



“I Will Have My Own Place” — The Entrepreneurial Intentions of Young People Experiencing Homelessness in Paris and New York

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Abstract. This paper explores the entrepreneurial intentions of homeless youth through the lens of effectuation theory. While entrepreneurship is often presented as a pathway to social and professional integration, little is known about how entrepreneurial intentions emerge among young people experiencing homelessness. Drawing on a four-year comparative qualitative study conducted in Paris and New York, this research examines how homeless youth envision entrepreneurship under conditions of extreme precarity. The study is based on an in-depth qualitative methodology combining urban ethnography, life-story interviews, informal conversations, and prolonged field engagement with twenty homeless youths. Data were analyzed using the Gioia methodology, ensuring a rigorous and transparent qualitative analysis. The findings show that entrepreneurial intention among homeless youth is primarily driven by aspirations for autonomy, emancipation, and control over an uncertain future rather than by opportunity recognition or profit maximization. These intentions closely align with the core principles of effectuation, including means-driven action, affordable loss, strategic partnerships, and the leveraging of contingencies. Across both cities, homeless youth engage in an effectual mode of action shaped by survival practices, peer-based networks, and improvisation. By extending effectuation theory to the context of homelessness, this study contributes to research on entrepreneurial intention under conditions of extreme marginalization and offers insights for the design of tailored entrepreneurial support programs grounded in homeless youths' lived realities.

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1. Introduction

Homeless youth often gain life experience through adversity, navigating profoundly challenging circumstances characterized by trauma, abuse, and serious personal harm (Hougaz, 2017). Unemployment among this population remains a critical issue, as many of these young people are significantly disengaged from the labour market (Billion, 2018). However, research on the work of homeless youth, particularly in entrepreneurship, is notably scarce (Billion et al., 2023; Doussard et al., 2023). Nonetheless, entrepreneurship has the potential to offer a viable solution for professional integration for homeless youths (Billion et al., 2022). Hence, understanding their entrepreneurial intentions is warranted.

The purpose of this paper is to investigate how entrepreneurial intentions emerge and take shape among homeless youth, and how these intentions are constructed under conditions of extreme precarity. More specifically, the paper examines how homeless youths envision entrepreneurship, how they relate it to work and autonomy, and how their lived experiences influence the development of entrepreneurial intentions. To address this objective, we rely on an in-depth qualitative and comparative research design based on long-term ethnographic fieldwork conducted in Paris and New York. Through observations, life-story interviews, and informal interactions with homeless youth, the study captures entrepreneurial intentions as they are expressed, negotiated, and redefined in everyday life. Furthermore, conducting an international comparison enhances our understanding of this research topic and opens new avenues for knowledge creation. A Franco-American comparison allows for a deeper apprehension of youth homelessness as a phenomenon. In France and the United States of America, profound disparities are observed across the realms of public and private spheres, political, moral, and religious domains, and individual and collective approaches (Lamont and Thévenot, 2000). France, as a unitary state, differs significantly from the United States of America, which exhibits a separation of powers within the federal government and between the federal government and the states (Nathanson, 2007). Additionally, the two countries have distinct welfare regimes. In Esping-Andersen's (1990) typology, France can be classified as a conservative regime, whereas the United States falls under the liberal regime category.

To analyze the emergence of entrepreneurial intentions among homeless youth, this paper draws on effectuation theory as its main conceptual framework. The theory of effectuation is gaining increasing recognition (Gabrielsson and Politis, 2011) and holds a central role in the domain of entrepreneurship (Fisher, 2012). It represents a comprehensive, pragmatic, and action-oriented approach

that emphasizes how individuals create entrepreneurial paths based on who they are, what they know, and whom they know, rather than on predefined goals. Fundamentally, effectuation is built upon five core principles: affordable loss, means-driven action, strategic partnerships, leveraging contingencies, and a non-predictive approach to controlling the future (Sarasvathy, 2008).

In this paper, effectuation theory is used as an analytical lens to interpret how homeless youth reason about entrepreneurship and how their intentions are shaped through everyday practices of survival, improvisation, and social interaction. Rather than examining effectuation after venture creation, we mobilize this theory upstream, to understand entrepreneurial intention as a mode of action and reasoning that precedes formal entrepreneurial activity. Accordingly, this paper addresses the following overarching research questions: *How do entrepreneurial intentions emerge among homeless youth under conditions of extreme precarity, and how can effectuation theory help explain the formation of these intentions across different national contexts?*

We chose to rely on the theory of effectuation as it provides valuable insights into understanding the path toward entrepreneurial intention among homeless youth, particularly through a comparative approach based on double fieldwork in Paris and New York. In these two cities, we selected sociologically similar areas, namely Châtelet and Midtown, which are urban spaces characterized by a high concentration of social and health associations frequented by homeless youth. This study contributes new empirical and theoretical insights into the entrepreneurial intentions of homeless youth by examining how effectual reasoning operates in contexts of marginalization. In doing so, the study responds to recent calls to conceptualize effectuation as a mode of action, to develop empirical approaches capable of capturing its manifestations, and to provide richer qualitative explanations of effectual processes (Grégoire and Cherchem, 2020). Our findings allow us to identify a profile of potential entrepreneurs among homeless youth. These individuals are typically characterized by a precarious or disrupted relationship with salaried employment, a strong aspiration for autonomy, a rejection of hierarchical authority, and a reliance on peer-based networks. Their entrepreneurial intentions are grounded in survival skills, bricolage practices, and the capacity to mobilize limited resources in uncertain environments.

This paper is structured as follows. First, we present the theoretical framework, focusing on the application of effectuation theory to entrepreneurial intention. Second, we outline the ethnographic methodology used to collect and analyze the data. Third, we present the empirical findings, highlighting how homeless youth relate to work, dreams, and entrepreneurship. The paper concludes with a discussion of the theoretical and practical implications of the findings, as well as the study's limitations and directions for future research.

2. Conceptual Framework

Grégoire and Cherchem (2020) conducted a meticulous structured literature review focusing on the theory of effectuation. They noted that this concept has received widespread attention and scrutiny in academic discussions. They identified five major categories of research: (1) individual antecedents to effectuation; (2) causation and effectuation; (3) effectuation and performance; (4) effectuation and internationalization; (5) effectuation, creativity, and innovation. Regarding the first category, the authors conclude that existing research on individual antecedents to effectuation is inconclusive. Therefore, the authors suggest delving deeper into this topic. Thus, observing individual antecedents through entrepreneurial intention could yield promising insights and merits further investigation.

