

Habitat for Humanity: Building a Legacy of Stability: Literature Review

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Imagine living where the morning view of sunshine comes from holes in the walls of a home that leads to the outside; when awakening, being grateful to have a place to call home. Contemplating if living a life in an upgraded home without holes in the walls, burst pipes, and insulation is possible. Whether on a fixed income because of a disability or injury or when downsized in employment, all humans deserve affordable, sustainable housing. With this principle in mind, Habitat for Humanity developed. Throughout the years, Habitat for Humanity has maintained the mission to create affordable and sustainable housing for those in genuine need. Though they have expanded with partnerships, their work continues. Habitat for Humanity works in more than 70 countries across the globe and has serviced more than forty-six million people to improve their living conditions since 1976.

Our group chose Habitat for Humanity because it is an organization that speaks to one of our mutual core values, acts of service. We also chose this organization because we all came from different areas of central Illinois and wanted a mutual meeting ground. This organization has a branch at 422 N. Vermilion, Danville, IL 61832. We all had a fantastic eight-hour volunteer opportunity at their thrift store. We stocked shelves with priced items in the appropriate labeled department, greeted customers, and answered any questions within our realm of knowledge. We all enjoyed working side-by-side with employees who have spent their time and efforts dedicated to the organization's mission. In our review, we are shedding light on Habitat for Humanity's strides and works across the globe to provide stable living conditions and how their mission partners achieved such a broad goal.

Cory Coffman:

Complicated Green Advertising: Understanding the Promotion of Clothing Recycling Efforts

Habitat for Humanity offers many services to improve environmental and ecological impacts. One of these services Habitat for Humanity takes into consideration is recycling. In recent decades, fast fashion has been a major global polluter. Some of the impacts researchers see include high greenhouse gas emissions, water pollution, toxic dyes and chemicals, and large amounts of textile waste (Lascity & Cairns, 2020). Brands are still looking for the best way to recycle, and Habitat for Humanity has taken an interest in being more sustainable with fast fashion. Habitat for Humanity has created a program with Madewell, American Eagle, and H&M called "Blue Jeans Go Green." These companies recycle their overproduction denim products and promote used or unwanted denim to be donated to Habitat for Humanity to help create insulation for their building projects (Lascity & Cairns, 2020). Having this option promotes financial and environmental benefits. These sustainable efforts show a willingness and accountability for structural change for greener habits.

Environmental Impact of Textile Reuse and Recycling

Researchers have found that textile reuse and recycling reduce environmental impacts related to incineration and landfilling. The textile industry relies on global demand due to population growth and economic development (Sandin & Peters, 2018). With production increasing, the industry creates many environmental and resource challenges. In this article, researchers state that sixty-three percent of textile fibers result from petrochemicals, which largely contribute to carbon dioxide emission, and thirty-seven percent comes from cotton production, which contributes to water depletion, pollution, and pesticide use (Sandin & Peters, 2018). The textile industry's core issues are greenhouse emissions, water use, toxic chemicals

and waste, and overproduction. The potential environmental benefits of textile reuse and recycling rely on collaborative consumption, such as charities, second-hand stores, and flea markets.

Mason Coon:

Homeownership: What Does Houston Habitat for Humanity Homeowners Have to Say?

Thomas (2018) discusses the impact of housing provided by Habitat for Humanity (HFH) in Houston. The researcher chose to examine four neighborhoods in the Houston area: Wood Glen, Umland Park, Greensbrook, and Glen Iris. These neighborhoods have homes built by Habitat for Humanity, each with 185, 108, 85, and 57 homes constructed by HFH. Homeowners answered questions about how they perceived their home and its benefits. Most homeowners spoke highly of their homes and the contributions the owners made to their homes. The homeowners had to contribute 300 "sweat equity" hours to their homes by participating in the construction, cleaning up the lot, or renovating after building the home. Homeowners received counseling about the financial management of the home before moving in. The homeowners stated they would purchase a home from HFH if they had to repeat the process (Thomas, 2018).

