survive.

The team members of Homeless center have also raised the same points that lack of funding from agencies are creating challenges to survive, Hence, the centers are running on a support of individual donors who celebrate birthday, anniversary, and special celebration of social functions and this is the best way to survive the centers and homeless peoples are receiving food and other support from them.

The prime reason of homeless due to the matter of social-cultural and other reasons are illustrated herewith.

**Table 3** Summary of reason of homeless people

<b>Reason of Homeless</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>per cent</b>
Property	14	45.2
Illness	1	3.2
Social-Cultural	16	51.6
Total	31	100

(Source: Field Survey, 2022)

On a question of reasoning, majority of respondents (Table-3) have said that 51.6 per cent are became homeless due to the social cultural and psychological effects among which the death of family members or some unfortunate accidents and losses of property due to disaster lead people to became homeless in the survey area. Some 45.2 per cent also replied due to the property matter. In case of Property the old age peoples were emotionally convinced to handover their property to the kinship and after few spending some time, they forced to became homeless stated in the study area.

About the certificate and social benefit card a comprehensive analysis will be done from this table.

**Table 4** Summary statistics of homeless people with number of Birth registration and Citizenship

<b>Have Citizenship and Birth registration</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>per cent</b>
Yes	17	54.8
No	9	29
Don't Know	5	16.1
Total	31	100

(Source: -Field Survey, 2022)

Fortunately, it was found that some 54.8 per cent people holding Citizenship and Birth Registration certificates but still 29 per cent are away from such Privilege. The Birth Registration and Citizenship are the gateway to receive privilege which is prepared supporting through homeless centers.

Respondents have also stated that many development agencies have supported food and nonfood items and the basis of the support was the identifications of centers and its valid documentations. So, it was noticed that the identifications of center and shelter people both have a gateway to receive inking and development support from the different agencies.

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#### 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of above data it can be concluded as the homeless people are the people with mixed age groups people in majority who live in a different homeless center caused due to various reason such as socio-cultural effects (death of elders or any disastrous events on the society) and property related issues which keep people homeless. The health conditions and literacy rate are not satisfactory in the study area. Funding problem are the major issue in the for the management and ongoing support by individual donors are the mode of survival in the recent time.

Care is primary concern for the center, and development aggies have supported food/ nonfood items, and this is caused only due to the documentations of centers as well as peoples a comprehensive survey is the need of todays as the homeless issue is raising day by day and many peoples are reporting, a comprehensive and wide range of survey is advised to capture the real consequences of the homeless across the Nepal.

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#### Compliance with ethical standards

##### *Disclosure of conflict of interest*

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

##### *Statement of informed consent*

Informed consent was obtained from all individual participants included in the study.

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**(Annex-1, Literacy situation of study area)**

<b>Literacy situation of Homeless</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>per cent</b>
Literate	16	51.6
Illiterate	15	48.4
Total	31	100

*(Annex-2, Who are homeless in the area)*

<b>Who are homeless</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>per cent</b>
Adult age	10	32.3
Mixed Group	21	67.7
Total	31	100