Issues and Challenges of Homeless Women in Mumbai City

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Abstract:
This research paper highlight on the issues and challenges faced by women living condition who are living on the street or without home in Mumbai city. Homelessness is a major issue in India. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights defines 'homeless' as those who do not live in a regular residence due to lack of adequate housing, safety, and availability. The phenomenon of homelessness violates the most basic of human rights for all populations, women without housing and living on the streets suffer the most severe kinds of abuse and violence.

Keywords: Homeless, poverty, Shelter, unemployment etc.

Introduction:
Homelessness has been a problem throughout the world for centuries. The problem continues to grow every year, but there is still no solution. The phenomenon of homelessness is one of the worst forms of urban poverty and social vulnerability, and a glaring indicator of the failure of governance and the state's commitment to a welfare state. It is tragic and unacceptable in a civilised society and independent India that a large percentage of our poor are homeless. No one wants to be homeless by choice – it is a situation people are forced into like endemic poverty. Women constitute one of the groups worst affected by homelessness. State response to the needs of homeless women is grossly inadequate and the majority of homeless women are left to fend for themselves.

Categories of homeless People:
Primary homelessness: If People are living on the streets.
Secondary homelessness: If people are moving between temporary shelters, including houses of friends, family, and emergency accommodation.
Tertiary homelessness: If people are living in private boarding houses without a private bathroom or security of tenure.

Homelessness is a major issue in India. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights defines 'homeless' as those who do not live in a regular residence due to lack of adequate housing, safety, and availability. The United Nations Economic and Social Council Statement have a broader definition for homelessness; it defines homelessness as follows: 'When we are talking about housing, we are not just talking about four walls and a roof. The right to adequate housing is about security of tenure, affordability, access to services and cultural adequacy. It is about protection from forced eviction and

displacement, fighting homelessness, poverty and exclusion. India defines 'homeless' as those who do not live in Census houses, but rather stay on pavements, roadsides, railway platforms, staircases, temples, streets, in pipes, or other open spaces. There are 1.77 million homeless people in India, or 0.15% of the country's total population, according to the 2011 census consisting of single men, women, mothers, the elderly, and the disabled. (https://censusindia.gov.in)

The number of people living in slums in India has more than doubled in the past two decades and now exceeds the entire population of Britain, the Indian Government has announced. About 78 million people in India live in slums and tenements.17% of the world's slum dwellers reside in India. There is no single identifiable cause of homelessness. While migration and lack of employment opportunities are some of the reasons for homelessness, there could be many others such as poverty, failure of the housing supply system, violence, and the erosion of family support, political, ethnic and social turmoil, natural calamity, physical disability and mental illness among others. Sometimes, social constraints like rigid caste hierarchies and religious discrimination push people out of villages.

Women constitute one of the groups worst affected by homelessness. While the phenomenon of homelessness violates the most basic of human rights for all populations, women without housing and living on the streets suffer the most severe kinds of abuse and violence. State response to the needs of homeless women is grossly inadequate and the majority of homeless women are left to fend for themselves. Indian city streets are extremely unsafe for women, with rape, theft, murder, kidnapping, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence being common. Most homeless women are involved in roadside vending and related activities. They face harassment from local bodies and the police who snatch their goods and displace them at will. Many women then have no option but to take to begging. Most of them beg at religious places and sleep there, as they feel more secure. Among homeless women there are two categories of women: one that stays with her family and the other who is without any family. The homeless women without any family are among the most vulnerable. While all homeless women suffer multiple forms of abuse, gender-based violence and discrimination; there are certain groups within homeless women who are even more vulnerable. These include: women with disabilities and mental health problems; single women and single homeless mothers; women living with HIV/AIDS; chemically dependent women and victims of substance abuse; pregnant and lactating women; and girls and adolescents. Other factors contributing to homelessness of women are: lack of secure tenure, lack of information about women's human rights, lack of access to affordable social services as a result of privatisation, lack of access to credit and housing subsidies, bureaucratic barriers preventing access to housing programmes, rising poverty and unemployment and discriminatory cultural and traditional practices.

