***Why does homelessness still occur in the UK today?***

***Introduction***

*Many people’s views of homelessness are quite simple.* They believe the stereotype, which is your only homeless when you have no property to your name. I believed it at first, before I was wisely told to look at the larger image. Although that is the common view, it is not actually the correct one. The legal definition and our modern societies are quite different. This essay will outline what homelessness is, what causes it, ways society are trying to help (including the pros and cons of each), and people's Philosophical position, including my own.

***Definition and causation***

There are six main legal classifications of being homeless. The first is if its temporary, such as having no property to go to, from staying in a hotel, B&B, hostel, or sofa surfing. Another would be if you do not have permission from the legal owner of property to be there, such as squatting. Another point would be if it were in unfit conditions, such as overcrowding or in unliveable conditions, with no access to water, electricity or if there were more than 3 people per room. Next, it would be if you were subjected to danger, such as domestic abuse or threats, even if you have joint ownership of the placement, you are legally classed as homeless. Lastly, if it was mobile, such as a caravan, RV or living in a car, and you have nowhere to park it.

Although some of these things seem like they could happen to anyone, that is not always the truth. Due to our patriarchal society and the structural injustice in modern life, it is not always that simple. Glen Bramley & Suzanne Fitzpatrick had a remarkably interesting idea in their article ‘Homelessness in the UK: who is most at risk?’ They concluded that they had to ‘take examples at either end of the spectrum to demonstrate just how unequally the chances of having experienced homelessness in the UK by age 30 are distributed.’ They later gave the following examples:

“• First, take a white male who had an affluent childhood in the rural south of England, an unproblematic school career, went to university and graduated at 21, who was living with his parents at age 26, with no partner relationship and no children. His predicted probability of homelessness by age 30 is 0.6%.

• Second, take a mixed ethnicity female, who experienced poverty as a child, was brought up by a lone parent, left school or college at 16, had spells of unemployment, and was living as a renter with no partner but with her own children at age 26. Her predicted probability of homelessness by age 30 is 71.2%.”

These statistics show that our modern society is unconsciously biased, and that we give more chances to those who have had a ‘relatively affluent’ childhood, making it easier for those who haven't, to become homeless, due to our capitalist lives.

***Peoples Philosophical position and ideologies***

There are multiple debates that are ongoing to discover the reasons for homelessness. Whether it’s **nurture** (Primary socialisation) or **nature** (Biological socialisation) that causes you to act against norms or be subjected to deviance. Some people believe in postmodern theories or are critical realists, meaning they believe humans are not capable of obtaining the reasons why or have a distrust towards them. *Many people, such as P. Mackie, S. Johnson and J. Wood believe that “The need for people to rough sleep is indicative of an unacceptable societal failure.*” (*Ending street homelessness: What works and why we do not do it- European journal of homelessness, volume 13, No.1 page 86*) The order of power that exists in the modern world is rather misogynistic and patriarchal, therefore making unfair chances for people to live a greater life.

Functionalists, such as Emile Durkheim, think that “Functionalism considers that homeless is a serious social problem with both functional and dysfunctional elements, as has job-creation, increased awareness, and compassion elements even though it is subject the societal institutions to burdensome costs relating to supported housing, day centres and medical services for the homeless. Therefore, the solution to solving homelessness should be gradual, as opposed to sudden and far-reaching, as society finds its own balance.” (“Essay on Homelessness - The Uni Tutor”) (<https://www.theunitutor.com/essay-on-homelessness/>) And yet, Marxists believe that capitalism is based upon what Karl. [Marx](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch28.htm) termed “the bloody legislation against vagabondage” where those jobless were “whipped, branded, and tortured by grotesquely terroristic laws into accepting the discipline necessary for the system of wage-Labor.” There are many different points of view across Britain, which, consequently, divides us into multiple groups who are trying too many different ways to overcome homelessness, rather than committing to one.

***Ways Society is trying to help.***

There are many actions taken to help those who are experiencing homelessness, such as Hostels, soup kitchens and more. Although this is the case, many of these options are just as flawed as they are helpful.

The first one I am going to look at is, Soup kitchens. They are Places where homeless people can go, and receive a meal, after queuing up. One problem with this is that they rely very heavily on donations, and if they cease, so do the soup kitchens. Another would be if they had not received much money from donations, and they could not afford enough food to feed all they people who queue up. A good thing is that it supplies food for the homeless and is quite easy to receive. Next is a drop-in centre, a place where vulnerable people, such as homeless people, can go for support and services, such as laptops and showers. This is good because it gives people a place to go during the day, when they are trying to get away from things, and they have access to resources. A bad thing is that they mainly rely on donations too, meaning they won't have too many resources to share around. Another one is a night shelter. This is like a drop-in centre, but instead of it being during the day, it's during the night. You can queue up to sleep in a bed, usually a bunk bed or the like. Although, opposite the drop-in centre, it is only available during the night, and there is no guarantee you will receive a bed.

The government have done many things for homelessness such as the homelessness reduction act, the latest legislation on homelessness where it requires local authorities to offer a personalised plan for anyone who is seen as homeless. Although this sounds like a clever idea, they don’t personalise it as they are supposed to, and they have been criticised for offering no resolve.

Housing first is one of the favoured of the current ways of helping, as it provides housing first to the person, and then looks at how to help the person with their problems. This is good because it gives people the chance to feel safe before they start to receive help. A bad thing would be that it might not motivate people to receive help if they already have a house.

These all cause the problem that the homeless person may feel slightly overwhelmed when it comes to receiving help, but it's also good because it can give people the help they want, and they can pick what's best for them.

***Conclusion.***

Overall, it may be said that the reason for homelessness being around in the UK today is that it is due to our society's capitalism and our unconscious biased lifestyles.