

Creating Sustainable Impact through Social Entrepreneurship Models

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Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative approach to addressing societal challenges by integrating innovative business practices with a strong social mission. This paper examines diverse social entrepreneurship models, emphasizing their potential to create sustainable impact across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. By exploring case studies and theoretical frameworks, the paper highlights key characteristics of successful social enterprises, including their ability to balance financial viability with mission-driven goals.

The research delves into hybrid business models, community-driven initiatives, and public-private partnerships that exemplify the synergy between profitability and social impact. The analysis identifies critical factors influencing the effectiveness of social entrepreneurship, such as leadership, stakeholder engagement, and resource mobilization. Additionally, the role of technological advancements and digital platforms in scaling social enterprises is explored, shedding light on how innovation enhances outreach and operational efficiency.

This paper also investigates challenges faced by social entrepreneurs, including limited access to funding, regulatory barriers, and the complexities of measuring impact. Strategies to overcome these obstacles are proposed, focusing on fostering an enabling environment through policy support, capacity-building programs, and cross-sector collaboration.

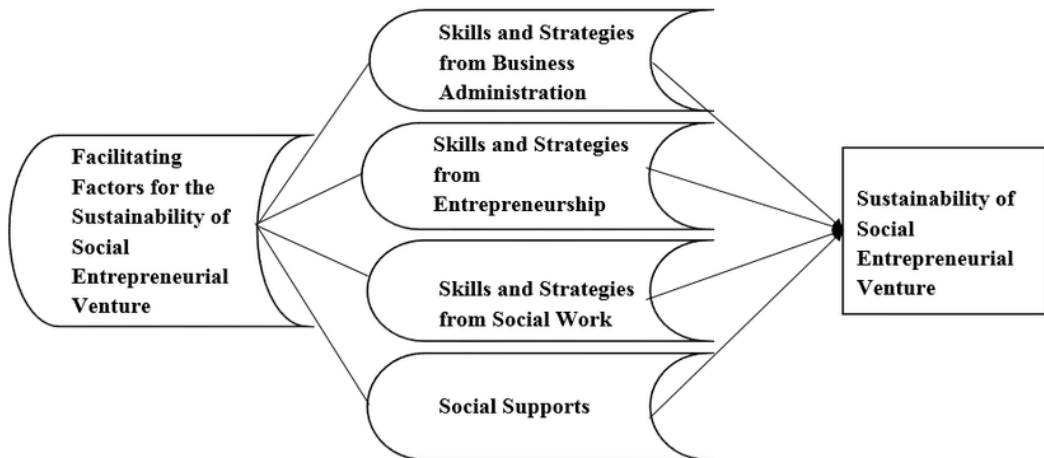
The study concludes by emphasizing the pivotal role of social entrepreneurship in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It underscores the need for adaptive, inclusive, and scalable models to address pressing global issues such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. By advancing knowledge in this domain, the study aims to inspire policymakers, practitioners, and academics to champion social entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable development.

Keywords: Social entrepreneurship, sustainable impact, hybrid business models, community-driven initiatives, public-private partnerships, technological advancements, digital platforms,

stakeholder engagement, resource mobilization, financial viability, impact measurement, regulatory challenges, capacity building, policy support, cross-sector collaboration, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1. Introduction

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative approach to addressing pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. By combining the principles of traditional business with a mission to achieve social impact, social entrepreneurship has become a crucial driver of sustainable development. Unlike conventional businesses focused primarily on profit generation, social enterprises prioritize the well-being of communities and ecosystems while maintaining financial viability. This dual-purpose model aligns with global efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and lack of access to essential services.



Source: Researchgate.net

The growing importance of sustainability in today's socio-economic landscape has further heightened interest in social entrepreneurship. It offers innovative solutions that leverage limited resources efficiently to create lasting change. Governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector are increasingly recognizing the value of social entrepreneurship as a means to complement traditional development models. By fostering collaboration and encouraging innovative thinking, social enterprises are uniquely positioned to address systemic issues in ways that are both impactful and scalable.

This study explores the various models of social entrepreneurship and their role in creating sustainable impact. It examines the diverse strategies adopted by social enterprises to address global challenges and highlights the factors that contribute to their success or limitations. The paper also evaluates the interplay between social entrepreneurship and sustainability, providing insights into how these models can be enhanced to maximize their long-term benefits. By delving into existing literature and case studies, this research aims to identify best practices and actionable recommendations for advancing social entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable development.

