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## Night Shelters As Social Enterprises: Bridging Homelessness And Economic Sustainability

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### Abstract

Homelessness Remains A Pressing Social Issue Worldwide, Exacerbated By Economic Disparities And Systemic Barriers To Employment And Housing. This Study Explores The Role Of Night Shelters As Social Enterprises, Integrating Economic Sustainability With Social Impact To Provide Viable Solutions For Homeless Individuals. Social Entrepreneurship, Which Merges Profit-Making With Social Welfare, Presents A Unique Opportunity To Address Homelessness Through Innovative And Sustainable Models.

The Research Highlights How Social Enterprises Facilitate Employment, Skills Training, And Community Engagement For Homeless Individuals, Bridging The Gap Between Temporary Relief And Long-Term Rehabilitation. Various Approaches, Including Direct Employment, Micro-Enterprise Development, And Social Enterprises, Are Examined To Understand Their Efficacy In Addressing Homelessness. The Study Also Evaluates Successful Case Studies Of Social Entrepreneurship In India And Beyond, Demonstrating How These Models Empower Marginalized Individuals While Contributing To Economic Growth.

Despite The Potential Of Social Enterprises, Challenges Such As Financial Constraints, Societal Misconceptions, And Policy Limitations Hinder Their Effectiveness. This Paper Calls For Stronger Public-Private Partnerships, Community Involvement, And Policy Support To Scale Sustainable Solutions For Homelessness. By Fostering Entrepreneurial Initiatives Within Night Shelters, This Research Underscores The Need For A Holistic Approach To Tackling Homelessness Through Economic Empowerment, Active Citizenship, And Inclusive Societal Development.

**Key Words**-Homelessness, Social Enterprises, Social Entrepreneurship, Economic Sustainability, Employment Generation, Social Inclusion, Poverty Alleviation.

### Introduction

Entrepreneurship Is The Core Force Of Economic Growth; The Economic Development Which One Experiences Is Just Due The Prevailing Force Of Entrepreneurship. The Entrepreneurship Has Many Other Types As Well; It Is Divided On Different Traits And Criteria, One Of The Criteria Being Social. This Type Of Entrepreneurship Is Unique In Nature And Has Different Blends Of Components. The Prime Objective Of Social Entrepreneurship Stands Different Than The Usual Objectives Of Entrepreneurship; Here Social Benefits Are Clubbed With Economic Benefits. Most Of The Time, Social Entrepreneurship Is Used In Synonymous Terms With Social Service/Work. The Similarities Are There, But The Biggest Difference Is Existence Of Profits. In Social Work, Ngos Or Social Workers Only Focus On Work Which Is Being Done For The Poor Or Deprived Section; It Is Not For Profits, But For Service. Social Entrepreneurship Is A Very Beneficial Phenomenon As It Addresses The Bottom Of The Pyramid Of Market By Offering Products And Services, Which Are Both Innovative And Cheap.

Since 2003, There Has Been An Increasing Policy Focus On Social Enterprise As A Potential Solution To The Problems Faced By Homeless People, Particularly Through The Provision Of Employment Training As A Precursor To Entering The Mainstream Labour Market (ODPM, 2003a, 2005; CLG, 2006, 2007, 2008). This Reflects What Levitas (2005) Refers To As A Shift In New Labour Policy From Seeing Social Exclusion As A Material Consequence Of Inequality, And Towards A View Of Exclusion As An Individual Problem To Be Rectified By Improving Access To The Labour Market. However, There Is Little Evidence To Support Or (Negate) The Policy Assumption That Social Enterprise Can Respond To The Needs Of Homeless People In This Way. Instead, There Are Two Distinct Sets Of Literature: Homelessness And Social

