An Annotated Bibliography for Children who Experience Homelessness in Schools


Tim Moore and Morag McArthur, professors at the Institute of Child Protective Studies in Australia, wrote on homelessness in schools. In this article the authors are educating readers on homelessness based on information they have obtained from children who have experienced this awful situation. The authors talk about how children are overlooked in this situation and it is important to hear their opinion. They start by talking about the extent of homelessness and how it plays such a huge role in the education system. Not only does it affect the child’s schooling but how they act at school. They then move on to talk about how schools play such a huge role in child’s life. This article is shedding light on the issue of homelessness and schools and giving educators the information to improve these students’ lives. They end the article with the scary truth that students do not want to tell schools that they do not have adequate living because they do not want to be taken away from their family.

This article has shown me how much of an impact I can have on students who do not have proper housing. This opens my eyes to how much this can affect the child. Not only does the child have to worry about getting food, to and from school, and homework, they have to worry about what teachers and students think of them. This article has made me aware that these students need to feel “normal” and shelter their real life from others. Reading this article has really shown me that this is a huge problem and one way to help these children is giving them someone to talk to or give them hotlines and tools they can use. As a future teacher I plan on attending workshops and any other educational conferences to gain knowledge on how to help these children. I also plan to make each student who does experiences homelessness to feel that they are welcome in the classroom. I am now aware that homelessness in schools is a very big issue and I now have the knowledge to help change the lives of these students.

An Annotated Bibliography for Facts about Education and Homelessness
The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) has been dedicated advocates for meeting the educational needs of homeless children since 1989. They published this article to show that homelessness does affect a child’s learning. In the beginning they talk about how many children and youth experience homelessness, which were 954,914 in the 2008-2009 school year. They also talk about how this is more widespread than we know and their numbers are only families living in shelters or on the streets. They then define homelessness and talk about how serve this situation has become. Shelters are becoming so overfilled there are now restrictions, some towns do not have enough money to provide this service. Thirdly, the article talks about why children are homeless; this could be anything from unsafe living conditions to having no home at all. Next they talk about how homelessness affects the child’s learning and the rights that the students have. The NAEHCY concludes the article with ways that the community can help; anyone can volunteer, advocate, or even join the NAEHCY.

This article was very educational; I was able to see how serious this problem was, why this problem is occurring, the rights of the children being affected, and ways that I can help. After reading this article I am blown away, I knew homelessness existed in school systems, I just did not know the extent. After I read this article, I could not stop thinking of all the people in my classes that might have been homeless and I had no idea. I was able to get a better grasp of the reasons children are homeless and how serious their situations could be. After learning about the rights of these students it is so hard to believe that some of these children go unaddressed. As a future teacher I will always make sure that my school is doing all they can to ensure that children who are homeless still obtain an education. I will do all that I can to teach these students, even if it’s for a week. These children are missing such an important part of life, not only their childhood but their future. When I am a teacher, I will make sure I share the knowledge with my colleges for these students.

An Annotated bibliography for Children and Youth’s Education and Homelessness
This fact sheet has been put together by the National Coalition for the Homeless. This coalition is made up of men and women who have been homeless. This article gives very creditable and useful information. They first talk about the background of homelessness, how it happens and how it is an increasing issue. A lot of the fact sheet is talking about ways homelessness affects students. They talk about how it affects a child’s enrolling process which ultimately affects their education. They then go into talking about all of the issues that arise when a child is homeless in the school system. Next, they talk about how schooling has become more equal since the McKinney Act but still talks about all of the flaws. It talks about how the McKinney Act is there to protect but with the improper funding, there is no way to make sure all problems are being answered. The conclusion of the article focuses on the most important thing this child needs, a stable education.

This article helped me understand more of the politics side of the issue. They talk about how the McKinney Act is there to protect the children, but the money isn’t. We are in a huge rut when it comes to helping these children, we have the laws but they do not help as much as they could. This whole situation of homelessness is an issue, especially when it comes to the child’s education. It also gave me a better understanding of how widespread this problem is. As a future teacher I will make sure that I spread my knowledge of this issue with other teachers. I will give them the tools and support systems that I find so they are always prepared. I will also make sure that I am an advocate for these children. I will make sure to not only tell colleagues but get other parents involved. If I am aware that students in my school are without proper housing, I will provide them with materials and food if need be. If I know that there are children without the proper and safe accommodations, I will make sure I do all in my power to make sure that I can help these children.