Need of the Problem:

 Shelter is the basic human requirement. Housing provides the stability to the peoples. A Home provides roots, identity & a sense of belongingness and a place of emotional wellbeing.Housing is a basic human right and is central to everyone's daily lives. Good housing can contribute to improved living standards, increased opportunities and wellbeing, while poor housing can contribute to poverty, disadvantage and poor health. Housing is also an area of life which women experience differently to men – from their pathways into and out of homelessness and their interactions with housing services, to their access to adequate standards of living and the private market – and recent literature shows a multitude of ways in which gender can shape, define and influence the experience of housing instability For many women,

often for reasons relating directly to their gender, a stable, affordable and habitable home remains out of reach.

In the Mumbai city, homeless women were always been estimated to be increasing exponentially. Food, shelter, and safety are highlighted as street children's everyday problems. Besides, often one reads reports of various Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) about how these women face the risk of abuse and discrimination by others. Interestingly, some reports also highlight homeless women's resilience in their struggle for survival. Homeless women deal with lot of issues for survival, by this study we understand the various challenges faced by homeless women and their living condition.

Objectives of the Study:
To know the Socio-Economic conditions of homeless women
To understand the issues & challenges faced by the homeless women

Research Questions:
What factors lead to be homeless?
What are the issues and challenges face by the homeless women?
What homeless women do for their day to day for their livelihood?

Scope and Limitation of the study:
The present study is located in Mumbai, one of the four major metros of India. Mumbai consists of two distinct regions - the city (South Mumbai) and the suburbs. The city is often referred to as the Island City. The suburbs are divided into the Central, Eastern and the Western suburbs. This region is administered by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), formerly known as the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC).

This study aims to understand profile of Homeless women, their living conditions and challenges faced by them. G-South ward of Mumbai Corporation covers the area worli, Mahalaxmi, Satrasta, Lower Parel and the Elphinstone in Mumbai city. The study is conducted on total 30 sampling of homeless women in mention in the area, above the age of 18th years.

Review of Literature:
During available time some literature has been reviewed by the researcher Margaret Fulton and Lindsey Kut (2018), this study focus on the problems faced by homeless and suggest some recommendations for overcome the problem of homelessness. The general public does not understand homelessness, which in turn causes the majority of other problems, such as the lack of funding, homelessness is faced with. Another problem is in addition to their current predicament, the homeless suffer from the interactions with those around them who are not properly informed. There are various ways this problem could be approached, but to spread knowledge to enough people to make a large difference would be a costly endeavour. Therefore, it is up to each individual person to spread their knowledge and help others to understand.

parshuraman and Sandip chachra (2016), The objectives of this study included To undertake a census of street children in the city of Mumbai. To get an understanding of the social, economic, educational, work, and family background of street children in Mumbai. 3. To understand the reasons why children live on the streets, and the current problems and future aspirations of children living on the streets of

Mumbai. A quantitative research design was adopted for the study. This comprised of two parts – a census and a sample survey from those enumerated through the census. A total of 36154 children were found across the 24 Wards during the time of the enumeration, out of which the maximum number, 7.75 per cent (2802) children, were found in S-Ward followed by D-Ward with 6.39 per cent (2312) children, G-North with 6.37 per cent (2304), L-Ward with 6.28 per cent (2272) children, and F-North with 5.62 per cent (2035) children. If one looks at the political economy of these Wards, it emerges that larger populations of street children were found in commercial areas with a bustling and robust informal economy – market places, railway terminals, bus depots, construction sites, places of worship etc.

Roshni Nair & Vijay Raghavan (2014), a study of Homelessness Scoping study of homeless population in M East Ward, Mumbai" The survey of the homeless population was done in the Mumbai M East Ward. Cluster me comprising geographically contiguous areas of Deonar, Govandi and Panjrapol had the highest number at 25.4 per cent, followed by Cluster II comprising Anushakti and Cheetah Camp at 23.2 per cent. Cluster I has a large number of small scale units (zari units, leather units, bakeries, etc.) which requires a substantive labour force who reside in these units. Many of them sleep in the open as these spaces are too cramped to accommodate all of them inside the units. There are also a large number of eateries which cater to this population, in which again a substantial number of men and boys work and live (many of whom may be sleeping outside). Cluster II comprises of middle, lower-middle and working class populations and there is substantive construction activity going on in these areas, thus leading to a demand for migrant causal labour. These people (individuals and families) live near the construction sites in the open or in temporary shelters.