### **Homelessness: What, Who, And Why?**

Homelessness Is A Variable And Problematic Concept Incorporating A Continuum Of Possible Housing Circumstances (Clove Et Al., 2000; Fitzpatrick And Stephens, 2007). Aggregate Levels Of Homelessness Are Associated With Structural Factors Such As Insufficient Housing Supply, Levels Of Unemployment, And The Social Safety Net Provided By Different Welfare Regimes (Stephens And Fitzpatrick, 2007; Pleace And Quilgars, 2003; Anderson, 2003). Addressing These Structural Forces Would Be Expected To Bring About A Decline In The Overall Numbers Of Homeless People (Stephens And Fitzpatrick, 2007). However, Local Authorities Only Have A Duty To Provide Accommodation For Those Homeless People Deemed In Priority Need, Primarily Those With Dependents (Clove Et Al., 2001). Prevention Strategies Aiming To Help People Before They Become Homeless (Advice And Mediation Services For Those At Risk Of Homelessness) Have Corresponded With A Dramatic Fall In Levels Of Statutory Homeless Applications Since Their Introduction In England In 2003 (Stephens And Fitzpatrick, 2007). However, Pawson And Davidson (2006) Caution That Some Of This Fall May Be Attributable To Homeless People Being “Discouraged” From Making An Application Under The 2002 Homeless Persons Act, And Instead Being Diverted Into Unsuitable (Private Rental Sector) Schemes As Part Of The Prevention Strategy. Those Homeless People Not Deemed In Priority Need Have Been Labeled The “Single Homeless” (Pleace, 1999). It Is Probable That For Most Of These People Homelessness Is A Temporary Phenomenon, And Little Support Is Required To Address Their Housing Situation (Pleace 1997).

- a) Rooflessness (I.E. Street Homelessness Or “Rough Sleeping”)
- b) Living In Emergency/Temporary Accommodation For Homeless People In Hostels/Night Shelters
- c) Living Long Term In Institutions Because No Other Accommodation Is Available
- d) Bed And Breakfast Or Similar Accommodation Unsuitable For The Long Term
- e) Informal/Insecure/Impermanent Accommodation With Friends, Or Under Notice To Quit, Or Squatting
- f) Intolerable Physical Conditions, Including Overcrowding
- g) Involuntary Sharing (E.G. Abusive Relationships)

### **Source: Adapted From Anderson And Christian (2003)**

However, Certain Groups Are Overrepresented Among The Single Homeless Population, Particularly In The Most Acute Homelessness Circumstances Such As Rough Sleeping And Emergency Hostel Accommodation. These Include Those With Mental Health Problems; Substance Misusers; Care Leavers And Ex-Offenders (Pleace And Quilgars, 2003). Fitzpatrick (2006) Argues That This Group Of Homeless People, With Multiple Aspects To Their Exclusion, Is Seen As The Non-Respectable Poor Who Have Fallen Through Gaps In Welfare Provision. Many Of These People With More Acute Or Multiple Needs Are Long-Term Homeless Or Experience Multiple Episodes Of Homelessness (Fitzpatrick, 2006). It Is This Group Of Homeless People That Social Enterprise Has Been Targeted With Helping (ODPM, 2003a, 2005; CLG, 2007), Particularly As A Route Into Mainstream Employment. The Policy Focus On Equipping Homeless People For Mainstream Employment May Derive In Part From The “Pathways” Research Literature Which Examines Routes Into And Out Of Homelessness In Order To Help Understand Possible Solutions. For Example, Mcnaughton (2005) Undertook A Qualitative Longitudinal Study Of A Sample Of Homeless People Over A 12 Month Period. A Key Finding Was That For Some Participants, Accessing Sustainable Employment Marked The Point At Which They Felt They Had Escaped Homelessness (Mcnaughton, 2005). There May Be A Tendency Among Policy Makers And Practitioners To Confuse Cause And Effect. Accessing Sustainable Employment Might Be A Consequence Of Social Inclusion Rather Than A Cause. As Mcnaughton Notes, For Most Participants, Accessing Employment Was Not Seen As A Viable Option As The Benefits Trap Meant That There Was No Financial Incentive. For Others, The Pressure Of Having A Full-Time Job Led Them To Relapse Into Drug Or Alcohol Abuse (Mcnaughton, 2005). This Would Suggest That Employment Is Not A Viable Option For All Homeless People, Particularly In The Short-Term. Indeed, Pleace And Bretherton (2007) Argue That Government Policy, With Reference To Welfare To Work Programmers, Tends To Be Less Effective For Homeless People, Particularly

