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**Crime and Victimization: An Exploratory Study into the lives of
Homeless Youth in eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct.**

by

**Msizi Myaka
(Student Number: 217033796)**

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Supervisor: Dr Vuyelwa Kemiso Maweni

Date: 05 March 2024

DECLARATION

I declare that this work is my own work. All the borrowed knowledge has been acknowledged where necessary. This work has not been previously submitted before to any institution and is not currently under any consideration of being submitted for another degree in any other institution.

Signature:  _____

Date: 05 March 2024

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I would first like to thank my Lord and Saviour, God, for he has been with me since the establishment of my existence, and he did not forsake me even when the going became tough. And as much as I might have deviated from his faith there and there he still did not choose to forsake me. It is by no doubt that pursuing research takes a mental toll on one, and usually prayer keeps us calm and sane, and God ensured that I do not lose sight of the light. I am because he is.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to the marginalized group referred to as the homeless people. Those whose voice has been suppressed, with the care shown by the community towards them declining. Being homeless is never by choice in most cases, and not all homeless people are crime doers, they are all human just like us. And just like how we have good and bad people in our communities, there are also good people who were unfortunate and fell victim to being homeless, and there are those who do bad. I also dedicate this to my son Ibanathi Smukelo Myaka, my mother, my father, my siblings, my late sister Zakithi, my late cousin/brother Sgojwana, and my friends. My mother and father, your patience meant a lot, I know that you wanted me to work instead of furthering my studies, but when I asked to keep going you supported me still, thank you to infinity.

ABSTRACT

Homelessness is one of the most global challenges characterized by its ongoing expansion and enduring nature. Its exacerbation is masked by predictable and unpredictable events like natural disasters or death of a parent/guardian, which makes it hard to eradicate or lessen. Employing qualitative research methods, this study explored the crimes and victimizations experienced by the homeless youth of Durban Metropolitan precinct. This study applied exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling technique to select participants, with data being collected through semi-structured face-to-face interviews. Data was analysed using inductive thematic analysis. The thesis employed a theoretical incorporation of strain theory and deviant place theory. The study explored the experiences of twelve (12) participants, divided into two (2) subgroups, namely the homeless youth and NGO personnel. Four main themes surfaced around the concept of crimes and victimizations experienced by the homeless youth of Durban. The themes were drug use as a push and pull factor, the relationship shared by the homeless youth, community and law enforcement involvement, and sexual abuse and violence. Sexual abuse like rape, and acts of violence like stabbings were found to be a part of the main reasons the homeless youth get victimized in the study. The homeless youth participants highlighted drugs as the major influencer behind the criminal acts like theft that some of the homeless youth engage in. The relationship the homeless youth have with each other was another highlighted reason as to why the homeless youth get victimized, and engage in crime. The homeless youth maintain interpersonal connections with selected few people, but as a whole they are not a united cohesive community entity. The NGO personnel interviewed were from the Denis Hurley Centre. The NGO participants highlighted the services provided to the homeless youth such as health care provision and food assistance, and the challenges confronted by the NGOs. The participants also highlighted that the eThekweni municipality still provides limited support to the NGOs with helping the homeless population of Durban.

Keywords: Crime, criminal, victim, sexual abuse, homeless youth, victimization, drug use.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARV:	Antiretroviral
AVF:	Anti-Vandalism Forum
CCMA:	Commission for the Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration
HSRC:	Human Sciences' Research Council
ID:	Identity Document
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NPO:	Non-Profit Organization
SA:	South Africa
SAPS:	South African Police Service
TB:	Tuberculosis
UK:	United Kingdom
USA:	United States of America

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Background of the study

Being homeless can be observed from afar as the issue of poverty. With the conditions of the streets and the forever-changing weather, one cannot help but think about how the homeless youth survive. The predominant initial perception within society often attributes criminal behaviour to homeless youth, a notion supported by studies such as Hills (2015). However, insufficient attention is given to acknowledging them as victims of systemic injustices. This study aims to fill the gap as there is little information on homeless youth as victims of crimes as compared to the information available on the homeless youth as perpetrators of crime in the Durban Metropolitan Precinct. Being homeless is vast in its meaning, as it may be associated with the likes of being shelterless, roofless, houseless, and pavement dweller, but these do not mean the same thing (Tipple and Speak, 2005).

This study will adopt the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) definition of homelessness, which is categorised into two, namely absolute homelessness and relative homelessness (UNECE, 2004). Absolute homelessness includes those homeless people who have no shelter of their own and maybe sleeping in shelters temporarily or on the streets (UNECE, 2004). Relative homelessness includes those homeless people who experience concealed homelessness having shelters to sleep in. Still, the shelters do not meet the requirements for safe welfare, and they may have little to no protection or access to clean basic needs such as sanitation and clean water (UNECE, 2004). In the year 2016, it was estimated by the eThekweni Municipality that there were 4000 people who were homeless or living in informal shelters in Durban, and 25% of this population comprises those who are under the age of 25 years (Desmond et al., 2017).

There are many reasons as to why people are homeless, and to some, it is a matter of choice. For the youth, some cite parental death, parental neglect, drug use, sexual abuse, poverty and many other social, economic, and political factors (Sadiki, 2016). Not all youth have the luxury of having both parents, and some have no parents (Cheng, 2019). Being an orphan is one of the driving forces of being homeless, as some of the youth have no relatives who want to take care of them (Cheng, 2019). Some of the homeless youth fall victim to abuse at the hands of their guardians and then decide to flee away from home (Maphumulo, 2019). This abuse can be in the form of violence, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse by a family member (Hills, 2015). This

can be due to the lack of care by a family member, which can, in turn, lead to the youth choosing to run away from home (Hills, 2015; Sadiki, 2016). This is usually not put into consideration when laws are created for the reason of creating safer cities. For instance, the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct created laws under petty offences that were discriminatory against those who were homeless (Holness, 2020).

The South African (SA) constitution gives all municipalities the power to pass legislation of their own in the form of by-laws for control within their direct jurisdiction (Holness, 2020). The by-laws are usually found on each municipality's websites, with some being up-to-date and some still not amended. For instance, the eThekweni municipality nuisance by-laws were last updated in 2016, whilst the Cape Town nuisance by-laws were updated in 2021 (eThekweni Municipality, 2022; City of Cape Town, 2023). The by-laws from all municipalities are derived from the SA constitutional Acts, such as the Environment Conservation Act of 1989, which still shapes by-laws like the noise and nuisance by-laws (Rauch, Shaw, and Louw, 2001). The noise and nuisance by-laws are also mostly derived from the National Noise Control Regulations of 1999 (Rauch et al., 2001). The by-laws govern the cities and towns, which are the places with the most public platforms, like Central Business Districts (CBDs) (Rauch et al., 2001).

The eThekweni municipal by-laws deem sleeping on the streets as illegal as part of the Cleaner Cities' initiatives, which affect the homeless, and some other by-laws like no begging on the streets. These are part of the by-laws, which are a hindrance to the homeless youth and the homeless population as a whole (Holness, 2020). In some countries across the world like California, Florida, and Hungary, loitering laws, which are also known as vagrancy laws, are used to remove with force those who live and work on the streets, including the homeless, and the eThekweni Municipal by-laws are an initiated similar to that (Holness, 2020). There is no doubt that the by-laws, as much as they are discriminatory against the homeless, were initiated for safety because of the crimes that some of the homeless youth commit. It is thus imperative for this study to look at both the crimes and victimizations of homeless youth to understand the relationship that exists between the two concepts.

Begging on the streets, selling empty bottles, be it plastic or glass, to recycling companies, collecting cardboard to sell and some to sleep on, guarding cars, and stealing people's accessories in busy areas are among the survival means among homeless youth. There are many

paths the homeless youth choose from to survive, some being legal and some being illegal (Sadiki, 2016). Homeless youth cope in many different ways, and crime is one of them. This has led society to a perception that all homeless people are not to be trusted (Cheng, 2019). According to Cheng (2019), the police often arrest homeless youth in accordance with by-laws that they do not enforce upon other citizens; for instance, they claim that they rob the stores even in cases where they had nothing to do with them and arrest them. Homeless youth face victimization even at the hands of other homeless people, especially violence and sexual abuse (Sewpaul et al., 2012). Violence is common among homeless youth such that they sometimes even fear living with others because of the violence (Sewpaul et al., 2012). Some of the female homeless youth experience rape by other male homeless people, which they cannot report because the police barely take their cases seriously (Hills, Meyer-weitz, and Asante, 2016).

Homeless youth conduct some of the misbehaviours they engage in because of mostly their drug addiction (Motha, 2021). Even the female population end up in the illegal trade of sex for money, partly because of their drug addiction (Motha, 2021; Sewpaul et al., 2012). The driving force for committing a crime is partly hunger but mostly to get another fix for the drugs (Cheng, 2019). This is part of the reason why the police partially help the homeless youth, as there is this belief that they are drug addicts and people with an addiction are known for having memory impairment (Cheng, 2019). It is by no doubt true that society views homeless youth as deviant; they are always the first suspect, especially when someone has been mugged (Dawood, 2019). This is the stigma that the homeless youth of Durban Metropolitan carry. The current knowledge looks at street youth as either criminals or victims of crimes, with few studies concerned about homeless youth being victims of crime (Sadiki, 2016).

Previous research studies, such as that of Njiokiktjien (2019), that focused on the operations of the governmental and non-governmental organisations aimed at helping the homeless youth of Durban, revealed that there are certain setbacks that have long been an issue. Still, they receive little help with regard to these grievances (Cheng, 2019). Part of the grievances they have raised is the issue of receiving little funding in the forever-changing times that we live in (Cheng, 2019). The organisations have raised that it is hard to cater for all the needs of the homeless youth because they are also limited by their resources (Cheng, 2019). Their resources can only cater for a certain number of the homeless. Given the natural disasters that recently occurred in KwaZulu-Natal, which left many citizens homeless, it is likely the number of homeless youths will increase (Bhuta, 2023). These setbacks are part of the many reasons why helping

the homeless youth is posing as a major challenge. The issue of drug abuse is evident all over Durban, especially under the M4 bridge near Che Guevara Street, which is another issue that the organisations aim to aid the homeless youth with (Phungula, 2023).

1.2 Problem Statement

It has been established in previous research and articles like that of Phungula (2023), where members of Umbilo reported that the increase in crime rates is because of the homeless people living under the M4 bridge in Durban and part of those being the youth (Phungula, 2023). The homeless youth of Durban are deemed as problematic by society, along with the rest of the homeless population, even though it is certain individuals (Hills, 2015; Sadiki, 2016; Sadiki, 2021). Research on homeless youth of Durban as victims of crime and mistreatment is less researched, especially where the female population is concerned. In research like that of Hills et al. (2016), it was established that homeless youth experience rape and sexual abuse by members of society and other homeless people, but little information is available on such social ills (Hills et al., 2016). This research seeks to fill the gaps in the little information that is available about the homeless youth of Durban as victims and provide more information on the homeless youth as perpetrators of crime. Researching more on the homeless youth will provide insight into what the group's needs are in order for ways to help them be safe and protected be possibly developed.

The issue lies in the limited discourse surrounding the criminal activities perpetrated by homeless youth. While it is acknowledged that this demographic engages in criminal behaviours, there is little to no statistical data regarding their likelihood of arrest for the crimes that society consistently attributes to them. The victimizations that homeless youth go through are not usually reported to the police because part of the victimization that they experience is at the hands of law enforcement (Hills, 2015; Phungula, 2023; Sadiki, 2021). This makes it hard for them to trust law enforcement, especially with sexual offences like rape, because of the relationship that exists between them and the police (Hills et al., 2016; Sewpaul et al., 2012). The lack of trust between law enforcement and homeless youth is one of the reasons why the information on homeless youth as victims is less touched upon (Cheng, 2019; Holness, 2020). Researching on the subject matter is aimed towards bringing more information and uncovering new truths which are likely linked to the existing information.

The issue of homelessness on an international scale has become a pressing concern that requires comprehensive analysis and effective solutions. In some countries like Nigeria, homelessness is very high, mainly because of the wars that affected the country drastically (Obasi and Anierobi, 2021). Nigeria's homeless population comprises over 108 million people (Obasi and Anierobi, 2021). In Canada, which is situated in North America, there are about 250,000 homeless people (Glass, 2023). There is a difference in the scale of homelessness in each country based on the country's development. Developed countries have fewer homeless people than underdeveloped countries. Poverty is one of the driving forces of homelessness on a global scale (Glass, 2023). Another contributing factor is systemic failures; society does not fully address the issue of homelessness, but it is usually placed in the hands of the government, whilst some of the government structures are well known to fail (Donnelly, Cowan, and Whitley, 2019). The United Nations has recorded 1.6 billion people who are homeless worldwide (Donnelly, Cowan, and Whitley, 2019).

South Africa currently has no definite number of homeless people on a national scale. In a study conducted by the Human Sciences Resource Centre in 2015, it was estimated that there were around 200,000 homeless people in South Africa (Rule-Groenewald et al., 2015). This number is not definite, but it has since been used to reference the estimation of the scale. Even in recent articles like that of Jones (2023), it was still estimated that there are around 200,000 homeless people in South Africa, even though studies like that of Hills (2015) report that the number grows every year. Durban's homeless population comprises the youth who are affected by living on the streets differently, with some being exposed to sexual abuse, violence and other forms of atrocities (Cheng, 2019).

A number of homeless youth wish to be out of the streets because of the conditions that they live under, but because of the many issues that prevent them from getting out of the streets, like drug addictions and conflicts with their family members, it is hard (Sadiki, 2016). Programs aimed towards regrouping homeless youth with their guardians, parents or family members usually work for those who are really willing to be reconciled with their families (Hills, 2015; Sadiki, 2016). The issue is there is a need for family therapy or counselling when a homeless person is being reconciled with their family (Cheng, 2019). Reconnecting usually takes time, and it needs constant check-ups by the counsellors to see how the families are doing. The issue of funding and raising money poses a threat to progress, and this study is aimed

towards uncovering more information as to how the organisations receive their funding and if there are other possible ways, like raising funds through entertainment, which can be utilised.

1.3 Objectives of the study

- To determine the nature of crimes committed by the homeless youth living in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct.
- To establish the types of victimizations experienced by the homeless youth residing in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct.
- To determine the initiatives that have been implemented by non-governmental organisations to assist the homeless youth in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct.
- To determine the reasons behind the homeless youth of Durban being both perpetrators and victims of crime.

1.4 Research questions

- What is the nature of crimes committed by homeless youth living in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct?
- What are the types of victimizations experienced by the homeless youth residing in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct?
- What are the initiatives that have been implemented by non-governmental organisations to assist homeless youth in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct?
- Why are the homeless youth of Durban both perpetrators and victims of crime?

1.5 Context of the Study

The study will be based in the eThekweni/Durban Metropolitan precinct. Durban is the largest city in KwaZulu-Natal, and it is known for being a big tourist attraction in the province. The homeless are a large group, and they are scattered in different parts of the city. The study will mainly focus on homeless youth who are familiar with living under the M4 bridge or using the M4 bridge as a place to sleep. Homeless people are less likely to be in one location for a very long time, as some are sometimes reconnected with their families. The M4 bridge is located near Albert Luthuli Park, close to the freeway, where there are many informal settlements that can be seen as one drive through the M4 highway.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The issue of homelessness is as before, but what is of most concern is the rate at which it is growing. Some of those who are part of the homeless youth are not homeless because of bad life choices like doing drugs but because of other compelling reasons such as sexual abuse in the hands of a stepparent (Sadiki, 2016). Durban's crime rate has increased compared to the past, and a significant contributing factor is the consistent association of petty criminal acts with the homeless population (Dawood, 2019). Existing research conducted by Sadiki (2016), Hills (2015), and Ndlovu (2019) encompasses a range of topics, including homeless individuals as both perpetrators and victims of crime, initiatives aimed at assisting them, and the underlying reasons behind their involvement in criminal activities. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the feasibility of addressing the needs of homeless youth through collaborative efforts among all relevant stakeholders.

The streets are not meant for anyone; besides being unsafe, they are not an ideal space to sleep in or live in. There are many social ills that homeless youth go through, and most of these social ills are inflicted by society. There is a need for society to change the way they view the homeless because the way they are viewed is partly the reason why they sometimes misbehave. Current literature like that of Ndlovu (2019) covers substance abuse amongst homeless youth, which is one of the reasons homeless youth commit crimes and victimise each other. Crimes like property-related offences are what homeless youth get incarcerated the most for, but even though this is the case, they are barely helped when they are the victims of crime, as they are labelled as deviant (Hills, 2015). Current literature does not cover the events that recently transpired, like the COVID-19 pandemic and the floods which occurred in KwaZulu-Natal, which affect the phenomena of being homeless. The primary aim of this study is to contribute up-to-date insights regarding the dual role of homeless youth as both victims and perpetrators of crime. Moreover, this research aims to provide a comprehensive overview of existing initiatives undertaken to address the issue of homelessness.

1.7 Definition of Key Concepts

1.7.1 Crime

A crime is an act that is against the law and is punishable by law (Reid, 2017). Crime occurs daily, and not a day goes by without someone reporting a criminal act that occurred to them or they saw happening (Reid, 2017). Dealing with crime usually requires reporting that crime

first, not taking the matter into your own hands, as that is seen as obstruction of the law (Reid, 2017). Crime is usually carried out in many forms; some use weapons to carry out crime, and some do not use weapons but use deceptive skills to pursue their victims. Usually, the occurrence of crime leaves someone victimised (Reid, 2017).

1.7.2 Drug abuse

Drug abuse refers to when a person uses certain drugs or chemicals for the aim of producing effects that are pleasurable on the brain (Okubor, and Mormah, 2022). Over 190 million people use drugs all over the world, with people under the age of 30 being the most users (Okubor, and Mormah, 2022). Drugs fall under three categories, namely stimulants, depressants, and hallucinogens (Okubor, and Mormah, 2022). Stimulants are those drugs that stimulate the brain, increasing its activities and making people experience behavioural changes and dilapidated pupils (Okubor, and Mormah, 2022). Depressants depress the brain's faculties, like sleeping pills and heroin, and hallucinogens cause a user to hallucinate and experience delusions (Okubor, and Mormah, 2022).

1.7.3 Drug Addiction

Addiction can be defined as a relapsing disorder that is chronic and masked by compulsive behaviours and drug-seeking despite the consequences (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011). Drug addiction is considered a brain disorder because of the effects that it has on brain control and the control of oneself (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011). The effects and changes in the brain due to drug use may last for a long time, even after a person has stopped using drugs (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011). Drug addiction can be treated just like any other disease, and just like any other disease, if left untreated, it can lead to severe damage to the normal functioning of the body's organs, which can lead to death (National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011).

1.7.4. eThekweni Municipality

eThekweni municipality is one of eight (8) metropolitans in South Africa (Reddy, and Govender, 2019). It is a part of 257 municipalities found in South Africa. eThekweni municipality is located in Durban, which is the biggest city in the province of KwaZulu-Natal. 'eThekweni' is a Nguni word that translates to Durban in English (Reddy, and Govender, 2019).

1.7.4 Homelessness

This study will adopt the UNECE's definition of homelessness, which is categorised into two, namely absolute homelessness and relative homelessness (UNECE, 2004). Absolute

homelessness includes those homeless people who have no shelter of their own and maybe sleeping in shelters temporarily or on the streets (UNECE, 2004). Relative homelessness includes those homeless people who experience concealed homelessness having shelters to sleep in. Still, the shelters do not meet the requirements for safe welfare, and they may have little to no protection or access to clean basic needs like sanitation and clean water (UNECE, 2004).

1.7.5. Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is the duty of ensuring the furnishing of security for the population of citizens with reference to the legal framework of the nation (Roland, and Verdier, 2003). There are many interventions carried out through law enforcement like prevention and deterrence (Roland, and Verdier, 2003). These are aimed towards terminating the violation of laws. There are agencies involved in law enforcement for instance, the police officers, and security personnel to name a few.

1.7.6. Perpetrator

A perpetrator is a person responsible for an illegal action (Reicher et al, 2014). A perpetrator is always the real criminal, the person behind the occurrence of a crime, not a person who is still suspected of a crime. This term is usually mistaken for being the same as suspect; however, a suspect is a person who is suspected that they might have committed the crime, and a perpetrator is a person who has actually committed that crime (Reicher et al, 2014). A person who has been convicted of that crime is ascertained to be a perpetrator as it has been proven that the person has carried out the crime (Reicher et al, 2014).

1.7.7. Sexual Abuse

The World Health Organization defines sexual abuse as actual or threatened physical violation of a nature that is sexual (Bitzer, 2023). It can be under unequal conditions, by force, or coercive terms (Bitzer, 2023). Sexual abuse can include, but is not limited to, sexual assault, forcing someone to have sexual intercourse, unwanted touching of a nature that is sexual, and coercing someone to engage in pornography or prostitution (Du Mont, and White, 2007). Sexual abuse undermines the victim and may have a long lasting impact on a person's psychology.

1.7.8. Victimization

Victimization is an assault on the safety and dignity of an individual, which, once assaulted, might diminish the dignity and safety of a whole group (Bukowski and Sippola, 2001). Primary

victimization: Primary victimization entails individual victimization; the person is targeted by another individual or a group (Burgess, and Regehr, 2009). Secondary victimization: Secondary victimization happens when a person accidentally gets victimised due to witnessing a crime (Burgess et al., 2009). Victimization usually impacts a person physically, financially, and emotionally. Many people tend to feel frustrated, angry, lost, in denial, confusion, or fear (Burgess et al., 2009), depending on the extent to which that person was victimised (Burgess et al., 2009).

1.7.9. Violence

The World Health Organization in the World Report on Violence and Health defined violence as the intentional use of power or physical force, actual or threatened, against another person, against oneself, or a group of people that likely results in death, physical harm, maldevelopment, psychological harm, or deprivation (Rutherford, Zwi, Grove, and Butchart, 2007). The nature of violence can be sexual, physical, involving neglect or deprivation, or psychological (Rutherford et al., 2007). Violence can be collective, interpersonal, or self-directed (Rutherford et al., 2007).

1.7.10. Whoonga/Nyaope

Whoonga/Nyaope is a drug that is usually smoked with weed and contains a mix of low-grade heroin, rat poison, and other additives (Grelotti, Closson, Smit, Mabude, Matthews, Safren, Bangsberg and Mimiaga, 2014). *Whoonga* is highly addictive, and a person may become addicted by just smoking it once (Grelotti et al., 2014). *Whoonga* causes severe body pains when it leaves your system, and it also causes temporal relief of the body pains once you smoke it again, which causes a cycle of give and take pleasure for pain (Grelotti et al., 2014). It has other different street names like “Mzikho” or “sugars”, as it is well known in Chatsworth, Phoenix, and Wentworth (Grelotti et al., 2014).

1.7.11. Youth

Youth can be defined as a time of transition from childhood dependence to adulthood independence (Kayizzi-Mugerwa, 2019). The African Youth Charter defines youth as anyone between the ages 15 and 35 (Kayizzi-Mugerwa, 2019). This study will adapt the African Youth Charters’ definition of youth.

1.8. Structure of dissertation

Chapter 1: Includes an introduction and the background of the study; the aim, the objectives and the research questions of the study. It also includes the rationale of the study in order to give a better understanding to the reader, the structure of the study and the conclusion.

Chapter 2: In this chapter, current knowledge on the topic is presented. It objectively evaluates previous research findings; for this situation, data concerning crime and victimization of the homeless youth in eThekweni will be reviewed along with initiatives that have been implemented to try and help the homeless youth of eThekweni metropolitan precinct.

Chapter 3: Introduces and describes the two theories used for this study, namely, strain theory and deviant place theory, which explains why the research problem exists and shows how the two theories are linked or support the research study.

Chapter 4: The chapter shows the path the researcher took to articulate their problem and objectives. It elucidates how the data will be collected for this study. Numerous research methodologies are available for data collection in the study, each serving the purpose of acquiring information.

Chapter 5: This chapter includes the analysis and the discussion of the findings. It will include the themes and sub-themes from the collected data.

Chapter 6: This chapter includes the main findings of the research project and proposes recommendations.

1.9. Conclusion

To conclude, this chapter pertained to the introduction and background of the study, followed by the problem statement. It then followed with the objectives of the research, the research questions, the context of the study, the significance of the study, the definition of key terms, and the structure of the dissertation.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

Homeless youth are perpetrators of crime and also undergo victimization as much as they victimise others through some of their criminal means. Crime is something that is perpetuated by many factors in South Africa, and it is mostly the main reason why other people fall victim. This section will first touch on youth homelessness from an international level and then be followed by looking at youth homelessness in the South African context. It will then look at the homeless youth of Durban and, followed by determining the nature of the crimes committed by the youth, then establish the types of victimizations experienced by the homeless youth. It will then be followed by determining why the homeless youth of Durban are both perpetrators and victims of crime, and lastly, determine the initiatives that have been implemented by the governmental and non-governmental organisations in Durban to help the homeless youth.

2.2. Homeless Youth Internationally

The issue of homelessness is a global issue, with not yet a solution that is effective enough to eradicate the issue of homelessness. This is because of the different social, economic, and political aspects that influence homelessness (Heerde and Hemphill, 2015). The homelessness of the youth is still on the rise globally, with over 4.2. million youths encountering homelessness in the United States yearly (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2023). The United Kingdom reported about 83,000 youth who were homeless in their 2014 report (Clarke et al, 2015). There are many reasons why homeless youth leave their home, with abuse being one of the major reasons (Heerde and Hemphill, 2015). The United Nations has pushed to make the homelessness of the youth a priority issue that tempers with human rights and needs to be solved urgently (Heerde and Hemphill, 2015). Homeless youth experience similar victimizations, like sexual assaults (Heerde and Hemphill, 2015). In a study conducted in the United Kingdom by Centrepoint Organisation in 2021, it was found that drug abuse, gang involvement, and family disruptions are some of the factors that connect homeless youth with crime (Self, 2021).

Countries affected by high levels of poverty, like African countries, are the most struck by the phenomena of homelessness (Obasi and Anierobi, 2021). Nigeria stands as the country with the highest number of homeless people in the world (Obasi and Anierobi, 2021). The African

Union, the biggest organisation that was created with the aim of tackling issues with regard to Africa as a whole, recognises homelessness as one of the major issues in Africa (African Union, 2019). The African Union envisages Human Rights, and part of this is securing people who have been displaced, as it is against human rights to have no proper housing (African Union, 2019). But because of the unpredictable nature of being homeless, it has been hard for African countries to combat this issue. A part of vision 2063 is to end displacement, which is also known as being homeless. Every part of the world that is facing the homelessness of the youth is fighting to end homelessness. The European Union member States all agreed to an initiative to end homelessness in 2030 (Mackie, 2023). However, the persistent nature of homelessness due to the uncertainty of natural phenomena makes combating such an issue troublesome.

2.3.Homeless youth in South Africa

Just like in the rest of the world, South Africa has homeless people, and the numbers keep growing, with part of these populations being the youth and children (Lefa, 2014). There is no accurate number on how many homeless youths are in South Africa, but records approximate the number of street children in South Africa to be around 60,000 (For Good, 2018). Street youths are mostly arrested for petty offences; however, some are not part of criminal endeavours done by other street youth, and they fall victim by being arrested because of suspicions (Lefeh, 2008). The police's priority has been to clean the streets doing so by getting rid of street youth from the view of the public, doing so achieving cleanliness of the streets for important events (Lefeh, 2008). Street youths in South Africa stay longer on the streets than street youths in developed countries. A survey conducted by HSRC in 2008 revealed that some of the homeless youth had been on the streets for 2 to 5 years, while others had been living on the streets for longer than that (Hills et al., 2016). This is partly because of the high levels of poverty that exist in the country. The Twilight Children Organisation is one of the organisations in South Africa aimed at improving the quality of life of street children experiences, based in Gauteng province (Lefeh, 2008). The organisation has ever since been able to accommodate 100 boys, and over 200 street children are fed because of the organisation on a daily basis in their kitchen soup programme (Lefeh, 2008).

In 2019 and prior, the homeless in Cape Town faced the same issue of being fined for vagrancy, similar to what the homeless in Durban faced (Karim and Shoba, 2019). Currently, in Cape Town, due to changes in the by-laws, the homeless of Cape Town now partially face being

fined for sleeping on the streets, but they get fined for refusing alternate shelter (Dayimani, 2021). The homeless in Cape Town are also driven to crime due to addiction, and places like Ocean View are hotspots for harbouring criminals as the homeless reside there (Dayimani, 2021). Organisations like The Haven Night Shelter organisation cater for the homeless to assist against the social ills they face, like being unfairly dismissed where they sleep (Dayimani, 2021). In Johannesburg, the homeless youth are also deemed as criminals by society and the spaces they occupy, like the area next to the Methodist Church wall in the city centre, the crime rate is higher (Gilili, 2022). The homeless youth face similar treatment in different parts of South Africa, and not enough help is offered, which is a commonality in most provinces.