An approach based on effectuation offers a valuable perspective in examining how young individuals can self-empower by mutually supporting one another without external guidance. Within this framework, one may consider the possibility of a young person living on the streets developing an entrepreneurial project that goes beyond the mere formulation of an idea and involves a situated and action-oriented process. Such a project refers to the articulation of concrete aspirations, emerging practices, and provisional plans grounded in available resources, skills, and social ties, even in the absence of formal structures or immediate venture creation. In this sense, possessing an entrepreneurial project implies engaging in effectual reasoning through experimentation, bricolage, and everyday action rather than simply expressing an abstract business idea. Within an effectual perspective, entrepreneurial intention can be understood as an innovative representation of a situation rather than as the outcome of opportunity discovery or predefined planning. This outlook stems from the belief that entrepreneurial opportunities are not scarce or pre-given, and that resource limitations can be compensated through opportunism and resourcefulness, as success is not solely determined by causal laws (Dew et al., 2009). The effectuation approach predominantly adopts a pragmatic stance, emphasizing action, experimentation, and learning through engagement with concrete situations (Silberzahn, 2020). Nevertheless, despite the significance of understanding how a young person living on the streets can transform into an entrepreneur and attain independence, there remains a dearth of research on this topic. Notably, foundational articles within effectuation theory emphasize the role of mental and imaginative aspects in entrepreneurial intention (Sarasvathy, 2013), influenced by the works of Herbert Simon.

Indeed, the theory of effectuation has faced criticism for its predominantly descriptive nature and the lack of well-defined conceptual frameworks. Despite this, it is evident that this theory is fundamentally rooted in common-sense reasoning (Engel, 2010) derived from empirical investigations involving project holders. Critics of effectuation have specifically highlighted its inclination

towards emphasizing the role of the entrepreneur in the process of project implementation (Drakopoulou Dodd and Anderson, 2007). Moreover, this emphasis on the entrepreneur often becomes apparent only after the successful establishment of the company, with assessments made in hindsight (Johnsen and Sørensen, 2017). Many of the narratives supporting effectuation are also situated within an Anglo-Saxon context or, in the case of less privileged entrepreneurs, they are often depicted as originating from developing countries (Huang, 2020). This raises concerns about the cultural anchoring of the theory and the interpretation of its principles through the use of vignettes.

Indeed, while some attention has been given to the narrative of entrepreneurial creation (Lounsbury and Glynn, 2001) and its cultural context (Lounsbury and Glynn, 2019), there remains a certain vagueness, especially concerning the intention to become an entrepreneur. The portrayal of the entrepreneur often tends to be simplistic and stereotyped, possibly with the intention of persuading readers through identification. However, it is worth noting that early writings by Schumpeter (Riot, 2019) emphasized the disruptive, nonconformist, and at times asocial nature of this entrepreneurial figure. Identifying these challenges in their specific contexts and exploring how young individuals can overcome them is of paramount importance.

Moving beyond abstract or stereotypical representations of entrepreneurship requires an empirical approach grounded in lived experiences. To capture how entrepreneurial intentions emerge and evolve in everyday life, particularly under conditions of extreme precarity, this study adopts an ethnographic methodology sensitive to context and process.

3. Ethnographic Protocol

This study adopts a qualitative, longitudinal design combining ethnographic fieldwork and systematic qualitative analysis. The methodology is organized into three parts: data collection, data content, and data analysis, the latter relying on the Gioia methodology to ensure transparency and theoretical grounding.

3.1. Data Collection

This study centers on a cohort of ten homeless youth in Paris and another ten in New York, observed over a four-year period through a longitudinal ethnographic design in order to capture the evolution of homeless youths' situations, aspirations, and entrepreneurial intentions over time. The research takes a focused approach by analyzing a limited yet diverse set of situations, which enhances the richness of ethnographic examination. An extensive phase of observations and interviews was undertaken to study the subject in depth. Informants were approached and encountered in various locations, including agencies and streets. Fieldwork combined participant observation, recorded and

unrecorded interviews, and informal interactions conducted both in public spaces and within organizations such as shelters, drop-in centers, and associations. This multi-sited approach reflects the difficulty of identifying homeless youth, who often blend into the urban environment without visible markers distinguishing them from housed youth (Billion, 2018).

The fieldwork was deliberately broken down into three phases in each country in order to follow the evolution of the youths' situation, and to increase the likelihood of developing a trusting, long-lasting and authentic relationship. These phases were separated by intervals without direct contact, allowing changes in trajectories to be observed over time. The research process involved one month of pre-fieldwork and eleven months of active fieldwork in Paris, as well as four months of pre-fieldwork and eleven months of fieldwork in New York City, resulting in a total of five months of pre-fieldwork and twenty-two months of active fieldwork within the overall four-year observation window. During the pre-fieldwork phase, the research area was delimited, focusing on associations and public spaces such as train stations and community organizations.

Phase 1 involved the selection of informants and the conduct of biographical interviews and lasted seven months in Paris and two months in New York. This first phase enabled us to identify when and where homeless youths could be encountered. Biographical interviews focused on life trajectories, work experiences, and aspirations and were recorded for analysis. All information about their habits was noted in a logbook either during the observation or just after the interviews. No notes were taken in the presence of the youths, as this might harm the quality of the relationship and disrupt data collection. Phase 2 focused on reconnecting with the informants and continuing the observations, lasting two months in Paris and four months in New York. Repeated attempts were made to contact the informants through written and voice messages. Additional observations were conducted in key public spaces at different times of day and night, and exchanges took place with social workers, yet it proved impossible to reconnect with most of the initial sample during this phase. Phase 3 represented the final attempt to reconnect with the informants and finalize the observations and lasted two months in Paris and five months in New York. The informants were contacted again through multiple communication channels, resulting in a limited number of responses. Some meetings took place in public spaces, and additional observations were conducted during both daytime and nighttime. During the second and third phases, few informants were seen again, as some had left the city and others no longer responded to contact attempts.

During the research process, we used various forms of communication such as phone calls, text messages, emails, and social networks to stay in touch with our informants and collect data. This included recorded and unrecorded interviews in the street and in buildings managed by various associations. Our goal was to maintain contact whenever possible throughout the research process,

despite the instability of the informants' living conditions. Even after the formal end of the fieldwork, contact was maintained with two informants through social networks, although their engagement remained limited due to the pressing priorities of daily survival.

