

Homeless People: Growth, Distribution, Sanitation, and Accessibility to Health Care in Delhi

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Abstract—Homelessness can be defined in terms of industrialization, rapid urbanization, overpopulation etc (Anderson, 1995). It is found especially in big cities and affects every dimension of cities. It highly effected to the marginalized section such as informal sector labor. They are a victim of chronic poverty and hardly arranged their two-time meal a day. So there is the high responsibility of government to provide basic amenities. There is a prior need for formulated any policy that the first things are to know what their regional distribution and growth patterns are? Night shelter plays a crucial role to provide temporary shelter at inexpensive cost or free. But a major concern is that more than 80 percent of the homeless population does not use the night shelter. What are the reasons? Another matter of concern is related to basic amenities and security in a night shelter. Homeless people who used to permanent night shelter in a regular basis, around the majority of them suffering from different kinds of health problem and about 35 percent accepted that they didn't get any help from the institution. In search of answers to these questions, a field survey (November 2014 to January 2015) had conducted in the three selected districts which possess eighty percent of the total night shelters users of Delhi. The concluding part of this research offers some practicable policy measures to implement downstream approaches that end or substantially reduce homelessness.

1. INTRODUCTION

Homelessness is visible in both advanced and emerging countries. "In USA over 0.7 million was calculated as homeless in 2010. In Britain, 175,000 families considering for about 0.4 percent people are admitted as homeless by the government. It was estimated that 1.2 million western European people are homeless, or live in precarious accommodations" (Ali 2012; Yonge 2007). The homeless population is increasing rapidly in third world countries (Speak and Tipple, 2006). It is the consequence of different kinds of factors, for example, urbanization, industrialization, and migration for employment and livelihood towards cities. These factors are working together. People come to big cities for better livelihood. But because of the expensive costs associated with living in cities, they have to live in public spaces or depend upon night shelters (Anderson, 1995). It has been (3.24 percent) in greater Mumbai, (3.94 percent) in Kolkata and (0.94 percent) in Chennai of the total homeless population of India. The homeless population in Delhi

increased eighty-eight percent in 2011 compared to 2001 homeless population of Delhi. It has been 2.66 percent of the total homeless population of India during the last decade (Census of India 2011).

1.1 Define the Homelessness

Census of India treats houseless and homeless in the same category. However, according to social researchers (Hertzberg 1992; Cooper 1995; Daly 1996; Kuhn and Culhane 1998) both are different terms. A person who lives without a place and family is called homeless. "Having a place to live with family, made a house into a home" (Shlay, 1992; 131), it means people who live without family could consider themselves as homeless. The Census of India uses the notion of "houseless population," for people who are "homeless" and defines them as persons who do not live in "census houses." It Means people who do not live in buildings or census houses but live in the open on the roadside, pavements, inhum pipes, under flyovers and staircases, or in the open in places of worship, mandaps, railway, platforms, etc., are to be treated as Houseless (Census 2011).

2. OBJECTIVES & RESEARCH QUESTIONS

First thought about homelessness, it is an irreversible relation between land and population. It means high growth of population increase the homelessness condition. This kind of situation is found in metropolitan cities. So it demands, to check, what is the level of homelessness at any point in time and how to change in period? Is it increasing or decreasing during the period? Homelessness is a condition of chronic poverty, so there is the government responsibility to provide shelter and basic healthcare facility so that they come out from homelessness condition.

3. DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

One of the major problems in research on homeless people is "data availability," especially in developing countries (Springer, 2000:476; Burrows, 1997:8). Many private NGO's and institutes are conducting their survey from time to time and have produced information, but most of them are based on

small sample size, unauthentic measure, and malpractices. The other sources of data on homeless population are different reports and research papers, but these provide very specific and concise information. The first time, the Census of India started to provide data on homeless population in detail from 2001 census (Gupta, 2006). Earlier, the 2001 census provided a total figure of the homeless population. In 2001, it provided data on homeless people some more aspects. It was for the first time that census of India had provided district-level data on homeless population.

This paper represents the state-wise distribution and growth rate of homeless population based on the data obtained from Census of India 2001 and 2011. According to the method indicated by the Census of India, it collected the data from primary field survey. The homeless population which used night shelters regularly, around eighty percent are living in Central, North and West Delhi districts (DUSIB 2013-14). This has been the base for selecting these three districts for primary field survey. A field survey has been conducted in three districts of Delhi: North, West, and Central; the sample size is 212 homeless persons who used permanent night shelters regularly during the winter of 2014-15. Minimum 50 homeless persons are covered in each district from permanent night shelters.