2.4.Homeless Youth in Durban

The homeless youth in Durban is an elusive group that pertains to people with different reasons for being on the streets, but they all fend for the same goal, which is to find a place to sleep and something to eat (Lefa, 2014). The struggles that the homeless youth experience in Durban are different; some are caught up in drug addiction, others are caught up in prostitution, and others find themselves selling drugs (Lefa, 2014). There is no definite number as to how many homeless youths are residing in Durban, but the numbers keep growing as more people face being homeless due to many reasons; one could be the heavy floods that claimed over 400 lives and left many people homeless, especially, those in Durban and neighbouring locations (Bhuta, 2023).

The streets are never safe for the homeless youth, especially those who are still underage, as they endure violence from gangs of older boys. Fighting is also what they have to live through, with others having to resort to violence in order to cope in the streets and survive (Hills et al., 2016). There is currently no definite number of the homeless population in Durban. In an online article by Magubane (2022), it was revealed that there were around 4,000 homeless people at that time. Information by Hansen (2022) from the Berea Mail revealed that over 16,000 people were living as homeless across eThekweni Municipality. The crimes committed by the homeless youth of Durban will be discussed in the following paragraphs, followed by the victimizations that the homeless in Durban go through, and then the initiatives which the NGOs and government have done to help the homeless youth will follow.

2.5. Crimes committed by the Homeless Youth of Durban

Crime is an act that denounces the State authority and causes disruption within society (Sowmyya, 2014). Some of the homeless youth in the Durban Metropolitan Precinct use the streets as their way of surviving by begging on the streets, selling empty plastic bottles to recycling companies, collecting tins, collecting cardboard, and committing crimes (Sadiki, 2016). Albert Luthuli Park, Che Guevara, and the marketplace are some of the places where one can find more homeless groups in one place, and places like these are usually linked with a higher crime rate (Cheng, 2019; Dawood, 2019). Assigning full responsibility for crimes occurring in the vicinity of homeless youth's sleeping locations solely to them would not align with crime statistics, as the streets are also populated by individuals utilising those areas for subsistence and returning to informal settlements during night-time.

The transgressions perpetrated by youth extend beyond their impact on society; they encompass interpersonal offences committed among them, necessitated by the unsafe environment of the streets. Poverty is not the reason people commit crimes, but it is how they respond to these living conditions (Van Raemdonck and Seedat-Khan, 2017). As much as there are driving forces behind some of the crimes committed by youth besides drugs, drugs are the common reason why homeless youth engage in criminal activities, with them compelling a person to do anything for a fix.

2.5.1. Burglary, theft and muggings

Part of the underlying reason why the homeless youth of Durban commit crime is because of them being attracted to materialistic items of value like phones and watches (Cheng, 2019). Durban is a big city with people from all classes that parade the streets of Durban, and this is where the less privileged see what the privileged have, and they usually use that as a chance to steal and sell for quick money (Cheng, 2019). It is the same with the youth, and what tends to happen is that they fall into a life of crime for quick money. In a study that was conducted by Sewpaul et al. (2012), one of the participants mentioned that they sometimes conduct break-ins and look for anything that looks fancy. They steal it, and if they happen to stumble upon the owner of that flat, they usually fight the owner. In 2018, the railway lines along Che Guevara Road, which links to Umbilo suburbs in Durban, were newly established informal settlements by the homeless (Dawood, 2019). This, according to residents, created a crime spike in the area, as they complained that young men were mugging them, these young men falling under the homeless youth (Dawood, 2019). Muggings and "smash and grabs" by the

homeless youth are some of the crimes cited among members of society as to why the homeless youth, along with the entire homeless population, are discriminated against by society (Dawood, 2019). In a study by Hills (2015), it was revealed that the homeless tend to be charged by the police with property-related offences the most than other crimes (Hills, 2015).

Burglary, theft, and muggings are mostly because of drug addiction or substance abuse. The streets are the one place where drugs are easy to access, and some homeless people use them as a coping mechanism (Ndlovu, 2019). Those who are absolutely homeless are the most drug users because of the lawlessness and freedom that comes with being fully on the streets (Ndlovu, 2019). Those who sometimes sleep in shelters associated with being relatively homeless are mostly users of alcohol and marijuana (Ndlovu, 2019). Some of the homeless people admit to stealing and selling televisions in order to get money to satisfy their drug cravings, as much as they panhandle in the streets for the same purpose (Ndlovu, 2019). A person may not commit a crime because of drugs. Still, drug addiction is driven by an insatiable desire, which is why when a person can no longer afford to feed their cravings through panhandling, they resort to illegal means to make it happen. Some of the street vendors selling in the city mentioned that the homeless people rob people anytime they want, even in broad daylight; they rob people of their phones and wallets and grab women's weaves and other belongings (Nair, 2019). In a study by Magubane (2022), one of the participants mentioned that the community used to assist when a person was getting robbed or mugged by reprimanding the perpetrator. Still, they stopped doing such because the Metro Police started warning them about their methods (Magubane, 2022). This lack of intervention is partly what has led to the spike in crime rates in the city.

In 2019, around 400 homeless people used to sleep on Che Guevara Street, but due to the rise in the crime rate of the area, especially muggings and "smash and grabs", the homeless were chased away from sleeping in that area (Phungula, 2023). Muggings and "smash and grabs" are among the crimes that homeless youth commit on the streets. Concluding that all the homeless youth in Durban commit crimes due to the stigma surrounding them would be biased. It is only a number of them resort to crime, and some use means of an honest living by begging, selling, and working mostly as car guards (Cheng, 2019). The crimes committed by the homeless are the most exposed because they cannot hide anywhere as they do not have any place to stay (Hills, 2015). The offences committed by homeless youth lead to them being incarcerated, and upon release, they go back to the streets as it is their home, which makes it

hard for them to reform (Hills, 2015). With the privatisation of spaces meant for the public, the crimes committed by homeless youth are high, as they are not allowed to sleep in some of the places they used to sleep, and when they sleep there by force, they are mistreated by the police. Phungula (2023) reported in an online article that at Dalton Road Hostel, residents reported that they are faced with the homeless sleeping outside the hostel, which has caused a spike in their items being stolen to an extent whereby they have to, for example, watch over their laundry as it dries in the sun because it might be stolen by the homeless.

2.5.2. Sex work

Another survival method used by homeless youth is sex work, which is also referred to as prostitution. Some of the girls offer sex in exchange for shelter or security and, thus, cannot always oppose unsafe sex due to their desperation (Motha, 2021). Prostitution is a crime under public order crimes, with the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 2007 adding to Section 11 that anyone who conducts sexual intimacy in exchange for a reward is guilty of an offence (South African Law Reform Commission, 2009). In interviews conducted by online news writers and local newspapers, articles reveal that part of trying to make ends meet is through selling their bodies (Motha, 2021). In an interview for a study that was conducted by Motha (2021) in Durban, a female whose name was not revealed stated that almost all the homeless young girls in Durban that she knows survive by selling their bodies in exchange for money. The participant further mentioned that they do this to satisfy their drug craving, and these drugs are what help them to cope on the streets (Motha, 2021).

Sex work for many is because of the desperation for money, but some end up being forced into prostitution even when they do not want to do it (Newar, 2016). The feeling the homeless go through when they sell their bodies is the same as for the others who do it but are not homeless. Professional sex workers also get exposed to harsh conditions like being faced by an aggressive customer or being sexually abused, as these are the dangers that come with being a sex worker (Newar, 2016). In previous research, studies like that of Orchard et al (2019) reported that the feeling of guilt is common in all sex workers, and they are susceptible to being mistreated.

The term sex-work is used interchangeably with prostitution, with both words conveying similar, if not the same, meaning (Orchard et al, 2019). The belief that drives the abolition or illegalisation of sex work is that it will end morality, which is why in most countries, it is not

allowed (Orchard et al, 2019). This is usually why people who engage in sex work are seen as criminals and are not protected. Part of the reasons for its abolition is that it also plays a role in human trafficking (Newar, 2016). Other arguments are that prostitution's legality could flood the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration with cases and complaints made by sex workers (Odeku, 2013). For example, sex workers could complain about clients not paying (Odeku, 2013). This could lead to more cases in need of being attended to by the police; thus, this would have an overall negative impact on society as this might slow down some of the serious cases (Odeku, 2013). Even though sex work is illegal, it is not common to find the prosecution of a sex worker for sex work (Odeku, 2013).

In a study by Pan et al. (2020) in the US, drug addiction was pointed out as one of the driving forces for sex work by young homeless women. Young girls come to Durban looking for jobs, and some come for the purpose of studying in tertiary institutions, only to end up making the wrong decisions, like trying out drugs, which drive them to the streets (Motha, 2021). An interview conducted by Motha Liza Moroney of Expose Hope revealed that the average age for the sex trade in the streets is 16 years (Motha, 2021). Expose Hope is a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) that deals mostly with helping women who are victims of human trafficking and women who are trapped in the sex industry by providing donations to them like meals, sanitary items, condoms, and other necessities (Expose Hope, 2023). Girls at a young age, due to desperation, end up selling their bodies in exchange for money for drugs and other necessities (Motha, 2021). Drugs are reported to be used by over half of the population of homeless people in Durban (Desmond et al., 2017).

Sex work is illegal in South Africa, and it is deemed a crime in the criminal code, and the municipal by-laws also prohibit it (South African Law Reform Commission, 2009). In a research study by Sewpaul et al. (2012), one of the girls in a focus group reported that she and her friends were once selling their bodies to get money, and it ended up being a habit because of how easy they got the money (Motha, 2021). During a study by Motha, employing focus groups in Durban to investigate sex work, focus group B had a participant who reported that engaging in this occupation necessitates possessing R50 to bribe the Metro Police; otherwise, a penalty of R300 is imposed by the Metro Police (Motha, 2021). This shows how the illegality of prostitution has led to underground operations where the law enforcers are paid to keep quiet about something that is already out in the open and practised every day in the city of Durban.

The sex trade is not only conducted by the female populace of the homeless, but some other males engage in sex trade (Sewpaul et al., 2012). The dangers that female homeless sex workers experience are similar to the ones that the homeless youth that are male sex workers experience (Hills, 2015). Other homeless participants in the study reported that the homeless girls they date sell their bodies for money. When they try and confront them about it, they tell them they do it because no one can afford anything within the homeless groups (Hills, 2015). Young homeless boys trade their bodies for sex in exchange for money to make ends meet, but some end up being caught up in it (Sewpaul et al., 2012). The homeless boys barely ever admit these cases of homeless boys selling their bodies, but some boys do speak out (Sewpaul et al., 2012). The homeless boys walk around just like how sex workers conduct their business, and when a car stops by, they get in and trade for sex (Sewpaul et al., 2012). Due to desperation, they do whatever the customer tells them to do.

The link between homelessness and sex work is also evident in the international and national realm, not just in Durban. In a study by Hyatt, Spuur and Sciupac (2012) on the homeless in California, it was established that the lack of social and financial support that comes with living on the streets is part of the reason that they end up engaging in sex work. Yoo and Wheeler's (2019) study on the homeless in California, Los Angeles revealed that homeless youth who engage in sex work attract crime and increase their chances of victimization because they are known for carrying money and they are less likely to report (Yoo and Wheeler, 2019). Homeless youth in England of the United Kingdom also engage in sex work, and they are the most users of drugs, just like street-based sex workers in other countries like South Africa (Mellor and Lovell, 2012). These drugs are a part of the reason the homeless who are sex workers get victimised in England (Mellor and Lovell, 2012).

In Johannesburg of Gauteng, homeless females also resort to sex work, which leads to drug abuse, and that never ends well for them, even though they are getting money from it (Serra, 2022). In an interview by IOL media company on the homeless in Johannesburg, the participant revealed that her addiction problems are the reason why she ended up on the streets and engaging in sex work in the process (Serra, 2022). Most of the homeless share similar experiences when it comes to sex work, and as mentioned above, most of the homeless females who engage in sex work in different regions of the world use drugs as a coping mechanism.

2.5.3. Assault and Violence

Assault is a part of contact-crimes, which are very high and still growing in South Africa (Fraser, 2023). Knives are the type of weapon that is mostly used for assault, with over 50% of assault cases associated with having been carried out with this type of weapon (Statistics South Africa, 2020). Assault is a case that is mostly associated with being carried out in urban areas more than in rural areas (Statistics South Africa, 2020). Metro areas are said to have more victims of assault than non-metro areas (Statistics South Africa, 2020). With assault at a high rate, the homeless youth add to the rate, even though some of the cases are not reported to the police. Physical assault is a part of the crimes that the homeless youth of Durban commit. A study published by Sewpaul et al. (2012) asserts that violence amongst homeless youth, which is also a form of gender-based violence, is common, with the homeless youth claiming that violence to them is a way of exercising control over those who lose to the violence against them (Sewpaul et al., 2012).

According to the Human Science Research Council (2016), it was reported that 37% of the respondents stated a history of violence at the hands of other homeless people (Desmond et al., 2017). Those living in shelters stated that violence is higher when they are in the shelters at night, as the youth and older homeless people tend to fight over belongings (Desmond et al., 2017). The legal term for describing those who are poor, without housing, unemployed, and immobile is vagrant or vagabond (Ocopock, 2008). Vagrancy is not considered something that is listed as a crime under the South African constitution; however, it can be regulated by the by-laws (Holness, 2020). The homeless youth use the shelters as a way of not sleeping in the cold streets, and in these shelters, they are no doubt assaulted by other homeless people (Cheng, 2019). Violence is mostly carried out on females because of the dominance of men over women and the constant need to prove who is the dominant gender in the streets and everywhere. On some occasions, like in the one found in Sewpaul et al. (2012) research, it is reported that homeless girls are attacked for no valid reason by other homeless guys.

One of the homeless girls stated that a homeless guy who was the boyfriend of one of her friends once came back drunk, looking for his girlfriend. He asked all the homeless girls who were there, and he ended up hitting one of the girls with a brick on her head for telling him that they did not know where his girlfriend was (Sewpaul et al., 2012). In some other cases, this type of crime is reported to the police, but the perpetrators are never locked up for a long period, and upon release, they tend to threaten their victims, as they end up meeting them in the streets

(Sewpaul et al., 2012). In another case, a homeless girl reported that one of the homeless guys, who was a gang member, tried to rape her, but she was able to avert the situation. She reported the guy, but he was not locked up for long, and upon release, he threatened her to have him locked up (Sewpaul et al., 2012). Violence is one of the ways the homeless use to assert control over other homeless people, with those who are older having the advantage over those who are younger (Hills et al., 2016). Although this is the case, violence is said to occur mostly in groups of friends, not between two rival groups (Sewpaul et al., 2012).

2.5.4. Abuse of homeless females

The abuse of females in the population of homeless youth under the hands of those they sleep in the same area with due to refusal to have sex with them and other quarrels is something that is less researched. Some male street youths, according to previously conducted interviews by Hills et al. (2016), do not see female street youth as their sisters but object to being raped. Usually, these violations are not reported, and the street youth are left to live with the trauma. The plight of female homeless youth exposes them to significant vulnerability, with a heightened risk of sexual assault, including victimization by older male peers on the streets (Hills et al., 2016). Despite these distressing circumstances, homeless youth often remain reluctant to disclose such incidents (Hills et al., 2016). Some homeless females are even threatened by taxi drivers and other young boys who are homeless, and they threaten to beat them or gang rape them (Wentzel and Voce, 2012). To try and avoid this from happening, the homeless females try to protect each other and sleep in groups (Wentzel and Voce, 2012). Information is limited on such because the females hardly report the crime, just like the rest of the homeless population, because of the relationships they have with the police and the stigma surrounding them.

Females are considered a vulnerable group, and they are seen by most men as being inferior to them (Pateman, 2018). In the past, women were treated as household facilitators and objects, even those who were married to wealthy men (Pateman, 2018). The same is being applied on the streets; the homeless boys or young males see females as their tools sometimes, and they deem them powerless (Pateman, 2018). This is done to an extent whereby it is mandatory for a homeless girl to have some protection, and that being a male homeless person, this is done to protect the girl from other homeless people who might want to take advantage. The same guys

who they ask for protection are sometimes they ones that beat them up, as they tend to engage in sexual relationships (Sewpaul et al., 2012).

Once one is abused, they are most likely to be traumatised, and people deal with trauma in many different ways, some of the ways being the use of drugs. This is because sometimes, even if they report the abuse, the perpetrators get out of prison eventually, and in turn, that endangers them (Sewpaul et al., 2012). All these factors make it difficult for abuse to be reported and recorded, given that the homeless do not have a stable relationship with law enforcement. They tend to report less about the crimes they experience to the police, and this makes it hard to find information on the abuse experienced by the homeless in the hands of other homeless people. Abuse is carried out in all social groups; in some cases, it is too covert to be noticed, and it is not stood up for, especially within the marginalised groups.

2.6. Victimization of the Homeless Youth in Durban

The impact of being victimised differs from person to person. Victims, after going through that experience may feel frustrated, angry, confused, and fearful (Wemmers, 2017). Sometimes, victimization brings about trauma depending on that person's previous experiences (Wemmers, 2017). The person who witnesses a crime may also be a victim, especially in cases of a heinous crime like first-degree murder or culpable homicide; the person who sees that may be a victim (Siegel and Wildt, 2015). Sellin and Wolfgang distinguish five categories of victimization, namely primary, secondary, tertiary, mutual, and no victimization. Homeless youth may be victims falling under five of these categories because of where they live, which is on the streets. The homeless youth in this study are looked at as primary and secondary victims. Primary victimization entails individual victimization; the person is targeted by another individual or a group (Wemmers, 2017). An example of a primary victim may be a homeless boy who is shot in the leg. Secondary victimization happens when a person accidentally gets victimised due to witnessing a crime (Wemmers, 2017). An example of a secondary victim may be a homeless boy who witnesses another homeless get stabbed to death in front of them.

Generally, victimization may affect people on a physical, emotional, psychological, financial, and social basis (Siegel and Wildt, 2015). Physical effects may be in the form of physical injuries due to beatings or being shot, and emotional effects may be in the form of feeling shame and humiliation (Siegel and Wildt, 2015). Psychological effects can be trauma, and

financial effects may be in the form of loss to damage that might need to be replaced due to the crime that occurred (Wemmers, 2017). Social effects entail being treated badly or insensitively after the crime, especially by society (Wemmers, 2017). As the population of homeless youth in the Durban Metropolitan precinct is vast, pertaining to all sexes, with different ages and different body structures, they experience victimization in different ways. As previously outlined, this study will also explore the types of victimization experienced by the homeless youth in Durban. Victimization is a cause and outcome of being homeless (Sadiki, 2016). There are many types of victimizations which fall under primary and secondary victimization that the homeless youth experience; among these are rape, physical assault, the threat of harm, harassment by the police, sexual exploitation, and other victimizations that will emerge throughout the study. The vulnerability of homeless youth is always affected by the nature of the places they sleep in and the nature of their lives, as they are exposed to many victimizations there due to no protection (Sadiki, 2016).

2.6.1. Sexual Assaults

Sexual assaults, mainly rape, are a part of victimizations experienced by the homeless youth, with mostly homeless young women admitting to being raped in previous studies, and boys tend to be more conservative about such experiences. Still, some reported falling victim to sexual abuse (Sadiki, 2016). Through violence, masculine dominance is exercised upon women, and rape is one of the themes of the violence that occurs on the streets (Sewpaul et al., 2012). One female participant in a study by Sewpaul et al. (2012) stated that one guy caught her, held her at gunpoint, raped her, and told her that if she reported it to the police, he would shoot her (Sewpaul et al., 2012). Rape is found as prevalent among both females and males who are homeless (Hills, 2015). Previous studies like that of Sewpaul et al. (2012) and Hills (2015) show that a high percentage of rapes were committed by other homeless youth or adults. Still, other people who do not live on the streets, such as gang members, the police, and boyfriends of homeless girls, also rape them (Hills et al., 2016).

Homeless females are the most victimised when it comes to rape, and they are the most at risk as they are powerless compared to the male gender. Those homeless females who have close relations with sex workers are the most at risk of victimization, as they stand of chance of also being persuaded into prostitution, and sometimes may catch strays if they are in the vicinity of the sex worker (Sadiki, 2016). This is because of how the sex workers are usually treated, with

some not even being paid for their services, and when they complain, they get beaten up, and any other who tries to help them also gets caught up in the beating. Anyone can be a victim of sexual assault, even though some demographic groups, like females, experience it the most (Gouws, 2022). Sexual assault not only undermines the victim but it changes the victim and the way they view the world, with some even entering into depressive states for a long time (Gouws, 2022). The majority of those who report sexual assault are usually assaulted by someone they know (Gouws, 2022).

South Africa is one of the countries with the highest number of rape cases in the world, with about 42 289 rapes reported in the year 2019/2020 (Gouws, 2022). Reported sexual assault cases were around 7,749 during the same period (Gouws, 2022). Cases of sexual assaults relating to the homeless as victims are less reported, and this is mainly because of the relationship that the homeless have with law enforcement (Broughton, 2016). Most cases of sexual assault occur before the age of 24 years, and this age group is that of the youth (Ajayi et al, 2021). Sexual harassment is mostly perpetuated for the reason of power and the antics learnt from societal values that women are to be submissive to men (Ajayi et al, 2021). Men are also likely to fall victim to sexual assault, but those who are usually at risk the most are females. In a place like the streets where danger is everywhere, especially at night, getting help is low; there are higher chances for females to be sexually assaulted. The issue of sexual assault is a worldwide issue, even though the rates at which it happens differ from country to country.

2.6.2. Violence against the homeless

Violence and physical assaults/harassment are other forms of victimization the homeless youth in Durban are exposed to. As much as the homeless youth might look like friends, they can turn violently on each other if provoked, even slightly (Sewpaul et al., 2012). Physical assault is said to be perpetuated by theft among homeless youth, as they usually carry their personal belongings with them all the time, and the other homeless youth tend to want to steal these from them (Sadiki, 2016). Even though they sleep in groups, the homeless youth still sleep with weapons on them so that they can scare off other homeless people who try to take their belongings from them (Sewpaul et al., 2012). The homeless youth also experience violence from the Metro Police and police in the Durban Metropolitan precinct. In a study by Hills et al. (2016), the homeless cite that they experience harassment and violence at the hands of the police. Younger males mentioned that they experience violence at the hands of older homeless

youth, who tend to mistreat them because they are younger, with some mentioning that many have died in the streets due to stabbings (Hills et al., 2016).

Multiple factors cause violence. The causes of violence are usually categorised into four namely: biological, socialisation, cognitive and situational factors (Bartol and Bartol, 2018). Biological factors pertain to influences on violence and aggression that are physical, neurological or chemical (Bartol and Bartol, 2018). Socialisation factors include learning social behaviour, especially when one is a child, including values and rules (Bartol and Bartol, 2018). Cognitive factors are factors influenced by beliefs or ideas that arise due to a person's interaction with the world (Bartol and Bartol, 2018). Situational factors are influenced by the environment's characteristics, which might cause violent behaviour (Bartol and Bartol, 2018). Homeless youth are usually more victimised because of their situations and cognitive ideas, as people have these beliefs that they are thieves who do not belong within society (Bartol and Bartol, 2018). According to Bartol and Bartol (2008), it is argued that men exhibit the highest propensity for violence, and this aggressive conduct is directed toward individuals of all genders. Males usually solve their differences through violence, and physical assault is the means they mostly use. In places where there is less police visibility, violence is prone to outbursts.

2.6.3. Harassment from the Law Enforcement and Unlawful Arrests

Harassment from law enforcement agencies is one of the problems that homeless youth experience due to the stigma that they carry; they usually blame them for the petty crimes that occur in areas nearby where they sleep (Holness, 2020). Homeless youth mentioned that when the police see them, they are likely to stop and search them for drugs because they always look at them as suspects (Cheng, 2019). One of the primary duties of the police officers is to protect the society, including homeless people living on the streets. However, it is evident that police officers rarely protect homeless individuals as they tend to harass them through removals from where they sleep due to their compliance with the by-laws of the municipality (Holness, 2020). The homeless subgroup that illegally abuses drugs, which consists mainly of the youth, reports the most intimidation and harassment by the police every day (Desmond, Khalema, Timol, Groenewald, and Sausi, 2016). Previous studies like that of Cheng (2019) and Magubane (2022) revealed that the police pepper sprayed them and chased them. Consequently, the homeless youth harbour minimal trust in law enforcement, perceiving their presence as

intimidating rather than reassuring, given the prevailing perception that the police associate them with criminality (Cheng, 2019). The spokesperson of Metro Police reported in an interview that the allegations that have been placed against them were unfounded and that the Metro Police have to enforce the by-laws (Goba, 2021).

The private security that the municipality hires is also said to be linked to the harassment of the homeless youth, with the homeless youth complaining that they sometimes shoot at them (Holness, 2020). The private securities are partly tasked with protecting the city from crime and assisting in ensuring that the city is clean from illegal activities (Asmal, 2014). In the event that occurred in January 2014 on Denis Hurley Street, a teenage homeless girl was shot with live ammunition in the leg by private security, and no arrests, according to reports, were made for this (Ngwenya and Makhetha, 2014). In the occurrence of the same event, it was revealed by the Mail and Guardian newspaper article that a nine-year-old boy was killed because of the shooting that occurred, where there was also a teenage girl (Asmal, 2014). The security company that shot at the homeless reported that they were tasked by the eThekweni municipality to do so (Ngwenya and Makhetha, 2014). The police responded that they were never part of the matter, and they were only aware that six people were injured due to the shooting that was carried out by the municipality-assisted security guards (Asmal, 2014).

The matter of private security personnel employed by the municipality encountering obstacles in abstaining from harm against the homeless remains unresolved, persisting in an ongoing state, and continuing to be marked by instances of reported abuse perpetrated by such private security agents (Ngwenya and Makhetha, 2014). What further exuberates the matter is that some Durban citizens believe that the homeless should be removed from the robots and in most places that they sleep in, as one Durban community member once wrote to the municipality stating that the homeless people are out of hand (Homeless in Durban dumped, 2016).

In 2016, as the festive season approached in Durban, homeless people reported that they were being rounded up and dumped out of the city by the Durban Metro Police (Broughton, 2016). One of the homeless females, who was 21 years old, reported to an NPO news agency called GroundUp that they were once rounded up with 10 others in November 2016 (Broughton, 2016). The homeless youth further reported that they were driven around from 3 am until it was around 10 am, and they were driven to Stanger by the Metro Police, where they were dropped in the middle of the road within the area of Stanger (Broughton, 2016). They then had to walk back to Durban on foot from Stanger because they had no money for transport

(Broughton, 2016). The Metro police lack the authorisation to engage in the practice of apprehending homeless individuals and relocating them to distant areas outside the city. The rationale provided for this restriction is rooted in the complaints raised by business owners and other community members, who express concerns about the presence of homeless individuals and its purported negative impact on their customer base (Broughton, 2016).

The challenge lies in the absence of a viable and comprehensive plan or resolution to address homelessness. Consequently, the prevailing scenario often involves private property guardians, such as security personnel, resorting to mistreatment and intimidation of the homeless due to the lack of proper guidelines or interventions in place (Holness, 2020). This is what leads to the homeless youth and the whole homeless population to end up getting victimised as there is a lack of protection and they are marginalised.

Durban is known as one of the tourist attractions in South Africa, and even international conferences are held in the city. The homeless are almost in every corner of the city of Durban, and they usually use the traffic lights as begging points. In 2016, an AIDS conference was held in Durban, and before the conference took place, all the homeless were banned from begging at traffic lights by force (Broughton, 2016). This was done in all the routes that were to be used by international actors attending the AIDS conference to hide that there are homeless people in Durban and that the situation is not being handled well (Broughton, 2016). The South African Police Services aided the Metro Police in ensuring that the homeless were not in sight in all those listed routes to be used by the conference attendees (Broughton, 2016). This was also part of the response in alignment with the Cleaners Cities initiative, which aimed to help clean the city, thus disadvantaging the homeless, as they are seen as creating a mess by sleeping in the streets with their blankets and rags (Holness, 2020). The homeless keep falling victim to being marginalised whenever there is a big event, and this also occurred in 2010, when the World Cup was brought to South Africa; the homeless youth were forcefully taken out of town and dropped away from Durban, and some were even unlawfully arrested (Tolsi, 2010).