In Paris, the homeless youth were initially encountered within a specialized prevention club associated with an organization. This particular setting proved to be the most effective way to locate and engage with them, as they are challenging to locate through other means. The clothing worn by these runaway and homeless youths typically resembles that of their peers, often sporting windbreakers and sneakers, and occasionally adopting attire associated with certain gangs (Whitbeck and Hoyt, 1999). On the other hand, in New York City, homeless youth were primarily encountered in several locations, including the Penn Station train and subway station, a shelter dedicated to gay, bisexual, and transgender homeless youth, and a drop-in center, as well as an adult homeless shelter. These places served as key points of contact with the homeless youth population in the city. Maintaining communication and staying in touch with homeless youth in both Paris and New York poses significant challenges. Therefore, it is essential to diversify the available means of contact to establish and sustain meaningful connections with these vulnerable individuals (Billion, 2018).

3.2. Data Content

An ethnographic protocol has been meticulously structured, comprising various components, such as an ethnographic fieldwork, ethnographies of associations, public spaces, and the street, alongside interviews collected through the life story method. In essence, conducting ethnography is akin to deciphering a foreign manuscript, as proposed by Geertz (1973). Over forty biographical interviews have been recorded as part of this research. Each interview is conducted in one, two, or three stages, spanning a duration of one to three hours, aimed at acquiring the most precise and comprehensive data possible. The approach to interviewing informants directly about their experiences and decisions serves to grasp the meanings attributed to their actions (Thompson et al., 1990). Each young participant is encouraged to narrate their personal story, with questions adapting based on emerging insights. By modifying questions in response to their answers, the researcher aims to facilitate candid and authentic expressions of the informants' experiences and perceptions concerning specific subjects (Creswell, 2013).

Tables 1 and 2 present the main socio-demographic and residential characteristics of the homeless youth interviewed in Paris and New York. Together, these tables provide contextual information regarding participants' age, gender, institutional background, educational attainment, and housing situation at the time of the fieldwork. These variables are used to situate the participants' trajectories and to better understand the conditions under which entrepreneurial intentions may emerge across both contexts.

The column “from housing project” indicates whether the participant grew up in public or social housing estates, which are often associated with socioeconomic disadvantage and territorial stigma in the French context. The column “foster care” captures whether the participant experienced placement in child welfare institutions or foster families during childhood or adolescence, reflecting early institutional trajectories and potential ruptures in family support. The column “place of residence” refers to the participant’s housing situation at the time of the fieldwork and distinguishes between street homelessness, shelter accommodation, and temporary situations outside street life (e.g., short-term housing or institutional accommodation). Viewed collectively, these variables provide insight into the participants’ structural constraints, prior institutional experiences, and degrees of housing instability.

Table 1. Informants’ characteristics (Paris)

Anonymized name	Age	Gender	From housing project	Foster care	Diploma	Place of residence
Jean	25	Male	Yes	No	Vocational studies certificate	Outside of the street life
Jules	23	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Outside of the street life
Kader	19	Male	Yes	Yes	No	Shelter
Lina	28	Female	Yes	Yes	No	Outside of the street life
Martin	24	Male	No	Yes	No	Street
Mosi	25	Male	No	No	No	Shelter
Riad	22	Male	No	Yes	No	Shelter
Sylvie	19	Female	Yes	No	No	Outside of the street life
Yedes	19	Male	No	No	No	Shelter
Younes	27	Male	Yes	Yes	Vocational studies certificate	Shelter

Table 2. Informants’ characteristics (New York)

Anonymized name	Age	Gender	From housing project	Foster care	Diploma	Place of residence
Andy	20	Male	Yes	No	High school diploma	Shelter
Gaby	23	Male	Yes	No	No	Street
Jim	25	Male	No	Yes	No	Street
Jonah	23	Male	Yes	No	High school diploma	Street
Magaly	21	Female	Yes	Yes	No	Shelter
Richie	25	Male	No	Yes	High school diploma	Shelter
Robin	21	Male	Yes	No	No	Shelter
Steve	20	Male	Yes	Yes	High school diploma	Street
Vic	18	Female	Yes	No	No	Shelter
Virginia	20	Female	Yes	Yes	High school diploma	Shelter

Taken together, Tables 1 and 2 highlight both similarities and context-specific differences in the characteristics of homeless youth in Paris and New York. In both cities, the samples are predominantly male and composed of young individuals in late adolescence and early adulthood. Across the two contexts, participants experience pronounced housing instability, alternating between street homelessness, shelter accommodation, and temporary situations outside street life. This instability illustrates the fluid and non-linear nature of homelessness trajectories. Institutional pathways are prominent in both samples. A substantial proportion of participants in Paris and New York report experiences of foster care, indicating early exposure to child welfare systems and repeated disruptions in family support. Likewise, many participants grew up in social housing or housing projects, reflecting shared patterns of socioeconomic disadvantage and territorial marginalization across national contexts. Educational attainment remains generally low in both samples, although a slightly higher proportion of participants in New York hold a high school diploma compared to their Parisian counterparts, where vocational certifications are rare.

However, in neither context does educational attainment appear sufficient to secure stable employment or housing, underscoring the limited protective role of formal education for homeless youth. Despite differences in welfare regimes and institutional arrangements between France and the United States, the similarities observed across Tables 1 and 2 suggest that the structural conditions shaping homelessness and marginalization are remarkably convergent. These shared characteristics provide a common backdrop for analyzing how entrepreneurial intentions emerge as situated and adaptive responses to precarity, uncertainty, and constrained access to the formal labor market.

3.3. Data Analysis

To analyze the qualitative data, we followed the Gioia methodology, which enables a systematic and transparent inductive analysis while preserving informants' perspectives and voices (Gioia et al., 2013). This approach is particularly well suited to building theoretical insights from rich qualitative material and to ensuring a clear transition from raw data to conceptual development. Interview transcripts, field notes, and observational materials were analyzed through an iterative and comparative coding process.