Background of the study

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative approach to addressing pressing societal challenges, blending innovative business models with a focus on creating social and environmental value. Unlike traditional entrepreneurship, which primarily aims at profit generation, social entrepreneurship prioritizes solving community-based issues while maintaining financial sustainability. This dual focus positions social enterprises as key players in achieving global development goals, such as poverty alleviation, education access, healthcare improvement, and environmental conservation.

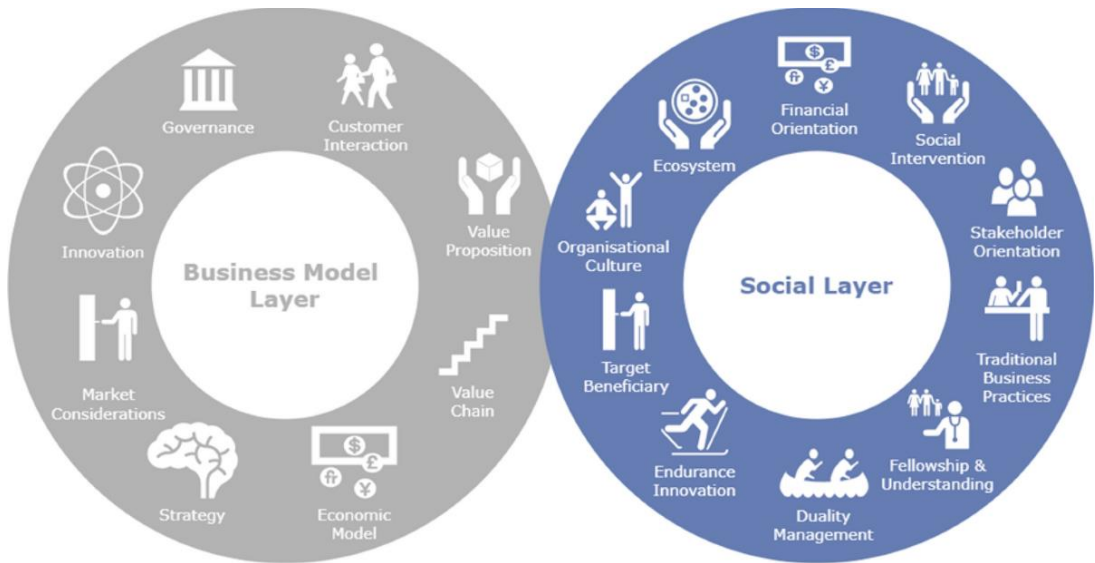
Over the past decades, the rising demand for sustainable development solutions has intensified the need for innovative approaches that align profitability with societal welfare. Social entrepreneurship provides a viable framework to bridge this gap, particularly in contexts where government interventions or non-profit organizations alone may fall short. By leveraging creative problem-solving and resource optimization, social entrepreneurs aim to empower marginalized communities, foster local economic growth, and promote systemic change.

Despite its significant potential, the scalability and sustainability of social entrepreneurship models remain critical challenges. Factors such as limited funding, regulatory hurdles, and the complexities of measuring social impact often hinder the long-term viability of these initiatives. Addressing these challenges necessitates a comprehensive understanding of various social entrepreneurship models and their effectiveness in creating sustainable impact.

This study explores the diverse frameworks and strategies employed by social entrepreneurs globally, examining how these models adapt to different socio-economic contexts. By analyzing best practices and identifying success factors, this research seeks to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on creating scalable and impactful social entrepreneurship initiatives. Ultimately, the insights derived aim to support policymakers, practitioners, and scholars in fostering innovation and sustainability within the domain of social entrepreneurship.

Justification

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a powerful mechanism for addressing critical social, economic, and environmental challenges. Unlike traditional business models that focus primarily on profit generation, social entrepreneurship prioritizes creating sustainable value for communities and ecosystems. This dual-purpose approach has gained significant attention in both academic and practical contexts due to its potential to solve global issues such as poverty, inequality, and climate change while fostering innovation and economic growth.