Those With Acute Or Multiple Aspects To Their Exclusion. Instead, Many Longer-Term Homeless People Require Ongoing Personalized Support (Such As Counseling) To Resolve Homelessness And Begin Resettlement In The Community (Rosengard Et Al., 2002; Harding And Willett, 2008). It May Be That Many Homeless People With Acute Or Multiple Needs Are Better Served (At Least Initially) By Less Formal Approaches To Social Inclusion That Focus On Engaging Homeless People With Mainstream Services And Providing A Space For Them To Interact With Other People Sharing Similar Experiences (For Example Day Centers) (Smith, 2008).

The Entrepreneurship As A Career And To Prepare The Person To Exploit The Market Opportunities For Own Business Successfully. These Objectives Can Be Set Both In The Short-Term And Long-Term Basis.

- **Short-Term Objectives:** These Objectives Can Be Achieved Immediately. In The Short-Term, The Individuals Are Trained To Be An Entrepreneur And Made Competent Enough To Scan The Existing Market Situation And Environment. The Person, Who Would Be The Future Entrepreneur, Should First Set The Goal As An Entrepreneur. The Information Related To The Existing Rules And Regulations Is Essential At This Stage.

- **Long-Term Objectives:** The Ultimate Objective Is That The Trained Individuals Successfully Establish Their Own Business And They Should Be Equipped With All The Required Skills To Run Their Business Smoothly.

The Overall Objectives Of EDP Are Mainly To Help In The Rapid Growth Of The Economy By Supplying Skilled Entrepreneurs. This Programme Primarily Aims At Providing Self-Employment To The Young Generation.

### **The Basic Trait/Characteristics Of Social Entrepreneurship**

The Social Entrepreneurship Has Basic Traits Of Looking For Ways To Dealing With Social Issues/Problems In More Innovative And Entrepreneurial Manner. Social Entrepreneurship Begins With Identification Of Social Problem/Shortcoming Then It Moves To Systematically Analyzing The Identified Problem, Considering All The Possible Aspects. Following Are The Traits Of Social Entrepreneurship, Which Are Commonly Existing In Social Entrepreneurship

- Social Entrepreneurship Has Risk Taking Capacity Like Any Other Branch Of Entrepreneurship, It Takes Risks And Uncertainties In Setting Up A Social Entrepreneur.
- Social Entrepreneurship Has Vision And Foresights As Well, It Sees The Problems And Finds The Solution Like Nobody Can Imagine About.
- Social Entrepreneurship Provides Leadership And Direction To People Who Are Working In Social Enterprise For Achieving A Common Goal.
- The Biggest And Probably The Unique Feature Of Entrepreneurship Is Creativity, Which Also Exists In Social Entrepreneurship As Well. Social Entrepreneurship Looks For Creative Solutions For Social Problems.

### **Role Of Entrepreneurship To The Help Of Homeless People**

1. Social Entrepreneurs Have The Abilities To Motivate The Homeless People By Their Unique Product/Service Aimed At The Social Upliftment. Their Role Begins With Identifying The Social Problem Which Concerns Everybody Rather Than Certain Sect Of People In Society. So Identifying An Appropriate Social Issues/Problem Is Very Important.

2. Social Entrepreneurs Have The Role To Reach At The Remotest Corner Of Country For Targeting The Social Sections, Which Are Deprived To Basic Facilities. The Responsibility Of Social Entrepreneurs Is To Reach Such People And Serve Them Positively.