Indu prakash singh, (2014), violence and violations - The interlink age between violence against women and women's right to adequate housing is well established around the world. Lack of adequate housing can make women more vulnerable to various forms of violence and, conversely, violence against women can lead to the violation of women's rights to adequate housing. The Special Rapporteurs on adequate housing have presented a series of reports on women and housing to the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Council. The reports highlighted that the widespread prevalence of gender-based violence is a central thread in the fabric of human rights violations faced by women, including in violations of the right to adequate housing and land. Women also suffer more from forced evictions and homelessness as both situations subject them to greater violence as well as violation of personal dignity and health. They also asserted that persistent poverty, where women and others are forced to live in inadequate and insecure housing and living conditions, also exposes women to forms of gender-based violence, and arguably is itself a form of violence.

Research Methodology:

Research design depends on the problems of research. Issues and challenges of homeless women in Mumbai city A Descriptive Research that blends quantitative and qualitative data to provide relevant and accurate information.

Sampling Method:

The researcher used Convince sampling technique in Non-Probability Sampling method for this study. Non-Probability sampling is a method of selecting units from a population using a subjective method. In non-probability sampling not all member of the population have a chance to participate in the study, In other words, this method is based on non-random selection criteria. Convenience sampling is a non-

probability sampling technique where samples are selected from the population only because they are conveniently available to the researcher.

Data Collection Tools:

Data collection is a methodical process of gathering and analyzing specific information to proffer solution to relevant questions and evaluate the results. If focuses on finding out all there is to a particular subject matter. For collector of data, there is a range of outcomes for which the data is collected. But the key purpose for which data is collected is to put a researcher in a vantage position to make predictions about future probabilities and trends.

Data collection tools refer to the devices / Instruments used to collect data, such as paper questionnaires or computer-assisted interviewing system. Case studies, checklists, interviews, observations sometimes, and survey or questionnaires are tools used to collect data. The core forms in which data can be collected are primary and secondary data. The researcher has used primary data for this study.

Data Analysis:

After getting raw data, which must be reduced, into groups if we are to get meaningful relations. These fact necessities the classification of data which happens to be the process of arranging of data in group or classed based on common characteristics.

Table No.1: Homeless Women with belonging with State.

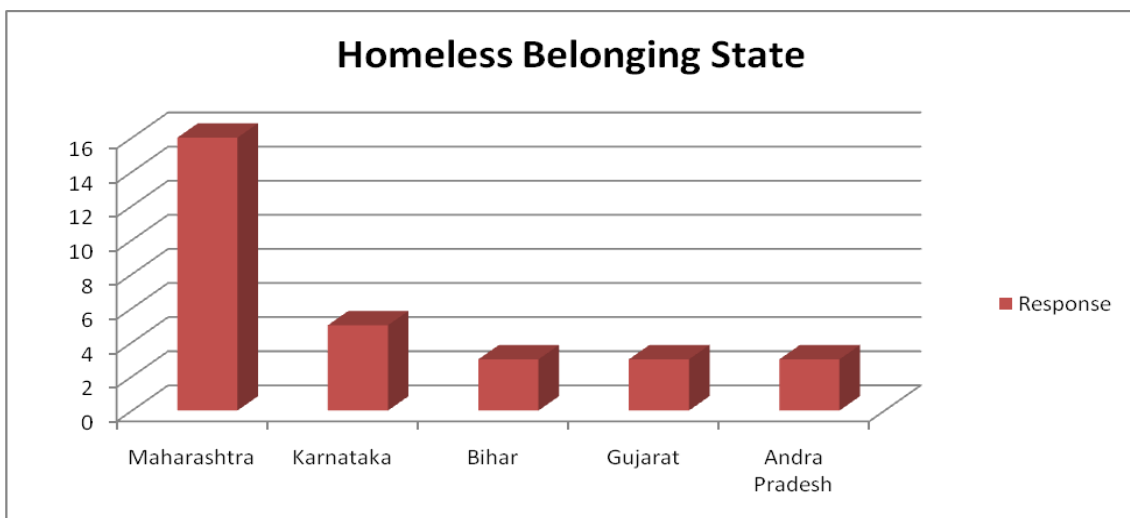| Sr.No.	Details	Frequency	Frequency (%)
1	Maharashtra	16	53.33
2	Karnataka	5	16.67
3	Bihar	3	10.00
4	Gujarat	3	10.00
5	Andhra Pradesh	3	10.00
	Total	30	100.00