4. LIMITATIONS AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Homelessness is an emerging area of research which drew the attention of local authorities and put it back on the social research agenda in the early 1980's (Rossi 1989). Its diverse forms and methods have been analyzed by academicians and researchers in the past, particularly concerning the USA during the 1980s, where homelessness has been largely associated to the economics of the housing market combined with the well-documented increase in income inequality (Gupta and Ghosh, 2006). There is not much information about the homelessness due to insufficient availability of literature. The available literature is mostly related to the developed nations. One of the other problems in research on homeless people is "data availability," especially in developing countries (Springer, 2000:476). Homeless people are transient (Speak and Tipple, 2006). They are wandering one to another place as per their job availability. So enumeration of homeless people itself is a difficult task. And last but not least homelessness is being treated as a separate topic. It is being research ed on an economic issue such as poverty. Poverty is a major reason for homelessness, but other social and political reason should not be neglected. This research paper explains the distribution of homeless people and tries to understand the growth of homeless people. Homeless people live in extreme poverty, so their health is always a big issue for them.

5. DECADAL GROWTH AND VARIATION OF HOMELESS POPULATION

The question of how many people are homeless represents one of the basic parameters that has defined homeless as a social problem (Metraux et al., 2001). In India, the homeless population was 23.42 lakhs in 1981 which declined in the successive enumeration of the Census of India as 17 lakhs in 2011. Most of the Indian states were showing negative growth rate. In case of Delhi, homeless population is 47,076 (2.66 percent) in 2011, however it was 24,966 (1.29 percent) in 2001. The homeless population of Delhi is more than many large states of India (Figure 1). Among Indian states, Delhi ranked 15th regarding homeless population in 2001, whereas in 2011 it reached 11th position (Census of India 2001 & 2011). Homeless population shows negative growth rate in India from last decade, 2001 to 2011. However, Delhi shows the fourth highest growth among Indian states.

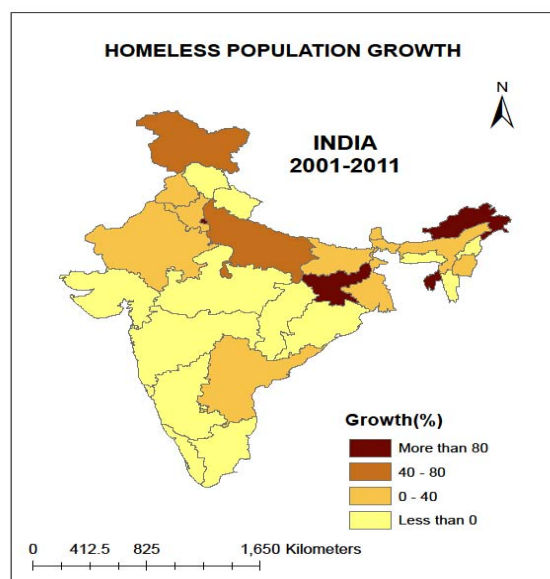


Figure 1: Decadal Growth Rate of State-Wise Homeless Population in India

The growth of homeless population represents division northern and southern states of India. Majority of south Indian states shows negative growth rates whereas northern states show positive. Many factors are working together for this difference such as regional disparity, level of urbanization, total population growth, literacy, etc. During the last decade, top four Indian states of highest growth rate are given below.

Table 1

STATES	DISTRIBUTION (person)		Share in total A homeless person (%)		GROWTH (%)
	2001	2011	2001	2011	
TRIPURA	857	3225	0.04	0.18	276.31
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	442	1556	0.02	0.09	252.04
JHARKHAND	10,887	23391	0.56	1.32	114.85
NCT OF DELHI	24,966	47076	1.29	2.66	88.56

Source- Census of India (2001-2011)

