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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

مركز الشبكات وتكنولوجيا المعلومات قسم التوثيق الإلكتروني







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جامعة عين شمس

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Study Of The Health Status Of Homeless Institutionalized Children In Some Social Care Homes In Assiut Governorate

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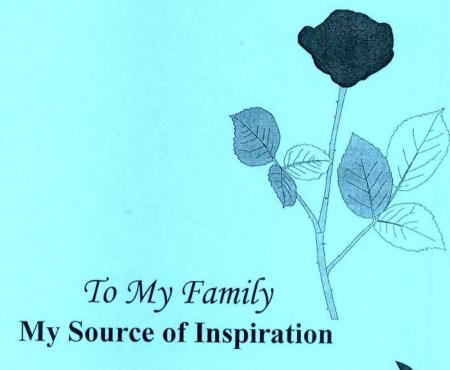
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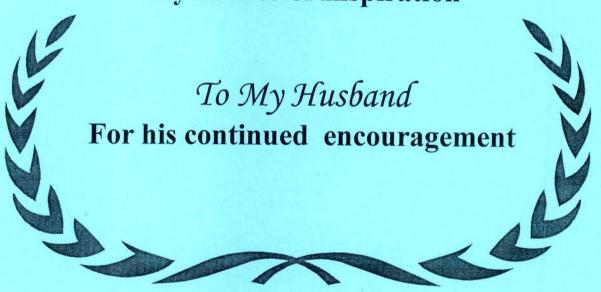
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INTRODUCTION



Introduction

Homelessness became an increasingly urgent social and public health concern. It exists today throughout the world in both developed and under developed countries (Spradley and Allender 1996). It is a complex, multidimensional problem that requires solutions (Johnson, B.S, 1995).

The National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) (1999), pointed out that the homeless children are by most accounts among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population. The link between poverty and poor health is well recognized. Children living in poor countries are at a hugely increased risk of dying early and suffering from a devastating illness. Even in developed countries, children from the poorest social groups have a substantially increased risk of death and illness (Spencer 1996 & Logan & Spencer, 2000).

Phelan & Lin, (1999) stated that, homelessness damages the physical and mental health of homeless people and poses risks for the non-homeless population by contributing to the spread of diseases.

Homelessness as a societal problem has risen sharply in the United States particularly in cities and temperate regions. It has been a major community health concern. The problem is much larger than the absence of a home, a family's entire existence is threatened and may form a problem that cann't be solved (Friedman, 1992). The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) recently estimated that 500.000

children in the United States are homeless (Kozol, 1990). While it is accepted that homelessness is a great stress to families and children, little research has been conducted to document the effects of homelessness on families. However, Several studies have documented, the adverse effects of homelessness on the health of children and mothers. Numerous chronic and acute physical and serious mental health problems have been found among homeless (Bowdler and Barrell, 1987, Berne et al., 1990).

Harsh environmental conditions and health damaging responses, breed demoralization, hopelessness, despair, and all the other problems associated with poverty (Friedman, 1992). Homeless, children have increased in numbers as poverty has become feminized, and the minorities have become poorer, and low-income homing became less accessible (Murata et al., 1992). Lack of a permanent dwelling deprives children of the most basic necessities for proper growth and development as a child's friendships and schooling (Masten et al., 1993).

Homeless children suffer from physical and mental disorders that exceed those found in poor children who have a permanent residence (Bassuk & Rosenberg, 1990). They are also vulnerable for early initiation and sustained participation in substance —abuse behaviours (Wagner et al., 1993).

Homelessness is often a hidden problem in community and often ignored or minimized because homeless residents rarely ask for assistance. Therefore homeless people problems are a high priority issue for the community health nurse.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE



Review of Literature

Definition of homelessness:

There are many definitions for homelessness. It is defined as: a complete absence of shelter to temporary living and sleeping arrangements (Robertson et al., 1984 and Johnson, 1995).

In addition, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (USDHUD) (1984) defined the homeless in this way:

- (a) Those live in public or private emergency shelters which take a variety of forms: armories, schools, church basements, government buildings, former fire-houses and where temporary vouchers are provided by private or public agencies, even hotels, apartments or boarding houses.
- (b) Those live in the streets, parks, subways, bus terminals, railroad stations, airports, under bridges, cars, trucks or any other public or private space that is not designated for shelter.

However, in a survey in Texas, homeless people described homelessness as joblessness, loneliness, being vulnerable, wandering, being out cast, being a drift, being hungry and confused, having no family support, and being homesick (Taylor-Walton, 1988).

The Committee on Community Health Services, (CCHS) (1988) defined homelessness as the condition of lacking resources