

## LITERATURE REVIEW 2010

Kyle, Ken; **Contextualizing Homelessness**; 2005 Taylor & Francis Group, New York, NY

The author took an historical perspective in approaching the conditions that lead to poverty and homelessness. The author traces our own public policy on policies leading back to English laws. The author suggests that one must thoroughly study the social, political, cultural and social conditions experienced by the poor and/or homeless. Included in this study would be a review of economic, class, gender, racial, ethnic and sexual relations that impact the population. Further, a review must also analyze current laws and public policies that exist to alleviate/impact these problems.

The author believes that there is a conservative, liberal and educator views on homelessness. The author looked at the McKinney Act of 1987 and explained how this legislation is not just a humanitarian act but also a political response to the homeless situation. Part of the reason that the legislation passed was that supporters of the legislation were able to portray the homeless as not just skid row individuals but a broader range of persons including those who were in poverty; suffered from mental illness; victims of abuse; the evicted; the aged; as well as children. The author also spoke of the views held in this nation prior to the passage of FDR's New Deal and how it came about in order to deal with an economic crisis. Nevertheless, social welfare polices became more accepted by the public because these policies were able to finally address conditions that had previously been unmet. This early social welfare legislation was later followed by even more anti poverty legislation during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. The author noted though that public sentiment seems to be moving in a more conservative approach toward the poor as was seen by the passage of the 1996 Public Law 104-193. Even up until this time, work has been associated with goodness and a person's self worth and is seen as the ideal solution to solving problems. The general belief of most Americans is that work in itself is good.