In a first step, interviews were coded inductively to identify first-order concepts that remained close to participants' own words and expressions, capturing their lived experiences of work, unemployment, survival practices, social relationships, and aspirations. This initial coding was continuously refined through repeated engagement with the dataset, allowing common patterns, emerging subthemes, and variations across cases to be identified (Ferrigno et al., 2023). In a second step, these first-order concepts were grouped into second-order themes by mobilizing existing theoretical frameworks, particularly effectuation theory and research on entrepreneurial intention. This stage involved a more

interpretive analysis, through which the data were linked to broader conceptual categories while maintaining a clear connection to empirical observations (Gioia et al., 2013; Ciambotti et al., 2023). Throughout this process, contradictions, ambiguities, and tensions within the data were explicitly examined and discussed, rather than smoothed out, in order to preserve the complexity of participants’ trajectories (Hidegh et al., 2022). Finally, second-order themes were aggregated into higher-level dimensions that structure the empirical findings and correspond to the three main analytical sections of the paper: the context of the effectual process, effectuation in action, and profiles of potential entrepreneurs. This multi-stage coding process ensured a transparent chain of evidence between data, analysis, and theory, enabling the development of a coherent empirical model grounded in participants’ lived realities.

Table 3 presents the Gioia data structure underlying the empirical analysis. It shows how data-driven first-order concepts were inductively identified from the field material, aggregated into second-order themes, and organized into three aggregate dimensions corresponding to the main empirical sections: the context of the effectual process, effectuation in action, and profiles of potential entrepreneurs.

Table 3. Gioia data structure: Entrepreneurial intentions among homeless youth

First-order concepts	Second-order themes	Aggregate dimensions
Short-term and unstable work experiences	Precarious employment trajectories	The context of the effectual process
Acceptance of any paid work regardless of quality	Instrumental relationship to work	
Integration contracts and temporary jobs	Marginal attachment to the labor market	
Conflicts, fatigue, and behavioral tensions at work	Incompatibility between work norms and street life	
Difficulties related to appearance and hygiene	Material barriers to employability	
Experiences of stigma and discrimination	Devalued social identity	
Persistent job search despite adversity	Active but constrained engagement with employment	
Job search conducted from the street	Spatial constraints on employability	
Use of imagination and dreaming	Aspirations as coping mechanisms	
Rejection of salaried subordination	Desire for autonomy and independence	Effectuation in action
Refusal of hierarchical authority	Control over one’s own activity	
Emergence of entrepreneurial projects	Entrepreneurial projection into the future	
Reliance on peer groups and collectives	Strategic partnerships	
Sharing resources, information, and protection	Collective resource mobilization	
Mobilization of street-based skills	Means-driven action	
Improvisation and bricolage practices	Leveraging contingencies	

Orientation toward the present	Affordable loss logic	Profiles of potential entrepreneurs
Acceptance of uncertainty	Non-predictive control of the future	
Action-oriented survival practices	Effectual mode of action	
Unemployment or low-skilled employment	Disconnection from mainstream labor markets	
Repeated job loss or lack of work experience	Cumulative labor market exclusion	
Dependence on street-based networks	Adaptive survival culture	
Avoidance of formal recruitment processes	Strategic distancing from institutions	
Search for dignity and recognition	Alternative sources of social status	
Entrepreneurship as a legal income strategy	Entrepreneurship as viable alternative	
Low perceived economic risk	Limited downside of entrepreneurial action	
Lack of formal qualifications	Structural constraints on entrepreneurship	
Limited access to clients and markets	Market access barriers	
Need for immediate income	Tension between survival and venture development	

4. Empirical Results

The empirical results follow a progressive analytical logic. The analysis first examines the contextual conditions shaping homeless youths’ entrepreneurial intentions, then explores how these intentions are enacted through effectual practices, and finally identifies recurring profiles of potential entrepreneurs across individual trajectories and national contexts.

4.1. The Context of the Effectual Process

The findings reveal several key insights regarding the association between employment and homeless youth. Employment emerges as a significant determinant of their entrepreneurial intentions, thus warranting thorough analysis as an antecedent. It becomes evident that homeless youth possess a vulnerable connection to employment, while other young individuals are distanced from meaningful work opportunities.

Jules is employed in positions characterized by precariousness, assuming the role of a handler. Lina engages in work intermittently during periods of homelessness. *“I have to get by. So every day I was up at 7:00. Every day I left. I still went to work, I still worked. I was accumulating fatigue.”* With the assistance of a social worker, she successfully secured employment and subsequently formalized her engagement by signing a contract as a sales assistant. *“It went well in the sense that everyone liked me. I had a way with words. I never let go of the customers. I laughed with them, I hit bars, so we had a lot of customers and*

everything. It worked well and even the director told me you were made for it. I was determined." She argues with a colleague. *"He talked to me like a bitch. I move, I don't move. He kicked the chair. I was like, go ahead, knowing that I had already been off my medication for 2 months... He said, what are you going to do. I opened the arch with my chair."* Robin started working at the age of 18. He undertook three informal occupations: first as a paperboy, followed by a factory worker, and then as an employee in a bakery. *"It was short time working."*

Homeless youth who are engaged in employment typically find themselves in precarious work situations. The lack of adequate training or qualifications often results in them securing temporary or part-time jobs or integration contracts. However, these forms of employment do not provide sufficient remuneration, rendering it difficult for these individuals to fully break away from street life. Consequently, certain street-related behaviors, such as resorting to violence, persist due to the financial strain and limited institutional obligations associated with subsidized jobs like integration contracts. Behavioral issues may continue unabated, as incidents of conflict between employees are not subject to exclusion measures.

Precarious work

Younes's current attire consists of a tank top, shorts, and a backpack, and he has recently cut his ponytail. After being unemployed for a year, he secured a 26-hour integration contract as a house painter in various locations around Paris, providing him with temporary work opportunities. He currently resides in a shelter, where he also works, earning his keep and being provided a shared room for himself, his dog, and another resident. However, he has grown weary of his neighbor and the shelter's rules, desiring to leave and potentially live independently, even considering the idea of living in a tent. Furthermore, he has recently experienced a breakup with his girlfriend, which has left him feeling lonely, and he hopes to find a new companion as he dislikes being alone.

Each informant's experience of unemployment varies, influenced by their individual personalities, qualifications, and skills. Several of them actively seek employment despite the challenges of living on the streets, which significantly hinders their job prospects. Homeless youth face numerous obstacles in maintaining gainful employment. Difficulties include the struggle to keep their clothes clean, working under conditions of extreme fatigue, trying to secure job hours that align with the shelter's regulations, and facing potential discrimination due to their association with a socially undervalued group. These combined difficulties pose significant barriers to their successful integration into the labor force.