3. Social Entrepreneurs Are Supposed To Provide Employment As Well With Their Unique Approach. Providing Employment To Local People Having Minimum Skills And Qualifications Is Biggest Responsibility Of Social Entrepreneurs.

4. One Of The Important Roles Which Social Entrepreneurs Have To Play In India Society Is To Make Visible Changes In Societies With Social Balancing Approach. 7. Social Entrepreneurs Have To Make The Society's Inequalities Go Away Using Positive Methods. This Can Be Done By Doing Proper And Adequate Research Of The Section Of The Society. .

5. Social Entrepreneurs Are Supposed To Provide Employment As Well With Their Unique Approach.



## Social Entrepreneurship In India

1. In Maharashtra, Zero Miles Is Building Multi-Utility Drinking Water Centres To Bring People Together For Community Development.
2. Aadhan Builds Classrooms —And A Host Of Other Spaces — From Discarded Shipping Containers.
3. Traditional Indian Crafts And Artistry Can Benefit Greatly Through Access To Online And Urban Markets Via Social Enterprises. Ziveli Is Such A Social Enterprise, Bringing The Kauna Craft-Work Of Manipur To The World.
4. Divya Rawat Is Using Mushroom Cultivation As A Way Of Curbing Migration And Providing Livelihoods To People In Uttarakhand. This Is Also Helping Repopulate Many ‘Ghost Villages’ In The State.
5. In A Country Where Women Often Must Walk Miles To Find And Collect Drinking Water For Their Families, The Water Maker Project To Produce Water From Thin Air Is No Less Than Magical. It Is, In The Words Of One Grateful Recipient, “Khuda Ka Paani.”

These Are The Few Examples Of Social Entrepreneurship In India, Which Are Into Different Domain Of Working. Most Of This Social Entrepreneurship Is Focused On Rural And Semi Urban Areas. As The Need For Social Entrepreneurship Is Growing, The Social Enterprises Are Growing As Well. The Social Entrepreneurship Has A Wide Area Of Coverage From Cottage Industry To Village Produced Goods, Farm Produced To Handicrafts Etc. Social Entrepreneurship Is Also Spreading Over Education And Health Sector As Well To Provide Cheap Education And Health Care To People. It Is Also A Way To Uplift The Way And Conditions Of Living Of People

## Key Way Entrepreneurship Can Assist Homeless Individuals

- **Direct Employment:** Entrepreneurs Can Create Businesses Specifically Designed To Hire Homeless Individuals, Providing Them With Jobs That Fit Their Skills And Abilities, Even If They Lack Extensive Work Experience.
- **Micro-Enterprise Development:** Supporting Homeless Individuals To Start Small Businesses, Like Street Vending Or Mobile Food Carts, Allows Them To Generate Income On Their Own Terms, Fostering A Sense Of Agency.
- **Skills Training And Development:** Entrepreneurs Can Provide Training Programs To Equip Homeless Individuals With Necessary Skills For Employment, Including Basic Business Management, Customer Service, And Technical Skills Depending On The Job Role.
- **Social Enterprises:** Creating Businesses With A Social Mission Aimed At Addressing Homelessness, Where Profits Are Reinvested Into Programs That Support Housing And Other Essential Services For Homeless Individuals.
- **Community Engagement:** By Actively Engaging With Homeless Shelters And Organizations, Entrepreneurs Can Identify Potential Employees And Build Relationships Within The Homeless Community.

