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## **Factors Affecting Homelessness in Pakistan: A Case Study of Shelter Homes in Lahore, Pakistan**

### **Abstract**

*Homelessness, a condition when someone is deprived of a place to live and it is caused by a number of factors which has serious implications on homeless people. The primary data were collected using questionnaire as a tool for data collection. The data were obtained from homeless people who were living in Bilquis Edhi Homes, Lahore. It was analyzed through factor analysis that low income with big family size, maltreatment, family issues, violence, depression, natural disasters and lack of basic education were the major factors that were responsible for homelessness of most of the people. It was identified that resolving these basic issues can bring improvement in this aspect of social fabrication.*

**Key Words:** Homelessness, shelter homes, factors.

### **Introduction**

Homelessness has become a major issue all over the world especially in developing countries. According to PHSA under section 330, a homeless person is a person who lacks dwelling. A person who lives on the pavement, lives in shelters made by NGOs, sole rooms, deserted constructions, automobiles, or in ambiguous or insecure places.” Even a single person living in such condition can be categorized as homeless and it is equally distributed all over the world (Shah & Butt, 2011).

Richard & Smith (2006) stated that in America there was an increasing trend in homeless people, so there was increase in number of shelter homes than previous years. About 82% people were homeless including their immature children. It is also reported that in surroundings of Minnesota the food supplies were not sufficient for low income people and for homeless. Richards & Smith (2006)

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As Lahore is a populous city of Pakistan with 12 million populations so it's under great population pressure. Many people from nearby areas keep on migrating to Lahore for livelihood, which is putting an increasing burden on city. Here a great number of homeless people are found in slums, roads, bridges, parks, markets and stations, thus effecting overall population and living standard of city. In Lahore Lari Adda, Data Darbar, Railway station, Bus stops and Shahdara are hot spots of these homeless people. (Shah & Butt, 2011).

During the past decades, government did not take any remarkable initiative for the homeless people. Many Non-profit and Non-Governmental organizations are working on their own to provide shelters and home to homeless people. Many shelter homes are also in Lahore for homeless population. Panah gah, SOS Children's Villages Pakistan, Mother Care Orphan Center, Abba home, Aghosh Orphan care home, Mother Shelter, Bilquis Edhi Foundation, Ashiana, Mustafa foundation, Dastak Welfare Foundation, Panah Gah, UNICEF Lahore.

The aim of this study is identify of socio-economic factors affecting homelessness: A case study of Bilques Edhi Centre in Lahore. The study focused on the investigation of the cities from where people have come to the Bilquis Edhi shelter home and the factors that affect the people to become homeless.