Martin, Magaly, and Yedes have no prior work experience and do not inherently aspire to pursue employment. Jean experiences job termination. *"That's when I got even more motivated to look for work. I lose the tip of two*

fingers during a painting job and, de facto, his job.” He is actively seeking employment within the restaurant industry. Lina has applied for a fixed-term contract lasting one month in an association. Sylvie has been facing a period of unemployment lasting several months. *“I really want to work.”* She is actively looking for a job. *“I can find a job. I have a lot of experience in sales, in flowers, in everything that is relational...”* Yedes is currently searching for opportunities in training or employment within the train or catering industry. On the other hand, Younes has been experiencing long-term unemployment for several years. *“Basically, if I can find a job in a bakery, it will be in a bakery. Otherwise it's anything and everything, as long as it's paid and contracted.”* Jonah has become accustomed to utilizing online platforms for job applications, while he physically visits various stores to secure Internet connectivity for submitting his applications. Richie, on the other hand, searches for job opportunities by physically walking around, but ultimately resorts to online methods. Meanwhile, Robin exclusively goes from one store to another in pursuit of job opportunities. *“I'd be sitting looking for a job every day.”*

Work serves as a foundation for social integration, enabling individuals to become active and valued members of society. However, collective perceptions of homeless individuals are generally negative, which can impede their access to employment opportunities. Homeless individuals often suffer from a devalued identity, leading to marginalization, stigma, and social isolation, particularly among homeless youth. The concept of homelessness does not align well with the conventional expectations of working life, leading to a disparity between employers' expectations and the reality faced by homeless individuals. Potential employers' perceptions of an ideal worker often contrast sharply with their views of homeless youth, creating an additional barrier to securing employment. Homeless youth must work diligently to persuade potential employers and earn their trust. Acquiring a job requires certain skills that homeless youth may lack, such as dressing appropriately, displaying patience while awaiting responses from recruiters, engaging with job centers, and crafting a compelling resume. Amidst these challenges, dreaming becomes a coping mechanism, allowing individuals to momentarily escape their challenging social and economic circumstances and envision a more positive and promising professional future.

Job search from the street

Andy informs that he is currently facing a \$50 shortfall on his rent, which needs to be settled urgently to avoid eviction tomorrow morning. He feels apologetic for having to ask for financial assistance. He mentions that his mother was emotional and cried, presumably due to the challenging situation he finds himself in. *“She can't help me.”* The following day, we meet in front of the Apple Store, and Andy is still dressed in the same attire: shorts, a hat, a chain, a backpack, and headphones. He is actively seeking employment and intends to return to college in the upcoming term. He now has a phone with Internet access, but he still prefers to fill out job applications on a computer. For this purpose, he

frequents the Apple Store near Central Park, which is open 24 hours a day. The store's security guard allows him to use the computer for as long as he needs, providing him with a convenient place to carry out his job search and other online activities.

4.2. Effectuation in Action

Certain homeless youths demonstrate entrepreneurial intentions and aspire to become entrepreneurs. The outcomes of our study reveal that the entrepreneurial intentions among these young individuals manifest in various distinct ways.

Jules harbors the desire to establish a Greek restaurant in collaboration with a friend initially, and subsequently intends to undertake the realization of this venture independently within the upcoming two years. Meanwhile, Martin aspires to become self-employed, envisioning a future where he will function as his own employer. *“I don't see myself taking a small apartment, working but for myself, being my own boss. If I feel like working tomorrow, I will work. If I don't feel like working, I won't work. Someone will call me, where are you? What are you doing? No, it's okay, I've had enough. All this for 1200 euros at the end of the month.”* Martin envisions embarking on an entrepreneurial journey alongside his girlfriend, with the aspiration of establishing their own business together, *“setting up the market, setting up my booth, traveling, doing my normal life.”* Vic aspires to become a business owner and desires to establish his own enterprise. *“I wanna do culinary arts, for cooking. If that doesn't work out, I wanna do security work, and I will have my own place.”*

Jules, Martin, and Vic share the common aspiration of becoming entrepreneurs. Securing employment represents a transformative opportunity for them, enabling them to break away from their current life on the streets and fulfill their dreams, which may involve escaping delinquency, integrating into society, forming meaningful relationships, having a family, and obtaining a stable place to reside. As employees, they seek job satisfaction, particularly through the recognition and validation received from their peers. Despite limited resources to actualize their dreams, these homeless youths harbor a vision of a beloved profession, with the positive impact of these dreams driving them to alter their goals, even if they remain aspirational in nature. Such optimistic visualization serves as a crucial initial step toward turning their dreams into reality. Imagination acts as a means of temporary escape from their challenging daily existence, transforming it in the process. In their efforts to survive a painful and traumatic reality, these homeless individuals resort to inventing extraordinary scenarios or events. Establishing a business offers a pathway to a degree of independence, granting them the opportunity to set their own rules and reduce dependency on others. This preference for independence allows them to avoid hierarchical structures, power dynamics, and authority relationships, potentially leading to a sense of control over their situation and a means to prevent conflicts and disillusionment.

Gaby roams Penn Station in the company of her homeless companions, who are affiliated with the social group known as the ‘Midtown Misfits.’ “*My friends are my misfits.*” Collectively, they engage in activities such as purchasing cigarettes, clothes, and beverages, while also taking breaks to rest and unwind. “*We have fun, we don’t... We obey our own rules, we know what to do, what not to do, but we have fun.*” Jim is likewise a member of the “Midtown Misfits” group. “*They’re all over the place. You don’t see them because right now they’re probably... Some are probably on 42nd street making money, there are some on 14th street, there are some in Chinatown...*”. Jim depends on the support of his homeless companions, who consistently stand by him and offer their assistance. “*I trust them more than my own family. I slept, I didn’t sleep in the street with my family.*” The “Midtown misfits” aspire to embark on an entrepreneurial endeavor by establishing an independent enterprise, specifically their very own record label. Steve says: “*we have a website, everything already. I’m trying to start a clothing label*”.

Gaby, Jim, and Steve, three informants located in New York, are affiliated with a collective they refer to as the “Midtown misfits,” and they share common aspirations. This group of homeless youths operates as a protective and supportive social network for its members. Within this social space, they find valuable elements of social, economic, material, and informational support. The social support aspect encompasses respect, protection, communication, and recognition among its members, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity. Economically, the group provides support in the form of financial assistance, plans, and engagement in delinquent activities to cope with their challenging circumstances. Materially, they offer housing and access to psychoactive substances as means of temporary respite. Moreover, the group serves as a crucial source of informational support, supplying knowledge about the street environment and assistance agencies, helping them navigate their surroundings and access necessary resources. By creating this social enclave, the “Midtown misfits” find a refuge against the adversity and harsh realities of life on the streets. This safe space shields them from indifference, criticism, and disapproval they might encounter elsewhere. Importantly, it affords them the opportunity to exist socially, aiding in their survival and providing access to consumer society and the pursuit of their dreams, including their entrepreneurial aspirations.