Unlawful arrests are sometimes carried out on the homeless, and usually, fighting against this is hard because of the relationship that they have with law enforcement. An unlawful arrest occurs when the law official arrests a person with no justifiable grounds or reasons (Spasova, 2017). In a research study by Clacherty and Walker (2011), it was reported by one of the participants that her friend was once arrested for carrying a condom; the city police claimed

she was a prostitute for having a condom in her bag when they searched it, and she was sent away for a month. Because of this, some of the homeless girls became scared to walk around with condoms in their bags because they might go through the same fate as one of the homeless girls who was once arrested (Clacherty and Walker, 2011). Homelessness is considered vagrancy, which is not allowed in Durban City, and the response to this is chasing away the homeless or arresting them (Clacherty and Walker, 2011). Studies previously conducted, such as one by Rankins (2020), show that criminalising homelessness is more expensive than seeking non-punitive means of responding to the issue (Rankins, 2020).

Unlawful arrests occur in society, and usually, the response to this by the victim is to sue who is responsible for the unlawful arrest. Unlawful arrests impact people differently depending on that person and their social and economic standing (Spasova, 2017). Some get their whole lives destroyed because of the unlawful arrests. Prisons are already overflowing, and unlawful arrests add on by bringing in people who are not at fault (Spasova, 2017). As much as deviant behaviour is likely to be enhanced when one enters jail, the impact jail has on the mental health of many is negative (Spasova, 2017). In prisons, people are placed where space is available, and they do not choose where to stay; this impacts people differently, with some being at a disadvantage (Qukula, 2021). In the case of the homeless youth, the unlawful arrest further breaks relationships already broken between the homeless and law enforcement. Law enforcement wastes state resources on unlawful arrests, and homeless people are usually targets that are easy to lock in, which lands them for months in jail, sometimes due to inadequate investigations by the police (Qukula, 2021). Officers appeared in court in Cape Town in 2021 for a wrongful arrest they conducted on a homeless person; the police arrested a suspect, and the suspect escaped, then they replaced the escaped suspect with a homeless man (Qukula, 2021). Cases like this are usually, by all means, hidden and covered up from the public.

2.6.4. Confiscation of possessions

The homeless, as always seen when one passes by the M4 Bridge, have luggage which some carry with them around. Reports have been made before, and pictures have been posted of how the homeless have their possessions confiscated from them for no reason (Brooks, 2023). A person's belongings, no matter what the economic status of that person is, are protected by criminal and civil law (Stevens, 2021). The protection of property is supposed to ensure a person's enjoyment of their possessions. Once these belongings are stripped away without a

valid reason, it becomes a crime against humanity. What the homeless are mostly always seen carrying are the things they recycle, like empty plastic bottles, and some carry their sleeping gear, like sponges, at night before they go to where they sleep (Brooks, 2023).

The law prohibits parking in some spaces, but alternatives are provided; with the homeless, it is different; they are chased away from possible places they could sleep without being heavily exposed to dangerous and harsh conditions, and they are not given an alternative. Part of the Human Rights Act on the peaceful enjoyment of property is that a person ought not to be deprived of their possessions or controlled anyhow by another (Stevens, 2021). Law enforcement does the opposite; the homeless are in a position where they cannot be helped by society because of the many different stigmas the homeless carry (Stevens, 2021). The law is usually applied to the homeless to suffocate them, less likely to help them, where everyone is supposed to be helped by law enforcement.

Homeless people sleep on streets where there are many businesses and shops that fall victim to having their possessions confiscated by the Metro Police and private security that patrol the area (Brooks, 2023). The homeless people revealed that the Metro Police confiscated their belongings when the festive season was approaching in 2016 as part of cleaning the city still; possessions like sleeping blankets and cardboard were taken by the Metro Police and thrown away (Broughton, 2016). The driving force behind this is still the initiative by the municipality of cleaner cities, which saw the introduction of municipal by-laws due to complaints that the city was no longer safe (Holness, 2020). This is said to go on, and law enforcement will continue carrying out their duties, which includes the forceful removal of the homeless due to the Durban municipal by-laws (Brooks, 2023). The Umbilo community policing forum, in a recent event in 2022, was photographed throwing away homeless people's sleeping property as part of the continuing Cleaner Cities initiative (Brooks, 2023). This served as proof that the eThekweni municipality and other stakeholders involved have not come up with a solution to the growing issue of homelessness besides carrying out the municipal by-laws that discriminate against the homeless.

2.6.5. Sex trafficking

The homeless youth fall victim to one of the most heinous crimes, which is sex trafficking. Homeless youth are usually easy targets for this, especially the females who engage in sex work, as they are vulnerable because of their situation of desperation (Murphy, 2016). Sex trafficking entails being transported forcefully for the sake of being used for sexual exploitation purposes (Deshpande and Nour, 2013). Motha (2021) argued that young women are lured into Durban in the form of job opportunities, which was in line with the article that was published by Douglas (2022). They are called in for job interviews only to arrive at no jobs but brothels.

A 23-year-old female revealed that she first came to Durban for an interview for a job at a Spa that had been advertised (Motha, 2021). When she went for the interview, the address led her to a brothel, and that was how she was introduced to sex trafficking syndicates (Motha, 2021). She reported that one time, she was abducted by a well-dressed formal man who had promised her money in exchange for sex, but he ended up trafficking her and turning her into a sex slave for three months whilst forcefully feeding her drugs as payment (Motha, 2021). When the police raided the brothel, she was released, but upon her freedom, she was full-fledged on drugs, which led to her selling herself in exchange for money to buy drugs (Motha, 2021). It was also revealed that other young, homeless girls are killed for organ trafficking (Motha, 2021). Little information is known about the organ trafficking of homeless people, especially the women populace of the homeless, which makes it hard for such an issue to be combated.

Sex trafficking is carried out mostly on women and girls, with 99% of all those who have been trafficked being women and girls (Kelly, 2019). In a study that was done by Murphy (2016) on homeless youth from the USA, out of 641 participants, 124 revealed that they had experienced some human trafficking. Of these 124, 92 participants mentioned that they were once direct victims of sex trafficking, and 53 of the 92 participants mentioned that they had experienced brutal violence during the process of being trafficked (Murphy, 2019). This is mostly because of how they are a marginalised group. Homeless youth are most at risk of being victims of such because of their state of living, which is masked by mental health, abuse, and other factors (Clawson et al., 2009).

The above scenarios show that the sex trafficking of homeless youth is not something that only occurs in Durban. Still, it is less researched, particularly for Durban, as a focus of this study. There are even organisations aimed towards curbing the trafficking of homeless youth, like the

National Network for Youth, which is in the US (Murphy, 2016). The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported that an estimation of 1 in 6 of 25 000 reported missing-person cases is most likely to be a victim of sex trafficking (Murphy, 2016). This goes to show that sex trafficking is also a part of the victimizations the homeless youth experience, which is not only occurring nationally but internationally.

Sex trafficking can come in many forms, but brothels and motels are hotspots of sex trafficking (Kelly, 2019). Globally, sex trafficking is said to have claimed over 4 million victims in 2016, with a million being children and the rest being adults (Kelly, 2019). The issue of sex trafficking is hard to combat because the traffickers move those trafficked to other locations where they are not known at all, and it makes them hard to locate. In places where there is less security and a high crime rate, sex trafficking is increased, as much as it may occur anywhere. The targets are usually women, and those who are living in poverty are the most at risk, given that they are less secure (Kelly, 2019). The homeless usually have each other as family, even though some do have biological families; they are the ones who usually protect each other (Wentzel and Voce, 2012). The relationship they have with the police makes it hard to report missing people because the police also tend not to attend to their cases. What makes it harder is the issue that the homeless youth move around a lot, and when a person is not seen somewhere, they are assumed to be at another place till later when they do not see a person for a long time. Poverty is one of the driving forces behind sex trafficking, as people are sometimes rural-urban migrants due to looking for jobs, and they get scammed and end up being trafficked for sex in exchange for forced drug use (Motha, 2021). Addiction is what the traffickers use to lure the youth, and with the youth being the most users of drugs, they are the most vulnerable.

2.7. Non-governmental Initiatives Set to Help the Homeless Youth of Durban

Regardless of how the number of homeless youth is growing on the streets, initiatives aimed at assisting them are present. Still, they cannot cater for everyone because the number of homeless is beyond the help they can provide. There are centres like the Denis Hurley Centre, which provides numerous initiatives aimed towards assisting the homeless youth providing the basic needs to the homeless population at large in Durban. Street children, in an interview, stated that they are sometimes unable to access services and they receive hostile delivery sometimes from the people that they ask for help from, like social workers (Clacherty and Walker, 2011). Part of the services received by the homeless youth in Durban are organised activities like art,

music, and surfing; they also receive food handouts from non-governmental organisations, mobile drop-in health clinics to aid them, shelters to sleep, washing and showering facilities, and health service advice from health workers (Clacherty and Walker, 2011).

In Cape Town, there is a program called the Safe Space program, which is an initiative that the NGOs started with the aid of Cape Town municipality (City of Cape Town, 2023). The program is aimed towards providing more access to social services for the homeless, more basic amenities, and more shelter space (City of Cape Town, 2023). The City currently operates two safe spaces, which have 480 shelter beds for the homeless, and aims to expand the beds further, with the money already being raised for such (City of Cape Town, 2023). Durban still faces challenges with regard to combating shelter issues due to corruption; as in an online article by Magubane (2022), it was revealed that money that was meant to build a shelter for the homeless was reallocated for another purpose. The municipality claimed that it would reallocate the funds back in the year 2024 for the continuation of the project (Magubane, 2022).

Initiatives set in other countries to help the homeless are similar to those set by NGOs in South Africa, but what differs is the dedication, investment, and magnitude of help that the stakeholders provide. In New York, for instant, organisations like Ali Forney Center and the Bowery Mission offer services to the homeless, which include free counselling and free meals. During winter, they accept donations of blankets to help the homeless keep warm. Ali Forney Center also looks out for the homeless youth who are a part of the LGBT community by providing them with services they need, like health care (Ali Forney Center, 2021). This is essential as there are not as many shelters that are specifically for the homeless LGBTQI community as there are for men or women. One of the hindrances to the provision of these services to a full, consistent extent is the lack of funding that arises (Cheng, 2019).

2.7.1. Provision of adequate healthcare services

As part of helping the homeless, healthcare services are offered to homeless people by various organisations in collaboration with healthcare workers. One of the organisations, Belhaven, which caters for the homeless in Durban, runs programs where they conduct voluntary tests on those homeless who wish to check up on their health (Jorgensen, 2009). In 2021, the organisation ran a 2-day program where their tests included those for sexually transmitted

diseases, PAP smear for cervical cancer, tuberculosis (TB), and other diseases (Singh, 2022). This program was specifically run for women who are homeless in the city (Singh, 2022). Belhaven also transformed an old building into one of the centres to help the homeless people in Durban with healthcare services (Singh, 2022). The centre was opened as a community harm reduction centre and is aimed towards assisting with clean water and caring for those with the Human Immune Virus (HIV), TB, and other diseases (Singh, 2022). They conduct free screenings, and they have a place where those who need medication may fetch it (Singh, 2022). Umthombo, which is an organisation based in Durban, helps the homeless with access to healthcare facilities, especially those who are not in possession of their identity documents (Howard, 2018). Homeless girls who were once pregnant and were in contact with Umthombo mentioned in an interview with Jorgensen (2009) that the organisation helps them gain access, especially when they have no identity documents. A staff member at Umthombo, in an interview mentioned that the homeless are not aware that they can gain access to public healthcare facilities if a social worker accompanies them or if they have proof of residence. The Umthombo workers serve as their social workers who help them gain access (Jorgensen, 2009).

The Department of Social Development (2014) pointed out that possible interventions directed at aiding the homeless can be put into effect, namely primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention intervention (Department of Social Development, 2014). The primary intervention is directed towards helping those children living in absolute poverty who have not yet entered street life (Department of Social Development, 2014). Secondary prevention interventions are directed towards homeless youth who already are a part of street life and maintain contact with their families, with the objective being to make street life a phase into adulthood and provision shelter and a safe place through outreach programmes and drop-in centres (Department of Development, 2014). Tertiary prevention interventions are directed at abandoned children and children on the streets who have less or no family contact, and those revolve around rehabilitative care (Department of Social Development, 2014).

2.7.2. Condition of Shelters

It is essential for every human to live in adequate conditions, with proper sanitation and clean water. There are many risks that come with inadequate living conditions, which mostly are illnesses that make those living in those conditions suffer. Inadequate living conditions may be

places where there is no clean water, no cleanliness, lack of proper housing, “skwatta” camps, and no toilets. Homeless people usually sleep on the streets, and when they have little money, they pay to sleep in the shelters (Mngadi, 2018). In Mngadi’s article, it was further revealed that most shelters are not in line with the terms of health and safety, which has called for a look into the shelters overcharging the homeless people for poor conditions (Mngadi, 2018). The NGO manages shelters, and then there are private shelters, with private shelters being the ones not in line the most in terms of health and safety (Mngadi, 2018). Some of the shelters do not even have any showers, and every morning, the homeless are kicked out of the shelter (Rondganger, 2015). Around 2015, shelters cost somewhere between R35 and R60 for a night’s sleep (Rondganger, 2015).

Shelters that are there to aid the homeless youth, like the Tennyson House and the Denis Hurley Centre, hold a limited capacity of people. As there is a rise in the number of homeless youths, many are still left on the streets homeless in Durban. The shelters or homes can only accommodate a limited number of homeless youth, and this causes various problems, further driving the homeless youth onto the streets (Njiokiktjien, 2019). Some shelters charge fees per night stay, one pays before they enter to sleep, and some homeless youths do not make enough money to pay (Mngadi, 2018). The range of the amount of money paid to sleep in a shelter per night is between R50 and R150 (Mngadi, 2018). In the year 2020, during the COVID-19 outbreak, homeless people had their lives improved by the NGOs and eThekweni Municipality, and many homeless people were provided with shelter (Harper, 2020). Many of the homeless people left the shelters after the restrictions were slightly lifted, and one of the reasons behind this was that they could not get drugs in the shelters (Harper, 2020). During the beginning of the lockdown, the NGOs and the city municipality helped house around 2 400 homeless people (Harper, 2020). 600 of the homeless left the shelters after the restrictions were lifted, with some being reunited with their families and others choosing to go back to the streets (Harper, 2020).

Some of the shelters do provide a meal and a hot shower, whilst others only provide a mattress to sleep in and sometimes cold water (Rondganger, 2015). One of the shelter owners based in Durban, who was once interviewed for an online article by Rondganger (2015) and asked why they charge so much in shelters, circulated their response around the fact that at least they are helping. The owner further stated that at least they give them a roof over their heads, and that is something better than what the municipality is doing for them (Rondganger, 2015). It is no doubt true that had it not been for shelters; the streets would be flooded with homeless people

sleeping on them. However, it is also no excuse for hiking prices in shelters, as this disadvantages those who have little money. Shelters are said to house around 200 people per night, and a shelter can make over R200 000 before expenses are deducted per month (Rondganger, 2015). In some shelters, people smoke and drink like they are outside, and the owners do nothing about this smoking ash on the floor and throw the bottles they were using to drink on the floor, which leaves the whole place a mess (Rondganger, 2015). Most shelters are profit-driven; people have seen it as a business opportunity instead of an opportunity to help the homeless.

Surfers Not Street Children, based in Durban South Beach, is one of the organisations that aid the homeless, and it has by far helped many homeless youths to leave addictions. However, they still have issues helping them with housing, which poses a challenge to the homeless youth (Njiokiktjien, 2019). William Zondi is one of the former glue addicts that the Surfers Club helped, and other homeless youth who came to Durban for different reasons and ended up finding themselves stuck homeless (Njiokiktjien, 2019). As an integral component of initiatives aimed at assisting homeless youth, the utilisation of surfing has demonstrated noteworthy efficacy among those who have engaged in it. However, a significant challenge persists in terms of both the outreach capacity to aid individuals and the temporal constraints associated with this intervention (Metelerkamp, 2022). This issue is compounded by the transitional nature of homeless youth into adulthood, where the sustainability of support mechanisms becomes a pivotal concern. Upon reaching this transitional threshold, which is the age of 18, the existing accommodations no longer cater to their lodging needs, exacerbating the predicament (Metelerkamp, 2022). This drives the homeless youth to have no choice but to rent overnight from time to time in inadequate shelters.

2.7.3. The Qalakabusha Intervention Project

The Qalakabusha Intervention Project is also another initiative that was aimed at assisting the homeless youth in Durban. The project is aimed at assisting the homeless with the basic services they need, reuniting them with their parents, and helping them with shelters, identification documents, and psychosocial support, among many other things (Maphumulo, 2019). The project is headed by the eThekweni municipality, but it has had shortcomings, just like many of the NGOs that have tried to assist the homeless youth in Durban. Due to several setbacks like funding, which is one of the major issues, it is hard for consistency to be

maintained. Given the changing leaderships within the municipality, each leader comes in with their agenda, and keeping up with what was done by the previous leader is not something that leaders dwell on as they are mostly about bringing change (Njiokiktjien, 2019). This affects the continuity of the initiatives that have been put into play to try and help the homeless. The Qalakabusha Intervention project was launched with the aim of helping homeless youth with substance abuse, vagrancy, and other social ills that the homeless are facing.

Part of the program is to create a better life that is clean for all those who have addiction issues (Memela, 2014). In the formation of the Qalakabusha intervention project, the homeless people were not directly involved, even though it centred around them (Mkhize, 2014). They were interviewed and profiled separately, which was an initiation that was executed prior to the kickstart of the project (Maphumulo, 2019). The whole project started in response to the drug addiction that looted Albert Luthuli Park and turned it into a drug haven informally known as “whoonga” park (Maphumulo, 2019). The word ‘Qalakabusha’ is a word that translates to “start anew”. The Qalakabusha program was initiated in 2014 (Mkhize, 2014). Interviewed homeless participants in Maphumulo’s study pointed out that they did not know about the project (Maphumulo, 2019). NGO workers pointed out that they were involved in the project, and they would deal with profiling participants aged from 13 years to 18 years (Maphumulo, 2019). The profiles were used to try and come up with initiatives that could address the issues raised during the profiling (Maphumulo, 2019). The project has since been yielding results, with some of the homeless being involved in skills development because of the project (Northglen News, 2019). Regardless of the start of the Qalakabusha project, drug addicts and the number of homeless are still growing, with some being chased away from the streets and beaten up by law enforcement but still coming back again to the streets.

2.7.4. Recreational Activities

Drop-in centres recruit some of the homeless youth to participate in sports activities like surfing to try and rehabilitate the homeless youth from the habits that they have developed whilst living on the streets (Hills et al., 2016). Drop-in centres are known as initiatives that are community-based as a response to tackling local problems (Mahlase and Ntombela, 2011). They are an alternative response that inspires local people to be a part of caring activities in their locale (Mahlase and Ntombela, 2011). This approach combines early childhood development and care provided within homes. These centres focus on offering both nutrition and addressing the

educational and emotional requirements of orphaned and vulnerable children (Mahlase and Ntombela, 2011). One of the participants in a study conducted by Njiokiktjien (2019) stated that surfing had helped her very much with coping with living in the streets, and this served as a mechanism of bringing hope back that she might be able to one day make it out of the streets through surfing (Njiokiktjien, 2019). This served as a sign that sports activities help the homeless youth cope, and to some, it brings back dreams and hope.

An organisation called uMthombo Street Children SA, which is Durban-based, also holds sports activities to help homeless children, those children connected to the streets, and families affected by this (Howard, 2018). The organisation held a beach sports day in 2018, where the community was also invited to participate (Howard, 2018). The sports day was initiated for the homeless children and youth to participate mainly. It was to help them with coping and relieving themselves from all the pressures and mental issues they inherited from the streets (Howard, 2018).

There is no doubt that recreational activities are effective when it comes to combating and reducing drug abuse, which promotes abstinence and saves many from falling into drug abuse, which leads to addiction (Page and Townsend, 2017). Physical activities may possess an effect on substance use and alcohol through psychological mechanisms, like an increase in positivity and a decrease in cravings (Page and Townsend, 2017). Physical activities have been proven to help decrease depression and anxiety, which is part of what drives homeless youth to drug abuse (Schuch and Stubbs, 2017). Such activities help calm the mind, and a calm mind is able to make decisions without any driven urges like cravings (Schuch and Stubbs, 2017). The issue is that after doing the recreational activities, some of the homeless youth go back to the streets where they are exposed to drugs, which makes it hard for them to stay away from them. Due to the nature of the process of recovery, internal and external support is important when using recreational activities as a means of aiding the homeless, especially those who ran away from their home because of addiction (Page and Townsend, 2017). Organisations aiding the homeless in Durban do provide recreational activities; the only issue is consistency due to that it all requires funding. Doing recreational activities requires funding for the homeless as they would need something to eat after and possibly something to drink, and this requires budgeting.

2.7.5. The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Skills Development

During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa in early 2020, the marginalised groups were at the most disadvantage as the virus required people to quarantine, and it came with restrictions (Harper, 2020). One of the restrictions was that there was to be a curfew, and no one would be allowed on the streets after that set time unless they had a permit (Harper, 2020). This came with a problem for the homeless as they had no places to sleep, to begin with, and the streets were supposed to be empty at a certain time. The response to this was that the eThekweni Municipality, together with other organisations that cater for the homeless, set to have shelters, and create more shelters for the homeless to stay in due to the restrictions (Harper, 2020). Denis Hurley Centre, one of the organisations that cater for the homeless, set up 10 shelters to aid the homeless with a place to stay during the COVID-19 pandemic (Singh, 2021).

Another organisation by the name weFEEDsa mentioned that they provided meals to many sites during the lockdown, and 14 of these sites were temporal shelters that were set by the eThekweni municipality (Singh, 2021). After the lockdown, the shelters continued to run, with 3 of the safe spaces that were set by the municipality being left open (Xulu, 2022). In 2022, the NGOs negotiated with the municipality for the 3 remaining safe open spaces to be kept open, with the ruling being in favour of keeping the safe open spaces open (Xulu, 2022). This proved that the municipality does have the strength to aid the homeless, as some of these shelters are still operating; part of the initiatives that emerged from this was the iterations of the skills development, which are aimed at helping the youth with skills for jobs (Singh, 2021). In 2021, weFEEDsa was in the process of developing a House of Opportunity project aimed towards skills development for the homeless, and 8 people had already gone through the program successfully and went on to find jobs (Singh, 2021).

2.7.6. Challenges Faced by Organisations

In spite of the services extended by various organisations, certain reports indicate disparities in the treatment experiences among homeless individuals, wherein some recipients do not receive equivalent levels of care as their counterparts. In a study conducted by Clacherty and Walker (2011), out of 110 participants, 64 reported that they did not receive good treatment from organisations catering for the homeless. The study further reveals that social workers do not adequately address the matters that the homeless youth bring to them, and they do not believe

them when they talk about their issues at home (Clacherty and Walker, 2011). Attempts at re-integrating the homeless youth with their families failed because of this, as the homeless youth would go back to being abused at their homes by some of their family members, which would eventually drive them back into the streets (Clacherty and Walker, 2011). Social welfare services are set out in a meaningful manner, but usually, they fail the homeless because the provision of services is not monitored and evaluated for quality assurance (Skhosana, Schenck and Botha, 2014).

The stem of most problems is financial freedom; the organisations that strive to aid the homeless are challenged by always finding funding for them to keep on operating (Cheng, 2019). The organisations need money to pay for bills like electricity and water, and also need money for donation drives, and other fundraisers (Cheng, 2019). If the money is usually not gathered, issues arise that usually end up making the organisations look bad in the eyes of the homeless for not delivering. Cheng (2019) opines that some of the organisations even struggle with electricity bills, which makes it even harder for them to provide hot water and cooked meals to the homeless that they usually help (Cheng, 2019). The services offered are usually put on a standstill when the funding from the public and private sectors is not adequate. Those who require rehabilitation are hard to help not only because of their addictions but because of the reality that in 2015, there were only 3 rehabilitation facilities in KwaZulu-Natal (Rondganger, 2015).

Rehabilitation centres are hard to access, and organisation members mentioned how getting 12 people into a rehabilitation program almost took them over 6 months (Rondganger, 2015). With drug addiction and substance abuse on the rise on the streets, it is hard to combat it with the number of rehabilitation centres available. This posed a challenge, with the number of people with an addiction on the streets still growing. This makes it hard to engage in long-term plans with organisations, which are guaranteed not to be disturbed by change of power (Cheng, 2019). The homeless are hard to keep count of, and it makes it hard to know the exact number of people who are supposed to be aided, which sometimes leads to a shortage of resources. Due to that, many people come on different days and the number of people who differ every day.

2.8.Reasons the Homeless Youths are Perpetuators and Victims of Crime

The homeless youth of Durban are victims and perpetrators of crime for many reasons, and some of these reasons are reasons anyone in their situation would likely resort to. Homeless youth fall victim to many crimes, which have been mentioned in the previous paragraphs, like sexual assaults, and the reasons behind this differ in accordance to what happened and how. Some fall victim because they owe someone money, and some fall victim without doing anything at all to the perpetrator. The homeless youth of Durban use many methods as coping mechanisms, and one of the highest methods of coping that they use is using drugs, which others end up abusing, hence why addiction on the streets is very high (Lefa, 2014). The following paragraphs will determine the reasons behind the homeless youth of Durban being victims and perpetrators of crime.

2.8.1. Drug Use and Addiction

Drug use and addiction are some of the reasons behind the homeless youth being perpetrators and also victims of crime. Many of the homeless youth in Durban use many drugs, with some being stronger than others, including drugs like marijuana, glue, *whoonga/nyaope*, and some even cocaine (Marks and Moodley, 2021). The homeless youth, for this reason, have to feed their addictions, which require them to make money to buy their next fix, and if they do not make it from the normal begging or recycling street means of surviving, they resort to crime (Marks and Moodley, 2021). In a study by Ndlovu (2019), it was established that some homeless youth use drugs to forget about their situation, and others do not see doing drugs as wrong because they grew up in families that used drugs. A study by Hills et al. (2016) found the use of glue is a drug also prevalent on the streets of Durban, with glue being considered among the most commonly used drugs (Hills et al., 2016). According to the study of Desmond et al. (2017), cannabis is among the most commonly used, with over a quarter using other substances, which is a view different from the findings of the study by Hills et al. (2016). Children were noted as being the highest users of drugs on the streets as a coping mechanism, especially those who come from eThekweni (Desmond et al., 2017).

Drug use becomes the answer in masking the harsh realities of being impoverished (Marks and Moodley, 2021), which later turns into an addiction that a person finds hard to escape. The use of heroin-based drugs in public is also evident in Durban, with some using syringe drugs publicly (Marks and Moodley, 2021). Albert Park, which was once a peaceful park, was

changed by people with a substance use disorder into a spot for drugs, and it ended up being called “Whoonga Park” because of the level of people who used *whoonga* there, with some being the homeless youth (Marks and Moodley, 2021). In a study by Marks and Moodley (2021), one of the respondents reported that they resort to crime to support their addictions because no one wants to help them and also mentioned that they need help with being rehabilitated. The homeless with drug addiction problems sometimes make it back to their families. Still, they end up stealing from them and then running back to the streets, with the reason behind them even stealing the possessions of their families or people in their communities being to get money for drugs (Ngcobo, 2019). The link between crime and drug addiction swerves towards that the crime is committed for the procurement of money for drugs (Ngcobo, 2019).

As much as drug use drives the homeless youth to commit a crime, it is also the same reason the homeless of Durban experience victimization. In a research study conducted by Hills et al. (2016), a participant recounted an incident involving a confrontation with an acquaintance during a shared smoking session. The conflict arose over possession of a glue bottle, escalating to the point where the acquaintance brandished a knife and inflicted a stab wound. The participant, however, managed to evade the assault and counteracted by striking the aggressor with a brick on the head (Hills et al., 2016). Sometimes, believing that the homeless are victims whilst they are under the influence is hard. After all, at first, they do not remember what transpired because they are intoxicated (Nunes and Sani, 2015). What follows is that the person does not remember the offence very well, which ends up making it hard to establish whether the person who claims they are a victim is the reason they fell victim (Nunes and Sani, 2015).

2.8.2. Poverty and its Influence on Youth Homelessness

The M4 bridge near Che Guevara is also known as an area with high drug use, and the Umbilo residents complain about the homeless who live there, which has created fear of walking at night around the neighbourhood (Phungula, 2023). The residents fear the homeless because of the stigma that they are criminals, and the homeless have no place to go because they are poor, and they survive by any means necessary (Phungula, 2023). Poverty is one of the major factors behind the homeless youth being perpetrators of crime in Durban, with little attention focused on the outcomes of being poor and the impact it has on society and the environment. Some of the homeless youths are always unable to make money to pay and sleep in shelters, which then

drives them to sleep on the streets where it is dangerous; some even resort to committing crimes because of not able to make any money the correct way (Cheng, 2019). One of the responses to poverty for some of the homeless youth is crime, but few homeless people come out about committing crimes (Ndlovu, 2019). One of the respondents in a study conducted by Ndlovu (2019) stated that they once resorted to stealing when they could not make any money. This shows a link between poverty and homelessness and how this sometimes drives the homeless youth to commit crimes.