Diagram No.1: Homeless Women belonging with State.

Interpretation: Table No. 1 shows the score of belonging state of homeless women in Mumbai city. Conclusion: Table No.1 shows that more homeless women belong from Maharashtra state (53%) where as from Karnataka 5 women (16%), Bihar 3 women (10%), Gujarat 3 women (10%) and Andhra Pradesh 3 (10%) women belong respectively.

Table No 02: Respondent's age group

| Sr.No	Detail	Frequency	Frequency (%)
1	18 Years to 30 Years	13	43.33
2	31 Years to 40 Years	14	46.67
3	41 Years to 50 Years	2	6.67
4	Above 51 Years	1	3.33
	Total	30	100.00

Diagram No.2: Respondent's age group.
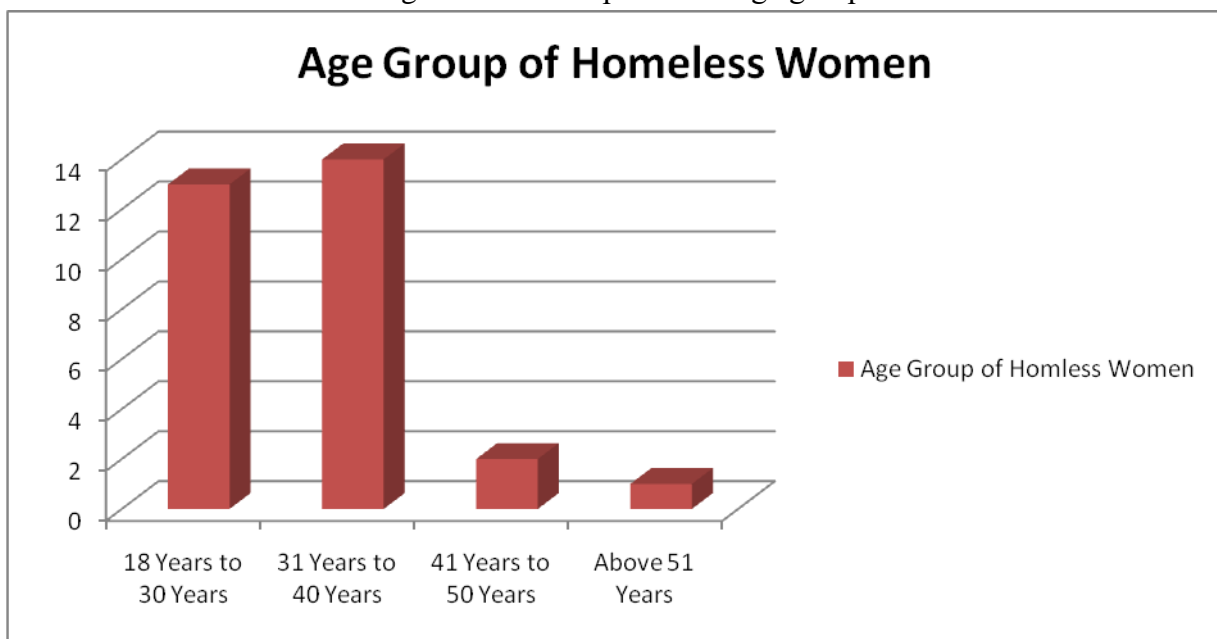
Interpretation: Table No.2 interprets the homeless women age group live in Mumbai city. It shows the score of homeless women age between 18 years to 30 years, 31 years to 40 years, 41 years to 50 years and above 51 years.