Entrepreneurial Intention

Riad is walking around Paris. He has a chin piercing and two earrings. “*I only have one pair of socks.*” He wears the same things every day. He washes his clothes every day. “*I don’t want people to see me as homeless.*” He reports having experienced a transient lifestyle, spending an initial period of two to three weeks living on the streets, followed by a month seeking temporary refuge in a shelter. Subsequently, he returned to living on the streets, before returning to the shelter once more. Notably, during the past five months, he has not actively engaged in job-seeking activities. He maintains a low-profile demeanor,

refraining from soliciting, engaging in theft, or participating in any unlawful exchanges. *"I don't like it."* His mother, aunt and the agency gave him money for five months. He has been sleeping in a shelter for a month and a half. He has no phone or internet access. *"I live from day to day. Today I'm doing this. Tomorrow I'm doing something else."* He frequently seeks sustenance and leisure at the shelter, utilizing its facilities, including the yard. He expresses a genuine desire to obtain employment, although he has ceased communication with relevant agencies. It is worth noting that he has successfully refrained from engaging in intravenous drug use. Currently, he actively pursues job opportunities and envisions himself venturing into entrepreneurship by establishing his own business.

4.3. Profiles of Potential Entrepreneurs

Homeless youth in both Paris and New York exhibit strikingly similar characteristics in their profiles. They typically fall into one of two categories: unemployed or employed with low skills, wages, and job security. Some among them have never been employed, have experienced layoffs, or have chosen to cease working altogether due to various reasons. Consequently, they find themselves disconnected from the mainstream economic market. However, their resourcefulness and ability to survive in the public space have culminated in the development of a unique adaptive culture. These resilient individuals have acquired the necessary skills to satisfy their needs while living on the streets, navigating a hostile environment. Their entrepreneurial intention emerges as a manifestation of this resourcefulness. As traditional employment opportunities become less accessible, entrepreneurship becomes a prominent alternative for them to earn money legally. The aspiration to become entrepreneurs is cultivated as they devise strategies to circumvent the barriers they face, such as lacking formal education credentials and strained relationships with authority figures. To adapt to their circumstances and counter potential resistance, these homeless youths adopt a pragmatic approach, often avoiding job interviews and authority-based interactions. Entrepreneurship, in this context, appears as the most viable or perhaps the only attainable solution to their employment difficulties. Grounded in the realities of their daily lives, homeless youth operate in an effectual mode, seeking tangible and immediate outcomes while relying on their practical abilities and problem-solving skills. Their pursuit of entrepreneurship reflects their tenacity and creativity in the face of adversity.

Effectuation theory offers valuable insights into the process leading to entrepreneurial intention among homeless youth. The theory's five principles — available resources, acceptable losses, strategic partnerships, contingency exploitation, and non-predictive control of the future — come into play in their journey. Homeless youth, guided more by imagination and dreams rather than strict goals, remain action-oriented in their approach. They leverage the available resources at their disposal to ensure their survival in challenging circumstances. Over time, their trajectory of social exclusion may lead to a gradual reduction in

both human and material resources. Despite their hardships, homeless youth possess the necessary resources to embark on entrepreneurial endeavors. Moreover, the resources required to initiate entrepreneurship are relatively minimal, facilitating their entry into this domain.

Homelessness imposes a distinct way of functioning and living, characterized by a sense of urgency and a do-it-yourself approach. Homeless youth find themselves residing on the streets or in shelters and often rely on associations to access essential services such as food and showers. Being situated at the lower end of the social hierarchy, entrepreneurship presents itself as a pathway with few potential losses and, conversely, offers a status that holds value in society, regardless of the business's success. Acquiring the status of an entrepreneur is relatively straightforward and swift, providing an avenue for these young individuals to be integrated, to some extent, into society and gain social recognition. In this context, however, the status of entrepreneur should be understood primarily as a social and symbolic process rather than a formal legal one. For homeless youth, identifying as an entrepreneur does not necessarily involve the registration of a business, but rather the adoption of an entrepreneurial role that provides a sense of legitimacy, agency, and social recognition. It serves as a potential replacement for the often stigmatized and undervalued status of being homeless. By becoming entrepreneurs, homeless youth can enhance their self-esteem, collaborate with allies and their social network to establish and grow their businesses. This entrepreneurial engagement tends to take informal or pre-formal forms, reflecting structural constraints as well as the priority given to immediate survival over legal or administrative formalization. They adeptly exploit contingencies, seize opportunities, and navigate unforeseen circumstances to meet their basic needs for sustenance, shelter, and survival. These individuals are accustomed to living in the present and leveraging their immediate environment to endure day-to-day challenges. They exercise a degree of control over their circumstances in the public space, paving the way for an uncertain and unpredictable future.

Indeed, while entrepreneurship may present opportunities for homeless youth, it comes with certain limitations and challenges that must be considered. One key obstacle is the need to seek out their own clients. However, the network of homeless youth is predominantly based on their street connections, potentially limiting the pool of potential clients and the purchasing power of those interested in their services. Entrepreneurship demands a range of diverse skills, including the ability to find clients, craft commercial offers, present oneself professionally, and handle invoicing. Living on the streets may make it difficult to maintain clean clothes and self-care, which can impact their appearance and, consequently, their ability to effectively attract customers. Additionally, entrepreneurship involves managing invoicing and securing payment within specific time frames. However, the urgency imposed by life without a home can prioritize quick money-earning for immediate survival needs. As a result, the entrepreneurial intention must be

accompanied by an understanding of these specific challenges and adapt accordingly. Addressing these specificities and incorporating them into the entrepreneurial process is crucial to increase the chances of success for homeless youth pursuing entrepreneurial ventures. It may involve finding innovative ways to access a wider client base, managing appearance-related challenges, and adapting invoicing practices to align with the realities of their daily lives.