Poverty makes a person liable to fall victim easily because of the strain that it comes with. As much as the homeless youth are believed to be criminals because of poverty, they are also victims because of poverty. Poverty and being homeless diminish some of the homeless people's self-esteem and make them lose hope in making it in life because of their current situation, and a quick response to run away from this is the drugs that they use. Durban and surrounding areas were recently struck by floods, which left a great deal of damage, leaving many people homeless (Bhuta, 2023). The government tried aiding this by offering people shelters to sleep in in the meantime, and some celebrities like Shaun Mkhize also offered a helping hand by building houses for some of the people (Nkonki, 2022). The areas that were most affected by this were low-income areas, which furthered the rate of poverty in Durban (Bhuta, 2023). With this in play, there is a high chance that some of the people who are in shelters will seek better living conditions, which requires moving to the city for better chances. This is how poverty drives people to the streets, with them hoping to make it out but ending up being stuck on drugs and wrong habits to survive their harsh realities.

2.8.3. Lack of safety and protection

The homeless youth in Durban lack safety on the streets because the streets are not safe due to the crimes that occur on the streets, and some of the crimes occur because of some of the homeless youth (Sadiki, 2016). The relationship the homeless youth have with law enforcement and society at large is part of the reasons that the homeless youth are not protected or safe where they are, and this is what drives crime. Still, at the same, it is the cause of their victimization. The homeless youth currently stand in solitude, with those who also give a helping hand not being able to reach many of the homeless because they are always moving around Durban trying to make ends meet. What makes it difficult is that every corner has a person who uses it, and when a person takes the spot of the other, there are usually issues

(Cheng, 2019). The amount of violence that the homeless youth see every day makes them aware that the streets are not safe for them (Hills, 2015). One of the participants in a study by Hills (2015) mentioned that the streets are not safe as they do not feel safe on the streets, and home is where they think they would be safe and protected. This highlighted the fact that the homeless youth are aware that they are not protected on the streets, hence why they also fall victim.

Suffering can sometimes cause a person to lose faith and hope in living again. Some of the homeless youth, because of their circumstances, have chosen not to care about their lives anymore. In a study by Hills (2015), one of the respondents mentioned that he does not care whether he dies or not anymore. This lack of care is because homeless youth know that they are not safe and protected where they are and anything might happen to them. They will not have anyone to run to because of their relationships with their families, and for those who have no family ties, it is even worse (Hills, 2015). In a study by Sewpaul et al. (2012), it was revealed by one of the respondents that they once witnessed a person being stabbed to death in front of them. The fact that they witnessed the whole scene means that they could not do anything to stop it from happening, which illustrates that there is no protection on the streets. Even in the shelters, they sometimes stay overnight in exchange for money; they are not protected and safe, and they are much more likely to be victimised by other homeless people, including adults (Sadiki, 2016).

2.8.4. No Easy Access to Proper Housing

Rural-urban migration is one of the causes of homelessness (Morutlulle, 2021). The issue of housing is a global problem, which has led to many other issues rising, like crime. South Africa, as it stands, has been facing issues with adequate housing, with a number of informal settlements growing (Morutlulle, 2021). Inadequate access to proper housing is one of South Africa's deep economic issues that envisages many social issues and economic issues, with those in poverty being at the most disadvantage (Meth, 2017). Homeless youth fall victim the most to inadequate housing because of different reasons like running from home due to parental abuse or abuse in the hands of a step-parent (Cheng, 2019). Spaces in shelters are not enough to house the homeless in most major cities in South Africa. The homeless in Johannesburg face the issue of having no space left for them in shelters, which compels them to sleep on the streets (Brooks, 2023). The capacity that the shelters can hold is not equivalent to the population of

the homeless; only those who come first get a space (Brooks, 2023). In an online media article by James Stent published in 2020, it was revealed that the homeless people in Cape Town have a hard time getting into the shelters, and the shelters usually drive them away after 3 months (Stent, 2020). The issue of the lack of space available to house the homeless in shelters is also a contributory factor towards them being victims, as they usually have no choice but to sleep on the streets where they are victimised.

The lack of control that exists in the higher-ups of the hierarchy in local authorities is the reason the housing issue is still a growing concern (Marutlulle, 2021). Those who are complete with no roof over their heads are at the most disadvantage, with them being exposed to many atrocities of living on the streets. There are a number of old buildings unoccupied and deserted in the city, where some of the homeless people sleep in and are chased away (Rondganger, 2015). These can be used as shelters for the homeless, especially those who are unable to afford to pay overnight in shelters, given that some buildings have not been operational for some time (Rondganger, 2015). Part of the reason some commit crimes is to get money for the shelters because of the meals that sleeping in some shelters comes with (Rondganger, 2015). These factors are influential in sparking vulnerability and exposing a homeless person to more dangers.

Many people have had inadequate housing for many years, and those living completely on the streets have been exposed the most to the excruciating reality that sometimes compels them to commit crimes to sustain themselves. Having little access to proper housing is one of the reasons for the flooding of Albert Park, which sparked a crime rate as the homeless people were living with people with an addiction who also committed crimes (Memela, 2014). Part of why the homeless have it hard to even apply for housing from the government is because they do not have proper documentation like identity documents (Sadiki, 2016). These are also part of the reasons the homeless youth find it hard to enrol at schools or get any employment. A substantial portion of these contributing factors could potentially be mitigated through the provision of suitable housing for homeless youth. Such housing arrangements would not only facilitate the presence of responsible guardians for the younger cohort but also afford the older demographic the opportunity for constructive mentorship. The inherent drawbacks associated with street dwellings, stemming from a lack of positive influences, underscore the need for alternative residential solutions. Moreover, the street environment exposes these individuals to

a greater prevalence of adverse elements, notably including easy accessibility to drugs, as opposed to opportunities for lawful activities such as gainful employment.

2.9.Conclusion

To conclude, this chapter first discussed youth homelessness from an international perspective, then followed by looking at youth homelessness in the South African context. This chapter further discussed the homeless youth of Durban and, followed by determining the nature of the crimes committed by the youth, established the types of victimization experienced by the homeless youth of Durban. In addition, this chapter deliberated on the causes of homeless youth being perpetrators and victims of various crimes. Lastly, this chapter determined the initiatives that the non-governmental organisations in Durban have implemented to help the homeless youth.

3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1.Introduction

Theories are pieces of information that are used to explain something or a phenomenon. By definition, a theory can be “a set of concepts linked together by a chain of statements to explain the reason behind the occurrence of an event” (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). This study will make use of two theories to explain the crimes and victimizations of the homeless youth in Durban. The two theories are known as the strain theory and deviant place theory. The strain theory will be used to explain the nature of the crimes committed by homeless youth. The deviant place theory will be used to understand the victimizations that the homeless youth of Durban experience. The theories will be explained in detail below.

3.2.Strain Theory

This study will make use of Robert Agnew’s Strain theory to explain the nature of the crimes committed by the homeless youth. Robert Merton is the one who founded the Strain theory, which was established in 1938 (Merton, 1938). He derived Strain’s theory from Emile Durkheim’s theory of anomie, which was established in 1893 and used it to explain the breakdown of social norms and values (Merton, 1938). Merton’s Strain theory was influenced by the social and economic conditions of post-World War 2 America, where he observed the difference between the cultural emphasis on material wealth and the limited opportunities available to achieve it for many individuals (Agnew, 2015). Merton argued that societies have goals that are culturally defined, such as success, wealth and social status, and these goals are goals shared by most members of society, but not everyone has equal access to legitimate means of achieving these goals (Merton, 1938). Emile Durkheim was initially the person behind the idea of the Strain theory of deviance and crime. Still, Robert King Merton’s classical Strain theory dominated criminology in the middle of the 20th century after its establishment (Agnew, 2015). Strain theory is aimed at explaining how people achieve material wealth through any means due to the conditions they live under.

Merton’s classic Strain theory focused on strain caused by financial problems, which led to Robert Agnew developing the general Strain theory in 1992 (Agnew, 2015). This type of Strain theory did not only focus on strain caused by financial problems but also incorporated social problems (Agnew, 2015). Robert Agnew developed the Strain theory and broadened it from only focusing on strain caused by the pressure to achieve goals to looking at how strain can arise from various negative experiences, including the failure to achieve positively valued

goals, the removal of a positively valued stimulus like the death of a parent, and the introduction of negative stimuli like the abuse by a guardian (Agnew, 1992). Agnew pointed out that people react differently to strain, and not everyone engages in deviant behaviour as a result (Agnew, 1992). Due to unequal access to achieve goals, which are material wealth, strain exists between society's socially encouraged goals and means that are socially acceptable to achieve these goals (Agnew, 2015). Due to economic disparity, people adapt to strain in various responses, with some adaptations leading to crime (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015).

The different adaptations are grounded on either accepting the means or rejecting them or the conventional goals (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). Merton distinguishes five types of adaptations, namely conformism, innovation, retreatism, ritualism, and rebellion (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). Conformists seek to achieve material wealth through conventional means; for example, the homeless youth who use legitimate ways, like being car guards or begging, to make ends meet (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). These types of homeless youth are the ones who have given up on going a step further in life but conform to the little they have and always strive to make that little work. Those homeless youth who belong to this type of adaptation are the ones who try to make an honest living despite the odds of not making enough to meet their basic needs; they still try.

Innovators are those individuals who desire material wealth but do not use conventional means, for example, those homeless youth who use illegitimate ways like mugging people to get money to make ends meet or survive for the day (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). These are the homeless youths that are mostly perpetrators of crime, introducing new ways of mugging people, for example, smash and grabs, where the perpetrators snatch someone's bag from them and then run away. These types of homeless that use this method to adapt are the ones who are troublemakers on the streets, which leads to them being victimised even when they are not in the wrong. There are many ways used by the homeless youth who conform to the adaptation of innovators.

Retreatists are those who do not care about conventional goals and attempt conventional means. Retreatism is an adaptation characterised by the rejection of both the cultural goals and means of society (Merton, 1938). Individuals who adopt this adaptation withdraw from societal expectations and pursue alternative lifestyles or forms of escape (Merton, 1938). An example of this is those homeless youth who are drug users, as they invest most money in the drugs that they use, and sometimes they use illegitimate ways to procure funds to sustain their addictions

(Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). Addiction requires another fix, and what mostly drives people with an addiction to commit a crime is not to get something to eat but to fulfil their cravings (Lefa, 2014). This is what makes the homeless youth liable to commit crimes.

Ritualists are those individuals who do not buy into pursuing material wealth because they know they do not stand a chance of succeeding but give in conventional means for survival with the little they get (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). This occurs when individuals abandon or scale back their aspirations for success but continue to adhere rigidly to the means and rules of society (Merton, 1938). Ritualists are those who have partly given up on making it out of the streets, those who have accepted their situation and believe that the little they are making will push them in life (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015). Some are ritualists because of the strain that is caused by the stigma that society has placed on the homeless. For example, those homeless youth who have given up on ever making it out of the streets or ever finding a job that they rely on means of selling empty plastic bottles for recycling (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015).

Rebels are those individuals who buy into conventional goals and means but not the ones in the current play. Rebellion occurs when individuals reject the cultural goals and the means of society and actively seek to replace them with alternative goals and means (Merton, 1938). They aim to bring about social change and challenge the existing system, and these usually conflict with the goals and means established by societal institutions (Merton, 1938). An example of this is those homeless youth who decide to go back to spaces or buildings that are off-limits even after they have been chased away by security, the police, or the owner of the place (Hemmens and Tibbets, 2015).

On the streets, the homeless youth experience a lot of strain. To some, it is a strain that dates back to when they actually had homes but had to run away because of the conditions they were living under, and to others who were born on the streets, it dates back to ever since they were born on the streets. In most cases the reasons for departure from home is because of the removal of positive stimuli in life, like a parent or a caring guardian. The experiences that the homeless youth have on the streets and experience of previous victimizations that they either experienced first-hand or saw all act as strains.

As known, the reason behind the homeless committing crimes is mostly because of poverty and drug addiction. Poverty is said not to be the reason people commit crimes, but it is how they respond to these living conditions (Van Raemdonck and Seedat-Khan, 2017). People react

differently to strain, and those homeless youth who choose crime react to their strains by committing crime. The ones who choose crime are the ones who conform to the presence of negative stimuli, like drugs. Due to the constraints created by being homeless, the homeless youth end up giving up on their dreams, but they get an opportunity sometimes to steal to fill the gap and end up selling what they stole for quick money. Cheng (2019) identified in his research that part of the nature of the crimes the homeless youth of Durban commit is the quest for material wealth.

Strain is partly caused by the lack of equal opportunities to access means to achieve goals (Agnew, 1992). The organisations aimed at helping the homeless youth often experience strain due to the lack of resources and funding that research like that of Njikiktjen (2019) has highlighted. This often makes it difficult for organisations to help all the homeless youth, but it only makes it possible to help a few. This usually impacts the homeless negatively, as the organisations are their only access to legitimate means of achieving desired goals (Agnew, 1992). The number of homeless youth is growing, and because of the shortage of resources, it already makes it hard for organisations to cater for all of the homeless youth. With the recent events of flooding that occurred in Durban after the first quarter of 2022, the number of homeless people has grown as much as some have been helped with temporary shelters; those who already were in cahoots with the streets have chosen the streets. The growth requires an extension in the budget allocated to help the homeless by the government and other stakeholders involved in aiding the homeless of Durban. The inability to aid a larger number of the homeless puts a strain on the organisations as it may seem like they do not help at all when they are low on resources (Cheng, 2019).

Agnew established that people react differently to strain, and some of these people refuse to turn to crime because of strain (Agnew, 1992). The pressure to achieve goals is partly the reason some give up, and in accordance with Strain theory, giving up comes with frustration, and this is usually seen as a negative stimulus (Agnew, 1992). The organisations intervene to try and get rid of the negative stimuli partly. To amass resources aimed at aiding the homeless population, a prerequisite entails the availability of initial funds or the provision of donations, such as clothing or footwear. The homeless adolescent demographic residing within shelters commonly find themselves not confined in a carceral sense; rather, their entry often occurs during periods of distress, with some seeking assistance and others establishing a prolonged and familiar habitation resembling a homelike environment (Harper, 2020). An exacerbating factor contributing to the burdens faced pertains to the efficacy of organisations, a facet

intricately influenced by the inherent resource endowment of said entities (Harper, 2020). What makes it harder is that some organisations are bigger than others, and they all are helping the homeless the same way, so it makes it challenging for them to help one another with resources that the other is short of if the other has more. These strains have led to some of the homeless youth not being able to access some of the other services that are available when they have a shortage of resources at that time.

3.3.Deviant Place Theory

To explain the victimizations of homeless youth and to determine the reasons behind the homeless being perpetrators of crime, the study will use Rodney Stark's Deviant Place theory. Deviant place theory was first evident in Rodney Stark's book titled "Deviant Places: A Theory of the Ecology of Crime", which was published in 1987 (Stark, 1987). Stark's Deviant place theory is derived from Social disorganisation theory on the basis that there is a relationship between some places and crime (Stark, 1987). The theory carries that particular places and the criminal characteristics of those places would give rise to the likelihood of individuals becoming targets of criminal activities, in contrast to the inherent characteristics of the residents residing within that particular region (Stark, 1987). What it entails is that the more a person gets exposed to dangerous places, the more likely it is for them to be victims of criminal activities (Stark, 1987). According to the Deviant place theory, individuals become victims due to being in socially marginalised environments (Stark, 1987).

High crime rates are primarily attributable to the inherent characteristics of the locale, including its ecological attributes, rather than solely attributing fault to the individuals residing therein, as commonly assumed (Stark, 1987). The focus of Stark's Deviant place theory is on urban places and urban attributes (Stark, 1987). When the place is known for crime, criminals are attracted to that place, which drives out the people who are affected, thus leading to that place being infested by high crime rates (Stark, 1987). Stark's theory envisages that five (5) urban factors lead to deviance and crime, namely poverty, density, transience, residential instability, and dilapidation (Stark 1987). The five factors increase four individual characteristics, namely, diminished controlled, increased chances of crime and deviance, moral cynicism, and increased motivation (Stark, 1987). When the five factors and the four individual characteristics come together, it leads to a reduction in social control and crime-prone people (Stark, 1987).

The five factors' characteristics are important the most in understanding Stark's Deviant place theory (Stark, 1987). Poverty is characterised by the phenomenon wherein areas with elevated poverty rates often become magnets for individuals of lower socioeconomic status, primarily due to the limited availability of affordable rental accommodations and residences within these regions (Helle, 2014). Economic disadvantage limits legitimate opportunities for success, which can push individuals towards engaging in deviant activities to meet their needs (Stark, 1987). This is because of how poverty-stricken places are usually abandoned and poverty-stricken (Stark, 1987). For example, The M4 bridge located in Durban has witnessed the establishment of makeshift dwellings by socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals, predominantly comprising those who are homeless. This spatial transformation tends to engender an inadvertent pull factor, further attracting individuals experiencing homelessness, consequently culminating in the emergence of an informal community settlement. Albert Park is also one of the places where the homeless still sleep, and it has since been changed from a park to a place where the homeless sleep. People no longer visit the park because of the crime rate.

Density entails overcrowding within people's homes, which causes a problem as that is what drives others to the streets to support themselves (Helle, 2014). According to Stark (1987), density is one of the huge risk factors for crime and deviance (Stark, 1987). In places that are densely populated, people are more likely to come into contact with one another, elevating the likelihood of criminal incidents (Stark, 1987). In suburban and rural areas, this is less likely to occur because there is less interaction between people, which decreases their likelihood of being victimised (Stark, 1987). This is in contrast with urban areas like the city centre, which are always dense. Thus increasing the likelihood of criminal occurrences. Stark further stated that overcrowding in homes also contributes towards density, which increases the likelihood of conflict (Stark, 1987). The shelters that the homeless sleep in are usually full because they are clustered together by those who own the building in exchange for paying for overnight sleep (Helle, 2014). The homeless, even on the streets, sleep in groups, and conflicts usually arise because of the many people that they sleep with, and this increases the chances for those who are perpetrators. The conditions of those homes/shelters are usually inadequate for human life, as they are exposed to conditions like unclean water and sanitation, and they are squashed because of overcrowding within these facilities (Cheng, 2019).

Transience entails changing environments and interacting with different, unfamiliar people, which results in a lack of trust (Helle, 2014). A transient population does not establish strong

social bonds because of how they temporarily reside in an area (Stark, 1987). Due to their nature, transient individuals may have less investment in the community and feel less responsible for their actions, leading to higher chances of engaging in criminal behaviour or being victimised (Helle, 2014). The homeless are a mix of different individuals from different cultures, which makes it hard for them to have shared norms, and this weakens their social ties (Helle, 2014). On the streets, some people get rehabilitated and move back to their normal lives, and as the number of homeless people grows, more people are introduced to people whom they are not familiar with (Wentzel and Voce, 2012). This change makes it hard for them to connect, as the homeless youth is always moving around. This increases the likelihood of being victimised on the streets, which are dangerous on their own.

Residential instability is similar to transience in that the changing of residences is part of the homeless youth's transient nature. Frequent changes in residence within a community have an impact on social cohesion and social bonds (Stark, 1987). It is hard to maintain bonds when one is always moving from one place to another. This also increases the likelihood of experiencing crime, because no bond can be stable when one is always meeting new people and moving around from place to place depending on their situation at that time (Stark, 1987). This is evident in the homeless youth's nature, which sometimes leads to them being victimised, as not all places they move to are a bit safe for them. The homeless youth sometimes reside on the Warwick junction's marketplace, move to Albert Park, move under the M4 bridge, move to near South Beach, and other places. Because of this, it is hard for them to be in touch with people, and this also increases their likelihood of meeting the wrong crowd and being victimised.

Dilapidation refers to the deteriorating physical environment of an area and its impact on the rates of crime (Stark, 1987). Such areas are sometimes neglected areas, with graffiti drawings on the walls or broken windows, which signifies the lack of social control within that area (Stark, 1987). Dilapidation entails that rundown and dilapidated places attract crime, as the areas tend to be places where the homeless move in illegally. Such areas attract crime and criminal behaviour (Stark, 1987). There is usually little surveillance in run-down areas, which might lead to the undermining of social norms and the social fabric of a community (Helle, 2014). This could potentially lead to a sense of lawlessness within that area as less attention is paid to it (Helle, 2014). For instant, abandoned buildings and houses tend to be used by the homeless for sleeping till they are chased out by the owners of that place (Rondganger, 2015).

The homeless are known for sometimes occupying unoccupied buildings, and this usually makes them more prone to being victimised when they are being chased out.

If homeless youth are in safe shelters, they are less likely to fall victim to crime, but being on the streets increases their chances of being victimised just like everyone in society (Helle, 2014). The deviant places that the homeless youth sleep in are some of the reasons they get victimised; for instance, in the shelters where they have no choice but to sleep in, they are more likely to be still victimised because some of the homeless are criminals. The deviant places also explain why they commit crime, which is part of the reason being that they live in deviant places, which are masked with crime high levels of poverty and drug use, which drives the homeless to commit some of the crimes they commit. Being in a place where one is less likely to fall victim does not mean they will not fall victim to crime; for instant, some shelters where homeless youth sleep are said to be dangerous because of the other homeless people in these shelters (Desmond et al., 2017). They experience robberies in such and some of their belongings are snatched from them at night when they are sleeping (Desmond et al., 2017).

As explained in the Deviant place theory, when social control is diminished, the places are prone to high crime rates; this is also evident in the Warwick junction marketplace, where the homeless youth live within an area that has no social control. The M4 bridge is also one of the places that the homeless people decided to invade, near the railways, and this place is filled with high levels of poverty. Where there are high levels of poverty, there are usually higher chances of experiencing crime (Phungula, 2023). An individual can lose self-control because of what they find attractive to them, and then their impulses lead them to commit crimes (Helle, 2014). Drugs usually infest deviant places, which is evident in Albert Park, which has turned into a home for the homeless youth and a *whoonga* spot for many of the homeless and drug users (Memela, 2015). An area occupied by drug users is usually a hotspot for crime. In accordance with the Deviant Place theory, an area with crime remains a hotspot for crime even when the known criminals are not there. The regular users may change spots, but because the place is already carrying a stigma, the drug users will always come back to it. The chances of crime, in accordance with the four individual factors of Deviant place theory, are usually increased in spots where drugs are used because those who use drugs sometimes experience effects that prompt them to commit crime (Helle, 2014).

Moral cynicism is when someone doubts the integrity or sincerity of moral judgments, often leading towards a belief that people may act in hypocrisy or for self-interest rather than abiding

by ethical standards (Stark, 1987). Moral cynicism has been the driving force in many individuals to commit crimes, and it is also the reason why some individuals are victims (Helle, 2014). Deviant places are usually filled with people who disregard ethics and see no need to be socially involved because they feel society does not want them (Helle, 2014). Due to the stigmas that follow the homeless people around, it is even hard for society to accept the homeless youth, as it is hard to help them (Holness, 2020). Certain areas characterised by deviant tendencies do not derive their deviance solely from the presence of homeless individuals as disruptors but because society has associated being homeless with being deviant to an extent whereby society uses the same spaces that the homeless occupy to commit their crimes and make it look like it is homeless (Helle, 2014). Homeless youth are victims partly because of where they sleep and the places they occupy, which are later deemed dangerous, and because of this, they receive ill treatment from society (Phungula, 2023). Walking past the M4 bridge at night alone is equivalent to a suicide mission for community members, and this is because of the aura of crime that the place emits and what it is associated with.

The diminished control that usually inhibits the deviant places that the homeless youth reside in, which in most cases leads to their victimization, is mainly linked to the issue that the homeless youth carry the stigma associated with vagrancy and polluting the city (Holness, 2020). Law enforcement does not protect the homeless youth, and this has led to the homeless youth not believing in the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies (Sadiki, 2016). This, in turn, increases the chances of the places they reside in being deviant because of the belief that they are not catered for, and even law enforcement does not like associating themselves with them (Sadiki, 2016). Durban, as a metropolis of considerable size, experiences elevated incidences of criminal activities. Conspicuously, those most readily identifiable as potential culprits within the societal gaze are the homeless population. This perceptible attribution of criminality renders them susceptible to being scapegoated for a majority of minor crimes transpiring within the city. The deal breaker is that the homeless youth carry weapons, but for others, it is to protect themselves from other homeless people because of the dangers that come with living on the streets. The same weapons they use to protect themselves are sometimes the same weapon that motivates them to carry out a crime, especially when people walk alone at night in the city (Sewpaul, Osthus, Mhone, Sibilo, and Mbhele, 2012).

Owing to the prevailing deviant conditions inherent in urban thoroughfares, individuals experiencing homelessness become susceptible to victimization. This victimization is notably influenced by the geographic locales they inhabit, compounded by their lack of secure

residencies, thereby exacerbating their vulnerability. The removal of established social control mechanisms precipitates a state of disorder, fostering an environment conducive to criminal endeavours, thereby establishing a partial link between the ensuing disorder and criminal activities (Stark, 1987). This, in turn, significantly contributes to the victimization mentioned above. What prompts the homeless youth to commit a crime is sometimes to make ends meet on their side. Take, for example, prostitution; prostitution is done in dangerous places, and usually, there are pimps, and the prostitutes are treated badly by the pimps, which leads to their victimization (Motha, 2021). These activities that are against the law that the homeless youth affiliate themselves with mostly serve as a pathway for them to be victimised in the process (Helle, 2014). Sometimes, others are beaten up by the mob because of theft in the city. The city alone is a busy place, and busy places are usually dangerous because of the many people that are in one place, which makes it easy to disappear into the crowd.

3.4. Conclusion

This chapter discussed the two theories suitable for this study, namely the Strain theory and the Deviant place theory. Both these theories explain well the phenomena of how the homeless youth are victims and criminals. Strain theory details that the strain the homeless youth experience is the possible reason behind them being perpetrators of crime. The homeless youth experience many strains, and they choose different ways to live with those strains; some choose to beg, some choose criminal ways, and some choose to recycle cardboard and plastic bottles. The organisations also experience strain perpetuated by their dire need for enough funding to cater for the homeless. The Deviant place theory explains well how deviant places that the homeless youth reside in are part of the reasons they suffer victimization and also the reasons they commit crimes and victimise other homeless.

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

4.1.Introduction

Research methods are methods by which a subject or topic is conducted (Goundar, 2012). Research methodology aims to elaborate on the methods used to conduct or proceed with one's research (Goundar, 2012). These two terms are usually confused for meaning the same thing, but they entail two different meanings even though they are closely linked. It is very crucial for a researcher to know the research method they will use to conduct their research, but it is also important for the researcher to know the methodology they will use (Goundar, 2012). This chapter will elucidate how the data was collected for this study. It will describe the research design, the data collection method, sampling, the recruitment strategy, data analysis, trustworthiness, ethical consideration, expected limitations of the study, the research schedule, and the possible budget for the research.

4.2.Research Approach

The research made use of a qualitative research approach. A qualitative research approach is a holistic approach that involves going out to the field to explore and experience the phenomena being studied. It can be defined as a model that unfolds in a setting that is natural, allowing for a detailed experience of the phenomena being researched (Williams, 2007). A qualitative approach to research is used by different types of research designs, which in turn has an effect on the research strategies in alignment with what is being researched (Williams, 2007). The study was qualitative because the researcher went to the field to obtain information about the lived experiences of the homeless youth in Durban first-hand. It was a convenient approach to use for the study because of how it enabled the researcher to attain updated and new information from the participants. The information collected revolved around the victimizations the homeless youth experience, along with the crimes they are affiliated with and the initiatives set to aid the homeless youth of Durban. The qualitative approach allowed the researcher to analyse and interpret the collected data. This was possible after the data had been collected, translated and transcribed.

4.3. Research Design

The research design of this study was phenomenological research. Phenomenological research examines the lived experiences of humans through descriptions given by the people being studied (Wilson, 2015). It is used in studies where little information is available (Wilson, 2015). In phenomenological studies, the researcher aims to get information on the lived experiences of the homeless youth through interviews to understand the experiences. Still, first, the research needs to point out what type of information is likely to emerge (Wilson, 2015). This is called bracketing. It is done so that the research can distinguish between new information and confirmation of the information that was expected to be provided (Wilson, 2015). This type of research design was suitable for studying the homeless youth of Durban as what the research sought to uncover was their lived experiences (Wilson, 2015). When conducting phenomenological studies, themes and patterns are sought in the collected data (Wilson, 2015). The researcher aimed to uncover the experiences lived by the subjects in the study, and doing so gave a pathway for the provision of updated information and new information that emerged.