Conclusion: Diagram No.2 shows the score of respondent's age. More homeless women belong from 31 to 40 age group which is 14 in number whereas above 51 years only one respondent which is very less in number. 13 respondents are between 18 to 30 years and 2 respondents are from 41 to 50 age group.

Table No. 3: Marital status of homeless women

Sr.No	Detail	Frequency	Frequency (%)
1	Married	20	66.67
2	Unmarried	2	6.67
3	Divorced	0	0.00
4	Widow	8	26.67
	Total	30	100.00

**Diagram No.3: Marital status of homeless women**
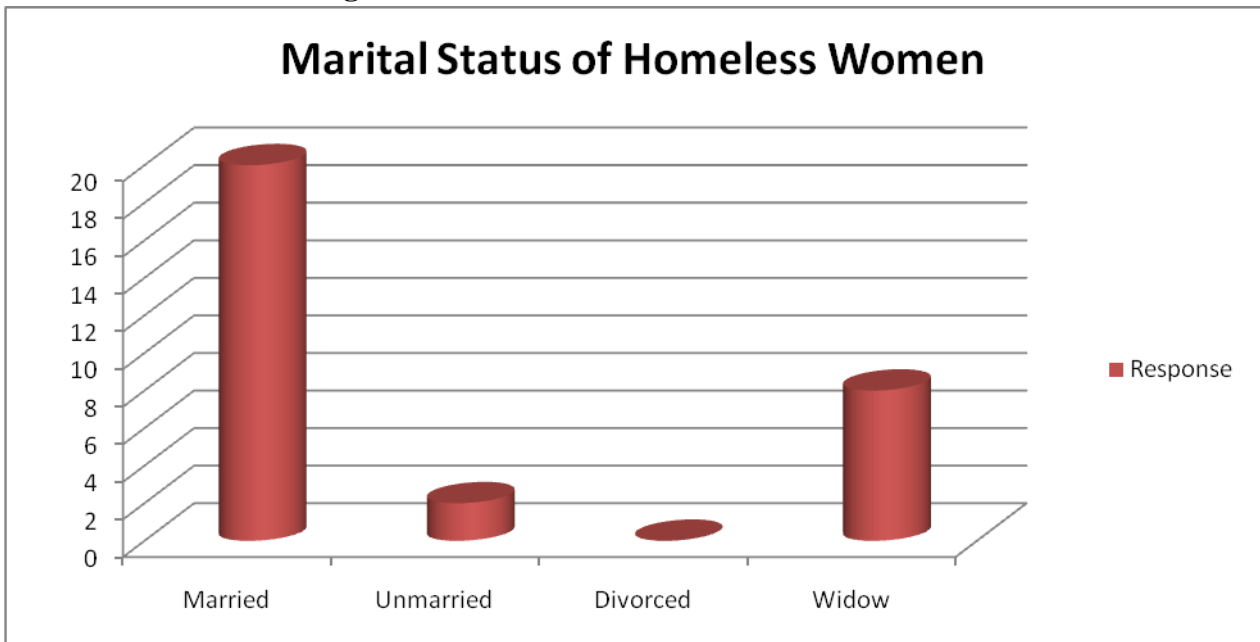
Conclusion: The above table shows the marital status of homeless women. Over 21 homeless women are married, 8 homeless women are widow and 2 homeless women are unmarried. No any women responded as Divorced.