Table 4 summarizes how the core principles of effectuation theory apply to homeless youths’ entrepreneurial intentions. The table highlights how effectuation provides a coherent framework for understanding entrepreneurship not as a formalized process, but as a situated mode of action emerging from precarity, resource constraints, and everyday survival practices.

Table 4. Effectuation theory and entrepreneurial intentions among homeless youth

Core principles of effectuation	Definition in effectuation theory	Application to homeless youths’ entrepreneurial intentions
Means-driven action	Entrepreneurs start from who they are, what they know, and whom they know, rather than from predefined goals.	Homeless youth rely on survival skills, street knowledge, informal work experience, and peer networks to imagine entrepreneurial activities grounded in their everyday realities.
Affordable loss	Decisions are guided by what one can afford to lose rather than by expected returns.	Given limited resources and high uncertainty, entrepreneurship represents a low-risk option compared to formal employment; failure carries limited additional loss relative to existing precarity.
Strategic partnerships	Entrepreneurs form alliances to co-create opportunities and reduce uncertainty.	Peer groups, such as street collectives and informal networks, provide social, material, informational, and emotional support that sustains entrepreneurial intentions.
Leveraging contingencies	Unexpected events are embraced as opportunities rather than avoided as risks.	Homeless youth continuously adapt to changing conditions (housing instability, chance encounters, temporary opportunities), turning contingencies into income-generating possibilities.
Non-predictive control of the future	The future is shaped through action rather than predicted through planning.	Entrepreneurial intentions are oriented toward immediate action and present-oriented control, privileging improvisation and pragmatism over long-term forecasting.

These findings suggest that entrepreneurial intention among homeless youth operates less as a cognitive precursor to venture creation but more as a situated mode of action shaped by resource constraints, uncertainty, and social marginalization. The following discussion theorizes these empirical insights through the lens of effectuation to refine our understanding of entrepreneurial intention under conditions of extreme precarity and to articulate the study’s theoretical and practical contributions.

5. Discussion

Entrepreneurial intention, as discussed by Sarasvathy (2013), becomes a compelling perspective for young individuals living on the streets, who grapple with a series of uncontrollable events and the disarray of everyday life, leaving them inadequately safeguarded. Within this challenging context, these youth demonstrate a propensity for tinkering, which is acknowledged as a crucial asset in the realm of entrepreneurship (Janssen et al., 2018). For young individuals living on the streets, opportunities to engage in entrepreneurial pursuits arise in connection with activities they have become familiar with through their involvement in odd jobs or group experiences, such as being part of a music group. These experiences provide them with a sense of autonomy, opportunities for learning, and the chance to share their skills, particularly in food-related endeavors. These choices align with the effectuation theory, which draws inspiration from available resources and life situations (Sarasvathy, 2008), as well as the novel market rules that apply to emerging markets (Sarasvathy and Dew, 2005). However, several obstacles present themselves in the path of these aspiring entrepreneurs, predominantly in the form of acts of violence and rejection, leading to severed social ties that may result in punishment or exclusion. These disruptive events force these young individuals to distance themselves from their families, friends, and acquaintances or even necessitate a shift in their chosen activities or professions.

While some of these social ties may be perceived as constraining or dependency inducing, they can simultaneously provide a minimum level of stability, protection, and income. In this context, entrepreneurship appears less as a pathway structured or supported by traditional social entrepreneurship initiatives than as an effectual response developed outside institutional frameworks. The findings suggest that many social entrepreneurship programs, often built around assumptions of long-term planning, formalized projects, and stable participation, are poorly aligned with the unstable trajectories, present-oriented rationalities, and strong desire for autonomy observed among homeless youth. Rather than rejecting collective or socially oriented goals, these young individuals tend to distance themselves from institutional arrangements that reproduce hierarchical dependencies or impose normative expectations. This misalignment does not imply that social entrepreneurship is irrelevant for homeless youth, but rather that its dominant forms may insufficiently accommodate the informal, adaptive, and effectual entrepreneurial intentions identified in this study. Highlighting this gap constitutes an important contribution of the paper and invites a rethinking of entrepreneurial support mechanisms so that they better resonate with the lived realities and modes of action of marginalized youth.

Despite the social disapproval surrounding the activities of young people on the streets, these endeavors offer valuable opportunities for learning and could be

acknowledged as such by providing avenues for entrepreneurship, particularly in bustling urban areas where observing passersby's activities can serve as a source of inspiration for trading goods and services. Drawing insights from Third World entrepreneurs, the theory of effectuation has at times recognized the efforts of street vendors who managed to progressively expand their businesses, eventually gaining prominence. However, it is important to note that both homeless youth and street vendors often face legal actions aimed at removing them from public spaces (Devlin, 2018). In a study by Bacq et al. (2023), which regrettably relies on only three vignettes, it is observed that the stigma and sense of shame, as described by Goffman (1963), attached to these individuals' circumstances can serve as both a limitation and a source of inspiration and emancipation. When overcome, these challenges can foster a sense of cohesion and solidarity among those who feel marginalized by society.

Although there may be a distinction made in the general discourse regarding the situations of homeless young people in America versus France, these differences do not appear to be pronounced when considering their entrepreneurial activities. It is observed that a more developed entrepreneurial culture is not necessarily evident among homeless youth in New York as compared to those in Paris. In studying the entrepreneurial phenomenon, the significance of Sen's capability theory (Walker, 2005) for Sarasvathy, as seen in her effectuation approach to entrepreneurship (Chowdhury et al., 2024; Sarasvathy and Venkataraman, 2011), proves valuable. This perspective allows for the appreciation of the role of imagination in the economy, particularly in relation to the fundamental significance of relationships and emotional bonds that take precedence over value judgments and performance evaluations (Sarasvathy and Dew, 2005). Consequently, the logic of entrepreneurship supersedes approaches that solely combat exclusion and social control within society. Instead, entrepreneurship is viewed as an activity that involves learning about life together with others on a daily basis, characterized by exchanges that extend beyond mere economic transactions. Indeed, the “capabilities” of homeless youths remain constant, deeply intertwined with the complex and contrasting context of megacities. These urban environments offer both opportunities and challenges, characterized by wealth and inequality, as well as defensive mechanisms that create inhospitable conditions.

The discussion highlights how entrepreneurial intentions among homeless youth are shaped by effectual logics and contextual constraints. Building on these insights, the following section outlines the main theoretical, empirical, and managerial contributions of the study, before addressing its limitations and avenues for future research.