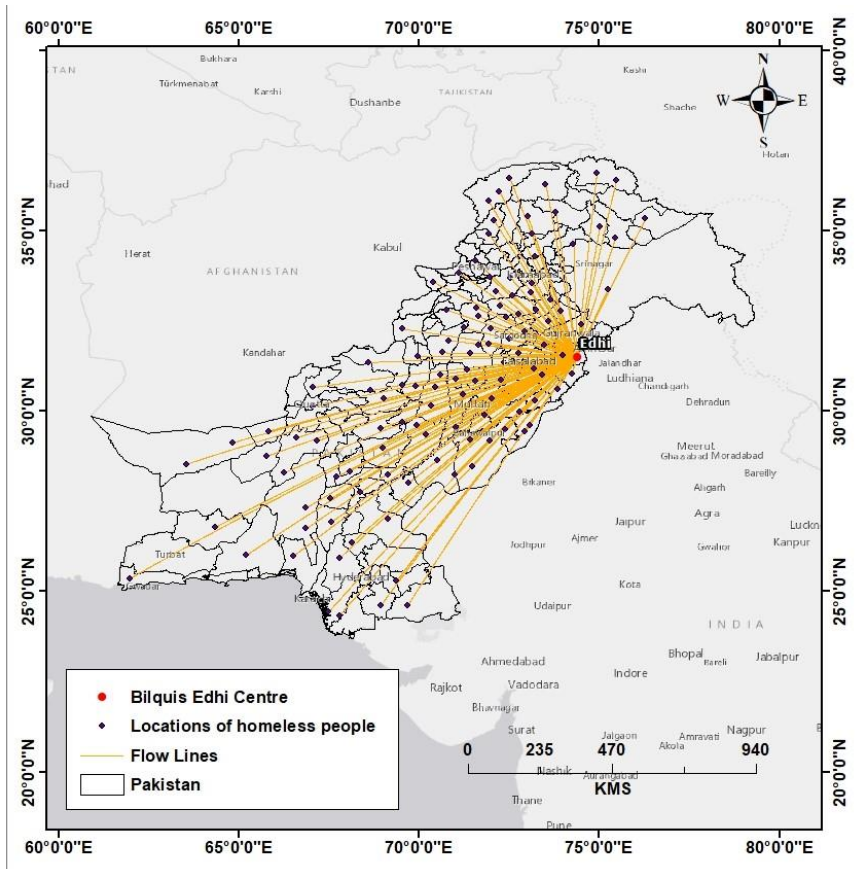
## **Materials and Methods**

Data was collected from Bilques Edhi Centre, Township Lahore from the specific age group ten years to twenty-four years old people including children, adults, married, unmarried, divorced, second marriage homeless people, people having extramarital affairs, broken families or step-parent. Total 149 questionnaires were filled from willing homeless people. Different types of question were asked in questionnaire like social, emotional and behavior.

The questionnaire was designed to acquire data from willing homeless people. A survey was conducted for questionnaire filling. Total 149 questionnaires were filled from Bilques Edhi Centre from ten to twenty-four age group.

Simple random sampling was used for collecting data. All statistical analysis were performed using SPSS software. Primary data from the questionnaire was entered in SPSS and first reliability of data was tested, then different analysis like Descriptive Statistics, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure for Sampling Adequacy in KMO and Bartlett's test, Total Variance, Communalities, Correlation Matrix, Scree Plot, Component Matrix and Rotated Component Matrix were also applied. Then data were presented in the form of tables showing factors and then major factors were labeled to show the main factors of homelessness.

## Results and Discussion



Source: Author

Figure 1: Locations of the cities from where people have arrived to Bilquis Edhi Centre

Figure 1 shows the location of cities of homeless people from living in Bilques Edhi Centre. Straight lines show the direction of their movement from their places. It was noted that people from all over Pakistan have come to Bilques Edhi Centre to meet their basic needs of life.

Cronbach's alpha was computed which is if greater than .7 which shows that the data collected using questionnaire was acceptable to perform further analysis.

Table1: Reliability Techniques

Cronbach's Alpha (CA)	CA Based on Standardized Items	No. of Items
.701	.663	23

Source: Author

Table 2: Descriptive Statistics

The descriptive procedure displays summary statistics for several variables.

<b>Descriptive techniques</b>					
	Number	Min	Max	Average	Standard. Deviation
Single-day earning	149	1	2	1.32	.469
Domestic violence	149	1	2	1.48	.501
Disability needs	149	1	2	1.95	.212
Earning money	149	1	2	1.48	.501
Big family size	149	1	2	1.11	.311
Economic reasons	149	1	2	1.07	.251
Rental houses	149	1	2	1.18	.386
Financial crises	149	1	2	1.09	.283
Natural disasters	149	1	2	1.92	.273
Accidental death	149	1	2	1.59	.493
Depression	149	1	2	1.46	.500
Suicide	149	1	2	1.87	.342
Mental disorder	149	1	2	1.22	.417
Children violence	149	1	2	1.48	.501
Stepparent	149	1	2	1.34	.474
Family breakdown	149	1	2	1.26	.441
Physical abuse	149	1	2	1.46	.500
Maltreatment by parents	149	1	2	1.46	.500
Bad behaviour with children	149	1	2	1.31	.464
Love affairs	149	1	2	1.35	.478
Gender	149	1	2	1.56	.498
Education	149	1	2	1.33	.471
Family size	149	1	2	1.90	.302
Valid N (listwise)	149				

Source: Author

Table 3: KMO and Bartlett’s Test

KMO and Bartlett's Test		
Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure to calculate Sampling Adequacy.		.637
Bartlett's Test	Approximate Chi-Square	2461.547
	Degree of freedom	253
	Significance.	.000

Source: Author

Figure 2 shows that Initially, the plot has steep slopes downward with the first factor and then it becomes a straight parallel line. The first point where curve becomes a straight line is treated as to indicate the ultimate No. of factors to consider important. In this, the elbow shape comprises of seven factors that were extracted because there was a large proportion of variance present in these factors.