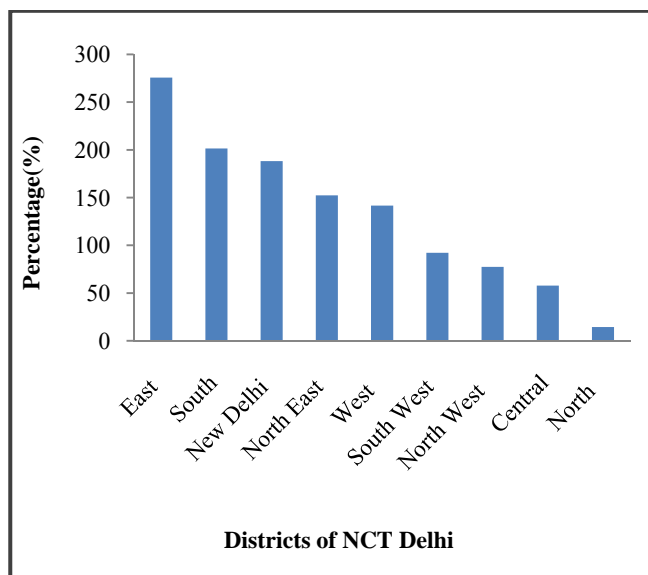
NCT Delhi accounted for 2.66 percent homeless population in 2011. It was only 1.29 percent in 2001; thus the population has about doubled during this period. If growth is compared amongst all Indian states, it shows the second highest growth rate after Jharkhand if Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura are not considered. Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura have a comparatively negligible size of the homeless population. It is only 0.02 percent and 0.04 percent respectively. In 2011, the population of these two states was 0.09 percent and 0.18 percent. The small change in their size of the population shows high variation in growth rate. Jharkhand (0.56 percent) had also been showing less than 1 percent population since 2001. It was in the third position in the highest growth rate whereas it had only 1.32 percent of the homeless population in 2011. In India, ST population is a vulnerable section and lives at high risk from natural calamities (Neale; 1997). In Jharkhand, ST population has constituted 26.3 per cent of total population of the state as per the 2011 Census. In Jharkhand, the ST population growth rate during last decade has been similar to that of the country's decadal growth rate. During the period (2001-2011), more than half of Indian states have been showing negative growth rate except Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, NCT Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and J&K in decreasing order. There are left Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh because these states have less than half (0.5) percent of homeless population.

Table 2 Decadal growth-rate of Homeless Population in Delhi

Year	1981	1991	2001	2011
Homeless Population of Delhi	22516	18838	24966	47076
Growth rate	-	-16.34	32.53	88.56
Data Source- Primary Census Abstract of Delhi 1981, 1991, 2001 and 2011				

According to the table, in Delhi, homeless population growth rate was negative during the period 1981 to 1991. After globalization (1991) it has been increasing more than fifty percent every decade. District wise homeless population growth is given below.

Graph 1 Growth of Homeless Population in Districts of Delhi, 2001-2011



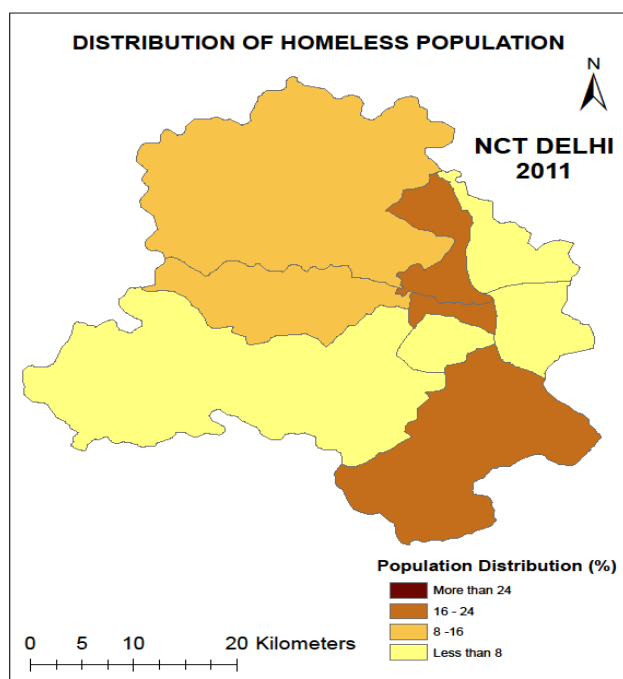
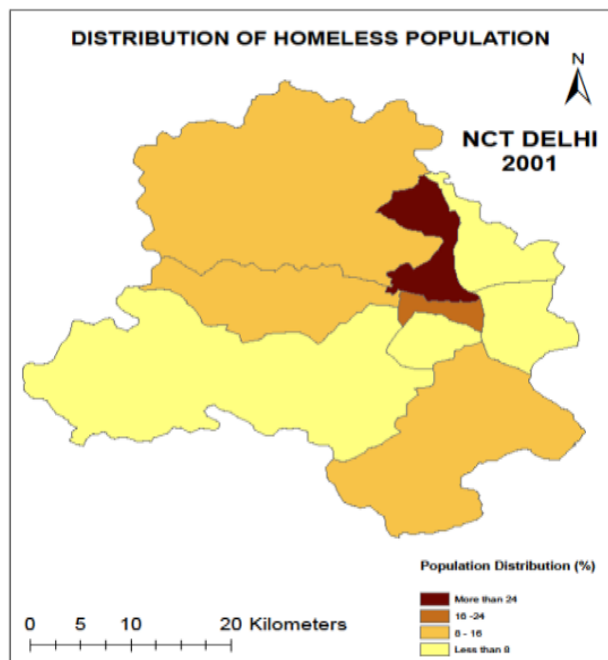
Data Source- Primary Census Abstract of Delhi 2001 and 2011

