

Abstract

A Study on the Improvements of Homeless Policy in Seoul

Eun-Cheol Park · Ja-Eun Lee

Homeless policy in Seoul has been focused more on offering a shelter than a self-sufficiency program although two-fifths of the homeless in Korea lives in Seoul. Even with four shelter programs operated in Seoul, it is not enough to help homeless persons be independent due to the lack of professional management. In addition, job programs and temporary rental subsidy program are resulted in negative effect. This has caused that a number of homeless people live in a non-residential unit where it cannot meet minimum housing standards.

When it comes to the population size of the homeless in Seoul, it is estimated over 10,000 persons. The homeless information system, however, to analyze the cause and outcome of the homelessness has not been worked out to cover the exact size of homeless population. According to the analysis of raw resources about homeless people in Seoul, it has found that more than 70% of the homeless shelter users come back to the shelters.

More importantly, in-depth interviews focused on past and current homeless persons have showed that they tend to turn homeless without a private network or public assistance program. In other words, people easily become homeless when they confront with financial or social hardships unless they have a life helper or assistance organization. This means that an intimate social network and assistance program would help the homeless be economically and socially independent. Especially, a public housing and rental subsidy can encourage them to escape homelessness. Furthermore,

self-sufficiency programs such as job training, moving to work, community Resettlement, and strengthening interpersonal relationship have led the homeless to move a healthy community. Therefore, the article has studied homeless people's needs, policy effects, and developed countries' policy. By doing so, it has concluded that housing assistance or shelter programs should be the crucial homeless policy in order to prevent homeless persons from keeping dependent or returning the facility. Additionally, the findings suggest that the policy needs an extra program to help them self-sufficient. For this goal to be achieved, it is inevitable to expand and strengthen shelter programs, public housing program, and rental subsidy with professional staff employed.

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