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This assignment will discuss at firstly society, then it will look at how people can be excluded. 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 contemporary issue in today's society. Lastly, it will look at the research of Erik Erikson when referring to child development.

Homelessness is the topic of research, due to it being gateway for additional harm to the individual or group. For example,

Having a home is considered a basic need of life, but there are actually many people who have no shelter. Because of homelessness, people are usually forced to live on the streets and thereby are exposing themselves to other concerns that may harm them further in their lives. ^ In many countries, living on the streets also exposes people to various illegal activities.....' (Knows Why, 2012)

Enclopaedia Britannica 2018 defines society as 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**).

It has been reported by BBC News that the homelessness population are a shockingly '13 times more likely to be the victims of some violent crimes than the general public.' (BBC News, 2004) Additionally, they published statistics to support their claim, they approached the homelessness and members of communities if they had experience violent crimes, results showed that only 4% of the community said yes to a bad experience, compared to a massive 52% of the homeless population said that had experience a form of violent abuse. (BBC News, 2004) However, individuals that are homeless fear the rest of the worlds actions, due to this, they may feel like their only way to turn is resorting to alcohol or drug abuse. Research has shown that as well as substance use, they could end up participating in criminal activities for example, prostitution or shop lifting to have warm, somewhere to sleep, and food. (Knows Why, 2012).

‘The Hierarchy of Needs’ was formed by a man named 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**).

Michelle Dillon 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, she expands by stating that it is not the first person to recognise that homelessness is viewed as a social problem, it has been ongoing for many years. (Dillon, M., 2015 page 84).

Homelessness can be spilt up into many different parts, according to Crisis n.d 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 expanded on Crisis definition:

‘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**). Very Well Mind state that the bystander effect is known to be a breakthrough in social policy sector, 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, or having a potentially a potentially disadvantaged start to life can include having previous experience being in the armed forces, care or prison. (**Shelter, 2018**) Thirdly, family background is another factor that add to an individual being 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)**

Looking 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 Abraham Maslow discussed, to clarify, they 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 schools, the government and the local community because of the affects on their development and position in society. **(American Psychological Association, 2018).** Poor environments for homeless families in contemporary 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 highlighted 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)**, Additionally, the child may lack personal hygiene and cleanliness. Additionally, their intellectual needs may become abandoned due to their living situation for example, their academic performance is not up to standard. Under these circumstances, this may give the child a negative experience of learning. However, 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. (Family Housing Fund, 2010 Page 3) 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 follow the regulations of supported housing and society as a whole. However, the majority are homeless due to the lack of support and engagement between the government, the communities and the homelessness population.

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There is a new strategy in Wales that claims to end poverty and homelessness although, there has been many policies, pieces of legislation and laws to overcome and prevent this. However, the government recently supported a new policy that allows shop owners and employers the right to put spikes to stop a homeless person trying to find warmth, food or even a couple of spare change from passers-by. It leaves a popular question unanswered why homelessness is still a social issue when we are one of the most developed countries in the world.

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