4.4. Location of the Study

The study was conducted in Durban, which is a part of the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct in KwaZulu-Natal. The eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct is one of 11 districts in KwaZulu-Natal. The majority of the population in this province comprises of IsiZulu-speaking people. There are other ethnic groups, including Coloreds, Indians, Whites, and foreign African nationals. The study was conducted on the Denis Hurley Centre premises located at 2 Cathedral Road, near KwaMashu Rank in Durban. The Denis Hurley Centre started operating in January 2015 and is a well-known Centre for the homeless and refugees in Durban, with it being the biggest organisation in Durban dealing with homelessness (Denis Hurley Centre, 2017). It is an NGO that offers a wide range of services to the homeless and the refugees in need in Durban. Part of the services the organisation offers is free meals 2 times a day and free showers. They have social workers working within the premises for the homeless and refugees, along with a clinic that operates within the premises of the Centre (Denis Hurley Centre, 2017). This place was ideal for conducting the study because many homeless youth from across Durban gather every day for free meals and some of the services, which made it easy to access the homeless youth.

4.5.Data Collection

Face-to-face interviews were used as a tool for collecting data. The interviews were semi-structured, and the researcher sought permission from participants to record the interviews. Face-to-face interviews are ideal when the subject at hand is very sensitive, and the more complex the questions, the lengthy the interview (Mathers, Fox and Hunn, 1998). An advantage of using face-to-face interviews is that the data collected is of high quality as it is collected in person (Mathers, Fox and Hunn, 1998). Face-to-face interviews allow the researcher a chance to explain to their potential participants what the interviews will be about and also give the researcher a chance to encourage people to participate (Mathers, Fox and Hunn, 1998). The homeless youth are a vulnerable group, and they hardly answer strangers face to face. The interviews gave the researcher a chance to explain what the interview was about, which urged them to participate and be heard. Face-to-face interviews provide a chance for the researcher to gather information by probing for clarity on issues that may emerge during the time of an interview. The participants were informed that they might respond to the questions of the interviews in a language that is comfortable to them, preferably IsiZulu and English as the commonly used languages in KwaZulu-Natal. The researcher knew how to speak IsiZulu, which allowed for versatility and understanding of the responses.

The questions that the researcher asked during the interviews were in a language that was comfortable to the participant at hand given that some were comfortable with responding in IsiZulu, some in English. Others chose to mix the two when responding. The face-to-face interviews were audio recorded, with prior informed consent asked from the participants before the recordings were conducted. The recorded audio of the face-to-face interviews was transcribed and translated. The face-to-face interviews were conducted within the Dennis Hurley Centre. The safety of the researcher was assured by conducting the interviews in public spaces within the Dennis Hurley Centre, with one of the leaders in the Centre being present but not participating in the interview for not having the participant alone with a stranger. Those who experienced secondary victimization were assisted by being redirected to the Dennis Hurley Clinic for counselling, where they were assisted psychologically. The secondary data sources that the researcher used were journal articles, previous research studies, websites, government publications, and newspaper editorials. All the secondary data that was used is available online, and for the websites the links are provided as part of the bibliography. The results were presented in a manner that respects the dignity of the participants.

4.6.Sampling

The study made use of the non-probability sampling method's snowball sampling technique. Snowball sampling is a technique that may be used when the population of the study cannot be detailed (Dragan and Isaic-Maniu, 2013). This type of sampling is not used to try and estimate the characteristics of a population that is general but is used for the purpose of uncovering the characteristics of a population that is hidden (Dragan and Isaic-Maniu, 2013). The most common definition of snowball sampling is that it is a method where the interviewee refers the interviewer to another potential participant (Kirchherr and Charles, 2018). Snowball sampling has different techniques, namely linear snowball sampling, exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling, and exponential discriminative snowball sampling technique (Dragan and Isaic-Maniu, 2013). This study made use of the exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling technique specifically. In exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling, the first participant is recruited, then makes a provision of multiple referrals (Dragan and Isaic-Maniu, 2013). Each of the newly referred potential participants then provides details for referrals, and so on, till the number of participants enough for the study has been reached (Dragan and Isaic-Maniu, 2013). Exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling was suitable for this study as the homeless youth are a vulnerable group, and they find it hard to trust a stranger when approached. It made it easier when someone made several referrals so that when it happened that one of the referrals did not agree to do the interview, another referral was approached until the study attained enough participants.

The study consisted of 12 participants. Three of the participants were staff members from the NGO Denis Hurley Centre, and nine participants were homeless youth. The participants were recruited in this research study through referrals for their comfort. When some of the referred potential participants refused to be part of the sample, they were not forced to participate. The homeless youth of Durban are a large group, but they have not all gone through the same experiences. Exponential non-discriminative snowball sampling was advantageous in such, because it saved time as the participants referred someone, which made recruiting participants suitable for the study easier. This technique of recruiting participants was also advantageous in that it is cost-effective. Sadiki (2016) stated that the disadvantage to this is that sampling bias may occur, and the researcher may have little control over the sampling method as the participants are the ones that refer someone, which is what happened, as the researcher had little control.

The homeless youth who were included in the study were 18 years to 26 years old and were of different ethnic groups and sexes. Personnel from NGOs were included for guidance with the participants and to find out about the initiatives that have been done to help the homeless youth of Durban. The interviews were carried out for 1 month. To achieve this, the researcher organised three interviews each week, spread out across the four weeks of the month. This schedule allowed the researcher to complete all 12 interviews within the designated one-month period. Subsequently, on the days the researcher did not conduct interviews it was dedicated on personal time to transcribing and analysing the gathered information from the interviews. All the participants were given a consent form prior to participation to sign as evidence of their agreeing to participate in the interviews of their own volition.

4.7. Recruitment strategy

Recruitment is the identification of potential participants for a research study and giving them information that might entice them to agree to be a part of the research study (Manohar, MacMillan, Steiner and Arora, 2018). Recruitment is crucial for getting the desired number of participants for the study (Manohar et al., 2018). Once the Gatekeeper's letter was received from Stuart Talbot, the researcher then went to the Dennis Hurley Centre and asked for one of the leaders available and produced the letter. Once the leader welcomed the letter, the researcher then asked the leader to refer them to available potential participants for the study. For the homeless youth participants, those whom other participants referred to were informed that they had a choice of withdrawing from the study should they wish to discontinue the study at that moment. The staff members of the Dennis Hurley Centre were also recruited through the same process of asking the available leader if there were any available staff members for interviews. The participants were picked through referrals, and only those participants who were unwilling to participate were excluded from the study until the sample size was met. Pseudonyms or codes were used to protect the identities of the participants who did not wish to be revealed.

4.8. Data analysis

Qualitative data analysis is the range of procedures and processes moving away from the collected qualitative data into some explanation, interpretation or understanding of people and situations being investigated (Sgier, 2012). This study used the Thematic analysis' inductive

thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a method of analysing data that is qualitative. Data is closely examined by the researcher to figure out patterns, topics and ideas of meaning that are common and come up repeatedly (Slevin et al, 2019). Thematic analysis details a frequentative process of how to go from messy data to compiling the most important data themes (Slevin et al, 2019). In inductive thematic analysis, the data being analysed is the one that creates the themes; there are no preconceptions of the themes that will emerge (Clarke, Braun and Hayfield, 2015). Clarke et al. (2015) identified the 6 steps that are crucial in thematic analysis. The first step is familiarising oneself with the data, which requires transcribing audio and being familiar with the collected data. Familiarising oneself with data entails engaging with the collected data and getting familiar with the depth and breadth of the research content (Clarke et al., 2015). Although data collected by the researcher makes the researcher familiar during the collection, it is crucial to immerse yourself in the data (Clarke et al., 2015).

The second step is generating initial codes, which entails coding the collected data. Generating initial codes is a process of organising the collected data into meaningful groups, and it includes identifying patterns in the data and coding those patterns (Clarke et al., 2015). The third step is searching for themes, which is identifying themes using the coded data (Clarke et al., 2015). After generating codes, one starts analysing those codes to identify possible themes (Clarke et al., 2015). This can be done by collating information that is related together, which produces a theme (Clarke et al., 2015). Information that stands out is temporarily placed alone so themes and subthemes can emerge (Clarke et al., 2015). The fourth step of thematic analysis is reviewing themes; once the possible themes have been identified, they are reviewed to separate the information logically (Clarke et al., 2015). Here, the possible themes are devised to establish the main themes; some of the themes might dissipate, and some may merge during this process (Clarke et al., 2015). Two levels are used to review the themes. The first involves reading all the data from the possible themes to identify if some of the themes are coherent or if some are problematic, and it is during this first level that data that has no home themes is collated where it fits (Clarke et al., 2015). The second level includes accurate presentation, ensuring that the data is in a theme it belongs to through a thematic map (Clarke et al., 2015).

The fifth step is naming and defining the themes, which entails giving headings to the themes and subthemes. Defining, refining, and analysing the data within the themes occurs after the themes have been reviewed (Clarke et al., 2015). For each theme, one notes an analysis that is

detailed so that information about each theme is well-detailed (Clarke et al., 2015). The sixth step is producing or writing the report, which entails going through the organised collected data once it has been thematised (Clarke et al., 2015). Once the themes are fully completed and worked out, a final analysis and writing of the report may begin (Clarke et al., 2015). The final report must have evidence that is sufficient about the themes, and the examples to be used must be vivid (Clarke et al., 2015). The researcher followed this method of analysis to analyse and interpret the collected data and then presented it.

4.9.Trustworthiness

There are four criteria to ensure the trustworthiness of the data, namely credibility, transferability, confirmability, and dependability (Anney, 2014).

The confidence that can be set in the truth of the findings of the research is known as credibility (Anney, 2014). Credibility aims to establish whether the findings of the research represent reasonable information taken from the participants' original responses (Korstjens and Moser, 2018). Triangulation is one of the strategies used to ensure credibility, and it was utilised in this study to establish the crimes and victimizations of homeless youth in Durban. Triangulation pertains to the use of different and multiple sources, methods, and investigators to obtain linking information (Onwuegbuzie and Leech, 2007). Triangulation ensures the cross examinations of the honesty in the responses by the participants and reduces bias by the researcher (Anney, 2014). To further ensure credibility, nothing was discussed with the participants outside the scope of the study. The researcher made use of snowball sampling to ensure credibility.

Transferability is the extent to which the results of the research can be transferred to other conditions with other respondents (Anney, 2014). Transferability entails that the results of the research may be applied to a situation that is similar or to individuals (Moon, Brewer, Januchowski-Hartley, Adams and Blackman, 2016). The researcher ensured transferability by taking notes of the non-verbal reactions of the participants to the questions being asked and their mental health before, during, and after the interviews. The studied research must be clear and concise so that it can be easier for the audience or readers to apply it to similar situations (Shenton, 2004). As the researcher only knows the sending contexts, they cannot make inferences about transferability (Shenton, 2004). For a reader to be able to make a transfer, sufficient contextual fieldwork information has to be done by the researcher (Shenton, 2004).

It is also known as the process that readers of the research perform. Sufficient research data was collected from the field to ensure the reader's transferability in the study (Vehovar, Toepoel and Steinmetz, 2016).

The research concern for objectivity is what is known as confirmability (Shenton, 2004). Crucial steps need to be taken here to ensure that the findings are as far as possible from the information and experiences that were provided by the participants (Shenton, 2004). The interpretations of findings are based on the findings of the data, not the viewpoints of the researcher or their subjectivity (Korstjens and Moser, 2018). The research took crucial steps when interpreting the findings of the research to ensure confirmability and avoid bias. The needed strategy to ensure confirmability is an audit trail (Korstjens and Moser, 2018). The provision of the notes that were gathered during the conduction of the research study is the responsibility of the researcher (Korstjens and Moser, 2018). In order to reduce investigator bias, triangulation is also emphasised in the process of confirmability (Shenton, 2004). Ensuring real objectivity is a challenge, even when all the data-collecting methods and findings are in-line (Shenton, 2004). The research study provided findings that were not biased, but of the objective viewpoint of experiences experienced by the homeless youth in Durban.

Dependability pertains to the aspects of consistency in information (Korstjens and Moser, 2018). Dependability refers to the reliability and consistency of the findings of the research study and the extent to which the procedures of the research are similar to credibility (Moon et al., 2016). Dependability ensures truth in the data found by providing information consistent with existing information, and proving dependability ensure that there is no bias in the research. Crucial steps need to be taken to ensure that the findings are the experiences of the participants so that there is consistency in the results of the study (Moon et al., 2016). The research questions adhered to the objectives of the research study, which ensured dependability. In order to avoid research bias, the same questions were asked to all the participants who were from the homeless youth, and the same was done for the NGO members, which in turn also ensured consistency in the data.

4.10. Ethical consideration

Ethics is commonly known as the code of conduct when doing research. Careful consideration measures were taken when conducting interviews. The participants were allowed to withdraw at any time they wanted. The researcher obtained ethical clearance from the research ethics

committee at the University of KwaZulu-Natal to conduct the research study with the participants from the Durban metropolitan precinct on 24 October 2023. A gatekeeper's letter was obtained from Stuart Talbot who serves as the gatekeeper for doing research in the Dennis Hurley Centre. The gatekeepers were provided with ethical clearance as proof to conduct the interviews with the participants.

The researcher then handed out the informed consent forms to the potential participants, the homeless youth in the Durban Metropolitan precinct, as victims and perpetrators of crime. Those who signed the forms and gave their informed consent were then allowed to participate in the study. The forms explained the purposes, nature, procedure of the study, voluntary participation, confidentiality of the collected data, the limitations of confidentiality (that is, breach of confidentiality in situation whereby the participant may pose any threat to themselves), anonymity (that is, the use of fake identity to protect the interviewers) the fact that participants are free to withdraw from the research at any time without any negative or undesirable consequences to themselves, or persuasion, and the benefits and costs that participants were to receive as a result of their participation in the study. The participants may have their rights stated as participants in the research study (Phatoli, Bila and Ross, 2015). When using a tape recorder, the researcher sought permission from participants to audio record the semi-structured interviews. For those who were victimised, psychological services were available after the interviews as some were at a possibility of re-experiencing trauma, and this could have possibly helped them with some of their mental issues.

The participants also showed verbal consent; the researcher was aware if a participant was not comfortable. The participant's data was collected and to be stored after publications used and not be misused. The researcher also ensured that all the recorded data was the data that the participants presented to ensure that the research avoided any bias. The electronic copy of the research was stored in cloud storage, and the hard copy was stored securely in the supervisor's office, for those who wish to use the information in the research, access is granted. This is done to protect the research data, and the research data will not be stored for more than five years after the research has been finished. The researcher ensured that all the recorded data was the data that the participants presented to ensure that the research avoided any bias. The data will be disposed of after five years in a secure location.

As indicated by Bell and Bryman (2007), the following ten points refer to the most essential principles associated with ethical considerations in a study:

1. Research participants should not be subjected to harm in any way whatsoever.
2. Respect for the dignity of research participants should be prioritised.
3. Full consent should be obtained from the participants prior to the study.
4. The protection of the privacy of research participants has to be ensured.
5. Adequate level of confidentiality of the research data should be ensured.
6. Anonymity of individuals and organisations participating in the research has to be ensured.
7. Any deception or exaggeration about the aims and objectives of the research must be avoided.
8. Affiliations in any form with sources of funding, as well as any possible conflicts of interest, have to be declared.
9. Any communication in relation to the research should be done with honesty and transparency.
10. Any misleading information, as well as the representation of primary data findings in a biased way, must be avoided.

4.11. Challenges of the study

One of the challenges the study experienced was that some of the homeless youth being interviewed felt reluctant and uncomfortable to share about their victimizations because of previous threats that were made by those who victimised them and also because of the fear of being labelled. These reluctances were caused by previous experiences on the streets and the belief that if a person talks about their victimization and those responsible, they are telling on them, which is a punishable offence on the streets. The researcher ensured that the participants were willing and comfortable to participate in the study, irrespective of it being a sensitive study. This was done by creating a relationship of trust with those who were participating in the study to enable them to talk freely without having any fear, irrespective of the researcher having no experience with being homeless.

Another challenge was that the homeless youth reside in places that are high in crime; in order to overcome this, one-on-one interviews were conducted in public spaces, where there was less likelihood of the researcher being exposed to harm. Despite the location the researcher conducted the study, another issue was that one participant was experiencing withdrawal symptoms, so they were experiencing emotional instability during the interview, with the majority of the interviewees being sober. The participant who was experiencing emotional instability was directed to the social worker who was within the facility.

4.12. Conclusion

To conclude, this chapter described the research design, the data collection method, sampling, the recruitment strategy, data analysis, trustworthiness, ethical consideration, expected limitations of the study, the research schedule, and the possible budget for the research. The way the research was conducted and the means through which data was collected were all covered in this chapter, with clear indications of how the research was carried out.

4.13. Research schedule (Work plan/ timeframe)

Table 4.13.1. Research Work Plan

STEPS	DATES
Preliminary literature review and research proposal development.	November 2021
Chapters 1 to 4	February 2022/January 2023
Application for ethical clearance and gatekeepers' letter	August 2023
Data collection	October 2023
Analysing data and interpreting findings	November 2023

Write up a dissertation with the help of the language editor and submit the final report.	November 2023/December 2023
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4.14. Budget

Applications for funding were made to UKZN funding bodies such as the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA) and as well as the National Research Foundation (NRF). The fundings were unsuccessful.

4.15. Budget Expenditure

Table 4.15.1. Budget Expenditure

Travel expenses	R1 500-00
Printing and photocopying	R700-00
Telephone calls	R500-00
Equipment	R1 500-00
Language Editing	R3 000-00
Total=	R7 200-00

5. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DATA ANALYSIS

5.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the findings and analysis of the data that was collected from the homeless youth of Durban who were study participants for this study. The data was collected by using one-on-one, semi-structured interviews within the Denis Hurley Centre. The collected data was analysed using inductive thematic analysis, which enabled the researcher to engage with the data before presenting it. The data was collected as per the methods that were mentioned in the research methodology, and all necessary steps and precautions were taken before the commencement of the interviews. This chapter will focus on the discussion of the research findings using themes that are relevant and have emerged from the analysed data. The study mainly focuses on the homeless youth; however, part of it focuses on those who help the homeless youth, which are the organisation members. The responses are analysed in two sections, with the first section focusing on the responses of the nine (9) homeless youth participants and the second part focusing on the three (3) Denis Hurley Centre members' responses.

5.2. Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Sample

It is paramount to discuss the characteristics of the sample that was used in the course of data collection, as it is not the same gender, age, or people with the same demographics. The names of the participants are pseudonyms for the sake of maintaining privacy for the participants. The data of the participants will first be presented in the form of a table, as shown in the following table.

Table 5.2.1. Socio-demographic characteristics of the homeless youth participants and NGO members

Name	Age	Gender	Place of origin	Duration of being homeless	Parents
Mlindwa	24	Male	Dundee	4 Years	Mother
Zandile	25	Female	Inanda	13 years	None
Ziningi	18	Female	Stanger	2 years	None
Sphe	26	Male	Hammarisdale	6 years	Mother
Nsika	21	Male	Zimbabwe	1 year and a month	Mother
Nikiwe	18	Female	KwaMashu	1 year and 2 months	Both
Xundu	26	Male	Ndwedwe	9 years	None
Lizwelonke	18	Male	Johannesburg/Inanda	6 months	None
Nondumiso	25	Female	Vryheid	6 years	Mother
Veni	N/A	Male	Denis Hurley Centre	N/A	N/A
Mamzo	N/A	Female	Denis Hurley Centre	N/A	N/A
Blessings	N/A	Male	Denis Hurley Centre	N/A	N/A

5.2.1. Age and Gender

The research study comprised of twelve (12) participants. It had seven (7) male participants and five (5) female participants. The participants were divided into two groups: the homeless youth group and the NGO members from the Denis Hurley Centre. Three (3) of the participants were from NGO members, and the remaining nine (9) participants were from the homeless youth population. The three (3) participants from the NGO comprised two (2) males and one

(1) female. The homeless youth group comprised nine (9) participants; five (5) were males and four (4) were females. The homeless participants were between 18- 26 years old, and consent was sought from them prior to the interviews. Three (3) participants were 18 years old, a male and two (2) females. One (1) participant was 21 years old, a male. One (1) participant was 24 years old, a male. Two (2) participants were 25 years old, both females. Two (2) participants were 26 years old, both males. The oldest participants were the two (2) 26-year-old males, with the youngest being the three 18-year-old participants.

The participants were not challenging to find, as they were accessed through referrals, which is a process part of snowball sampling, and this was in opposition to the study of Maphumulo (2019), which mentioned that homeless youth from the ages of 18 years to 24 years were hard to find. The homeless youth were available during the servings of both breakfast and lunch within the Denis Hurley Centre, which made it easier for the researcher to engage with them, even though the group was large, and the use of referrals worked best in ensuring that the age limit was not overlapped. The Denis Hurley members were available throughout their working hours, which made it easier for them to find just like the homeless youth participants.

5.2.2. Place of origin

As mentioned in the previous chapters, data was collected from homeless youth located in Durban and from the Denis Hurley personnel. The majority of the participants are of South African nationality and originate from different areas in KwaZulu- Natal. The majority of the homeless youth participants originate from township areas in Durban, such as KwaMashu, INanda, and Hammersdale. Fewer participants of the homeless youth population originated from rural areas further from Durban; for instance, Mlindwa originates from Dundee, whilst Ziningi originates from Stanger. It can be noted that one participant is of Zimbabwean nationality. The homeless people tend to be from low-income areas like the rural areas and some of the semi-urban areas like townships. Because of the poverty they experience in those areas they move to the city for a better chance for employment (Tenai and Mbewu, 2020). Some of the homeless youth leave because of parental abuse and because of the belief that the city provides a better chance they head to the city (Desmond et al, 2016). Foreign nationals are also part of those who move away from their countries because of wars and poverty levels in their countries (Hills, 2015). The homeless end up on the streets because of not finding employment and having no money or a place to stay (Botha, 2013; Tenai and Mbewu, 2020).

Duration of homelessness

The time spent by homeless youth on the streets is different for each of the participants as they all came at different times. It was hard to confirm whether the person was stating the truth about the duration they had stayed in the streets. Hills (2015) mentioned in his study that the homeless usually are not truthful about such because they are embarrassed and do not remember the exact date. Even though this is the case, in some cases where logic is concerned, one can tell when a person is being truthful by the way they explain the events and respond to questions.

The participant who had been on the streets the longest among the homeless youth was a female, and she said she had been on the streets for 13 years. The participant who had not been on the streets for a long time was a male who had been on the streets for 6 months. One (1) of the others had been on the streets for 4 years. Two (2) participants had been on the streets for 6 years, according to the knowledge they provided. Two (2) participants had been on the streets for just over a year, with no more than 3 months. One (1) participant had been on the streets for about 2 years. Another participant had been on the streets for about 9 years. In Hills' (2015) research, the participant who had lived the most on the streets was a male, which is different from the results of this study. In this study, the participant who lived on the streets the most was a female, with the participant who had spent less time on the streets being a male. Ward and Seager (2010) mentioned that time spent on the streets is an important factor for reintegration purposes. With this being said, two (2) male participants had spent less than 18 months on the streets, in contrast to the females that have only one (1) participant had not spent over 2 years on the streets. As such, this concluded that the male participants had a better chance. However, everyone has a chance at changing, as even the participant who had spent 13 years on the streets mentioned that she still wishes that someday she would leave the streets.

The difference in the years they have stayed on the streets seems to have no effect on the knowledge they have, as the researcher found that some of those who had stayed for longer on the streets had more knowledge about how to get help in various areas compared to those who had not stayed for longer. The longer one stays, the more they seem to be less vested in making a way to get out of the streets.

5.2.3. Parental Status

The homeless youth who are on the streets sometimes do have family members who are alive but not checking up on them or partly checking on them. Some of the homeless youth have bad

relationships with their families because of substance abuse and family abuse (Desmond et al, 2016). In a study by Hills (2015), it was stated that homeless people may have parents, but because of familial dysfunctions, they tend to end up on the streets. Eight (8) of the nine (9) homeless participants in this study had one or no parent at all, with only one participant having had both parents. Some of the participants are still in contact with their parents, whilst others are not on good terms with them and have left home because of mistreatment from their parents. Four (4) participants had only a mother but no father. Three (3) participants had no parents. One (1) participant had both parents. One (1) participant did not have a mother and never knew their father. The misplacement of a child's life starts when the mother or father dies, in accordance with the study by Clarchety and Walker (2011), which is in agreement with the findings of the study. Some of the participants mentioned having been on the streets after losing their parents, as this, for some, usually comes with being mistreated by the person they are left under the care of.

5.2.4. Level of Education

With regards to getting an education, only one participant confirmed having finished matric, with the rest of the participants having dropped out before reaching matric. The participants mentioned different reasons as to why they dropped out, with the participant who had finished also stating why he had not furthered his studies. Five (5) participants who did not finish high school dropped out in grade 11; Four (4) were male participants, and one (1) was female. Two (2) female participants dropped out at grade 9, and one (1) at grade 10. The participant from Zimbabwe mentioned having dropped out in grade 13, which is Advanced level (A-level). In Zimbabwe, the form of Education is different, but A-levels are taken over two years, and if completed, they are equivalent to a National Senior Certificate. The participant explained that in Zimbabwe, it takes 9 years of primary school and 6 years of high school, making those 15 years of studying to be able to be eligible to get into tertiary:

“...in Zimbabwe, primary school takes 9 years, and 6 years high school...”

The female participants, according to the research findings, are the ones who dropped out of school earlier than the male participants. The grade that most female participants dropped out in was grade 9. All male participants who did not finish school had dropped out at grade 11. This was different from the findings of Hills (2015), which revealed that girls had had more education levels than boys according to its participants.

The homeless participants had different reasons as to why they left school, but some of the reasons centred around poverty and not being treated well by their guardians or parents. One participant mentioned having left school because the situation back at home was bad; they were poverty-stricken, and he had to look for a job as a male:

Mlindwa: *“I was forced by the situation; I had to put bread on the table for them. My mother is old, so it is not easy for her to go and hustle, I could say that.”*

Another participant had a different reason; he mentioned that he dropped out because of was less motivated to continue due to the high levels of unemployment.

Nsika: *“What discouraged me was the fact that I looked at my cousins, brothers and sisters; they are all graduates, but in the end, they ended up unemployed. They travelled long distances to get quality education but ended up unemployed, so I was discouraged by that. I then decided I was good with the level of study I had.”*

The lack of motivation to study due to unemployment is common even among some people in society. To others, it is not the motivation but life choices. One participant mentioned that she dropped out of school because she had chosen to become an independent person at that young age.

Nondumiso: *“I could not continue because I had chosen to become independent.”*

However, as far as choices are concerned, some others had been pushed into tough situations, which resulted in them having to choose to drop out of school. One of the participants mentioned that when her father passed away, her mother burnt her school uniform, which made it hard for her to continue with school.

Ziningi: *“... when my father passed away, my mother burnt away my school uniform...”*

Another participant had a similar response of having no uniform, but his reason was that he had no one to buy the uniform for him. Even though this might be the case for some of the homeless, to others, the reason they left school was because of misbehaving. One of the participants confessed that he dropped out of school, but he was a misbehaving person when he was still in his early teenage years in high school.

Xundu: *“It is because of my behaviour; as I was growing up, I used to misbehave.”*

The death of a parent can also have a huge impact on a child in school, especially if the child has no support structure. Some of the participants mentioned that the death of their supportive parents led to them deciding to live on the streets; the same is true with school. One participant mentioned that she dropped out of school because her mother passed away, and she had no support after that.

Zandile: "My mother's death... Yes, there were problems to the point where I left like I was losing my mind. Then, the social workers took me to the hospital. I became better, then went back home to my aunty, then it was okay for a while, then it all went back to being the same. As I am now in the streets forever."

The researcher did not find other studies that touched on the level of education of the homeless youth besides the document by Francis Hills (2015), and it had different results pertaining to the levels of education. However, the samples that were used in this study and Hills' (2015) study are different since Hills' (2015) oldest participant was an 18-year-old.

5.2.5. Causes for Homelessness.

Being homeless is not by choice to others; as much as to others, it is by choice. The homeless youth go through many atrocities, and some of them are on the street on the quest for a better life, with them preferring the streets over their homes. The homeless youth take the initiative to go live on the streets for numerous reasons, and in the study, what was common amongst some of the participants was that they left for the streets because of parental abuse or mistreatment by the guardians in most cases. Some of the participants mentioned that the loss of their biological parents is the reason they ended up choosing to be on the streets because the life they lived under the care of their guardians was bitter. One of the participants mentioned that he left home because he was tired of seeing his stepfather abuse his mother, with his mother not doing anything about it. After all, the stepfather was the breadwinner.

Nsika: "I tried being patient with my stepfather's behaviour till I realised that I was getting abused, and so was my mother, and I did not like seeing that anymore. I then decided to come to start a new life in Durban, where I found myself staying on the streets."