Source: springer.com

However, despite the growing popularity of social entrepreneurship, there is a lack of comprehensive understanding regarding its models, strategies, and long-term impact. Existing literature often focuses on isolated case studies or specific geographical contexts, leaving gaps in the holistic analysis of social entrepreneurship frameworks and their scalability. A systematic review of social entrepreneurship models is essential to bridge these gaps, providing insights into how these models can be optimized for sustainable and scalable outcomes.

This research paper is justified for the following reasons:

1. **Addressing Knowledge Gaps:** The paper will consolidate and analyze various social entrepreneurship models, exploring their design, implementation, and outcomes. It will address the fragmented understanding of how these models function in diverse contexts and sectors.
2. **Promoting Sustainability:** With global emphasis on achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this study will examine how social entrepreneurship aligns with sustainability objectives. It will highlight innovative practices that contribute to long-term environmental, social, and economic resilience.
3. **Guiding Policy and Practice:** Policymakers, practitioners, and investors increasingly rely on evidence-based strategies to support impactful initiatives. This research will provide a valuable resource for designing policies and programs that enhance the effectiveness and reach of social entrepreneurship ventures.
4. **Encouraging Collaboration and Innovation:** By analyzing successful and emerging models, the study will encourage cross-sectoral collaboration and inspire innovation in addressing complex global challenges.

5. **Enhancing Academic Discourse:** This research will enrich academic discussions on social entrepreneurship, offering a critical perspective on the interplay between business practices, social impact, and sustainability.

By undertaking this review, the paper aims to contribute to the theoretical and practical advancement of social entrepreneurship, empowering stakeholders to create meaningful and sustainable impact worldwide. It will serve as a foundational resource for future studies, policy formulation, and entrepreneurial initiatives in this critical area.

Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the fundamental principles and characteristics of social entrepreneurship models and their role in addressing societal challenges.
2. To identify key sustainable practices embedded in social entrepreneurship models that contribute to long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits.
3. To assess the measurable outcomes of social entrepreneurship initiatives on local and global communities, focusing on their ability to create sustainable solutions for pressing issues.
4. To investigate the critical factors that contribute to the success of social entrepreneurship ventures and explore the challenges they face in achieving sustainable impact.
5. To study innovative approaches adopted by social entrepreneurs to maximize their impact while maintaining financial viability.

2. Literature Review

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a transformative approach to addressing social and environmental challenges while fostering economic development. The literature on social entrepreneurship highlights its unique ability to create sustainable impact through innovative business models that balance social and financial objectives (Austin et al., 2006).

Defining Social Entrepreneurship:

Social entrepreneurship is characterized by its focus on addressing societal issues through entrepreneurial strategies. Zahra et al. (2009) describe it as the process of recognizing and resourcefully pursuing opportunities to create social value. Unlike traditional entrepreneurship, which primarily aims at profit maximization, social entrepreneurship prioritizes social impact while maintaining financial viability (Dees, 1998). This dual focus distinguishes social enterprises from both non-profit organizations and purely commercial ventures.

Social Entrepreneurship Models:

Several models of social entrepreneurship have been identified in the literature, each tailored to different contexts and objectives. The hybrid model, for example, integrates elements of both for-profit and non-profit approaches, allowing organizations to generate revenue while pursuing their social mission (Battilana & Lee, 2014). Another prevalent model is the inclusive business model, which incorporates marginalized communities as producers, consumers, or

employees, thereby fostering social inclusion and economic empowerment (Prahalad, 2010).

Sustainable Impact and Scalability:

The sustainability of social entrepreneurship initiatives often hinges on their ability to balance economic and social goals. Strategies for achieving this balance include leveraging cross-sector collaborations, adopting innovative technologies, and ensuring stakeholder engagement (Seelos & Mair, 2005). Moreover, scalability is a critical factor in amplifying the impact of social enterprises. Santos (2012) emphasizes the importance of creating replicable and adaptable models that can be scaled across different regions and contexts without compromising their social mission.

Challenges in Social Entrepreneurship:

Despite its potential, social entrepreneurship faces several challenges, including limited access to funding, regulatory barriers, and the difficulty of measuring social impact. Nicholls (2006) notes that traditional funding mechanisms often overlook social enterprises due to their hybrid nature. Additionally, the lack of standardized metrics for assessing social impact poses a significant hurdle for both accountability and resource allocation (Ebrahim & Rangan, 2014).

