This assignment will look at society and what exclusion is, it will describe Abraham Maslow's theory and how it supports that homeless groups or individual's needs are not being met. Additionally, it will list the potential groups that are at risk of exclusion in society today, the focus of this piece of work is homelessness, it will primary concentrate on family homelessness as it is a contempary issue in today's society. In relation to this, it will look at the research of Erik Erikson when referring to child development.

Society can be defined something that includes '…. the distinctive, stable arrangement of institutions where by human beings in a society interact and live together' **(Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2018).** The Poverty and Social Exclusion Organisation state that individuals that are isolated from the 'inner circle' is a form of exclusion. Additionally, they say that exclusion is the '…. the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in normal relationships and activities.' **(PSE, 2016).** Individuals and groups that may not have access to essential services or resources include: Homelessness, Transgender, Refugees, Unemployment, Care Leavers, Substance Misuse, and Disabilities **(Right to Education Project, 2008).**

'The Hierarchy of Needs' refers to Abraham Maslow, who was a social psychologist **(Simply Psychology, 2017).** The social psychologist created a triangle shaped theory which can be categorised into 5 levels of human need or motivation. They follow as; Psychosocial, Safety, Love/Belonging, Esteem and Self – Actualization. Firstly, the psychosocial needs refer to an individual's shelter, food, water, reproduction and clothing. Secondly, the safety needs link an individual's employment, property, family and health. Thirdly, referring back to an individual link to their family, the next stage is love and belonging which includes: family, friendship, and sexual closeness. Fourthly, an individual's self – esteem needs is shown higher on the theory due to the difficulty to complete the stage they include: confidence and respect for themselves and others. Fifthly, the last stage is called self-actualization, Maslow does not state that this stage is essential, the individual will have to become motivated in order to self – actualise. For example, Journal Psyche 2015 state that the last stage is known as an individual's highest needs, due to their creativity, problem solving and accepting attitude at that level. **(Journal Psyche, 2015).**

Dillon, M 2014 emphasizes that the social problems that we face mainly include homelessness, this highlights the stigmatization of one of the most vulnerable groups in society **(Dillon, M., 2015 page 84).** However, Dillon, M. 2014 is not the first person to

recognise that homelessness is viewed as a social problem, it has been ongoing for many years.

Homelessness is a broad term, according to Crisis they say that the term can be applied to many pieces of an individual's life for example, rough sleeping, temporary accommodation, statutory and hidden homelessness. **(Crisis, n.d)** The National Healthcare for the Homeless Council 2018 expand on Crisis defination:

> 'A homeless person is an individual without permanent housing who may live on the streets, stay in a shelter, mission, single room occupancy facilities, abandoned building or vehicle; or in any other unstable or non-permanent **situation' (National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, 2018).**

In contemporary society homelessness is continuously rising, according to an online organisation named doorways for children and families 2018 they state that homelessness is not situational, it is a pattern that has reached global levels. **(National Healthcare for the Homeless Council, 2018).**

The word bystander can be defined as an individual who 'is present but not taking part in a situation or event' **(Merriam- Webster, 2018)**. The bystander effect is known to be a breakthrough in social policy, the bystander effect was supported when the shocking case of Kitty Genovese occurred in 1964. She was the victim of a brutal attack that took place outside of her busy New York apartment, where it has been reported that 38 individuals did not help or ask for assistance for the young girl, they were later labelled as bystanders. **(Very well mind, 2018)**

Equally important, in 2017 a documentary was introduced by BBC called 'Cardiff: living on the streets' the programme followed a number of homeless individuals through the series. The programme revealed a homeless man sitting on the streets of Cardiff, when a police officer approached him and told him that he could be fined and served with an anti-social behaviour order. **(Huggered, 2015)** A young student, wanted a greater understanding of homelessness and what they go through. He wanted an authentic experience, this is what he concluded

> 'One person cannot stop homelessness, that's not going to happen, but I think that each person can make a homeless person's life better, by just asking if they are alright or have a chat. They are not bothered about your chance, they just want a conversation. It will be about stuff that doesn't matter to you, but if everyone did that, there would be lots more happier people around.' **(Wales Online, 2018).**

Doorways for Women and Families 2018 highlight that families are most of the homelessness. They state that the homeless residents nationally, makes up 50% of the population. Although

it's important to state that homelessness is not restricted to gender, disability or age. **(Doorways for Women and Families, 2018)** Additionally, Shelter UK comment on the causes of homelessness. Firstly, they say that individual factors may influence an individual's role in society such as, no qualifications, economic factors, peer pressure into crime, family or relationship barriers, physical and mental health. **(Shelter, 2018)** Secondly, they reveal that having an institutional upbringing. Having a potentially disadvantaged background is a result of previously being in the armed forces, care or prison. **(Shelter, 2018)** Thirdly, family background is another factor that contribute to homelessness, it includes family relationship breakdown, previous history of abuse, drug or alcohol, homelessness and physical or mental abuse. **(Shelter, 2018).**