## Entrepreneurial Initiatives For Homeless Individuals

- **Janitorial Services:** Hiring Homeless Individuals To Provide Cleaning Services For Businesses Or Public Spaces.
- **Food Trucks Or Catering:** Creating Mobile Food Businesses Operated By Homeless Individuals.
- **Handmade Goods Production:** Supporting The Creation And Sale Of Crafts Or Products Made By Homeless Individuals.
- **Urban Gardening Projects:** Establishing Community Gardens Where Homeless Individuals Can Contribute To Growing Produce And Potentially Sell It.
- **Mobile Food Vending:** Training Individuals To Operate Food Carts Or Trucks, Allowing Them To Sell Meals In High-Traffic Areas.
- **Arts And Crafts Businesses:** Supporting Individuals To Create And Sell Handmade Products Like Jewellery, Paintings, Or Knitted Items.
- **Lawn Care Services:** Providing Training In Basic Landscaping And Lawn Maintenance Skills To Offer Services To Local Residents.
- **Cleaning Services:** Enabling Individuals To Start Cleaning Businesses Focused On Office Spaces Or Residential Homes.
- **Beauty Services:** We Need To Provide The Beauty Services By Providing Small Training.

## The Homeless Entrepreneur Organization Is Helping People In The Following Areas

1. **Economic Empowerment:** Homeless Entrepreneur Is Committed To Promoting Economic Empowerment As A Key Pathway Out Of Poverty. The Organization Believes That Providing Opportunities For Work And Entrepreneurship Can Be Transformative For Individuals Facing Social Exclusion.
2. **Active Citizenship:** The Organization Emphasizes The Importance Of Active Citizenship As A Means Of Engaging Individuals In The Community. By Encouraging Participation In Civic Life, Homeless Entrepreneur Aims To Empower People To Become Active Contributors To Society.
3. **Public And Private Civic Partnerships:** Homeless Entrepreneur Recognizes The Power Of Collaboration Between Public And Private Entities. By Fostering Partnerships With Both Sectors, The Organization Seeks To Create A Comprehensive Network Of Support That Addresses The Diverse Needs Of Individuals Experiencing Social Exclusion.

## Benefits To Society

1. **Poverty Reduction:** Homeless Entrepreneur's Focus On Economic Empowerment Directly Contributes To Poverty Reduction. By Creating Opportunities For Meaningful Work And Entrepreneurship, The Organization Enables Individuals To Break Free From The Cycle Of Poverty.
2. **Community Integration:** The Emphasis On Active Citizenship Promotes Community Integration. Individuals Supported By Homeless Entrepreneur Are Encouraged To Actively Participate In Civic Life, Fostering A Sense Of Belonging And Community Engagement.
3. **Diverse Skill Development:** The Organization Provides Individuals With Diverse Skill Development Opportunities, Equipping Them With The Tools Needed For Sustainable Employment And Entrepreneurship. This Not Only Benefits The Individuals Directly Involved But Also Contributes To A More Skilled And Capable Workforce In Society.
4. **Social Inclusion:** Homeless Entrepreneur Actively Works Towards Social Inclusion, Ensuring That Individuals Facing Exclusion Are Given The Opportunity To Participate Fully In Economic And Community Life. This Contributes To A More Inclusive And Equitable Society.
5. **Enhanced Quality Of Life:** -The Organization's Ultimate Goal Is To Improve The Quality Of Life For Individuals Facing Social Exclusion. By Addressing Economic Empowerment And Active Citizenship, Homeless Entrepreneur Seeks To Create Lasting Positive Changes That Extend Beyond Immediate Needs.

## Why People Should Support Homeless Entrepreneur

1. **Empowering Vulnerable Individuals:** Supporting Homeless Entrepreneur Means Contributing To The Empowerment Of Vulnerable Individuals. By Providing Resources And Opportunities, The Organization Helps Marginalized Individuals Build Sustainable Paths Out Of Poverty.
2. **Building A More Inclusive Society:** Homeless Entrepreneur's Work Contributes To Building A More Inclusive Society. Supporting The Organization Means Actively Participating In Creating Communities Where Everyone Has The Opportunity To Thrive, Regardless Of Their Background Or Circumstances.
3. **Addressing Root Causes Of Homelessness:** By Supporting Homeless Entrepreneur, Individuals Contribute To Addressing The Root Causes Of Homelessness And Social Exclusion. This Proactive Approach Creates Lasting Positive Changes In Individuals' Lives And Communities.
4. **Economic Growth And Innovation:** Homeless Entrepreneur Stimulates Economic Growth And Innovation By Creating Jobs And Fostering Entrepreneurship. Supporting The Organization Contributes To A More Dynamic And Resilient Local Economy.
5. **Encouraging Civic Engagement:** Civic Engagement Is Crucial For The Success Of Homeless Entrepreneur's Mission. Supporting The Organization Means Encouraging Active Citizenship And Community Engagement, Leading To Stronger, More Vibrant Communities.