Table No.4: Literacy rate of homeless women

Sr.No	Detail	Frequency	Frequency (%)
1	Illiterate	19	63.33
2	1st to 4th	8	26.66
3	5th to 10th	3	10

4	Above 10th	0	0
	Total	30	100.00

Diagram No. 4: Literacy rate of homeless women.
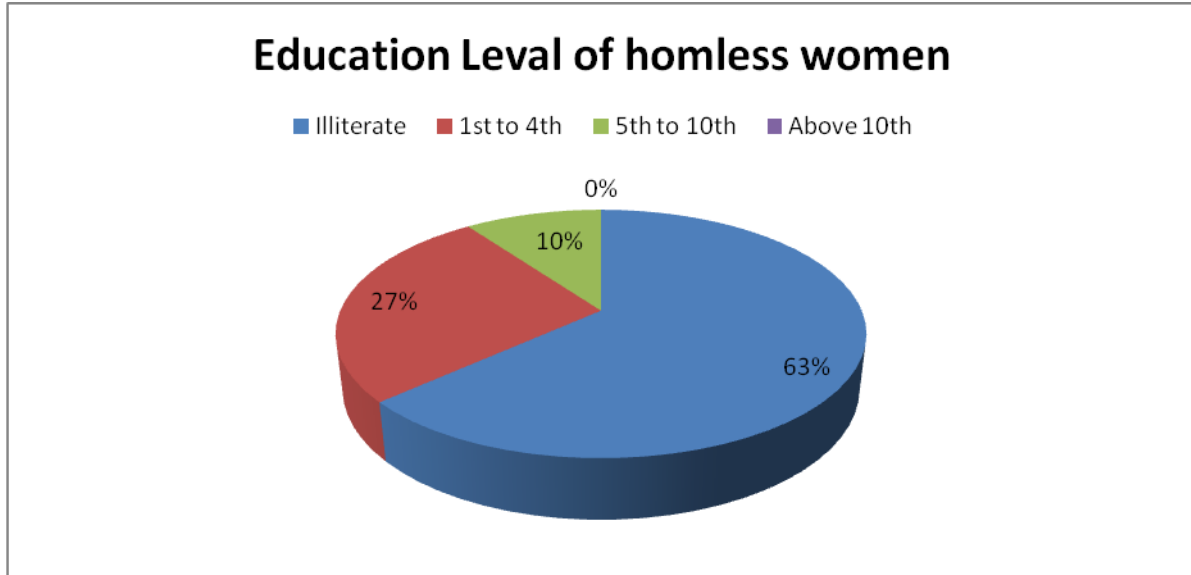
Interpretation: Table No. 4 interpreted the education level of homeless women. It shows how many homeless women are illiterate, educated till the 4th grade, educated till the 10th grade and educated above 10th grade.

Conclusion: The above table and Diagram shows Literacy rate of homeless women. Most of respondent are illiterate. Over 63% homeless women are illiterate which is more in number, 27% homeless women are educated till the 4th grade whereas 10% homeless women are literate and no any women responded as an educated above 10th grade.

Table No.5: Factors leads to be homelessness.

| Sr.No	Detail	Frequency	Frequency (%)
1	Family conflict	10	33.33
2	Abused by Spouse or Partner	2	6.67
3	Displacement	5	16.67
4	Financial Problem	9	30.00
5	Migration For Job	3	10.00
6	After Marriage Migration	1	3.33
	Total	30	100.00

Interpretation: Table No.5 shows which factors triggers to be homelessness to the women and interprets the ratio of reason of homeless women in different colours.

Conclusion: The above Diagram and table which factors lead to be homelessness to the women. Over 33% women faced homelessness because of family conflict which is more in number, 30% women faced financial problem which lead homelessness to them, because of displacement 17% women get homeless, because of migration for job 10% women get homeless, because of abused by spouse or partner 7% women get homeless and only 3% women faced homelessness because of migration after marriage from village to urban area.