The growth rate of homeless population is representing a very interesting picture. All districts of Delhi show high growth rate from an average growth rate of the state except North West, Central, and North Delhi districts. These three districts were having a major share (75 percent) of the homeless population in Delhi in 2001 and 2011. On the other hand, districts which show high growth rate in 2011 that had had a small share of the homeless population in 2001. So small change in their population show high variation in growth rate, for example, East Delhi is second the last position in homeless population distribution (Figure-1), but it is the top position in homeless population growth except for north Delhi.

5.1 District wise variation of the homeless population in Delhi (2001-2011)

There has been divided Delhi into four categories (see Figure 2&3) based upon an average number of homeless population living there. To show the regional variation, the figure is given below.

Figure 2&3 Distribution of Homeless Population in 2001 to 2011



(Data Source- Primary Census Abstract of Delhi 2001 and 2011)

The first category is low (less than eight percent); the second category is medium (eight to sixteen percent), the third category is high (sixteen to twenty-four percent), and the last

one is very high (above twenty-four percent). The districts are under 'low category' in 2001 remain at their position in 2011 also. However, there is inter-category variability. But in the second group which is 'medium category' which has only two districts. South Delhi is showed huge change, it was only 11 per cent homeless population in 2001, but in 2011 it is 18 percent and comes in to the third category. North Delhi district population has gone down during this period. It was 28 percent in 2001 which came down to 17 per cent in 2011 and got placed in the third category.

According to the Census of India 2011, there are about forty-seven thousand homeless people in Delhi out of which, only nine thousand homeless people live in the permanent night shelters (DUSIB, 2014). Hence, more than 80 percent of homeless people live in either temporary night shelters or open spaces such as streets, under flyover or footbridges, religious places, transport junction, etc.

5.1.1 Homeless Population in a Permanent night shelter

Delhi has nine districts; it accommodates 47076 homeless populations (Census, 2011). The number of homeless people is varying one to another district which depends upon the availability of a job, shelter, security, and food, etc. There is given below district wise availability of permanent night shelter and its user.

Table 3: Homeless Population Distribution in Permanent Night Shelter of NCT Delhi

DISTR ICTS	Homeless Population 2011(%)	No. of Perman ent Night shelters	Homeless People in Night Shelters (%)	Homeless People (%) in Night shelters
NW Delhi	4903(10.4)	5	400(4.5)	8.16
North Delhi	8104(17.2)	7	780(8.8)	9.62
West Delhi	5160(11.0)	8	800(9.0)	15.50
SW Delhi	3755(8.0)	4	260(2.9)	6.92
NE Delhi	2440(5.2)	7	510(5.8)	20.90
East Delhi	3208(6.8)	7	360(4.1)	11.22
Central Delhi	8957(19.0)	42	5550(62.7)	61.96
New Delhi	2044(4.3)	1	80(0.9)	3.91
South Delhi	8505(18.1)	1	110(1.2)	1.29
Total	47076(100)	82	8850(100)	18.80

Source-Primary Census Abstract of Delhi 2011 & Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB)2014

Table 3, represent a homeless population who use Permanent Night shelters in Delhi. North, West and Central Delhi's night shelters have eighty percent of the total homeless population who use permanent night shelters. The share of other districts permanent night shelters is used only 20 percent. South Delhi has a share of 18.07 percent of the total homeless population in Delhi 2011 (Table 3) whereas it has one permanent night shelter. This south Delhi permanent night shelter accommodates only 1.2 percent of homeless people of total permanent night shelter using people. Other districts share less than 5 percent. So, North, West and Central Delhi are selected for this research work.