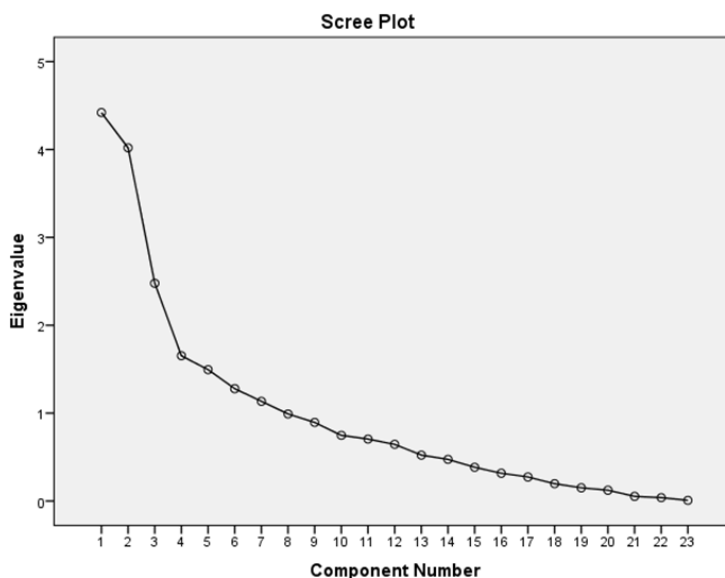


Figure 2: Scree Plot

Table 4: Total Variance among variables

Total Variance									
Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	Percentage of Variance	Cumulative percentage	Total	Percentage of Variance	Cumulative Percentage	Total	Percentage of of Variance	Cumulative Percentage
1	4.420	19.218	19.218	4.420	19.218	19.218	3.726	16.198	16.198
2	4.019	17.475	36.693	4.019	17.475	36.693	3.152	13.702	29.900
3	2.478	10.773	47.466	2.478	10.773	47.466	2.956	12.852	42.753
4	1.653	7.187	54.654	1.653	7.187	54.654	2.058	8.947	51.700

5	1.495	6.499	61.153	1.495	6.499	61.153	1.898	8.254	59.954
6	1.279	5.559	66.711	1.279	5.559	66.711	1.421	6.178	66.131
7	1.134	4.932	71.644	1.134	4.932	71.644	1.268	5.512	71.644
8	.991	4.309	75.952						
9	.894	3.889	79.841						
10	.747	3.249	83.090						
11	.705	3.064	86.154						
12	.645	2.803	88.957						
13	.522	2.271	91.228						
14	.474	2.060	93.288						
15	.384	1.670	94.958						
16	.316	1.376	96.334						
17	.274	1.190	97.524						
18	.197	.857	98.381						
19	.150	.654	99.035						
20	.123	.535	99.570						
21	.053	.231	99.801						
22	.038	.167	99.967						
23	.007	.033	100.000						

Method of extraction: Principal Component Analysis.

Source: Author

Table 3 shows that the KMO is equal to 0.637 and it shows that factor analysis is appropriate as it is greater than 0.50. Bartlett’s test shows high level of significance in relation. The p value is .000 which is less than alpha value 0.05 so the null hypothesis is rejected because significance value is less and it is concluded that correlation matrix is different from identity matrix or their correlation among variables. Table 4 explains the total variance among the data. It has identified seven major factors which are significant for the factor analysis.

	Component						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Economic reasons	.866						
Financial crises	.828						
Family size	-.788						
Big family size	.767						
Rental houses	.710						
Mental disorder							
Physical abuse		.897					

Maltreatment by parents		.886					
Earning money		.818					
Bad behaviour with children		.801					
Love affairs			.968				
Stepparent			.963				
Family breakdown			.867				
Domestic violence				.836			
Children violence				.813			
Single-day earning				.510			
Depression					.637		
Accidental death					.589		
Suicide							
Natural disasters						.782	
Gender							.783
Education							.535
Disability needs							
Method of Extraction: Principal Component Analysis.							
Method of Rotation: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.							
a. Rotation converged in 16 iterations.							
Source: Author							

The above Table 5 shows that 23 factors were categorized into seven major factors. Economic reasons, love affairs, step parents, earning money, domestic violence and maltreatment were the important factors. These factors were then labeled as per their classes identified by the function of rotated matrix.

Table 6: Labelling of Factors

Seven factors are extracted so we labeled these seven groups.

<b>Factors</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Name of Group</b>
F1	Economic reasons, Financial crises, Family size, Big family size, Rental houses	Low Income and big family size
F2	Physical abuse, Maltreatment by parents, earning money, Bad behaviour with children	Maltreatment by family
F3	Love affairs, Stepparents, Family	Family issues

	breakdown	
F4	Domestic violence, children violence, Single day earning	Violence
F5	Accidental death, Suicide	Depression
F6	Natural disaster	Natural disaster
F7	Education, Disability needs	Education and other basic needs

Table 6 explains that the selected seven groups were given labels. Group 1 was given the name of Low income and big family size. Group 2 was given the label of Maltreatment by the family. Group 3 was labeled as family issues; Group 4 was labeled as Violence. Group 5 was labeled as Depression. Group 6 was labeled as Natural Disaster and group 7 was labeled as Education and other basic needs.

Finally it is important to address these major factors which are causing homelessness. Providing people with basic education can play important role in combating the issue of violence and many other social issues that are further related to it. On the other hand provision of equal chances of employment can improve the situation in the country.



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