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Analysis of the triple social impacts (security, cohesion, inclusion) on the phenomenon of homelessness in the metropolis of Karaj¹

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Extended Abstract

Introduction

Homelessness affects every country and every community. In many parts of the world, homelessness is on the rise, driven by economic, social, and health inequalities. This study aims to shed light on homelessness as a social issue in the metropolis of Karaj and its relationship with social security, social cohesion, and social inclusion, based on a specific academic research program, presented in the form of a doctoral dissertation. Therefore, the research question the researcher addressed in this study is: What roles do social security, social cohesion, and social inclusion play in the phenomenon of homelessness?

Literature Review

Salarzadeh Amiri and Mohammadi (2009) conducted a study titled "Investigating the impact of social and economic factors on homelessness, homeless people in Tehran" to identify and influence these factors in District 12 of Tehran. Alivardinia (2010) studied homelessness in a research titled "Sociology of Sleeping in Cardboard Boxes." Zare (2018) investigated this issue in a study titled "The Relationship Between Individual Factors and the Frequency and Duration of Homelessness." Mughnibashi Mansourieh et al. (1402), in an article titled "Challenges and prescriptions for the social reintegration of homeless drug users; the experience of partnership between Iranian and European NGOs," examined the challenges and presented solutions for the social reintegration of homeless people who use drugs (HPWUD). Meshkini and Shakeri Mansour (1402), in an article titled "Relief for the Urban Poor: Presenting a Housing Planning Model for the Homeless in the Tehran Metropolis," believe that housing planning and policymaking are among the main concerns of urban planners today. In an article titled "Challenges of Life and Management in Shelters for Homeless Women in Tehran," Isari (1403) considers homelessness to be the result of a chain of structural issues. Corinth and Verese (2018), in an article titled "Social Bonds and the Occurrence of Homelessness," attempted to answer the question of why some people experience homelessness and others do not, considering

1 This article is taken from a doctoral dissertation titled "Study of Factors Affecting the Homelessness Process in the City of Karaj."

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the role of social cohesion. Garcia, Duran, and Kushan (2024), in their article “Homelessness and Health: Factors, Evidence, Effective Innovations, and Policy Recommendations,” examine the structural and individual factors that can lead to homelessness. In his book *The Sociology of Boredom* (2025), Mariusz Finkelstein examines the sociological causes and consequences of boredom among social groups. He emphasizes that one group that experiences intense boredom due to marginalization is the homeless. Parcell and Kakkinen et al. (2025), in an article titled “What can be done to end homelessness? Systems change or transformation,” believe that there is an idealistic movement around the world that seeks to end homelessness.

Methodology

The nature of this research is quantitative, and the researcher used a researcher-developed questionnaire that, in the first part, collects background information, and in the second part, includes questions related to social factors affecting homelessness. The statistical population of the present study consists of all homeless people residing in fixed shelters at the time of the study, as well as people who sleep in caves, rough sleepers, and residents of rented tents and canvases, for a total sample size of 350 people. In the first stage, the cluster probability sampling method was used to select four centers (Quds Square, Hesarak Bala, Chamran Park, and Mosalla in Karaj city). In the next stage, the purposive sampling method was used. For this purpose, after analyzing the theories of labeling (homelessness stigma), social drift, and indifference, the present study was conducted quantitatively using a survey. Pearson's statistical tests and regression were used to analyze the data.

Results

The results show a significant relationship between social security (coefficient of determination = 0.254), social cohesion (coefficient of determination = 0.343), social inclusion (coefficient of determination = 0.204), and homelessness.

Discussion and Conclusion

Homelessness is a complex issue with multiple underlying causes, so finding effective solutions requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach.

- **Supportive services and social security:** Homelessness requires a comprehensive solution, including housing, supportive services, and addressing root causes such as poverty and unemployment. Social security systems can significantly reduce homelessness rates. Governments and non-profit organizations should work together to provide support services to help homeless people regain stability and independence.
- **Attitude change:** Changing society's attitudes towards homelessness is essential. School-level counselling and educational and awareness campaigns can foster empathy, support, and help change public attitudes. Homelessness is not a choice. Treating them with respect is essential to facilitate their reintegration into society.
- **Collaboration and coordination:** Collaboration and coordination at all levels, including stakeholders such as community organizations, non-profit organizations, and service providers, are essential to effectively address homelessness. To create synergy in efforts, comprehensive plans involving all relevant parties are crucial. This includes sharing data and best practices, as well as developing and implementing comprehensive plans to address the issue.

Keywords: Homelessness, social security, social cohesion, social inclusion, social issue.