5.1.2 Sanitation and Hygiene in permanent night Shelter

Homeless people involve in different informal sector job. Majority of them are working as daily wage labor. There are very insufficient income so they cannot afford a rented room. So they used shelter tonight on a regular basis. Thus night shelter's hygiene and sanitation condition are playing a very crucial role in their health and job. There was 82 permanent night shelter in Delhi (DUSIB, 2014). There is given below ten-night shelter detail.

Building and Locality of Night Shelters- All permanent night shelters are being run in concrete structures except Bangla Sahib Night shelter. Phoolmandi Parisher, Mori Gate night shelter is running in a three-story building which is located nearby big drainage. All of other night shelters are run in a single hall, and the hall size varies according to available night shelter space. Paharganj night shelter is small in size and it is located inner side of narrow gully in congested area. Chameliyaan road night shelter is located crowded wholesale market in Karol bagh. Lahori gate is located nearby a garbage dumping ground. Kabir Basti is located in middle of JJ colony and Mangolpuri is located nearby industrial area.

Electricity and lightning- All night shelters have been provided with cooler and fan facilities during the summer season. But there is maintenance problem. According to night shelter dwellers, that does not work properly.

Toilet and washroom facility- Every night shelters have a toilet and washroom facility within the premises. But the number of toilet and washroom are not enough in comparison to the number of homeless people. Lahori Gate night shelter has a capacity of three hundred fifty homeless people which has only six toilets and four bathrooms; the similar condition is there in Mori Gate night shelter.

Water facility- All night shelters are getting water supply from Delhi Jal Board. Water cooler facility is available in all of the night shelters except for Kabir Basti night shelter. Kabir Basti night shelter has only reverse osmosis (RO) system without a water cooler. Regharpura female night shelter has a water cooler with RO system. And other night shelters have water coolers without RO system. The picture is shown the unhygienic condition of Watercooler at Phoolmandi night shelter in Mori Gate.

The picture 1 Unhygienic condition of water-cooler



Source- field Survey (2014-15), the picture is taken from Phool Mandi Night Shelter, Chandani Chowk in December 2014

Blanket and Mat facility- All night shelters have more than a double number of blankets in comparison to the actual capacity of homeless people. But bed-bug is big issue in night shelters.

First aid box, Locker, and Library facility- First aid box facility is available in every night shelter. But dispensary facility is available at Regharpura night shelter only. Locker facility is not available for any night shelter. That is why most homeless people do not keep daily utilities like cloth, toothbrush, soap, shaving kit etc. Library facility was also not available in most of the night shelters except Regharpura and Chameliyaan Road in Karol Bagh, whereas many of night shelters have available proper space for these facilities.

Television and News Paper facility- Mori gate, Paharganj, Saraipiplathala and Regharpura night shelters are available television facility. Newspaper facility is available in only female night shelter at Regharpura. These things make them aware the current initiatives of government and keep them up to date.

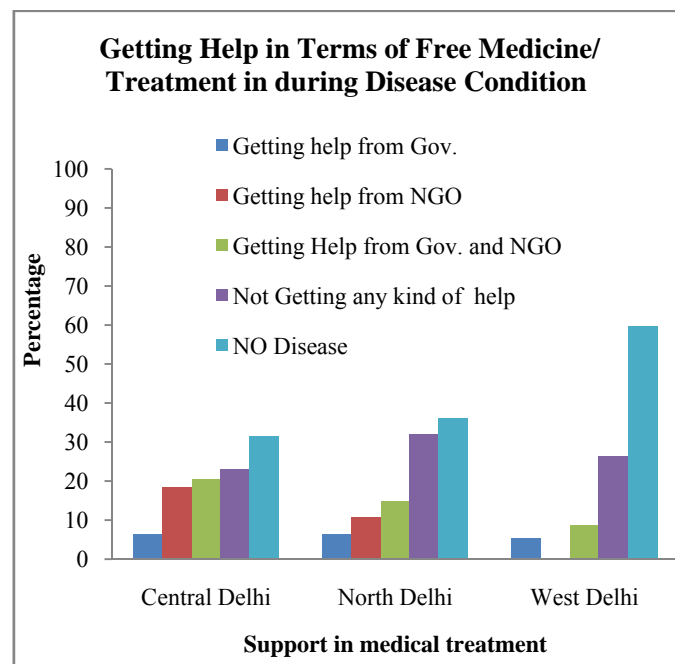
Homeless population don't carry an essential daily item such as toothbrush, towel, cloths, soap, etc. these items are essential for personal hygiene. Night shelter provides them only shelter facility but not any secure place for their belongings.