Table No.6: Addiction of homeless women

Sr. No	Detail	Frequency	Frequency (in %)
1	Yes	11	36.67
2	No	19	63.33
	Total	30	100.00

**Diagram No.6: Addiction of homeless women**
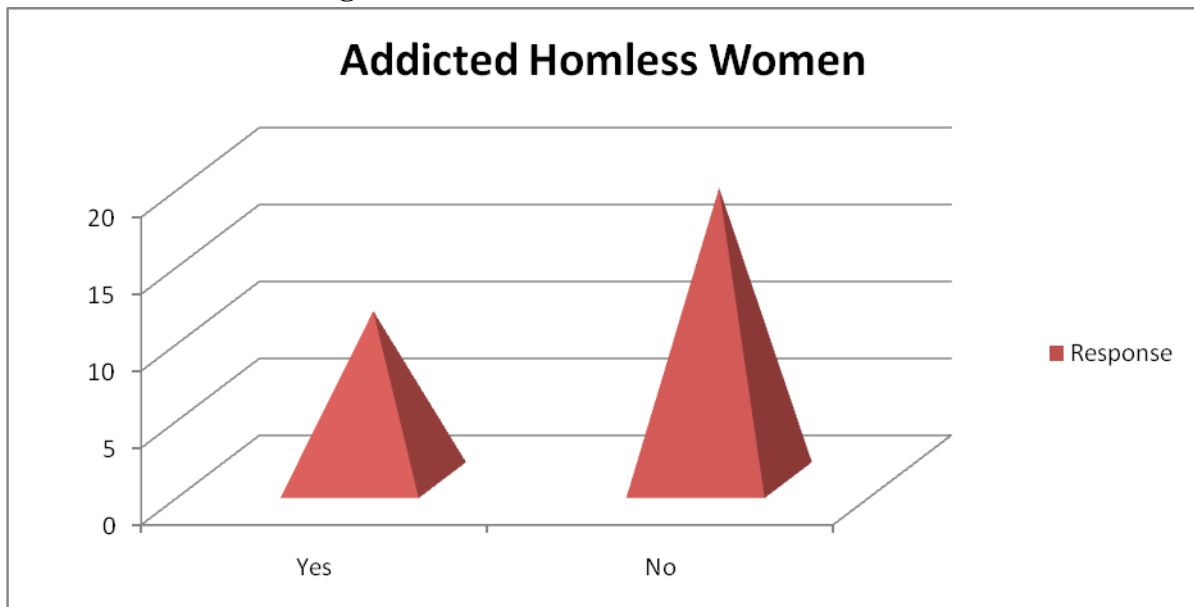
Interpretation: Table NO. 6 show the how many homeless women have addiction.

Conclusion: Table no. 6 that how many homeless women have addiction. Over 11 homeless women have addiction whereas 19 women did not have any addiction. The respondent 11 women said that they are addicted by Tobacco.

Table No.7: Homeless women experience of physical or sexual abuse.

Sr. No	Detail	Frequency	Frequency (in %)
1	Yes	8	26.67
2	No	22	73.33
	Total	30	100.00