Low-Income Housing Problems and Low-Income Housing Solutions: Opportunities and Challenges in Bulawayo

Average (2019) researched the initiatives to house people experiencing poverty in Bulawayo. The researcher discusses the peaked interest of low-income people to contribute to the housing created for people experiencing poverty. This group of people is involved in each step of the planning process, as they are the people who live in these areas and will be using

these houses. The initiative to house the low-income class by those in the class has increased the program's enthusiasm and sustainability. Funding has led to issues with the program, as donations are the primary funding source (Average, 2019). An organization like Habitat for Humanity would be beneficial in this situation, as they could assist with funding this initiative and benefit from the help of the group building the homes.

Gabrielle Doss:

Responding to COVID-19: Community Volunteerism and Coproduction in China

Volunteering within the community helps increase productivity, resources, and the community's and its members' overall health. Miao et al. (2021) focused on the impact of volunteers in China during the COVID-19 pandemic. They researched the need for coproduction between the government and community members for the best benefits. Coproduction is essential because the community members may have more knowledge about the local conditions and interventions that may bring the best benefit during a crisis (Miao et al., 2021). Volunteers in poverty-ridden or lower-income communities are essential due to their help without the need for financial compensation. Organizations such as Habitat for Humanity are lovely resources for communities such as Danville. They provide volunteer opportunities, a resale store that provides materials for a lower cost, and housing assistance to families of lower income.

Dynamics of Volunteering and Life Satisfaction in Midlife and Old Age: Findings from 12 European Countries

Researchers typically focus on the community benefit when looking into the benefits of volunteering. However, volunteering may also benefit the volunteer psychologically. Hansen et

al. (2018) focus on the personal benefits of volunteering in older adults. Volunteering may bring a sense of meaning, self-worth, and physical exercise to the older community (Hansen et al., 2018). The surveys and techniques used in this study show that older adults in Europe have increased satisfaction when volunteering frequently. While volunteering at the Habitat for Humanity Restore in Danville, the student recognized a mix of employees and volunteers. The volunteers present were older than the employees and students. Once retired, some adults may feel useless or idle. This store offers a sense of meaning to older community members who may struggle with these feelings.

Ashley Pascual:

Solid Waste Management Hierarchy: An Empirical Investigation

This study explores the increase in solid waste from the increase in population, and people use alternative management methods instead of throwing solid waste in the dump. The article mentions the "solid waste management hierarchy" that moves toward reducing, reusing, and recycling (Ali et al., 2021, p. 2). The study, performed via an online questionnaire of 150 respondents, found that many households preferred the reuse method of items that still have value. They found clothing and furniture to give to those in need.

The study aimed to evaluate the participation of households in these waste management alternatives. Among the participants, 42% said they occasionally donate items like electronics to resale shops or recycling centers, while 58% said they did not. 48% of the respondents said they participated in reusing household trash, such as plastic bags and bottles (Ali et al., 2021). While the study produces results about how some households utilize the waste management hierarchy, statistics show that recycling has yet to gain prominence at a household level for many people

(Ali et al., 2021). To minimize people's use of waste management alternatives, offering an incentive to recycle could help. The government's campaign to reduce waste and for cleaner environments could be necessary for the growing population and solid waste.

Analyzing Methods of Prefabrication and their Application in the Construction of Habitat for Humanity Housing

This study explores the benefits of prefabricating housing materials to reduce waste associated with building homes. The benefits mentioned include decreased waste, decreased cost, and lower turnaround time, meaning more efficient housing construction (Senniger & Breakah, 2019). The article mentions the specific use of cross-laminated timber panels with precision cutting to limit the waste of materials. According to Senniger and Breakah, this method does not compete with conventional timber construction but can compete with other building methods (2019). Presented as a low-cost alternative to Habitat for Humanity's housing system, prefabrication and transporting to a building site reduced construction time by up to 50%. The focus on modular building has confirmed waste reduction by the National Association Of Homebuilders' green building guidelines (Senniger & Breakah, 2019). With increased efficiency, reduced waste, and cost benefits, the current housing development and non-profit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity will flourish.