According to field survey (see Table 3), none of the night shelters had any locker facility except one.

6. HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBILITY OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

As far as the district wise analysis is concerned, there is a high percentage of homeless people who are getting support from government or NGO's and both in Central Delhi in comparison with other districts. Majority of homeless population is living in Central Delhi night shelters. Central Delhi provides better opportunities for jobs during the day. Central Delhi is also showing a high percentage of homeless people who suffered from health problems. According to the analysis, its location is one of the responsible factors for that. In Central Delhi, most of the night shelters are located in congested or unhygienic conditions; it is showing the comparatively high percentage of health-related problems.

Graph 2 Accessibility of Health Care



Source- Field Survey (December-January 2014-15)

According to field survey, the health status of homeless population divides into five categories. First three categories are related getting institutional help. Around 40 percent of the homeless population didn't share or have any health problem. At least thirty percent homeless population were suffering some health problem, but they didn't get any institutional help. There was the major reason they didn't have legal address proof or identity proof. According to the primary survey (see Table 4), More than sixty percent homeless population had been living without any voter or citizenship card. Permanent night shelters are availed shelter facility but not the security of belongings. So there were many numbers of homeless people, they shared that they had voter identity card, but they lost.

Table 4: Citizenship Status of Homeless People

Ration/voter Cards	Yes, with city address	Yes, with village address	Yes, but it is lost	No	Total
Central Delhi	16.18	27.94	23.53	32.35	100.00
North Delhi	17.02	23.40	12.77	46.81	100.00
West Delhi	29.82	7.02	8.77	54.39	100.00

Source- Field Survey (December-January 2014-15)

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Availability of comprehensive database is prior need to make a feasible policy to combat homelessness. Delhi has the fourth position among Indian states which are showing the highest growth rate during last decade. In Delhi, the number of homeless people is doubled during 2001 to 2011. The homeless population is not found equally distributed in every district of Delhi. It is showed noticeable differences from one district to another. According to the census, districts which high number of the homeless population shows negative growth rate due to high crowd in night shelter. Night shelter is the temporary address of homeless people in cities. According to Table 3, Delhi has 82 permanent night shelters (DUSIB 2014), which cover only 18.7 percent of Delhi homeless population and Central Delhi alone has 42-night shelters, and it is covered 11.7 percent of the total homeless population who are used night shelter in Delhi. It could be understood that other eight districts cover only 7 percent homeless people who used to night shelter.

The good basic facilities in night shelters are important for a good physical and mental health of homeless people. The poor condition of night shelters mainly is based on the overcrowding and lack of basic amenities such as lack of availability of water supply, toilet facilities, proper ventilation, and electricity etc. The unhygienic living area of night shelters is one of the major reasons for the spread of communicable diseases such as TB, skin diseases etc. A proper night shelter condition has an important role in the health condition of a homeless person. Night shelter facilities and health are interrelated with each other. There are many issues related to night shelter such as locality of night shelter; accessibility of night shelter, high air and noise pollution, sanitation and maintenance etc. these issues should be considered to make any policy for homeless people.

Enumeration of the homeless population is a big problem due to the majority of homeless people didn't have or lost their id proof. So it is very difficult to provide any benefit under poverty eradication programme. Government Aadhar initiative may be played a very crucial role in the identification of homeless people. In my opinion, there should be long and short term solution. In the long term it should be focused literacy, regional development, skill development, link up with

Aadhar card, etc. On the other side short-term solution should be provided health-care facility, basic amenities and cleanliness in Night shelter, locker facility and to fix minimum wages for daily wage laborer.

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