Diagram No.7: Homeless women experience of physical or sexual abuse.
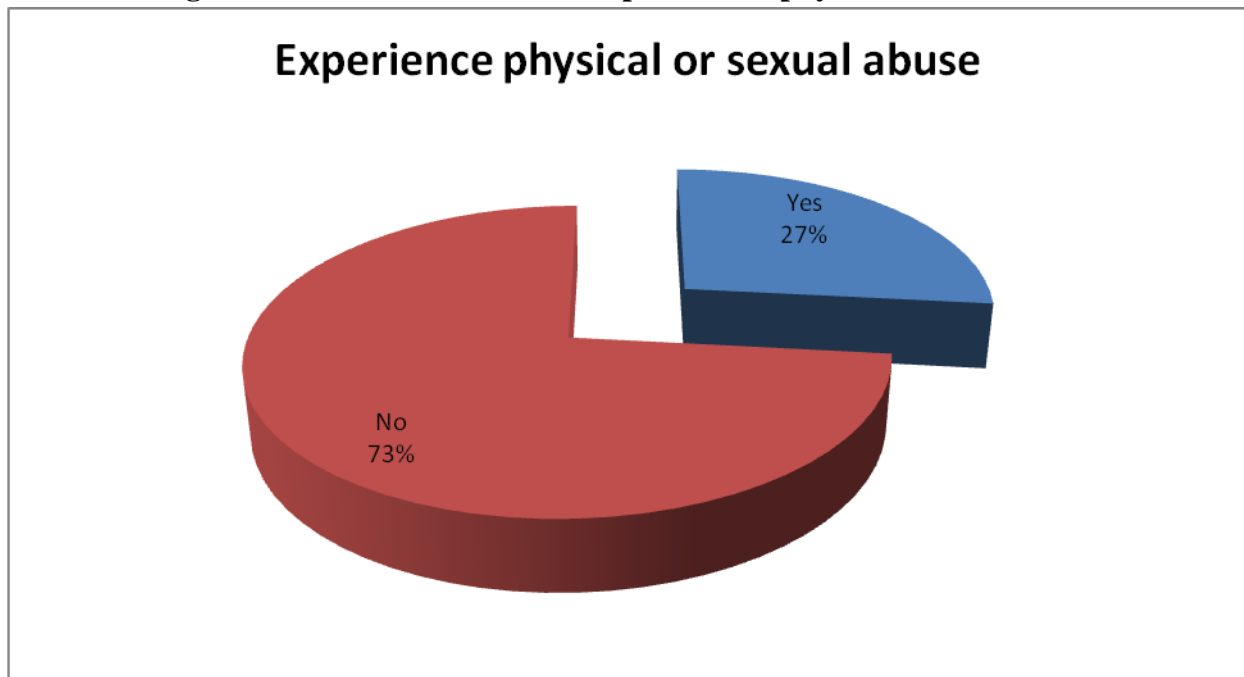
Interpretation: Table 7 is showing how many homeless women experience physical or sexual abuse in their life. The above diagram also shows the percentage of same.

Conclusion: The above Table no.7 showing how many homeless women experience physical or sexual abuse in their life. Over 27% women faced the physical or sexual abuse in their life and 73% women not faced any physical or sexual abuse in their life.

Findings:

Living Condition: About 50 per cent of the respondents were living on the roadside. This is the most vulnerable category with nothing to protect themselves and sleeping 'under the sky'. Only 33.33% homeless women get two times meal in a day. 36.67 per cent respondent addicted by tobacco. Over 40 per cent respondent aware and take free government medical services when they are sick. About 40 per cent women willing to live in government shelter.

Socio-economic condition: About 9 per cent respondent said that they get help from Ngo sometimes in getting food, clothes and education to their children. Over 20% respondents celebrate festivals as per their economic condition. 43.33% respondent work for money and their average per day income is 20 –

100. Over 40 per cent respondent look after their children and financially depend on their husband and nearly 16.67 per cent respondents beg for their livelihood.

Challenges: About 66.67% respondent does not feel safe at where they recently live. Over 30% respondents face challenges during menstrual cycle. Respondent face problem of safe toilet, adequate water, pad, hygiene etc. 26.67 per cent respondent faced physical or sexual abuse in their life. Some respondent struggle to obtain day to day food, problem of getting job, addiction of their spouse or partner, varied about their child's safety, Natural disaster, difficulty in accessing affordable health facilities, problem during monsoon, poverty, fear of police and BMC etc.

Conclusion:

It is generally accepted that stable accommodation is necessary. There is a need to build shelters for homeless populations. A majority of the homeless sleep in the open with minimal protection. There should be provision to facilitate access to medical aid and health facilities, legal aid, counselling services, and access to citizenship documents and government schemes.

In the light of the fact that this group has virtually no skill that may lead to being employed in the semi-organized or organized sector. Arrangements should be made for relevant vocational training courses which can upgrade their skills and income avenues. Employment and income should be increase.

Free, Clean and affordable safe toilet facilities should be set up at multiple locations, including exploring the possibility of starting mobile toilets.

Special efforts should be undertaken with the help of medical social workers attached to hospitals to reach out to the homeless and by organizing health camps in locations with a high concentration of homeless populations.

Awareness camps should be organized along with regular one-to-one counselling and information sharing about government schemes and programmers.

The homeless should be come under legal framework. Effective Laws and policies should be made for homeless.

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