6. Contributions and Limitations

This research offers key theoretical, empirical, and managerial insights into the entrepreneurial intentions of homeless youth. From a theoretical perspective, the study's main contribution lies in reconceptualizing entrepreneurial intention as a situated and effectual mode of action rather than as a linear cognitive precursor to venture creation. By mobilizing effectuation theory, the findings show how entrepreneurial intention can emerge and be sustained under conditions of extreme precarity, uncertainty, and limited resources. This contributes to extending effectuation theory to marginalized contexts and enriches research on entrepreneurial intention beyond conventional employment trajectories.

From an empirical perspective, the study provides rare longitudinal and comparative evidence on homeless youths' relationships to work and entrepreneurship. A key empirical insight is that, across both Paris and New York, entrepreneurial intentions are closely intertwined with survival practices, peer-based networks, and informal economic activities rather than with formal opportunity recognition. At the same time, an important difference emerges between the two contexts. In New York, entrepreneurial intentions are more frequently embedded in collective dynamics and group-based projects, whereas in Paris they tend to be more individualized and shaped by interactions with welfare institutions and social services. This finding nuances the observation that similarities across contexts are more pronounced than differences, and highlights how local institutional environments shape the form taken by entrepreneurial intentions.

From a managerial and policy perspective, the study highlights the need for tailored support programs that better align with homeless youths' lived realities and effectual modes of action. Rather than focusing primarily on business planning, formalization, or long-term projections, support programs should prioritize flexible, low-threshold interventions. These may include the recognition and valorization of existing skills, support for peer-based initiatives, access to micro-resources with low entry requirements, and mentoring relationships that do not reproduce hierarchical dependencies. Programs should also account for housing instability, fatigue, and the urgency of day-to-day survival, which strongly shape homeless youths' capacity to engage in entrepreneurial activities. These findings suggest entrepreneurship as a potentially meaningful pathway for social and professional integration of homeless youth, provided that support mechanisms are designed to accommodate informal, pre-formal, and effectual entrepreneurial trajectories rather than imposing standardized models of social entrepreneurship.

This research acknowledges two primary limitations. Firstly, the data collection process relies on retrospective histories and life narratives of the participants. As a result, it becomes challenging to directly compare the words and actions of the informants, except during the fieldwork phase. Notably, in some instances, administrative records or files, which could aid in corroborating

the information, might be lacking, as observed in the case of the specialized prevention association in Paris, where a portion of the fieldwork was conducted. Consequently, the difficulty in discerning between truth and falsehood, reality and fiction, arises due to these limitations in data access and verification.

Secondly, the international comparison undertaken in this research raises certain concerns. Variations in linguistic and cognitive codes, the interpretation of questions, formulation of responses, self-presentation, and even moments of silence may hold divergent meanings within French and American societies. Such cultural differences could introduce biases in the cross-country comparative analysis. Consequently, it becomes crucial to adopt cautious measures when drawing conclusions from the international comparison to mitigate potential inaccuracies or misinterpretations stemming from these disparities. Future research could benefit from complementary methods, additional sources of triangulation, and extended comparative designs to further refine cross-national insights.

Our cross-national comparative analysis prompts contemplation and has the potential to stimulate additional scholarly investigations. Future research could further explore how different welfare regimes, urban environments, and institutional arrangements shape the collective versus individual nature of entrepreneurial intentions among homeless youth. In particular, examining how training programs can be adapted to local contexts while remaining sensitive to effectual logics represents a promising avenue for future research.

7. Conclusion

This study set out to examine how entrepreneurial intentions emerge among homeless youth and how these intentions can be understood through the lens of effectuation theory. Based on a four-year comparative qualitative study conducted in Paris and New York, the findings show that entrepreneurial intention among homeless youth emerges as a situated, effectual response to precarity, uncertainty, and limited access to formal employment rather than as a linear pathway toward venture creation.

From a theoretical standpoint, the main contribution of this research lies in extending effectuation theory to a context of extreme marginalization and in reconceptualizing entrepreneurial intention as a mode of action rather than solely as a cognitive antecedent. Effectuation helps explain how homeless youth mobilize available means, accept affordable losses, rely on peer-based partnerships, and act without predictive control of the future in order to pursue income-generating activities. Entrepreneurial intention thus appears as an adaptive and pragmatic orientation grounded in lived experience. In addition, capability theory contributes by highlighting the role of agency, freedom to act, and the conversion of limited resources into meaningful opportunities, which are

central to homeless youths' entrepreneurial aspirations. The study also shows that the entrepreneurial intentions identified are predominantly informal or pre-formal in nature. Rather than referring to legally registered ventures, entrepreneurship in this context primarily involves informal income-generating activities and the adoption of an entrepreneurial identity that provides legitimacy, dignity, and a sense of control. This clarification is important, as it underscores that entrepreneurial intention among homeless youth should not be equated with immediate business formalization.

From an empirical standpoint, the study draws on longitudinal ethnographic data collected over four years in two distinct urban contexts, using urban ethnography, recorded and unrecorded interviews, informal conversations, and social network observations. The comparative analysis reveals that similarities between Paris and New York are more pronounced than differences, particularly in terms of employment precarity, reliance on peer networks, and effectual modes of action. At the same time, differences emerge in the form taken by entrepreneurial intentions, which tend to be more collective in New York and more individualized and institutionally mediated in Paris.

From a managerial and policy perspective, the findings suggest that entrepreneurship represents a meaningful, though fragile, pathway for social and professional integration for some homeless youth. Support programs should therefore move beyond business planning and formalization requirements and instead adopt an effectuation-informed pedagogy. Such a pedagogy would emphasize learning by doing, experimentation with limited resources, peer collaboration, mentoring relationships based on trust rather than hierarchy, and tolerance for uncertainty and failure. By building on behaviors and skills already developed during homelessness, such programs may enhance self-confidence, employability, and longer-term integration outcomes. Finally, the shared entrepreneurial orientations observed in Paris and New York suggest that insights and practices developed in one context may inform interventions in the other, provided that local institutional conditions are taken into account. More broadly, this research highlights the need for policy interventions that recognize informal and effectual entrepreneurial intentions as legitimate forms of economic participation among marginalized youth. Effective policy interventions require precise targeting to maximize their impact, and accurate analysis is crucial for successful targeting (Casson and Della Giusta, 2007).

In conclusion, this study shows that entrepreneurial intention among homeless youth operates as an effectual and informal response to precarity, offering a meaningful pathway to agency and social integration under conditions of extreme marginalization.

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