The Role of Innovation:

Innovation plays a pivotal role in the success of social entrepreneurship models. Technological advancements, such as digital platforms and mobile applications, have enabled social enterprises to reach underserved populations more effectively (Smith et al., 2014). Furthermore, design thinking and co-creation methodologies have been employed to develop solutions that are both sustainable and culturally relevant (Brown & Wyatt, 2010).

The literature underscores the transformative potential of social entrepreneurship in creating sustainable impact. By integrating innovative models, fostering scalability, and addressing inherent challenges, social enterprises can effectively contribute to societal well-being and environmental sustainability. Future research should explore the role of policy frameworks and cross-sector partnerships in enhancing the effectiveness and scalability of social entrepreneurship initiatives.

3. Material and Methodology

This research paper examines the role of social entrepreneurship models in creating sustainable impact by synthesizing insights from existing literature, reports, and case studies. The study aims to identify key elements, strategies, and practices that contribute to the success of social entrepreneurship in fostering long-term economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Research Design:

The research design of this study is qualitative, employing a systematic literature review approach to analyze and interpret findings from diverse sources. The emphasis is placed on understanding the conceptual frameworks, practical applications, and outcomes associated with social entrepreneurship models across different contexts and industries.

Data Collection:

The data for this research was gathered through a comprehensive review of peer-reviewed journal articles, books, policy documents, conference proceedings, and credible online resources. Searches were conducted using academic databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, and JSTOR to ensure the inclusion of high-quality and relevant literature. Keywords used in the search included "social entrepreneurship," "sustainable impact," "business models for sustainability," and "social innovation." The selection criteria focused on publications from the past 15 years to capture recent trends and developments while also considering seminal works for foundational knowledge.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria:

To maintain the integrity and focus of the study, specific inclusion and exclusion criteria were established:

- Inclusion Criteria:
 - Studies that analyze social entrepreneurship models in creating sustainable impact.
 - Papers discussing the intersection of social innovation, sustainability, and entrepreneurship.
 - Empirical research, theoretical frameworks, and case studies.
- Exclusion Criteria:
 - Literature unrelated to social entrepreneurship or sustainability.
 - Studies focusing solely on corporate social responsibility (CSR) without entrepreneurial components.
 - Papers lacking sufficient methodological rigor or relevance to the research objectives.

Data Analysis:

The selected literature was analyzed using a thematic analysis approach. The process involved:

1. Coding: Key themes, concepts, and strategies were identified and categorized based on their relevance to social entrepreneurship and sustainability.
2. Synthesis: Patterns, trends, and gaps in the existing literature were synthesized to provide a cohesive understanding of the topic.
3. Evaluation: Critical appraisal of methodologies and findings from individual studies was conducted to ensure reliability and validity.

Framework Development:

Based on the analysis, a conceptual framework was developed to highlight the essential components of sustainable social entrepreneurship models. This framework integrates insights from the literature to present a holistic perspective on how social enterprises can drive economic, social, and environmental impact effectively.

Ethical Considerations:

The research adhered to ethical guidelines by ensuring proper citation of all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Only publicly available and ethically accessible data were utilized, and the review process was conducted transparently to maintain academic integrity.

By employing this systematic and rigorous methodology, the study aims to contribute valuable insights to the field of social entrepreneurship, supporting future research and practice in creating sustainable impact.

4. Results and Discussion

Results:

The review highlights several key insights into how social entrepreneurship models are contributing to sustainable impact:

1. **Innovative Business Models:** Social entrepreneurship models integrate profit-making with social value creation. Successful ventures utilize hybrid approaches, blending non-profit and for-profit strategies, which enhance financial stability while maximizing social impact.
2. **Scalability and Replicability:** Case studies reveal that scalable and replicable models, such as microfinance and community-based enterprises, have achieved widespread success. These models are adaptable to various socio-economic contexts, thereby extending their impact across regions.
3. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Active engagement of stakeholders, including local communities, governments, and private sectors, emerges as a critical factor in sustaining social enterprises. Collaborative partnerships enhance resource mobilization, operational efficiency, and long-term viability.
4. **Measuring Impact:** Impact measurement frameworks like the Social Return on Investment (SROI) and Theory of Change are increasingly adopted. These frameworks enable enterprises to quantify and communicate their social and environmental contributions effectively.
5. **Challenges and Limitations:** While social entrepreneurship has significant potential, challenges such as inadequate funding, regulatory barriers, and limited market access persist. The findings underscore the importance of supportive policy environments and capacity-building initiatives to overcome these barriers.