Shelter 2010 state that lack of affordable housing is the main causes of homelessness, even more so a big problem in the United Kingdom in the previous years. **(Shelter, 2010. Page 2)** Their research revealed statistics on the affects housing costs they report that individuals who are aged between 18 – 25, who did not have children at the time of the study, 2.8 million say that they have deferred having children until they have stability with their housing costs. **(Shelter, 2010. Page 9)** Additionally, they highlight that 2.9 million live with their parents or parental figures who are between the ages of 18 - 34, within the age group 58% confessed that their social needs have suffered as a result of their living arrangements. Furthermore 13.1 million individuals prioritize their house bills over their basic living needs, such as food. Moreover, the establishment state that 11.3 million people live with a companion because they could not afford to live independently. Lastly, due to the lack of affordable housing, 5.6 million individuals have said that they have not been able to move when a job opportunity or progression has become available. **(Shelter, 2010. Page 11)**

Referring back to Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and examining the shocking statistics from Shelter 2010, it is clear that homeless families do not achieve any of the 5 stages, which are physiological, safety, love/belonging, esteem and self – actualization. As a result, the family and individual may face long term effects from this. **(Simply Psychology, 2017)**

The long-term effects from not meeting Maslow's human development theory can include extreme poverty, isolation, the development of mental or physical health problems. **(Doorways for women and families, 2018)** The seriousness of family homelessness is that it does not affect 1 person at a time for example, a normal representation of a family can include a mother, father, and 1 child or more. However, this does not go to say that different types of families do

not exist. Doorways for women and families 2018 state that the most common family type to exist is a single parent, with a minimum of 2 children. **(Doorways for women and families, 2018)** Living in extreme poverty has short and long term affects in addition, The American Psychological Association 2018 said how homelessness disturbs every part of a person's life such as, physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. **(American Psychological Association, 2018).**

Exploring the link between poverty and families, in many cultures families are facing a number of issues like lack of food, water, employment, housing, health, building and maintaining relationships, self -esteem. Children who live in poverty are of great importance to policy makers, schools, the local authority, and communities because of the affects on their development and position in society**. (American Psychological Association, 2018).** Poor environments for homeless families in contempary society consist of substandard housing environments, lack of nutrition, childcare, and healthcare. **(American Psychological Association, 2018)** Erik Erikson 1963, introduced a theory that consisted of 8 phases which covered infancy to adulthood in relation to their psychological needs. Additionally, he stressed that the impact of today's society and culture and an individual's personality development. Furthermore, Erik Erikson highlights how fragile and influential a child's is in their early childhood. He states that a child will not reach specific milestones, because of this the individual will experience long term affects as they infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age**. (Simply Psychology, 2017)** The milestones a child should develop are 'trust, autonomy, initiative, industry, identity, intimacy, generativity and ego integrity.' **(Simply Psychology, 2017)** Consequences of not achieving the milestones include 'mistrust, shame, guilt, inferiority, role confusion, isolation, stagnation, despair.' **(Simply Psychology, 2018)** Referring back to the American Psychological Associations 2018 statement how homelessness will affect every part of an individual's life, a child that is brought into a world of poverty will suffer physically for instance, they will not have access to healthcare which may result minor or major illness or disorders. **(American Psychological Associations, 2018)** Furthermore, the child may lack personal hygiene and cleanliness. Additionally, their intellectual needs may become abandoned due to their living situation namely, poor academic performance. Under these circumstances, this may give the child a negative view of learning. Although, there will be more serious long-term effects for example, no communication skills including writing and reading. Furthermore, their emotional development will be affected due the stress of their circumstances, the family housing fund 2010 state that children and young people will become

more at risk of mental health issues or disorders. As stated earlier in the assignment, it is the concern for the government, the local authority, and the local authority to protect those who are at risk of exclusion in society. They revealed that 'less than one-third of these children receive professional help.' **(family housing fund, 2010. Page 3)** Lastly, a child's social needs are not being met due to the stigmatization of the homelessness and the dimensional effects that are linked with them. Research has presented evidence that individuals or groups that hold a characteristic are more likely to be discriminated against, which results in isolation and exclusion (**family housing fund, 2010. Page 5)**

> 'Homelessness has been used as a mechanism of our creation serving to be the consequence of our actions, our behaviours. So by neglect, by omission, we have allowed this to continue.' (The homelessness connection, 2010).

Some people are homeless due to them not wanting to conform to the regulations of support housing and society as a whole. However, the majority are homeless due to the lack of support and engagement between the government, the local authorities, the communities and the homeless. There is a new strategy that claims to end poverty and homelessness although, there has been many polices, pieces of legislation and laws to overcome and prevent this. However, the government approved a new policy that allows shop owners and employers the right to put spikes to prevent a homeless person attempting to find warmth, food or even a couple of spare change from passers-by. it leaves a popular question unanswered why homelessness is still in existence when we are a one of the most developed country.

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