Two (2) of the participants mentioned that they left home because they did not see eye to eye with their mothers. One of the two mentioned that the mother would swear at her and call her names for reasons that were not obvious until one day, she decided to leave home:

Nondumiso: “Yes, I had an argument with my little sister because she kept wearing my clothes without my permission. She then swore at me and said I have HIV. All because of my sister.”

In such situations, it is usually tricky because both sides of the story are not known. The other participant mentioned that her mother does not want to do her identity document for her. She is still getting grant money under her name, which has led to her life being less progressive, and part of the reason why she chose to leave home was because of this.

Nikiwe: “There are many reasons. She does not want to go with me to do my ID, and she is getting my R350 grant. That is what she does. The reason behind them chasing me away from home was because of that.”

Another participant mentioned that he left home because he saw that his drug addiction was getting out of hand and that had he continued staying at home, he would have ended up stealing from his family:

Sphe: “My brother, it was the fact that being at home could have led to me ending up doing wrongs; for example, my mother comes back from work, and the television is gone. I was running away from doing all those things; it is better on the streets we are able to put one and one together.”

He took the initiative to go live on the streets to hustle to support his addiction instead of ending up a neighbourhood thief. Homeless youth are usually stigmatised because of being associated with those who steal to feed their addictions. However, addiction seems to be a common driving force. Another participant mentioned that she ran to the streets because she started seeing that her family was noticing that she used drugs.

Zandile: “It was because she could now see that I had too much stress, and I had started doing drugs. I could not even hold myself. I had that vile feeling that she already did not want me there, and I started doing drugs and stealing some of her money because I knew she did not want me in her life. I was no longer sleeping at home till I finally ended up here.”

The data seems to show a trend in the lack of parental care from the parents being the reason some of the participants ended up deciding to take their lives to the streets. Another reason that is common is poverty. The data collected revealed that poverty is still one of the driving forces, as some of the participants mentioned that they left home because of how the situation was due to being poor. One of the participants mentioned that he left home because his sister said he could not feed him anymore; he had to grow up.

Xundu: *“Me and my sister did not see eye to eye before I came to the streets... It was the fact that I was not working.”*

The above participant was 17 years old when he came to the streets, and he was expected to be working by the sister that he used to live with because of how his sister felt burdened by him. Another participant revealed that he left home because the situation was tough, and he had to man up and find a job:

Mlindwa: *“What led to me being here is that it was tough financially; in the rural areas, it is dry, so that forced me to look for a job that is good and will make me money that is at least above two thousand rands so that at home they can get what they need, as I would give them what I have.”*

Amongst the participants, no one wanted to be on the streets forever, and they did not anticipate being on the streets for as long as they had stayed. One of the participants who was forced to leave home because of how they would lock him out mentioned how he wishes to find his family in Johannesburg, as he has another home there; the only issue has been transporting money:

“... currently, the problem I have is that I want to go back home, not to Inanda, but to Johannesburg. I have not asked anyone for help. I was still trying to gather the money on my own...”

All the participants provided various responses as to why they left for the streets. Still, the commonality that most shared was the issue of poverty and the parental or guardian mistreatment they fall victim to.

5.3. Drug Use as Push and Pull Factor to Crime.

The use of drugs on the streets seems to be something that could most probably not be controlled, with it still being something that is occurring in the streets of Durban. As established in the study by Marks and Moodley (2021), drugs are used as a coping mechanism by many, but it is not all homeless people that use drugs. Drugs like *whoonga* and crystal meth are still commonly used, according to the findings of this study. Two (2) participants mentioned that the drug users mention that they use the drugs for bravery and not to be fearful of anything. One stated that:

Nkosi: *“It is the drugs they take because, according to those I have asked, they said the drugs give them confidence and bravery; they do not even fear the danger as it approaches...”*

The other participant mentioned that the bravery they get is directed towards robbing people.

Nondumiso: *“It is some drug; they smoke using a pipe, which gives them the bravery and tenacity to rob people.”*

The study also discovered that there is a new drug doing the rounds on the streets that homeless people who are drug users use, which 2 different participants mentioned.

Nikiwe: *“Yes, homeless people; those who smoke ‘whoonga’, and those who do not sleep, who smoke Cristian (a drug).”*

Nondumiso: *“What pushes them are the drugs that they use. They overuse the drugs... There are many that they are using... Whoonga, rock, and Cristian... It is some drug they smoke using a pipe that gives them the bravery and tenacity to rob people”.*

Some of the mentioned conflicts that arise amongst the homeless youth are due to drugs. One of the participants mentioned having witnessed one of the other homeless girls get stabbed because of drugs.

Zandile: *“Yesterday morning, someone was stabbed for R35 because she did not want to buy a combo to get a fix for her and the others.”*

Most participants mentioned that the ongoing smash and grabs and muggings that are committed by some of the homeless are due to drug use. The users usually need to have money to buy a fix, and that usually leads to them resorting to crime because they have no jobs to

maintain their addictions. This was in agreement with the study of Ngcobo (2021), which established that money for drugs and crime are linked together when it comes to the homeless. The muggings are not only directed to members of the community, but the homeless also rob other homeless people of their belongings.

Nikiwe: *“I am not in relations with people who live on the streets, but some of them are good, and others are criminals; they also rob us people who live on the streets with them.”*

Drug users, according to the collected data, are the perpetrators of criminal acts like robbing people, which usually gets some of the other homeless people in trouble as they get prone to being caught in the crossfire. One of the participants revealed that those who use drugs rob the other homeless people they sleep with.

Nikiwe: *“What I usually see are people getting robbed near where we sleep... Yes, homeless people; those who smoke ‘whoonga’, and those who do not sleep, who smoke Cristian.”*

This reveals how drugs pull homeless youth into crime and also push them towards committing crimes without having to think about it. One of the participants, who is also a drug user, mentioned that homeless drug users are better off when they are not sober:

Sphe: *“A person who lives on the streets is normal when they have smoked, but when they have not smoked, they are like wild animals.”*

Another participant revealed that homeless people who are drug users abuse anyone close by when they need a fix.

Zandile: *“...Those are the ones that have an influence on the abuse of other people because when they need a fix for their drug, they end up abusing anyone close by because of what they need...”*

The data further reveals that drug users like to assert control and be in charge of others, which in turn leads to homeless people who are not users submitting to them because of the fear of being stabbed or beaten up. One of the participants mentioned that the users like to act in control.

Mlindwa: “... *but there are also those who are troublemakers, and I could say they are the ones that abuse other people because, at the end of the day, they like being in charge, especially those who do drugs and all the bad stuff...*”

The drugs that some of the homeless youth smoke are the reason that they cannot afford to sleep in shelters or rent places. They tend to use the money they get to feed their drug addiction instead of trying to work their way out slowly. One of the participants mentioned that he has never stayed at the shelter because of the money he makes he has to spend on drugs.

Sphe: “*Well, since we are smokers, in the shelters, they usually pay, say maybe sometimes. So, what we smoke stops us because whenever you have money, you think about smoking, you do not care about anything else.*”

One of the participants, who is a former drug user, gave knowledge of a medication called methadone, which was used to help users during the times of the COVID-19 pandemic. This revealed that some of the homeless are aware that there is a way to stop taking the drug, as he further revealed that he still knows some guy who got completely off the “whoonga” addiction.

Mlindwa: “... *they introduced methadone to help the guys... many people were helped. I know most of those who completely left drugs after...*”

Those who do not use heavy drugs still smoke antidepressant drugs like cannabis. Those who smoke cannabis and cigarettes are rarely involved in criminal activities. The attained data revealed that some of those who smoke cannabis and cigarettes do not associate with those who use heavy drugs like *Whoonga*. One of the participants mentioned that he does not associate with some of the homeless people because of the drugs they use, which are responsible for their criminal behaviour:

Nsika: “... *I cannot stand the smell of the drugs that they use; it makes me feel nauseous. That is why I cannot find myself sleeping in a place where there are a group of smokers, because I cannot breathe right since the smell of it is unbearable.*”

Even though this is the case, some of the homeless do wish to stop using drugs, and some have stopped at some point. One of the participants, who was a recovering user, mentioned that he is currently aiming to go to rehab so he can completely get off the drug called *Whoonga*.

Sphe: “... *As we speak, there are classes I have started attending to try and quit the drugs, and then I will go to rehab after those classes.*”

Another participant mentioned that he once joined an NGO that helped him stay off smoking cannabis, which, in turn, he really stopped but happened to relapse because of his surroundings and the people around him.

Nsika: “... *I once attended the rehab there and stopped smoking marijuana for some time, but relapsed last December, as I got back to drinking and stuff. I had quit smoking and drinking but got back to it last December.*”

The challenge of quitting smoking starts after one gets out of rehab, which seems to be a challenge, as some of the homeless still have to go back to the streets after attending it, especially those without homes or any relatives close by.

5.4. Relationships the homeless youth have with other homeless people.

Usually, people who are in a similar situation tend to work together to try and get out of it. The issue with the homeless youth is different. All the participants mentioned how there is no trust on the streets among the homeless because of the different types of conduct that people follow. Some are criminals, some are people who are just trying to make ends meet, and some are drug users. Participants mentioned how trusting other homeless people could get you in trouble as there tend to be many things that the homeless people get involved in. This was different from what was revealed in the study by Wentzel and Voce (2012), which stated that they protect each other and have each other as a family. This makes it even harder for them to share the money that they sometimes receive when begging at the robots. One of the participants mentioned that they are not fond of each other and may even stab each other over little matters.

Lizwelonke: “*It is not good we pretend to be fond of each other; we are always fighting over small things... like money. When someone passes by and decides to give us, we can even stab each other over it, and it does not matter what the amount of the money we received is, be it little or not.*”

Another participant who is a drug user mentioned how doing drugs alone with other homeless people as a homeless person can get you in trouble. She mentioned that it is usually better to do the drugs alone when you are a drug user, as drugs, according to her, are the reason for violent outbreaks on the streets.

Zandile: *“What I do that helps me stay away from such is ensuring that I sit alone and smoke alone no matter how little I have. The person who asks me for something to smoke will not get it because if they had something, they would not think of me.”*

There are also some romantic relationships that happen on the streets, and what usually happens is that those who are couples look out for each other deeply. Two (2) participants mentioned how, in their circles, it is just them and their partner. Those in romantic relationships, according to the findings, are more dependent on each other than on the other homeless people, and they usually do everything together. One of the participants mentioned how he resorts to discussing issues with his girlfriend when he has problems first before going out for help.

Xundu: *“Well, since I stay with my girlfriend, she is the person we usually discuss every matter with.”*

The downfall of such is that it limits access to information if a circle is too small; as much as there is little trust in the homeless, losing complete trust makes it hard to judge good character. Another participant mentioned how it is never safe to sleep around other homeless people because of the violence that breaks out sometimes.

Mlindwa: *“... you are never safe when you are living with other homeless people because you never know who loves you and who does not. Even when you sleep, you sleep in fear because anything might happen at any time. As we speak, you might be sleeping as a crew, in a line outside a certain shop, and people may come and kick everyone sleeping there, and if they are not using kicks, they use sjamboks, and sometimes guns...”*

There is also the issue of the fear of being around other homeless people that the homeless exhibit. Some of the participants mentioned how they are never safe when they are sleeping around the homeless people on the streets. The reason that was mostly common is that some of the homeless people that they sleep with are people who mug people, so they always have the fear that those who get robbed will retaliate on everyone, including those who are not involved.

Sphe: *“As I said before, sometimes you find that someone homeless committed a crime, then the victim just ends up beating every homeless that is near that scene. You end up getting hurt.”*

Another cause of this is that the homeless people that they sleep with are the same homeless people who are out to get them. A participant mentioned how other homeless people sometimes pull a knife out on them to scare them.

Sphe: *“It happens sometimes that you get beaten up for something you do not know, see that. Others end up taking their knives out to scare you, and then you start figuring that you might die for something you are not involved in.”*

One of the participants mentioned how, usually, when they are sleeping, some of the other homeless people come and rob them of their belongings or sometimes snatch their belongings and then take a knife out on them. Those who do not do drugs are usually not in cohorts with those who do drugs because of the conduct of those who do drugs. It seems the homeless people are also aware of the drug users and the trouble that they are causing everyone, not only the community but the homeless populace too. One of the participants mentioned that he distances himself from drug users because of the drugs they use.

Nkosi: *“On the streets, I do not have too many relations with other homeless people; in most cases, I tried getting close to people, but then again, I found that people use different drugs, which I do not associate with, and I don’t want to find myself associated with it.”*

Another participant mentioned that she distances herself from homeless people because of those who are drug users and the fear she has that they might make her smoke the drugs without her knowledge.

Ziningi: *“My relationship with other homeless people is not tight. We do not get along because they smoke what I do not smoke, so if I hang around them, they might end up lacing what I smoke with what I do not smoke.”*

The study found that some of the relationships are not solid, but they assist each other where they can. One of the participants mentioned how he usually asks for help from the homeless elderly who are street vendors.

Nkosi: *“... If sometimes, as it happens that as a homeless I am a vendor, I happen to be short of stock, I seek help from the mothers who sell on the tables in the streets, and tell them that I am short of this and that, and it will cost me this much if they could gather what they have, I can add with what I have then find something*

to sell on the streets. Then they would gather some money, and I would order what I need and sell.”

The study further attained that those who are good with each other look out for each other and sometimes share what they have.

Nondumiso: *“Yes, we share everything we have together; if they have something, they give me, and if I have something, I give them.”*

There seems to be a trend in the mistrust that some of the homeless youth share for drug users, which might signify that they are aware of the implications of drugs, which is the reason why some resort to smoking cigarettes or cannabis. The homeless youth are aware of the cause of the mistrust, and they have had meetings before, but the relationship they have with each other is still the same. One of the participants mentioned that they do not work hand in hand, and when one has a problem, they look the other way.

Zandile: *“It is because, us as we live the life we are living, we do not work hand in hand... when one has a problem, they just look at you like they do not know you.”*

The relationship that they have with each other is part of the reasons why the homeless youth get victimised because it would be easier for them to fight off some of the victimizations that they experience if they worked hand in hand and stood up for one another against those who do bad unto them.

5.5. Community and Law Enforcement Involvement

The relationship that exists between the homeless youth and the community is still a relationship that is masked with much mistrust, with the homeless youth still mentioning in the study that they are mistreated by some of the community members, especially near the taxi ranks.

Zandile: *“We had a meeting last week Saturday with regards to this matter. A quantum stopped. It was headed to the Eastern Cape. There is this Eastern Cape rank we are close to, and the drivers there are not fond of us; even the municipality near Saint Georges is in cahoots with them, which led to us being moved because we were not protected there and being moved helped us.”*

This agrees with the findings in the study by Wentzel and Voce (2012), where the participants mentioned being threatened by taxi drivers. There is the issue of the community tending to punish the whole of the visible homeless people within their vicinity if one of the homeless people has committed a crime within that area. Some of the participants mentioned how they usually feel in danger when they are sleeping on the streets because of the fear of being beaten for crimes by other homeless people, which they had no knowledge about.

Xundu: *“Basically, it’s staying with people who rob other people. Because a person is not afraid to go rob someone and then come back and sleep where you are all sleeping, then when the people come for that robber, they beat all of you up because of this person.”*

On the other, the relationship that exists between law enforcement and homeless youth was enquired from the participants circulating the relationship they have with them and how they perceive them and their services. One of the participants mentioned that they usually experience difficulties when they seek help from the police as there is this stigma that they are seen as vagrants.

Sphe: *“The police sometimes keep you safe, and sometimes they do not. Sometimes they will be in the process of helping you then drop helping you along the process because they have this belief that you are a ‘phara’, they leave you and not do their jobs.”*

Another participant mentioned that he usually asks his friend to help him when he is in trouble or in need and that he has never gotten involved with the police. The friend he asks stays in St. Georges Street, which shows how he does not have to seek help from law enforcement agencies.

Lizwelonke: *“There is this friend of mine who usually helps me in such matters. I have never gotten involved with the police. This friend of mine helps me with serious matters, like say I get into a problem, he takes me to the clinic, because it happens that sometimes you wake up not feeling well.”*

This is in line with Cheng’s study that homeless youth have little trust with the police (Cheng, 2019). Other participants confirmed that the police barely help them if they look homeless. What was also established is that some of the other law officers do actually aid the homeless

people. One of the participants mentioned receiving assistance from police officers from the Berea police station and another one in Broadway, located in Durban North.

Zandile: “Yes, they are; they protect us, especially the police station in Broad Street and Berea.”

The issue of law enforcement usually confiscating the belongings of the homeless people was also raised by some of the homeless. In the previous studies, the article by Brooks (2023) it was established that the issue of the homeless having their belongings confiscated leads to them losing a lot of essentials like identity documents, and this makes it hard for them to progress. One of the participants revealed that their belongings still get confiscated by the police all the time.

Nikiwe: “I have never had any issues with the securities; the only problem is the police. Those who patrol and take away our blankets and belongings. They are the only problem... All the time, every night in the whole city of Durban, they start confiscating.”

This information was the same as the information that was revealed in Broughton’s (2016) and Brooks’s (2023) studies, which revealed that the belongings of the homeless are taken, and they are being victimised. One of the participants from the NGO mentioned that homeless people come to them all the time crying about losing their belongings and mostly their medication, which makes their lives difficult as some of them have chronic diseases that need the care provided by the medication they had.

Mamzo: “... sometimes you find out that the people we are helping are being abused; for example, you find someone that is using medication, and the metro comes and confiscates their belongings along with that person’s medication; based on that, they believe that the homeless litter. At the end of the day, the homeless person suffers, as some have chronic diseases, and need their medication. That person will come back crying, telling us about their pills, and that hurts us the most.”

One of the participants mentioned that she once asked for help from a police officer, and the police officer said she must ride with him down to the police station so that they could take a statement from her. She did just that, and the police officer took her to another location. When

she enquired why they were not going to the police station, the police officer said that she must have sex with him first for him to help her after with the help she needed.

Nondumiso: *“Well, I had a problem. I stopped a police van, and I thought it was taking me to the police station, only to find out it was not; the officer wanted to sleep with me... I was not able to protect myself. I just agreed to what he wanted because I wanted help from him.”*

The above findings reveal the relationship of the homeless youth with the police; if they do not offer anything to them, they will not receive help. The relationship, according to the collected data, still seems to be the same as before: law enforcement still confiscates the belongings of the homeless, and this will continue happening, as previously stated in the research of Broughton (2016).

One participant in the study mentioned that he once encountered trouble with the security guards due to they were confiscating their belongings from where he was sleeping with his girlfriend and others. When he was asked whether he had ever run into trouble with the law enforcers, he had this following to say.

Xundu: *“Yes, they removed us and took all our sleeping belongings...”*

The law enforcers and the homeless have a relationship that works on the basis of benefits with the law enforcers, which has made it hard for the homeless to seek help or establish some trust with the law enforcers. When the homeless were asked during the study whether they thought the police were responsible for their safety, some believed that they were not. The reason was because they had already developed a perception that the streets are difficult and that thought circulates the basis that they already are in a bad place. They knew what they were getting themselves into. One of the participants in the interview replied as follows.

Nkosi: *“Well, I do not think they are responsible for someone living in the streets or outside. If maybe I was indoors, then I would say that they are responsible, because something might have happened, and I report to the police, and then they ignore my case. In such a case, I would say that the police are to blame, but as for our case, those who live on the streets are not responsible; unless if maybe I report a problem and then they do not help me, then I can say that they are wrong in that case.”*

Throughout the study, it was discerned that certain homeless youth participants held the perception that the assistance of law enforcement was based on the provision of a bribe. One of the participants mentioned that she thought that they were of great help, but they required help sometimes.

Ziningi: “Yes, but sometimes they are not to be trusted because they are easily bribed. You sometimes report to them, and they ignore your case because you do not have money and you are homeless.”

The same participant further mentioned that they were brutally kicked out of a house they were staying in, which was a deserted house they had cleaned as part of an initiative by an organisation named the Anti-Vandalism Forum.

Ziningi: “When they removed us, they jumped over the fence of the yard, they pointed guns at us and kicked us, then asked us to get out of the house, and we did with the other ladies... They removed us and set a date for us to vacate the place completely. The police said the whole thing is a fraud, and we are currently waiting for the Anti-Vandalism Forum (AVF) certificate.”

The trust between the homeless youth, the community and law enforcement is still unstable, with the homeless youth suffering the most because of this, as it hinders them from being helped fully. Some of the homeless youths do not have major problems that have the power to make a person stay homeless forever.

5.6. Sexual abuse and violence

The findings of the study reveal that sexual abuse as an act carried out by the homeless on other homeless people was common. Some of the female participants opened up about their experiences and other homeless youth’s experiences. The way living on the street is structured makes it hard for females to live as freely as males, as they are the most at risk. During this study, some participants mentioned that they were once victims of sexual abuse or had a friend who was once a victim of sexual abuse. To some, it may occur the same day they arrive on the streets or at a later stage, and others are lucky not to fall victim.

5.6.3. Rape

In support of the study by Hills et al. (2016), rape is one of the sexual abuses that the homeless people go through, especially the females. One of the participants mentioned that she was raped on the streets after living on the streets for a while. When asked about her experiences on the streets, she had the following to say.

Ziningi: *“When I arrived on the streets of Durban, things were moving, unlike back at home, and then I later realised that on the streets it is not good too; I got raped.”*

This seems to be something that has occurred to some of the females living on the streets. This is in agreement with the study by Hills (2015) that other homeless people rape the homeless. The same participant later revealed to the researcher that the perpetrators are the homeless who live in the tunnel located at the Marketplace, which is called “Maskande.”

Ziningi: *“There is a place called Maskande, where they rape young children and older people too; it is where they take them to.”*

The perpetrators were said to be some of the foreign nationals who were homeless. A number of female participants confirmed that foreign nationals are making them live in fear because of how they mistreat and abuse the female homeless populace. One of the participants mentioned that the perpetrators wait for them to sleep first and then try to catch them off guard and rape them.

Zandile: *“The homeless people, especially the males, abuse us, the women, even though some of us are underage. Where we sleep under the bridge, they walk until sunrise, especially the foreigners from Tanzania. They wait for us to sleep, then when we are asleep, try to sneak up on us and rape us.”*

Another participant revealed similar information, stating that they are not at peace on the streets because of the fear they have for them since they rape people of all ages.

Ziningi: *“I always feel like my life is in danger. The foreigners are causing a lot of chaos, they are raping young girls, and they even abduct older women and rape them.”*

The above responses reveal that it does not matter how old you are; if you are a female, you are never safe on the streets, as in agreement with the study of Sadiki (2016). The research further revealed that some of the sexual assaults that are carried out on the female homeless

lead to deaths. One of the participants mentioned that her friend was gang-raped by 7 to 8 men, where she usually sleeps and could not scream for help. She later passed on because of the condition she was in after she got gang-raped by the 7 to 8 men.

Zandile: "Last week, a girl called Ncamsile passed away. Ncamsile, I do not know why she did not scream because we could have heard that something wrong was happening. But they did as they pleased to her, from the back and the front. Then, around dusk, we heard that she had a problem. Then we asked her why she did not scream, and she said they had closed her mouth with a cloth and tied it around her neck. When she tried identifying the men, he saw that there were around 7 or 8 of them, since where she usually sleeps is near the streetlight."

This conduct is a crime against the homeless female populace, as they are more at risk of such, which has caused them always to have to look over their shoulders. There is no protection for female homeless youth; as it stands, the country is experiencing high levels of Gender-Based Violence, and the experiences are much worse for those on the streets as they are easily taken advantage of. In the study by Hills et al. (2016), the same was revealed as what was found in this study, that females are the most at risks of being sexually abused. The findings of the study further revealed that other females are at risk of being forced into prostitution. One of the participants mentioned that a homeless girl she knows had people try to force her to sell her body. When asked who the perpetrators were, she responded that it was the other street workers, and foreign nationals.

Ziningi: "...others wanted to sleep with her by force, and others wanted to sell her body by force... It is the foreigners and other homeless girls who are also sex workers that forced her."

This is still a part of sexual abuse; as an attempt, it is still a process of victimising someone, and some others are lured through forced prostitution and end up being drug addicts with no control over their addiction.

5.6.4. Stabbings as Violence

Violence was something that the homeless youth lived within. The researcher asked the homeless participants whether they felt like their lives were in danger on the streets. The common responses were that the homeless youth do feel like their life is in danger all the time from other homeless people, the community members, and the law enforcement. However, most of those who perpetuate this fear are the other homeless youth, according to what was

established. The way the homeless people who do drugs live is said to be more violent, as most outbreaks amongst the homeless are due to drugs. Stabbings are a type of violence that occurs the most amongst the homeless, according to the studies. What the study found was similar to the findings of Hill et al. (2016), who revealed that many have died due to stabbings on the streets. Some of the stabbings lead to deaths. One of the participants mentioned that this one time, he witnessed someone get stabbed in the neck over a cup of tea, and he died. The two homeless people were in an argument, which led to another stabbing the other to death.

Lizwelonke: “Well, the one took the other’s tea in the morning and drank it whilst the other was out to buy bread, and when he came back and asked for his tea, the one who took it had no money, then he stabbed him on the neck, and he died.”

The most violence against the homeless is carried out by the homeless, according to the findings of this study. Situational factors perpetuate the violence; these findings are in alignment with Bartol and Bartol (2016), who stated that some violence is due to situations, such as the situations in which the homeless live. The homeless stab each other over small quarrels sometimes, which shows a slight glimpse that stabbings might be seen as the solution to most troubles by the homeless. Another participant mentioned that the homeless sometimes even stab each other over the cardboard that they sell to recycling companies.

Nikiwe: “...Other homeless people fight even over cardboard, and they stab each other over them.”

The participant mentioned that she once was faced with a challenge that involved her boyfriend; the other homeless males would beat him up out of jealousy because he was dating her.

“Where we used to sleep, the other pharas/homeless people would bother us, especially my boyfriend, not me. They were jealous that he was dating me because he was a good guy. They would abuse him for that.”

The outbreaks are even carried out in group attacks sometimes, and sometimes, when you are still new on the streets, they beat you up. One of the participants mentioned that they beat him up badly when he first arrived on the streets, and the other homeless people did this:

Mlindwa: “... When I first arrived on the streets, they robbed me and harassed me, and beat me up, then they took everything that they wanted.”

The research data further revealed that some of the violence is due to drug use. Some of the homeless people stab each other over the drugs they use and when they need a fix, according to the findings of this study. One of the participants mentioned that her friend, who is a sex worker, once got stabbed over her money because she did not want to buy the others the drugs they wanted, and a male homeless person stabbed her they sometimes do drugs with.

Zandile: “Yesterday morning, someone was stabbed for the R35 because she did not want to buy a combo to get a fix for her and the others... She came back with R35 that time and told them that it was the only money she had, and the girl said they had R10, her and her boyfriend, and that they wanted to buy “tik” and whoonga, and the girl with R35 said that she wants to smoke “rock” and whoonga, which caused some conflict of interest. Moreover, the boyfriend just pulled a knife and stabbed the girl just like that.”

These are common instances where the homeless become violent against each other, as in agreement with Hills (2016), that violence makes them aware that the streets are not safe. Even though the community and law enforcement sometimes attempt at them through violence, they are the cause of some of the violence that they sometimes find themselves caught up in. This is mostly because of bad life choices that they make.

5.7. Homeless Perpetrated Crimes on the Homeless People and the Community

The homeless people are all rounded up as mischievous people, but some of the homeless people are bothered by the other homeless. Those who are victims cannot report such to the police because of the relationship they have with the police, which has been discussed in the previous paragraphs. The homeless youth undergo theft at the hands of other people where they sleep, and others are mugged for their belongings and end up having to start from scratch. The research found what was similar to Ndlovu’s study on the homeless in Durban, that the homeless youth also mug each other (Ndlovu, 2019). If one is new on the streets, there are usually high chances that they do not know anyone, and that leaves them vulnerable to other homeless as when they arrive, they arrive with what they have, be it little or small, they take it away. One of the participants mentioned that one of the elderly that are homeless vendors had her personal belongings stolen by the other homeless. Still, the participant was able to find out who did that.

Nsika: “... *Another incident I once saw; there is this other old mother I am close to, she is very old, she once lost her bag which had her phone, ID, money, and other belongings, you know I was walking with someone who was a part of those who stole the old mother’s bag, and I did not know about it.*”

Homeless criminals sell stolen items like cell phones, and those like identity documents are also sold for the purpose of committing crimes. The same participant mentioned that they told him that they sell the IDs to marry foreign nationals in South Africa, which is a way of acquiring citizenship:

Nsika: “... *He mentioned that when they snatch your ID from you, they know where to sell it, and I was asking myself why someone would sell another person’s ID, then he told me that these are used to help marry foreigners to South African citizens so as to get citizenship and other accesses that the foreign nationals cannot if they are not citizens...*”

The use of another person’s identity document for such a crime is not something that is new in the crime statistics; there are not many reported cases of such. The homeless people tend to rob or steal each other’s possessions, which in turn messes up the relationship they have with one other. One of the participants mentioned that they robbed her of her new sneakers; they ganged up on her and fought her off her new sneakers.