## Challenges Faced By Social Entrepreneurs In India

Social Entrepreneurship, Like Any Other Branch Of Social Entrepreneurship Also Faces Challenges. All The Challenges Are Either Controllable Or Non-Controllable, But All The Challenges Are Manageable. Social Entrepreneurship Is Slightly And Somehow Fundamentally Distinctive To Economic Entrepreneurship, So Are The Challenges Of Social Entrepreneurship. In India Particularly Social Entrepreneurship Is Subjected To Many Challenges. These Challenges Are Preventing The Growth And Spread Of Social Entrepreneurship In India As Against To Other Regions And Nations, Who Have Made The Social Entrepreneurship A Mission. The Interesting Thing To Note Down Is This; All The Challenges Which Are Faced By Social Entrepreneurship Are Very Different In Nature. These All Are Concerned With Mindset Rather Than Based On Some Physical

Attribute. People Are Mentally Blocked Towards The Social Entrepreneurship In India. Some Of The Prominent Challenges Faced By Social Entrepreneurship In India Are Given Below.

1. **Confusion With Social Work**- Social Entrepreneurship Is Mostly In India Is Confused With Social Work, Hence It Is Unable To Make A Mark As An Individual Entity In India. This Is Starting Of Challenge For Social Entrepreneurship
2. **The Problem Of Creativity**- The Next Problem Which Is Faced By Social Entrepreneurship Is Lack Of Creativity Regarding Thinking Great Ideas For Betterment Of Society And Earning Profits As Well. This Fusion Is Very Hard To Think And Implemented Particularly In India.
3. **Arranging Finance**- One Of The Challenges For Entrepreneurship In India Remains Lack Of Financial Sources. The Social Entrepreneurs Offering A Unique Product And Set Of Services Make It Even Harder To Get Financial Aid From The Established Financial Institutes. This Is A Very Dire Situation And A Considerable Reason For The Under Development Of Social Entrepreneurship In India.
4. **Shortage Of Talented/Dedicated Workforce**- This Is A Very Unique Challenge Faced By Social Entrepreneurship Exclusively. Generally, People Get Into Jobs To Get A Handsome Salary And Perks, But With Social Entrepreneurship This Becomes A Bit Hard. Since The Prime Objective Of Social Entrepreneurship Is To Get Social Gains/Benefits Rather Than Personal Gains/Benefits. Under This Condition It Is Very Hard To Get People To Work For The Firm.
5. **Setting And Communicating Value Objectively**- The Important Challenge Of Social Entrepreneurship Is To Setting And Communicating Values Clearly. Usually What Happens Is, Value May Differ From Society To Society Based Upon Their Exclusive Needs. But Social Entrepreneurs Have To Set Common Values, Which Can Be Communicated Easily.
6. **Elevating The Individuals**- The Most Prominent And Visible Challenge Before The Social Entrepreneurship Is To Elevate People From Their Current Place Of Standing By Making Positive And Substantial Opportunities. In This Process Each Individual Must Be Catered To Their Individual Requirement Rather Than As A Society As A Whole. This Poses A Different Type Of Challenge For Social Entrepreneurs.
7. **Lack Of An Ethical Framework**- Since Social Entrepreneurs Are Very Concerned About The Societal Changes And Upliftment Of People, Sometimes They Adopt A Less Ethical Way Of Conducting Their Business. This Challenge Is Very Rarely Visible Yet Exists In Some Extreme Cases In India. Since Society To Society The Ethical Parameter Shifts.
8. **The Commercial Assumption**- Social Entrepreneurship Does Not Take Commercial Viability Or Assumption As Their Priority. This Is One Of The Biggest Challenges When It Comes To Commercial Assumption Of Facts And Ideas. Since Socially Things May Be Accepted But Financially/Commercially They May Not. This Creates A Dilemma For Social Entrepreneurship In India. Commercial Non Viability Also Makes Firms Less Motivated For The Getting In To Social Benefiting Projects.
9. **Lack Of Evidence**- Unlike Economic Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship Has Fewer Evidences Of Changes They Have Pioneered In Society. Such Changes Are Very Hard To Keep A Track Of, As People Move From One Place To Another Frequently For Several Reasons.
10. **Lack Of Planning And Appropriate Structure**- This Is The Challenge Which Is Haunting The Entrepreneurship For Many Decades And Still Does To Some Extent. Lack Of Planning Is Very Crucial And It Is Normally The Cause Of Failure Of Social Enterprises. The Proper And Adequacy Of Infrastructure Including The Training, Finance, Consultation, And Research Are Not In Place For Social Entrepreneurship In India.