Rancey Rouse:

Investing in Public Health Infrastructure to Address the Complexities of Homelessness

Homelessness is an increasingly critical public health problem in North America. The complex causes of homelessness include a shortage of affordable housing, unemployment, poverty, addiction, and mental illness. Allegrante and Sleet (2021) discuss how failing infrastructures, recently amplified by the pandemic, impact public health. Failing to address these concerns contributes to the spreading of infectious diseases and increasing health risks. By investing in affordable housing, better-paying jobs, and effective public health services, North America could have prevented this public health problem from increasing for decades (Allegrante & Sleet, 2021). Allegrante and Sleet (2021) emphasize the need to prioritize infrastructure projects, such as affordable housing, transportation, and public health services, to address the root causes of homelessness. Habitat for Humanity helps address the structural housing challenges. However, regulations need simplifying due to the legal barriers hindering the construction of new housing and infrastructure. Furthermore, creating new government funding sources for low-income households and racial discrimination in housing opportunities need to be addressed. A comprehensive assessment of housing policies prioritizing the essential components to prevent homelessness can improve public and population health.

**Safety-Net Accountable Health Model Partnership Drives Inpatient Connection to
Outpatient Social Services, Reducing Readmissions in a Population Experiencing
Homelessness**

Those experiencing homelessness face many challenges daily, causing an effect on their health. Emergency room and inpatient hospitalization rates of those experiencing homelessness are greater than those who do not, and these patients have increased readmission rates and length of hospital stays. Rhodes et al. (2021) compared hospital readmission rates of those who were

screened for homelessness while being hospitalized and utilized outpatient care management to those who did not utilize services. The case manager would build rapport with the patient, allowing them to connect before discharge. This study revealed a significant decrease in hospital readmission rates among the individuals who engaged in the offered services (Rhodes et al., 2021). Proactively identifying homelessness during hospitalization and connecting them to outpatient services improves the patient's health and is effective for the hospital's readmission rates. The Rhodes et al. (2021) study also successfully housed many patients experiencing homelessness that utilized these interventions. Overall, this study helps show the significance and importance of addressing social determinants of health, establishing a relationship with patients, and connecting patients with services after hospitalization and how it can make such a tremendous difference.

Elexus Williams:

The Effect of Poverty on the Relationship Between Household Education Levels and Obesity in U.S. Children and Adolescents: An Observational Study

The United States has struggled with obesity and poverty for quite some time for various reasons. (Inoue et al., 2023) discusses a correlation between childhood obesity and families' socioeconomic status—a conducted analysis of how education levels within a household and obesity rates are associated with poverty. The study comprised 21,754 children and adolescents, of which 9,720 lived in poverty, and 4,671 were classified as obese (Inoue et al., 2023). When analyzing household educational levels, there were high risks of poverty and obesity for households that had less than a high school education. The role of poverty was 18.9% of the

reasoning for household education and obesity (Inoue et al., 2023). There is great importance regarding the health disparity of obesity among those who suffer from poverty.

Overspending, Debt, and Poverty

The saying "More money, more problems" may be accurate. Overspending and over-indebtedness, according to (Achtziger, 2022), can dampen overall well-being, health, and satisfaction in a person's life. There is a rise in these two detrimental factors, which can essentially exacerbate poverty, resulting in a generational domino effect (Achtziger, 2022). People who suffer from poverty are about three times more likely to suffer from mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety. Poverty can also cause unhealthy eating, chronic stress, and addictions like alcohol or gambling (Achtziger, 2022). It is safe to say that financial hardship can harm physical and mental health. Focusing on psychological interventions regarding poverty can reduce those who keep spiraling (Achtziger, 2022).

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