Nondumiso: “*Yes, I lost my new sneakers. They were all ganging up against me.*”

The robberies the homeless youth commit go as far as robbing the elderly, according to the findings. A participant mentioned that a mother she used to be around was robbed and stabbed over the cigarettes that she was selling.

Nondumiso: “*There is this mother we usually hang with; she usually sells cigarettes, and they robbed her and stabbed her in the head because they wanted the cigarettes.*”

Another participant mentioned that he once witnessed a homeless person get beaten because he had robbed an old lady.

Xundu: “... *They beat up someone who had robbed an old lady.*”

The research study findings revealed that the participants shared negative responses regarding their experiences of living in the various shelters. The participants revealed that shelters were

more of a hotspot for crime than the streets, as the homeless are enclosed in one building, which leaves them exposed to nobody else but each other. This agreed with the study of Desmond et al. (2017) on the homeless in Durban, which revealed that the shelters are more dangerous than the streets as the homeless steal each other's belongings. The findings reveal that some of the homeless people who are criminals, those called "amaphara", make their way into some of the shelters and steal the stuff of the other homeless sleeping in the rooms. The participants did not reveal the names of the shelters. One of the participants who had once stayed in a shelter revealed that it is bad staying there; the homeless, who are troublemakers, steal their belongings.

Ziningi: *"Living there is bad. Our stuff gets stolen... the "pharas", they break into our rooms and steal our lotions and other people's phones."*

Another participant who once resided in one of the shelters in Durban mentioned that she does not get bothered, but the only problem with staying there is that it is not hygienic; there are bed bugs.

Nikiwe: *"There are a lot of bugs there, but they have never abused me there."*

Mngadi (2018) had written an article about the conditions of the shelters, which revealed that the shelters are not in line with the health and safety of the homeless. The findings of this study are in agreement with Mngadi's article. The same participant further confirmed that as much as she has never been bothered, for other homeless people, it is worse because of the other homeless who smoke drugs there and the violence that sometimes breaks out, with some even stabbing each other. She went on and mention that the streets are better than the shelters.

Nikiwe: *"They have it rougher in the shelter; it is rougher there than in the streets... some are smoking 'whoonga' inside, some are getting into fights right there and some stab each other right there. It is bad."*

Most of the participants suggested shelters are not good places, but those who have never been to the shelters seem to have a good image of shelters. One of the participants who have never been to a shelter mentioned that those who have been there say it is safe.

Lizwelonke: *"Well, I have heard people talk about shelters, but I have never been to one... They say it is safe, but it needs money; you must pay every day."*

As much as some of the shelters are hotspots for crime against homeless people, according to the participants who had once stayed in them, some of the other participants mentioned having had a good stay at a shelter, but the only issue is money. One of the participants who had a positive experience mentioned that she had a good stay there and wished to go back but ran out of rent money.

Zandile: “Yes, it was very good staying in the shelter when I first arrived in Durban, but now, since I stay on the streets, I still wish I was staying there, but the issue of having no money is stopping me...”

It was the same for the other participants, which proves that the homeless commit crimes everywhere; they do not pick, as they sometimes rob one of their own, with the major driving force being drug addiction.

5.8. Services from the Governmental Organisations and NGOs Utilised by the Homeless Youth

The homeless have encountered different initiatives provided by both non-governmental and governmental organisations. However, it can be noted that some of the subset of homeless youth use only a limited number of services. This observation emerged during the inquiries about the services sought by the homeless youth from the organisations aimed towards helping them. The municipality was counted as a contributor despite the limitations, a fact corroborated by the staff of the Denis Hurley Centre. Against the backdrop of the recent global pandemic, COVID-19, the organisations played an important role in assisting the homeless, and a subsequent section will delve into the experiences of the homeless youth during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

5.8.3. The COVID-19 pandemic and Lockdown Experiences

The experiences the homeless youth had during the COVID-19 pandemic are different, due to that they did not all go to the shelters that were designated during lockdown, which happened a few months after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa. According to the information that was provided by Harper (2020) on the lockdown initiatives set by the organisations, the municipality had set up tents for the homeless to quarantine in as per the government regulations. The homeless youth participants, as part of this research study were asked about their experiences on the services they received. The findings revealed that some of the homeless youths were happy with the services, and some were not because of some of

the mistreatment they received from some of the social workers. One of the participants mentioned that they were treated well in a shelter that was set up near Albert Luthuli Park; they slept on new mattresses and were given food, but she highlighted that people tend not to feel the same way about being housed.

Zandile: "They built tents for us near the Albert Luthuli Park, and they brought us sleeping mattresses that were new. Even the food we had was good, there were no problems. The only issue was that we as people do not feel the same about things, but we stayed, and we felt safe, and we were okay; it was unlike where we were coming from, which was what made me happy."

One of the participants responded that he was safe, but he further commented on how they were not allowed on the streets, and he deemed that as hard, implying that as much as he was getting help, there was still this feeling of wanting to be on the streets.

Xundu: "...You could say it was alright in a way, but then again, it was hard on the streets. The police never wanted anyone on the streets; if they saw you, they would chase you and beat you."

Another participant mentioned that it was not easy for them, as he would sometimes pick up masks from the floor during the times when masks were mandatory. Despite being told how the COVID-19 pandemic was spreading, he still had no choice but to pick up ashed cigarettes to smoke.

Nsika: "... we were supposed to be the first to get the coronavirus; it happened sometimes that I had to be somewhere and needed a mask. I would pick whatever mask I found on the floor and wear it. And the fact that we could not work well during lockdown, whenever you found a cigarette on the floor, you would pick up and smoke, but at the same time risking..."

As much as some of the participants did not mention the full extent of the help, other participants shared their full experiences. Another participant mentioned that he was housed in the camps that were set near the Moses Mabida Stadium. There, they received food, cosmetics, clothes, a mobile clinic to help those who needed health care, and methadone was given to those who had drug addiction problems.

Mlindwa: "In 2020, the situation got bad as we were under lockdown regulations because we never knew it could happen, but I was safe because we were housed in

Moses Mabida Stadium and others in other places. They helped us in many ways; there were cosmetics, food, and clothes, and they even added a mobile clinic for those who needed help. And they introduced methadone to help the guys. And those who got help were helped.”

The same participant later mentioned that they were safeguarded by security, who ensured that everyone was inside and no one was allowed to leave.

“Yes, I was in a way safe. The security safely guarded us, and the place we were in was safe, it was not recklessly opened, and no one was allowed to leave. I was safe.”

Not all the participants had something good to say about the way they were quarantined in the camps during the heavy lockdown. One participant mentioned that the social workers mistreated them at one of the shelters; they were made to do what they were not comfortable with:

Ziningi: “... When we were there, we were partly mistreated... The social workers... They told us to clean out old faeces, which had been there for a long time... At a place called Strollers.”

One participant mentioned that she did not go to the camps for safety; an older mother took her in, and that is how she was safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. She stayed well with this mother. She did chores heavily in exchange for her stay till the mother kicked her out after suspecting that she was after her boyfriend. She then left after and sought shelter in the tents that were near the Moses Mabida Stadium.

Nondumiso: “I received help. But I received it from this old mother, who was kind enough to bring me into her home during lockdown... It was okay, but they ended up turning me into their slave... she was beginning to think that I was after her boyfriend... I left there; I went to stay at Moses Mabida Stadium... It was fine; there was nothing to complain about.”

5.8.4. Services Used by the Homeless Youth

The NGOs, as the ones who are most hands-on in helping the homeless as a whole, offer many services to the homeless people. Part of the study asked the homeless youth what services the

use or have used or received from the organisations that offer them help. Some of the participants showed that they were not fully aware of how much help they could get from organisations like the Denis Hurley Centre, as even things like a chance to go to rehab are offered there. One of the participants, who is a recovering addict, mentioned that he used to come for food, then later learnt that he could get a chance to go to rehab after having spent over 6 years on the streets.

Sphe: *“I just came here for food, but then again, I later learned that you can be helped if you do not wish to smoke drugs anymore, as I am working my way towards quitting smoking...”*

Another participant who had mentioned that she had no identity document stated that the only help she had sought from the organisations was food and the clothes they sometimes offered, with no reference to approaching the social workers regarding her issues.

Nikiwe: *“Yes, I do. They give us food, and sometimes they give us clothes to wear if some were donated... I have never been in a situation that needed me to seek help.”*

Another participant who has been on the streets for over 6 years mentioned that she has no identity document. When asked if she has ever sought help from the social workers regarding the matter, the participant said she never has. She mentioned that the only services she makes use of are getting some food and taking a shower.

Nondumiso: *“Just getting something to eat and a shower.”*

What was common amongst most of the responses was that most participants found information about the services offered by the organisations after being on the streets for a while. This was confirmed by a participant who had been on the streets for 6 months. The participant mentioned that he wished to go back home, but he did not know about the social workers who could help him with regard to his matter; the only services he utilised were food and showers.

Lizwelonke: *“Yes, I am still just trying to gather money so that I can go back home to Johannesburg... I haven't had an opportunity to ask for help.”*

For the participants who had confirmed that they have no identity documents, their lives seem to be not too affected as they are able to still live on the streets or get someone to purchase on their behalf or stand on their behalf where an identity document is needed. One of the participants mentioned that he asks a person who has an identity document to stand in for them as long as it is not illegal things.

Nsika: *“...Things that need an ID, if they are not illegal things, say maybe like buying a phone, I ask someone who can help me with their ID to go fill in as the person, I will pay for the phone, but if it is above me, then it is beyond me.”*

It was also discovered during the study that some of the homeless who sell goods like chips and sweets on the street to make an income sometimes have their products confiscated by the municipality because they have no permit to sell.

Nkosi: *“They take things when you are selling because sometimes say you do not have a permit to sell, they take them, then lock them away...”*

The reason, according to the same participant, is that some of the other homeless people who sell these goods are fronts for selling drugs, which is why the municipality confiscates the goods.

“The issue is that others are a front for selling drugs; they pretend to be selling chips whilst knowing that they are selling drugs; the chips are just a front.”

The reason is valid. However, the only issue is that the homeless are also required to pay to get back those goods from the municipality, knowing their economic status, and they give them back knowing that they will take them again because they have no permit, and they also need an identity document.

Nkosi: *“It depends unless maybe I have some things confiscated by the municipality. I seek help because they need us to present an ID and some money... and to free them, you have to pay.”*

The study later discovered that there is an AVF organisation that some of the homeless youths are a part of. The organisation is said to deal with helping the homeless find shelter by having them clean deserted houses, and then try and contact the landlord to try and enquire about the place. The only issue that the homeless youth who are part of this initiative have is that they are currently waiting for a certificate to be confirmed and produced by the police as proof that they are part of AVF. This has led to them encountering some problems of eviction when faced by law enforcement.

Ziningi: *“The help I received from NGOs was from the AVF, which stands for Anti-Vandalism Forum. It deals with houses that have been vandalised. We clean those houses, and then move into the house. The police then arrived and said the whole*

thing was fraudulent, whilst it was not. We were awaiting an AVF certificate and had the proof. They removed us from the house.”

The participants were aware of some of the services, but some of the female participants only utilised what was utilised by everyone; they never attempted to seek help for their problems. Given the responses, the homeless youth are reluctant to seek help, but some eventually do, like the participant who decided to seek help for his addiction problem.

5.9. Non-governmental Organisations Operations and the Municipality

Involvement

The NGO that was interviewed was the Denis Hurley Centre. Three (3) members of the staff agreed to be participants in the study to elucidate the operations of the organisation, their knowledge, funding, and municipality involvement. The 3 participants comprised of 2 males, and 1 female. The participants signed the consent form after having their rights read to them prior to the interviews. One of the participants was a cook, one was a security guard who managed the operations in the kitchen, too, and one was a general worker. Still, they were all under a project called the Nkosinathi Project, which formed as a project part of a feeding scheme for the Denis Hurley Centre.

The organisation started in 2014, and all participants have been a part of it since it was established, even though it had been long operating before it was officially named the Denis Hurley Centre.

Blessings: “My brother, though I do not know the correct years, it was created in 2014, but it has long been operational under the Emmanuel Cathedral Church till 2014 when it was changed to the Denis Hurley Centre. You can count starting from that year.”

The female participant, Mamzo, mentioned that she arrived a year after the organisation was established:

Mamzo: “I arrived here in 2015”.

The organisation’s operations are transparent to the members, with them holding general annual meetings and filling the staff in on all the aspects of the organisation that they need to know.

5.9.3. Services Offered by Denis Hurley Centre

As the three (3) participants were under the same project, they still had different roles to carry out, with some of them being more affiliated with the Denis Hurley Centre outside the Nkosinathi Project. One of the participants, the general worker, mentioned that he works in gathering the donations that have been made by the different churches that donate to the centre:

Veni: *“We gather the donations that have been made by the different churches under the Denis Hurley Centre.”*

The centre has a range of services, they offer two meals a day, one in the morning for breakfast, and one during midday, for lunch, they offer showers for those who want to take a shower. There is a clinic for those who need health care and a process for those who wish to go to rehabilitation.

Mamzo: *“We have a clinic; we offer two meals a day, breakfast and lunch. We also help them with showers. If there is anyone that needs to go to rehab, we get them in contact with the social workers that work in the centre, but where I am mainly based in the kitchen.”*

One participant was asked about what initiatives had been set out to help those who have been victimised, and he responded that they get them into contact with the social workers called Wendy and Stuart, who are also members of the centre, who do the referrals sometimes.

Veni: *“We get them into contact with the social workers, Wendy is available, and there is also Stuart who does the referrals.”*

This was confirmed by the other two (2) participants, that counselling is offered, but there are processes that are followed as there need to be times set for those who need to see that counsellor.

Mamzo: *“Yes, anyone can go there, but there are sessions where you state how you will communicate with them and what the way forward would be.”*

Blessings: *“Counselling is offered here. It is offered by the social workers to someone who needs it; they state that they need it, and we then refer them to the social workers.”*

The services that are offered are not limited to what was said by the participants, as other staff members are involved in other segments of the organisation's initiatives and tasks. If the mental illness is beyond, they usually refer the person to a hospital where the person can get proper help.

Blessings: *“Those who have mental issues, we refer to social workers to see if they can get any help, and if they cannot, we then pass them over to the surrounding hospitals.”*

The services are part of the initiatives that are set to occur for as long as the organisation runs, and even though some people are reluctant to ask for help, those who have used their services have been helped before by the organisation. Other organisations provide similar services to the Denis Hurley Centre, like weFEEDsa, which provides meals for the homeless and Belhaven, which provides free healthcare services for homeless people. These organisations all work independently, but they assist each other with little help from the government.

5.9.4. Funding

The government seems not to be hands-on when it comes to aiding the homeless, as most of the funding is still mainly from the private sector even though some bodies have been set before to try and combat the issue of the homeless, as their number seems to be growing in Durban. One of the participants mentioned that the knowledge she has is that they get funding from international donations and the private sector.

Mamzo: *“At the moment, our director Raymond works very hard because, with regards to funding, he shows us the budget, and it shows that we are already ready; he gathers the money prior, say, for example, we already have money for up to 2025. Most of the funding he gets from private companies and overseas.”*

The municipality donates medication at the clinic that is under the Denis Hurley Centre for those in need of medication, especially expensive medication like antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for those with HIV and antibiotics, and other medication for chronic diseases:

Blessings: *“... The municipality helps us by giving us medication like ARVs, TB treatment and medication for chronic diseases. Those are very expensive. They help us with that. And in terms of working with them, we worked with them during lockdown, we were partners, and we ran this place (Denis Hurley Centre) as a*

shelter for the homeless, but those who were too vulnerable, the sick, and the disabled. We have a good relationship with the municipality.”

Even though this is the case, there have been instances where the municipality did not donate medicine, which created a problem for the organisation. They were able to recover by making donations, and they purchased the medicine for the clinic.

Mamzo: “They would help with the medication as we have a clinic here. They would donate medicine, but then again, we found out that they were lacking, and the organisation had to ask other funders to help with money for medication.”

The organisation also gets funding from churches and other NGOs, which donate food and blankets for the homeless during winter, and these are done by different organisations, which donate at different times:

Blessings: “I do have knowledge that they assist each other because this NGO (Denis Hurley Centre) also works hand in hand with other NGOs, and some churches are NGOs. As you sometimes see bread coming in here, it comes from different churches. At Musgrave, they donate bread to us, and other NGOs bring us things, especially Indian and Muslim-directed NGOs. They donate blankets when it is winter for the homeless. When it is Christmas, other NGOs come to us, like the Act Foundation, which comes and delivers food from time to time.”

In tough times, the organisations also aid each other with donations of food to give to the homeless since they are based in different parts of Durban; they work hand in hand with one another since the municipality is partially hands-on.

Mamzo: “Yes, they do help. There are others we work with; when we have food, we share it with them so that they can also assist those they are assisting.”

The funding that the organisation receives is said to be in preparation to last the organisation five years ahead, which is a good approach in gathering donations, as this ensures that be it there are troubles, they will not stop the centre from operating. The government can be more hands-on especially the municipality.

5.9.5. Qalakabusha Project

The Qalakabusha Project was initiated by the eThekweni municipality in an attempt to aid the homeless as part of a Safer Cities initiative in 2015, and it first started by incorporating the homeless. The project incorporated many plans, all aimed towards decreasing homelessness in Durban, with these being carried out through initiatives such as reception and outreach services, psychological assistance and screening, rehabilitation and treatment services, opportunities and skills development, birth registration and identity documents, reintegration and reunification, halfway houses and shelters among others (Maphumulo, 2019; Nzimande, 2020). However, the number of homeless youths appears to be increasing instead of decreasing; this poses a question as to whether the project was carried out. The participants were asked about their knowledge about the project and whether they knew about it or were asked to be a part of it. Two (2) participants mentioned that they have heard about it, whilst one participant mentioned that he does not know about it. The two (2) who knew both shared different opinions about the project. One of the two participants mentioned that he had heard about it. Still, he has never worked on the project, further mentioning that it could have only involved the people in higher positions within the Centre, like the director.

Blessings: "...Yes, I have heard about it, but no one has ever come to me, or it has never been introduced to us; we never worked with them on that, but then again, it could have been working with us at a higher level with the director maybe since he is the one in charge and has the line in the Homeless network. It never reached us."

The other participant mentioned that she knows the program. The municipality had set out to incorporate the homeless, and they were supposed to be part of the program, but it ended up failing. This was different from the findings that were revealed in the study by Maphumulo (2019), where the participants agreed to have been involved in the program. The leader who was representing the homeless was a guy called Bongani, who, according to the participant, dropped out because they did not agree on the same thing with the municipality.

Mamzo: "Oh, yes, I have heard about it; there were others who were supposed to leave from here to work with the municipality, but that program failed. Other homeless people were chairpersons; Bongani, who was in charge, ended up giving up on the whole thing."

The reason for the representative of the homeless dropping out was because the municipality was said to have side-lined the homeless and started incorporating people from Durban's surrounding locations.

Mamzo: "Yes, because they could not see eye to eye with the municipality, then the homeless ended up being side-lined, and people from the locations were put in their place as part of the program."

The findings were in support of Maphumulo's (2019) study, which revealed that the program did not involve homeless people even though it was meant for them (Maphumulo, 2019). The program seems to have deviated from what it was intended to do according to the information gathered from the participants, and this was because of how the municipality approached the matter, which led to the homeless leader pulling out. The homeless people were also not informed about the project but some of the people that represented them knew. There might have been other reasons, as there are always two sides to a story. Still, given the history of how the municipality usually treats the matter of the homeless, it becomes suspicious always.

5.9.6. Challenges Faced by the Organisation.

The issue of the municipality not cooperating with the NGOs is a challenge on its own because it limits how far the help the NGOs provide can go. The participants were asked about their experiences with some of the challenges they had faced or still facing. One of the challenges that had arisen was the issue of gangsterism, where the number of gang members known as the 26s and the 28s would fight over who should eat first. One of the participants mentioned that he recalls the violence was high to the point where much blood was spilt, just over food over alone, and who should eat first.

Blessings: "Well, the challenge that we once had since I am based on the feeding scheme, the homeless did not want to follow the rules that would help them all get the food. Others were fighting over the food because of the gang issues; there were 26s and 28s, and they fought over who should be eating first. That was difficult to overcome because blood was even spilt due to this gang issue, and we would look at the situation and think of how we could overcome such and avoid any more blood spills so that people could eat peacefully. Whether young, old, 26 or 28, still get food because that is what we are there for."

Some of the homeless are a part of the numbers gang for their benefit. Still, this issue showed how the danger of being homeless does not pick the location, as the violence would occur within the vicinity of the centre. This issue was slightly sorted, as the violence has gradually lessened compared to the time when the centre started operating in 2014. Even though this is the case, there are still troubles caused by drug users, who are unappreciative and always seek what they seek, not what is offered.

Blessings: *“The challenges that we face is that those who are drug users are hard to assist since they want what they want, they do not care what you offer...”*

Even though the organisations plan ahead when it comes to funding, issues like shortage of food still arise, as they do not usually buy the food but work based on the donated food. They sometimes have to take out of the centre’s funds to have enough food to provide for the homeless, as sometimes the donations become scarce.

Blessings: *“Another issue is that sometimes donations are scarce; we never know what to offer them, and then we end up using funds from the Centre.”*

Mamzo: *“What poses a challenge is that sometimes we run out of people that donate food to us, as I work in the kitchen.”*

This was in support of the findings of the study made by Cheng (2019) on the homeless youth of Durban, which revealed that the challenges faced are donations and money to run the organisations that aid the homeless. The municipality has been mentioned, and how they sometimes hinder the progress of service delivery by not being involved or donating. One of the participants mentioned that the municipality only assists partially, with private companies and churches being the most hands-on.

Mamzo: *“You find out that the eThekweni Municipality does not assist in any way; the people who mostly assist us are the churches, other NGOs, and private companies, which are the ones that help us the most.”*

This, in a way, has made the cooperation between the municipality and the NGO less effective, as the municipality sometimes does not deliver. The matter of the municipality confiscating the belongings of the homeless further affects the work the NGOs do, as sometimes the belongings they take have important things like medication and identity documents, which get lost because of this. The medication is expensive, but the same municipality that offers it has the Metro Police, which works under the municipality to confiscate them.

Mamzo: “... you find someone that is using medication, and the metro comes and confiscates their belongings along with that person’s medication, based on that they believe that the homeless litter. At the end of the day, the homeless person suffers, as some have chronic diseases and need their medication.”

The mentioned are just some of the challenges that were gathered from some of the questions that were directed towards the participants who were staff members of the Denis Hurley Centre. The relationship between the NGO and the municipality seems to be the same, as in previous research, it was mentioned that the municipality makes combating the issue of homelessness hard as they are less hands-on.

5.10. Conclusion

To conclude, this chapter pertained to the findings of the research study on the homeless youth of Durban, and it had twelve (12) participants divided into two groups: the homeless youth and the NGO members. It had two sections the first one focusing on the nine (9) homeless participants and the second part focusing on the three (3) NGO members from the Denis Hurley Centre. The first section started by establishing the demographics of the homeless youth participants, which looked at the age and gender of the participants, their level of study, place of origin, time on the street, and then the reasons they ended up on the streets. It then followed with a discussion focused on key thematic findings. These included drug use as a push and pull factor, the relationship the homeless youth have with other homeless people, community and law enforcement involvement, sexual abuse and violence with subthemes encompassing rape and stabbings as violence. Additionally, the examination delved homeless perpetrated crimes the homeless people and the community. Another theme that was discussed was the services from the government and NGOs, with subthemes centred on the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown experiences and the services used by the homeless youth.

The second part of the findings focused on the responses of the three (3) NGO members from the Denis Hurley Centre who were a part of this study. It first established the NGO’s operations and the municipality involvement, then the services offered by the NGO, followed by how they get funding, then the knowledge they have on the Qalakabusha program, and closed off with the challenges that they experienced and had experienced before. The chapter that follows concludes the whole study by providing a summary, the limitations of the study, and the recommendations.

6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

6.1. Introduction

This chapter will discuss the conclusion that emerged from the findings and discussions of the study. Subsequently, challenges and recommendations will be discussed for possible intervention strategies that might contribute to future studies.

6.2. Summary

This study was conducted in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, with the aim of exploring the crimes and victimizations the homeless youth of Durban experience. Based on the results and findings outlined in Chapter 5 and the secondary data in Chapter 2, the summary and conclusion will be drawn in the following paragraphs. The study organised the responses from all the participants so as to arrive at the conclusion, with the recommendations, and challenges being included. This study used the following as guiding objectives:

- To determine the nature of crimes committed by the homeless youth living in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct.
- To establish the types of victimizations experienced by the homeless youth residing in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct.
- To determine the initiatives that have been implemented by non-governmental organisations to assist the homeless youth in the eThekweni.
- To determine the reasons behind the homeless youth of Durban being both perpetrators and victims of crime.

6.2.1. Nature of Crimes Committed by Homeless Youth Living in eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct

Due to the mystification of street life within the socioeconomic context of poverty, the homeless youth in Durban resort to crime as a pragmatic means to survival. Although this is the case, the study revealed that certain criminal activities among the homeless youth in Durban are not motivated by economic needs, nutritional requirements, or substance abuse. Rather, these transgressions emerge from the interpersonal vendettas existing within their community.

Most of the participants stated that the main causes the homeless youth commit various crimes is due to drug use and abuse. The study findings revealed that the frequent crimes committed by the homeless youth in Durban include theft, robbery and sexual abuse. Homeless youth also fall victim to these crimes as other homeless people perpetrate them. Stabbings were also revealed as a crime common to many participants; some of the participants have mentioned that they have even seen close friends being stabbed in front of them by other homeless youth. The nature of some homeless youth's involvement in crime is due to drug use, with this having tainted the whole homeless youth populace with a stigma that they are all criminals.

6.2.2. Types of Victimitizations Experienced by the Homeless Youth Residing in eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct

There are various factors that influence the victimization of homeless youth. These include being homeless due to how a person who is homeless is treated by society and law enforcement agencies. The findings of the study revealed that the victimizations the homeless youth go through are unfair displacement, assault, sexual abuse, and stabbings. The homeless youth get chased away from the places they sleep, and occasionally, this is accompanied by the confiscation of their possessions by municipal law enforcement. This usually leaves them with no sleeping material, and in some instances, others even lose their medication. During the process of being forcefully displaced, they are usually assaulted and beaten up. One participant mentioned being beaten up by the municipal law enforcement agencies when they were displacing him and the group of people he was sleeping around. The study's findings revealed that homeless youth are more frequently victimised by fellow homeless youth than people from society who have shelter or homes. The homeless youth assault each other over minor issues, for example, the money they receive from begging.

The findings further revealed that primary and secondary victimization occurs to homeless youth on the streets of Durban, and this is partly because of the relationship that the homeless people as a whole have with each other. A pervasive sense of mistrust characterises the relationship the homeless youth have with other homeless people. Trust is predominantly confined to an intimate circle, typically including a select few individuals with common interests. Most participants underscored their reluctance to associate with other homeless people due to the prevalent drug use and disruptive behaviour that some of the homeless engage in. One of the participants mentioned that she got raped the first time she arrived on the streets

of Durban. Some of the participants mentioned that they get victimised sometimes for something they have no idea of because of how they sleep with other homeless people who are troublemakers. This suggested that the disruptive behaviour exhibited by some of the homeless youth contributes to the victimization of otherwise innocent homeless people.

The law enforcement agencies, like the local security were mentioned by some of the participants as being troublesome towards them because of how they sleep in public spaces as they have no place to sleep in. Sleeping on the streets is also what exposes homeless youth to many potential threats like abuse and mistreatment. Some of the participants mentioned being raped by other homeless people and having had their friends raped by other homeless people. Because of their relationship, the homeless youth barely protect each other, as they stick to their circle, with minimal interaction or affiliation with others. The homeless youth victimise each other through stabbings, which was found as something common. One participant mentioned that he once saw homeless people stab each other over a minor issue that involved a cup of tea.

6.2.3. Initiatives Implemented by Non-governmental organisations to Assist the Homeless Youth in eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct

The homeless youth have been receiving services from different NGOs, like Belhaven, weFEEDsa, and Denis Hurley, to mention a few. All these organisations have different focuses. Belhaven provides free healthcare, weFEEDsa focuses on providing meals, and Denis Hurley Centre provides all the services the other mentioned organisations provide and more, including counselling and a clinic. Denis Hurley Centre is one of the leading organisations with regard to providing services for homeless youth.