### How People Can Support Homeless Entrepreneur

1. **Financial Contributions**: -Make Financial Donations To Support Homeless Entrepreneur's Programs, Training Initiatives, And Resources For Individuals In Social Exclusion.
2. **Volunteerism**: - Offer Time And Skills By Volunteering With The Organization. Volunteers Can Assist In Various Capacities, Such As Mentoring, Training, And Community Outreach.
3. **Advocacy And Awareness**: - Advocate For Policy Changes That Address The Root Causes Of Homelessness And Social Exclusion. Raise Awareness In Your Community About The Challenges Faced By Marginalized Individuals.
4. **Partnerships**: - Encourage Public And Private Partnerships With Homeless Entrepreneur. Collaboration With Businesses, Community Organizations, And Government Entities Enhances The Organization's Capacity To Create Meaningful Impact.
5. **Support Entrepreneurial Ventures**: - Support Entrepreneurial Ventures Initiated By Individuals In Social Exclusion. This Can Include Purchasing Products Or Services, Providing Mentorship, Or Promoting Their Businesses Within Your Network.



6. **Education And Training Opportunities:** -Contribute To Educational And Training Opportunities. Offer Resources Or Expertise That Can Enhance The Skills And Knowledge Of Individuals Striving To Overcome Social Exclusion.
7. **Challenge Stigmas And Stereotypes:** - Challenge Stigmas And Stereotypes Associated With Homelessness And Social Exclusion. Promote A More Inclusive And Empathetic Understanding Within Your Community.
8. **Lobby For Systemic Changes:** Engage In Advocacy Efforts To Lobby For Systemic Changes That Address The Structural Issues Contributing To Social Exclusion. This May Involve Engaging With Policymakers And Participating In Community Initiatives.

### **These Wildly Successful Entrepreneurs Once Were Homeless**

#### **Chris Gardner**

Before He Became Known As An Entrepreneur, Motivational Speaker, CEO And Author, Chris Gardner And His Son Were Living On The Street After His Wife Left Him And He Was Trying To Subsist On Very Little Money. His Background Was Not Much Prettier, Having Grown Up In The Midst Of Domestic Violence, Poverty, Alcoholism And More Barriers.

While He Could Have Given Into These Barriers And Followed That Same Path, Gardner Wanted Something Completely Different For Himself And Son. Now, He Runs Gardner Rich LLC With Offices Around The Country, Is A Multi-Millionaire And Even Had A Movie Made From One Of His Books That Starred Will Smith Called "The Pursuit Of Happiness."

#### **Linda Singh**

Although She Is A High-School Dropout And Runaway Who Spent Time As A Homeless Youth And Experienced Poverty And Sexual Abuse, Linda Singh Completely Transformed Her Life. Even When She Was Struggling To Stay Off The Streets, She Still Attended High School As Long As She Could And Pulled Good Grades Before Having To Give It Up. She Has Become A Model Of Female Leadership In Careers That Often Don't See Women In These Roles. She Has Previously Served As A Managing Director At Accenture And As A Major General In The U.S. Army. Now, She Is A Major General, Leading Maryland's National Guard Through Some Very Tough Situations, Including The Baltimore Riots After The Funeral Of Freddie Gray. Her Time On The Streets And In Afghanistan Have Served As The Proving Ground For A Woman Who Is Not Afraid To Take On Dangerous Situations And High-Pressure Conflicts. Like Many Other Leaders, Singh Has Proven That A Successful Leader Often Has Come From Tough Roots And Overcome Significant Adversity. She May Not Be Valued In The Millions, But Her Success Story Is Priceless And Has Garnered Her Recognition And High-Powered Positions.

#### **Dani Johnson**

While There Are Many Profiles To Be Shared, One Of The Most Interesting Is The Idea Of A Company That Is Speaking Directly To Currently Homeless Individuals With Talents And Big Ideas But Lacking The Opportunity To Prove Themselves. Many Success Stories Have Come From Tech Shop, A Company That Offers All The Equipment, Tools, Mentoring And Even Financing To Help All Types Of Individuals Reach Their Goals. For Some, This Assistance Has Led To Getting Off The Streets, Receiving Funding And Starting Companies That Are On Their Way To Growth. As Chairman And Founder Jim Newton Noted, "Everybody Has Creative Abilities But People Just Don't Express Them. I Mean, I See People Come In Here That Are Afraid To Try Anything. We Give Them Some Classes And Some Encouragement. And They Have Some Success With Their Projects. And You See Them Just Change. You See Them Light Up. You See Them Say, 'Wow, I Really Can Do This.' This Is Stunning. They're Stunned."

In Addition To These Turnaround Stories, Many Other Famous Faces Have Been Homeless Early On In Their Lives, Including Jim Carrey, Daniel Craig, Dr. Phil, Suze Orman And More. Others Had Hard Times But Surpassed These To Become Wildly Successful, Such As Steve Jobs, Larry Ellison, And J.K. Rowling Just To Name A Few.

It Just Goes To Show That No Barrier Is Insurmountable To Those Who Work Toward Success Without Becoming Discouraged By Setbacks Or Initial Failures. The Lesson Here Is You Can't Focus On Being Down But Must, In The Face Of Any And All Adversity, Look Forward And Never Give Up.

## Conclusion

Homelessness Is A Complex Social Issue That Requires Multi-Dimensional Solutions, Integrating Economic Empowerment, Social Inclusion, And Sustainable Policy Interventions. This Study Has Highlighted The Potential Of Night Shelters As Social Enterprises, Demonstrating How They Can Serve As More Than Just Temporary Relief But As Platforms For Long-Term Rehabilitation And Economic Sustainability. By Incorporating Entrepreneurial Initiatives, These Shelters Can Provide Employment Opportunities, Skill Development, And Pathways To Reintegration Into Mainstream Society.

To Maximize The Impact Of Social Enterprises In Combating Homelessness, Collaborative Efforts Are Needed From Governments, Private Sector Stakeholders, And Civil Society Organizations. Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships, Ensuring Policy Support, And Fostering Community Participation Are Essential For Driving Sustainable Change. By Redefining Night Shelters As Hubs Of Economic Opportunity Rather Than Mere Temporary Relief Centers, We Can Work Toward A More Inclusive, Equitable, And Self-Sufficient Society, Where Homelessness Is Not Just Alleviated But Ultimately Eradicated.

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