Three NGO members of the Denis Hurley Centre were interviewed for the purpose of trying to uncover what has been working in terms of assisting the homeless youth in Durban. The findings of the study revealed that the eThekweni municipality is less involved in helping the homeless youth. This is in contrast with the initiatives that had been set as part of the project they had set for aiding the homeless, which was called the Qalakabusha project. The project was considered a failure by one of the participants who had knowledge about it, as the municipality never aided the homeless. The study also had in its findings an organisation one of the participants had mentioned which is called the Anti-Vandalism Forum (AVF). The organisation aimed to help the homeless youth with a shelter by having them clean unoccupied

spaces and then sleep in them. Although the initiatives have been initiated, there still are setbacks. Most of the participants mentioned that the lack of funding, especially from the government, is what limits their work sometimes. The homeless youth comprise people with different issues, with some requiring close monitoring and attention due to issues like health. The NGOs still try their best to offer services despite the difficulties they have.

6.2.4. Reasons Behind the Homeless Youth of Durban Being Perpetrators and Victims of Crime.

The relationship that the homeless youth have with each other can be deemed as one of the factors that lead to them being perpetrators and victims of crime, according to this study's findings. The main reasons that homeless youth commit crimes, in accordance with the study's findings, are drug use and the relationship they have with each other. The very factors also add to their victimizations, giving rise to the interplay of correlated factors. The homeless youths' lack of trust in one another results in a reduced inclination to offer mutual defence and support. The drug users are mostly on the front, according to some of their participants, where crime is involved, mainly because of their addictions, more than wanting something to eat or money for a place to sleep. Law enforcement is also part of the reason the homeless youth fall victim. One female participant mentioned being forced to have sex by a police official, which was a form of rape. Not all law enforcement agencies, but some are responsible for the victimization of homeless youth. The homeless people's way of living is different from the way society views it. The crimes that those youth engage in are mainly the reasons they all get into trouble with society, which leads to them being victimised, including the innocent. However, the victimization that they experience at the hands of each other is due to the relationship they have with each other, which has led to the streets being deemed as dangerous. The homeless youth are, however, provided with free psychological counselling sessions by the Denis Hurley Centre social workers; the only issue might be knowledge of how to get counselling.

6.3. Challenges of the study

The first challenge encountered by the study was the procurement of a tape recorder. Finding the homeless youth for interviews was an issue due to inherent trust issues and potential safety concerns. To address this, the researcher had first to find a centre that works with the homeless

where encounters could be facilitated securely. Initial involvement as a volunteer at the centre was necessary to establish trust and get access to potential participants.

The challenge that followed was that it was hard to find the youth population of the homeless, as most of the time, there would be people above the age of 30 within the Denis Hurley Centre, which was the place where the research was conducted. This complicated the recruitment of the intended youth population. The first participant was reluctant because they did not want any cameras, but the researcher was able to convince them, which made it easier to find other participants. As part of the motivation for participating, the participants were to receive a hamper at the end of the interview as an incentive for participating.

Another major challenge the study faced was finding a suitable interview space within the centre, given that all the rooms were occupied. There was no choice but to conduct the interviews in the hallways and the cafeteria of the centre during lunch hours as they were the only available spaces. This came with another challenge. Some of the interviews had to be paused to mitigate disturbances in the operations of the centre, given that there was no definite spot to conduct the interviews. Whenever someone had business near where an interview was taking place at that time, the interview was put on halt and proceeded when there were fewer disturbances.

6.4. Recommendations

Despite numerous notable recommendations, the persisting challenges encountered by homeless youth underscore the formidable challenges of maintaining consistency in support initiatives. The miscellaneous nature of hindrances complicates consistent assistance. Nevertheless, recommendations give elucidating potential solutions and pragmatic interventions, offering valuable insights without disregarding existing complexities.

While the visibility of males is notable, the female counterparts in this study provide crucial perspectives on heightened vulnerability. The overall female homeless population, not just the youth subset, necessitates increased attention to healthcare, monitoring, and mentoring, as they live in unhygienic conditions that render them susceptible to diseases. In all programs of women's health that the health department carries out, it is imperative to extend consideration to homeless females, as they also need help, acknowledging their specific needs, including pregnancy. It is something that is seen on the streets of Durban; there are some homeless young

girls with children who are raised on the streets, and some even use those children as a means to make begging easier at the traffic lights.

An additional concern surfaced during the study, which pertained to the absence of identity documents. This could be solved if some of the organisations aiding the homeless were to agree to work with the homeless in storing their important documents so they do not get lost. Given the propensity for the confiscation of their belongings by the Metro Police, which in turn leads to them losing their documents, this collaborative approach could mitigate such losses. Recognising the importance of having an identity document to be able to access government services and employment in Urban settings, this initiative could diminish the incidence of critical document loss among homeless youth. This could also minimise the loss of their possessions.

6.5. Conclusion

The study successfully addressed the research objectives and questions. It adequately determined the nature of crimes committed by the homeless youth living in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct. It established the types of victimization experienced by the homeless youth residing in the eThekweni Metropolitan precinct. It determined the initiatives that have been implemented by NGOs to assist the homeless youth in the Durban Metropolitan area. It determined the reasons behind the homeless youth of Durban being perpetrators and victims of crime. Some of the themes which were highlighted in the findings fit into more than one objective, which showed how issues like drug use lead to both the commission of crime and the victimization that the homeless youth experience. With the offered help by the NGOs that aid the homeless, the homeless youth have received help, but the problem is that some of the youths are not aware of the other important services they could get. The challenges that the study came across were all adequately addressed, and the recommendations were laid down, which incorporated possible ways to protect the property of the homeless.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A:

ETHICAL CLEARANCE LETTER



24 October 2023

Msizi Asanda Myaka (217033796) School of Applied Human Sc Howard College Campus

Dear MA Myaka,

Protocol reference number: HSSREC/00005984/2023

Project title: Crime and victimization: An exploratory study into the lives of homeless youth in eThekweni Metropolitan precinct.

Degree: Masters

Approval Notification – Full Committee Reviewed Protocol

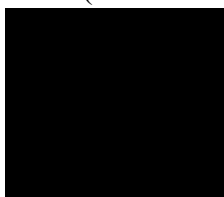
This letter serves to notify you that your response received on 22 October 2023 to our letter of 08 September 2023 in connection with the above, was reviewed by the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (HSSREC) and the protocol has been granted **FULL APPROVAL**

Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number. PLEASE NOTE: Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

This approval is valid for one year until 24 October 2024

To ensure uninterrupted approval of this study beyond the approval expiry date, a progress report must be submitted to the Research Office on the appropriate form 2 - 3 months before the expiry date. A close-out report to be submitted when study is finished.

HSSREC is registered with the South African National Health Research Ethics Council (REC-040414-040). Yours faithfully



.....

Professor Dipane Hlalele (Chair)


/dd

Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee

**UKZN Research Ethics Office Westville Campus, Govan Mbeki Building Postal
Address: Private Bag X54001, Durban 4000**

Tel: +27 31 260 8350 / 4557 / 3587

Website: <http://research.ukzn.ac.za/Research-Ethics/>

Founding Campuses:  Edgewood  Howard College  Medical School  Pietermaritzburg  Westville

INSPIRING GREATNESS

APPENDIX B:

GATEKEEPERS LETTER

care · education · community



2 Cathedral Road
Durban 4001
031 301 2240
info@denishurleycentre.org
www.denishurleycentre.org



10 November 2022

For Attention: Ms. Vuyelwa Maweni
School of Social Science
University of KwaZulu-Natal
KwaZulu-Natal
South Africa

RE: LETTER OF CONSENT FOR MSIZI MYAKA STUDENT NUMBER 217033796 – GRANTING PERMISSION TO USE DENIS HURLEY CENTRE IN EXPLORING THE CRIMES AND VICTIMIZATIONS OF THE HOMELESS YOUTH AT ETHEKWINI METROPOLITAN PRECINCT.

Please be informed that we have considered a request from Mr. Msizi Myaka to use Denis Hurley Centre for the research titled: **“Crime and Victimization: An Exploratory Study into the lives of Homeless Youth in eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct”**.

We wish to inform you of the acceptance of his request and hereby assure him of our utmost cooperation towards achieving his academic goals. The student is reminded of the **ethical considerations** which have to be prioritized when engaging with the homeless youth and the members of Denis Hurley Centre during the course of the study. The student may come and present back to the organizations the results and recommendations upon the completion of his research study. Wishing Mr. Msizi Myaka all the best in his studies.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Perrier, Director
raymond@denishurleycentre.org
Cell/ What's App: 076 570 2497



PATRONS: Archbishop Mandla Jwara CM (Chair) · Prof Hoosen 'Jerry' Coovadia · Bishop Kevin Dowling CSsR · Ela Gandhi · Jeremy Hurley · Mary Kluk · Bishop Purity Malinga · Dr AV Mahomed · Paddy Meskin · Wilfrid, Cardinal Napier OFM · Justice Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay · Bishop Ruben Phillip · Stephen Saad · Justice Leona Theron · Rev Michael Vorster · Mikaela York (née Hurley)
IT 544/ 2010/PMB · PBO 930034301 · NPO 084819 · VAT Reg 4720266362

APPENDIX C:
SOCIAL WORKERS' LETTER



2 Cathedral Road
Durban 4001
031 301 2240
info@denishurleycentre.org
www.denishurleycentre.org



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15th September 2023

UKZN Howard College
Social Sciences

Dear Dr. V. Maweni,

Re: Research Project

This letter is to confirm that Msizi Myaka, student number 217033796, may continue with his research here at the Denis Hurley Centre (DHC) and that any psycho-social support needed as a result, will be undertaken by the Social Workers at the Centre.

Best wishes.



Sr. Cathy Murugan HFB
Nkosithi Project Co-ordinator/
Senior Social Worker

NKOSINATHI PROJECT
DENIS HURLEY CENTRE
1 CATHEDRAL ROAD
DURBAN
031 306 35 96

Tele: 031 301 2240
Email: cathy@denishurleycentre.org

PATRONS: Archbishop Mandla Jwara OMM (Chair) · Prof Hoosen 'Jerry' Coovadia · Bishop Kevin Dowling CSsR · Ela Gandhi · Jeremy Hurley · Mary Kluk · Bishop Purity Malinga · Dr AV Mahomed · Wilfrid, Cardinal Napier OFM · Justice Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay · Bishop Rubin Phillip · Stephen Saad · Justice Leona Theron · Rev Michael Vorster · Mikaela York (née Hurley)
IT 544/ 2010/PMB · PBO 930034301 · NPO 084819 · VAT Reg 4720266362

APPENDIX D:
INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Interview Questions

The aim of this interview is to gain a vast understanding of the crimes and victimizations of the homeless youth in the Durban metropolitan precinct with a focus on the crimes committed by the homeless youth, the victimizations they experience(d), and the initiatives that have been put in place by non-profit organizations to help the homeless youth.

1. How old are you?
2. Do you have a family?
3. Where are you initially from? How long have you been on the streets?
4. What is the nature of the relationship you had with your family before you lived on the streets?
5. Do you have any formal education?
6. What led to you ending up on the streets?
7. What is the relationship you have with the other homeless youth?
8. Are you aware of the services provided by NGOs? If yes, what services do you usually seek?
9. When you run into trouble who do you seek help from?
10. Have you ever committed a crime or been in trouble with law officials? If yes, what transpired?
11. What has affected you mostly in the last few years since living on the streets? How did you overcome this?
12. Do you have any experience with staying in a shelter? If yes, how was the experience?
13. What do you think are the factors that push the homeless youth to crime?
14. What would you say are the most common types of crimes committed by homeless youth?
15. Have you ever witnessed another homeless young person being victimized in any way? Please elaborate on what occurred.
16. Have you ever been a victim of crime whilst living on the streets? If yes, please elaborate on the type of crime(s).
17. How do you respond to violence outbreaks?

18. Have you ever felt like your life is in danger on the streets? What was the cause of that?
19. Do you think the law enforcement agencies are responsible for your safety?
20. If you are in trouble with something concerning the law, who do you usually seek help from.

Interview questions for the non-governmental organization members

1. What is the name of the organization you are employed at?
2. What services does the organization offer?
3. How long has the organization been operating?
4. What initiatives have been set to assist those homeless youth who were once victimized?
5. What poses as a challenge the most when it comes to carrying out initiatives to assist the homeless youth?
6. Do the NGO's assist each other in terms of seeking funding and supplies?
7. Does the counselling offered by your services to the homeless youth seem effective? If yes, to what extent?
8. Looking back, what would you say has been the ultimate challenge in the initiatives that has been carried out?
9. How does the organization overcome financial issues?
10. How does the organization deal with those who seek psychological help?
11. Has the municipality ever assisted the organizations? If yes, to what extent?
12. What role does/did the organization play in the Qalakabusha program?

APPENDIX E:
ISIKHATHI SOKUXOXA

Imibuzo Yezingxoxo

Inhloso yale ngxoxo ukuthola ukuqonda kabanzi ngobugebengu kanye nokuhlukunyezwa kwentsha engenamakhaya endaweni yedolobha elikhulu laseThekwini kugxilwe ezenzweni zobugebengu obenziwa yintsha engenamakhaya, ukuhlukunyezwa ebhekana nakho, kanye nezinhlelo ezibekwe izinhlangano izinhlangano ezingekho ngaphansi kukahulumeni ekusizeni intsha engenamakhaya.

1. Uneminyaka emingaki?
2. Ingabe unawo umndeni?
3. Udabuka kuphi ngokuhlala? Usunesikhathi esingakanani uhlala emugwaqweni?
4. Bebunjani ubudlelwano onabo nomndeni wakho ngaphambi kokuthi uhlale emugwaqweni?
5. Ingabe unayo imfundo egunyathiwe?
6. Yini eyaba imbangela ekutheni ugcine usuhlala emugwaqweni?
7. Bunjani ubudlelwano onabo nenye intsha engenakhaya?
8. Uyazazi yini izinsiza ezihlinzekwa yizinhlangano ezizimele? Uma kunjalo, yiziphi izinsiza ojwayele ukuzifuna?
9. Uma usenkingeni ulufuna kubani usizo?
10. Usake wenza ubugebengu noma waba senkingeni nezikhulu zezomthetho ngaphambilini? Uma kunjalo, kwenzekani?
11. Yini ekuthinte kakhulu kule minyaka embalwa edlule selokhu uhlala emugwaqweni? Ukunqobe kanjani lokhu?
12. Ingabe unalo ulwazi ngokuhlala endaweni ekhokhelwayo yokukhosela? Uma kunjalo, kwakunjani ukuhlala khona?
13. Ucabanga ukuthi yiziphi izinto ezifaka intsha engenamakhaya ebugebengwini?
14. Ungathi yiziphi izinhlobo zobugebengu ezivame ukwenziwa yintsha engenamakhaya kakhulu?
15. Uke wabona omunye osemusha ongenakhaya ehlukunyezwa nganoma iyiphi indlela? Uma usake wabona ngicela ucacise ngokwenzekha.
16. Wake waba yisisulu sobugebengu kulesikhathi osusihlale emugwaqweni? Uma uthi yebo, ngicela uchaze kabanzi ngento eyenzeka.
17. Usabela kanjani ekuqubukeni kodlame?

18. Wake wazizwa sengathi impilo yakho isengozini emugwaqweni? Yini eyadal lokho?
19. Ucabanga ukuthi abomthetho banesibopho sokuphepha kwakho?
20. Uma usenkingeni ngento ethinta umthetho, uvamise ukufuna usizo kubani?

Imibuzo yenhlolokhono yamalungu enhlangano engekho ngaphansi kukahulumeni

1. Lithini igama lenhlangano oqashwe kuyo?
2. Yiluphi usizo olunikezwa yinhlangano?
3. Inhlangano isinesikhathi esingakanani isebenza?
4. Yiziphi izinhlelo eziye zasungulwa ukuze kusizwe leyo ntsha engenamakhaya eyake yaba izisulu?
5. Yini eyinselele kakhulu uma kuziwa endabeni yokusiza intsha engenamakhaya?
6. Ingabe izinhlangano ezingekho ngaphansi kukahulumeni ziyasizana ngokufuna uxhaso kanye nezinsiza?
7. Ingabe ukwelulekwa okunikezwa yilenhlangano entsheni engenamakhaya kubonakala kusebenza? Uma kunjalo, ngezinga elingakanani?
8. Uma ubheka emuva, yini ongathi kube yinselelo enkulu ezinhlelweni esezenziwe?
9. Inhlangano izinqoba kanjani izinkinga zezimali?
10. Inhlangano ibaphatha kanjani labo abafuna usizo lwengqondo?
11. Ngabe umasipala usake walekelela ekuxhaseni izinhlangano ezizimele? Uma kunjalo, ngezinga elingakanani?
12. Iliphi iqhaza elabanjwa yinhlangano ohlelweni lweQalabusha?

APPENDIX F:
CONSENT LETTER
UKZN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS
COMMITTEE (HSSREC)

APPLICATION FOR ETHICS APPROVAL
For research with human participants

INFORMED CONSENT

Note to researchers: Notwithstanding the need for scientific and legal accuracy, every effort should be made to produce a consent document that is as linguistically clear and simple as possible, without omitting important details as outlined below. Certified translated versions will be required once the original version is approved.

There are specific circumstances where witnessed verbal consent might be acceptable, and circumstances where individual informed consent may be waived by HSSREC.

Information Sheet and Consent to Participate in Research

Date:

Dear participant

My name is Msizi Asanda Myaka a Masters student at the University of KwaZulu-Natal Howard college, in the college of humanities, under the school of social sciences.

You are being invited to consider participating in a study that involves research on the experiences of the homeless youth between the ages of 13 years to 26 years. The aim and purpose of this research aims to fill the gap as there is little information of homeless youth as victims of crimes as compared to the information available on the homeless youth as perpetrators of crime in Durban Metropolitan Precinct. The study is expected to enroll 12 participants in total, 9 participants will be from the homeless youth populace and the other 3 participants will be taken from the staff members from the Denis Hurley Centre. It will involve the following procedures; given that the Denis Hurley Centre is a busy place we will first have to find space with less noise to conduct the interview, then I will set the mic for you, read you your rights, and then whenever you are ready the interview will commence. The duration of your participation if you choose to enroll and remain in the study is expected to be around 15 to 30 minutes long. The study is funded by me, the researcher.

The study may involve risks and discomfort due to that it may be triggering for some to share their experiences of living in the streets as homeless youth. Those participants who may be triggered by partaking in the study will be redirected to the Denis Hurley Centre social workers for counselling, who are always eager to help. I hope that the study will contribute towards approaches that could be used when helping the homeless, and provide updated information on the homeless youth of Durban and their livelihoods.

This study has been ethically reviewed and approved by the UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

In the event of any problems or concerns/questions you may contact the researcher at 0766941215, or email 217033796@stu.ukzn.ac.za or the UKZN Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, contact details as follows:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION

Research Office, Westville Campus

Govan Mbeki Building

Private Bag X 54001

Durban

4000

KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2604557- Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za

The information that you provide will be used for scholarly research only. Your participation is entirely voluntary. You have a choice to participate, not to participate, or to stop participating in the research. You will not be penalized for taking such an action. Your views in this interview will be presented anonymously should you wish to not disclose your identity or you could pick to use a pseudonym.

There will be an incentive for participating in the study, which will be hamper that comprises of a toothbrush, toothpaste, bathing soap, and a bathing towel.

The recording as well as other items associated with the interview will be held in password-protected file accessible only to myself and my supervisors. After a period of 5 years, in line with the rules of the university, it will be disposed by shredding and burning. If you agree to participate, please sign the declaration attached to this statement.

CONSENT

I have been informed about the study entitled: **Crime and Victimization: An Exploratory Study into the lives of Homeless Youth in eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct** by Msizi Asanda Myaka.

I understand the purpose and procedures of the study.

I have been given an opportunity to answer questions about the study and have had answers to my satisfaction.

I declare that my participation in this study is entirely voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without affecting any of the benefits that I usually am entitled to.

I have been informed about any available compensation or medical treatment if injury occurs to me as a result of study-related procedures.

If I have any further questions/concerns or queries related to the study I understand that I may contact the researcher at 0766941215.

If I have any questions or concerns about my rights as a study participant, or if I am concerned about an aspect of the study or the researchers then I may contact:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION

Research Office, Westville Campus

Govan Mbeki Building

Private Bag X 54001

Durban

4000

KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2604557 - Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za

I hereby provide consent to:

Audio-record my interview / focus group discussion:

YES / NO

Signature of Participant

Date

**Signature of Witness
(Where applicable)**

Date

APPENDIX G:
UKUVUMA OKWAZIYO
UKZN HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS
COMMITTEE (HSSREC)

ISICELO SOKUVUNYELWA KWEZIMILO
Ngokucwaninga nabahlanganyeli abangabantu

UKUVUMA OKWAZIWE

Isaziso kubacwaningi: Naphezu kwesidingo sokunemba kwesayensi nezomthetho, kufanele kwenziwe yonke imizamo ukuze kukhiqizwe idokhumenti yemvume ecacile ngokolimi nelula ngangokunokwenzeka, ngaphandle kokushiya imininingwane ebalulekile njengoba ichazwe ngezansi. Izinguqulo ezihunyushiwe eziqinisekisiwe zizodingeka uma inguqulo yoqobo isigunyaziwe.

Kunezimo ezithile lapho imvume yomlomo kafakazi ingase yamukeleke, kanye nezimo lapho imvume yokwaziswa komuntu ngamunye ingase iyekwe yi-HSSREC.

Ishidi Lolwazi kanye Nemvume Yokuhlanganyela Ocwaningweni

Usuku: _____

Mhlanganyeli othandekayo

Igama lami nginguMsizi Asanda Myaka ongumfundi weMasters e-Nyuvesi yaKwaZulu-Natal, Howard college, ekolishi lezobuntu, ngaphansi kwesikole sesayensi yezehlalakahle.

Uyamenywa ukuthi ucabangele ukubamba iqhaza ocwaningweni olubandakanya ucwaningo ngesipiliyoni sentsha engenakhaya ephakathi kweminyaka eyi-13 kuya kwengama-26. Inhlolo nenjongo yalolu cwano kuhloswe ngalo ukuvala igebe njengoba luncane ulwazi lwentsha engenamakhaya njengezisulu zobugebengu uma kuqhathaniswa nolwazi olutholakala ngentsha engenamakhaya njengababhebhezeli bobugebengu eDurban Metropolitan Precinct. Ucwaningo kulindeleke ukuthi lubhalise ababambiqhaza abangu-12 sebebonke, ababambiqhaza abayisi-9 bazophuma entsheni engenamakhaya kanti abanye abahlanganyeli abathathu bazothathwa kubasebenzi base-Denis Hurley Centre. Kuzobandakanya lezi zinqubo ezilandelayo; uma kubhekwa ukuthi i-Denis Hurley Centre iyindawo ematasa kuyodingeka siqale sithole indawo enomsindo omncane ukuze siqhube inhlolokhono, bese ngizokubekela imakrofoni, ngikufundele amalungelo akho, bese kuthi noma nini lapho usulungile inhlolokhono iqale. Isikhathi sokubamba kwakho iqhaza uma ukhetha ukubhalisa nokuhlala ocwaningweni kulindeleke ukuthi sibe yimizuzu eyi-15 kuya kwengama-30 ubude. Ucwaningo luxhaswe yimina, umncwaningi.

Lolu cwano lungase luhlanganise izingozi nokungakhululeki ngenxa yokuthi kungase kubangele ukuba abanye babelane ngokuhlanganwe nakho kwabo kokuhlala emigwaqweni njengentsha engenamakhaya. Labo ababambiqhaza abangase bashukunyiswe ukubamba iqhaza ocwaningweni bazoqondiswa kabusha kosonhlalakahle base-Denis Hurley Centre ukuze bathole ukwelulekwa, abahlale bemagange ukusiza. Siyethemba ukuthi lolu cwano luzofaka isandla ezindleleni ezingasetshenziswa lapho kusiza abantu abangenamakhaya, luphinde lunikeze ulwazi olusha ngentsha yaseThekwini engenamakhaya kanye nezindlela zokuziphilisa.

Lolu cwaningo lubuyekwezwe ngokokuziphatha futhi lwagunyazwa yiKomidi le-UKZN Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics.

Uma kwenzeka kuba nezinkinga noma ukukhathazeka/imibuzo ungathintana nomcwaningi ku-0766941215, noma uthumele i-email ku-217033796@stu.ukzn.ac.za noma i-UKZN Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee, imininingwane yokuxhumana kanje:

HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH ETHICS ADMINISTRATION

Research Office, Westville Campus

Govan Mbeki Building

Private Bag X 54001

Durban

4000

KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: 27 31 2604557- Fax: 27 31 2604609

Email: HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za

Ulwazi olunikezayo luzosetshenziselwa ucwaningo lwesayensi kuphela. Ukuhlanganyela kwakho kungokuzithandela ngokuphelele. Unokukhetha ukubamba iqhaza, hhayi ukubamba iqhaza noma ukuyeka ukubamba iqhaza ocwaningweni. Ngeke ujeziswe ngokwenza isenzo esinjalo. Imibono yakho kule ngxoxo izokwethulwa ngokungaziwa uma ufisa ukungadalulwa ubuwena, noma ungakhetha ukusebenzisa igama-mbumbulu.

Kuzoba nesikhuthazo sokubamba iqhaza ocwaningweni, okuzoba yisithiyo esihlanganisa isixubho, umuthi wokuxubha, insipho yokugeza, nethawula lokugeza.

Ukurekhoda kanye nezinye izinto ezihlotshaniswa nenhlolokhono kuzobanjwa ngefayela elivikelwe ngephasiwedi elifinyeleleka kimina kuphela nabaphathi bami. Ngemuva kweminyaka emi-5, ngokuhambisana nemithetho yenyuvesi, izolahlwa ngokusikwa nokushiswa. Uma uvuma ukubamba iqhaza, sicela usayine isimemezelo esinamathiselwe kulesi sitatimende.

IMVUME

Mina u..... ngazisiwe ngocwaningo osihloko salo sithi:
Crime and Victimization: An Exploratory Study into the lives of Homeless Youth in eThekweni Metropolitan Precinct esenziwa nguMsizi Asanda Myaka.

Ngiyayiqonda inhloso nezinqubo zocwaningo.

Nginikeziwe ithuba lokuphendula imibuzo mayelana nocwaningo futhi ngibe nezimpendulo ngokwaneliseka kwami.

Ngiyazisa ukuthi ukuhlanganyela kwami kulolu cwaningo kungokuzithandela futhi ngingahoxa noma yinini ngaphandle kokuphazamisa noma yiziphi izinzuzo engivame ukuba nelungelo lokuzithola.

Ngazisiwe nganoma yisiphi isinxephezelo esitholakalayo noma ukwelashwa uma kwenzeka ngilimala ngenxa yezinqubo ezihlobene nokufunda.

Uma ngineminye imibuzo/okungikhathazayo, noma imibuzo ehlobene nocwaningo ngiyaqonda ukuthi ngingathintana nomcwaningi ku-0766941215.

Uma nginemibuzo noma izinkathazo mayelana namalungelo ami njengomhlanganyeli wocwaningo, noma uma ngikhathazekile ngendawo ethize yocwaningo noma abacwaningi ngingaxhumana no:

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4000

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Email: HSSREC@ukzn.ac.za

Imvume eyengeziwe, lapho kufanele

Nginikeza imvume yoku:

Ukurekhodwa okulalelwayo mayelana nengxoxo yami / yeqembu engixile kulo:

YEBO / CHA

Isiginesha yombambi qhaza

Usuku

Isiginesha yofakazi
(makunesidingo)

Usuku

**APPENDIX H:
EDITORS LETTER**



Website: www.chiefeditors.net

Email: info@chiefeditors.net or boldwin@chiefeditors.net

Cell: 063 022 3162 or 072 492 6144

Dear Sir/madam

Re: Confirmation of editing and proofreading

This letter informs the responsible authorities that our team proofread and edited the work authored by **Msizi Asanda Myaka (217033796)** to the best of its ability. Our editing involves spelling check, punctuation, grammar, sentence construction, word reduction, cross reference citations, basic formatting (general layout), presentation style, indexing, and other mechanics of the English language. No technical alterations have been made.

Corrections were made using track changes, which have been clearly outlined for the author's reference. It is the onus of the author to accept or reject the suggested changes.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on the details provided above for more information.

Disclaimer: The editor will not be held responsible for any errors introduced due to the changes made after editing.

Yours,



B. Mutsvene (Coordinator)

Affiliation: International Affiliation of Writers Guilds (IAWG)

IAWG

APPENDIX I: SIMILARITY REPORT

2/19/24, 2:21 PM

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