Discussion:

The findings underline the transformative potential of social entrepreneurship in addressing global challenges, such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation. The integration of innovative business strategies with community-oriented goals ensures that social enterprises can create long-term solutions.

1. **Balancing Profit and Purpose:** A recurring theme in the review is the delicate balance between achieving financial sustainability and fulfilling social missions. Entrepreneurs

adopting innovative revenue models, such as cross-subsidization and diversified income streams, are better positioned to navigate this balance.

2. **Role of Technology:** Technology plays a pivotal role in scaling operations and enhancing impact. Digital platforms, mobile banking, and data-driven decision-making have revolutionized how social enterprises operate, particularly in underserved areas. The adoption of technology ensures inclusivity and efficiency in delivering services.

3. **Policy Implications:** Governments and policymakers have a crucial role in fostering a conducive ecosystem for social entrepreneurship. Policies that incentivize social innovation, simplify regulatory procedures, and provide funding avenues can significantly enhance the sector's growth.

4. **Community Empowerment:** The study emphasizes the importance of empowering local communities as active participants in social enterprises. Models that prioritize co-creation and local ownership are more likely to achieve sustainable outcomes, as they align closely with the community's needs and aspirations.

5. **Future Directions:** The research identifies areas for further exploration, such as integrating artificial intelligence and blockchain for greater transparency and efficiency in operations. Additionally, longitudinal studies on the long-term impact of social entrepreneurship models can provide deeper insights into their effectiveness.

Social entrepreneurship presents a viable pathway to achieving sustainable development goals. However, the success of these models hinges on their adaptability, stakeholder collaboration, and the ability to innovate amidst challenges. By fostering an enabling environment and leveraging technological advancements, social enterprises can maximize their potential to drive sustainable impact.

5. Limitations of the study

This study, while providing valuable insights into sustainable impact through social entrepreneurship models, is subject to several limitations:

1. **Scope of Literature:** The review relies on available literature, which may not encompass all relevant studies on social entrepreneurship models, particularly those in emerging economies or niche areas of sustainable development.

2. **Temporal Constraints:** The research is based on publications up to a certain point in time, and newer developments or models introduced afterward are not included.

3. **Data Reliability:** The study draws from secondary data, which could introduce bias or inconsistency due to variations in research methodologies and data reporting standards across sources.

4. **Contextual Diversity:** While efforts were made to include diverse case studies, the findings may not fully represent the wide array of cultural, economic, and regulatory contexts in which social entrepreneurship operates.

5. **Focus on Successful Models:** The analysis primarily highlights successful examples, potentially overlooking challenges, failures, or less impactful initiatives that could provide a more balanced perspective.
6. **Interdisciplinary Overlaps:** The study addresses intersections with fields such as sustainability, business management, and public policy but may not fully capture the complexities or nuances inherent to these disciplines.
7. **Generalizability:** Due to the variability in social, economic, and environmental conditions, the findings and recommendations may not be universally applicable to all regions or sectors.

These limitations underscore the need for further empirical research, longitudinal studies, and region-specific analyses to enhance understanding and application of social entrepreneurship models for sustainable impact.

6. Future Scope

The future scope of social entrepreneurship models lies in their potential to create lasting, transformative change across various sectors. As global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and inequality continue to escalate, social enterprises are well-positioned to drive innovative solutions. Future research could explore how technology, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI) and blockchain, can enhance the scalability and transparency of social enterprises, enabling them to reach broader populations and maximize their social impact.

Another area of focus is the integration of social entrepreneurship models into mainstream business practices. As consumers and investors increasingly prioritize sustainability and social responsibility, exploring how large corporations can collaborate with or adopt these models will be crucial for creating systemic change. Further studies could investigate the intersection between social entrepreneurship and policy, particularly how governments can support and regulate these models to foster sustainable growth.

The evolving role of social entrepreneurs in addressing emerging global challenges, such as the digital divide and the impact of automation on employment, presents another area ripe for exploration. Investigating new funding models, partnerships, and the development of hybrid ventures (combining social and financial returns) will also provide insights into the future viability of social entrepreneurship.

Lastly, the expansion of social entrepreneurship in developing regions offers significant potential. Research into local adaptations of global social enterprise models, tailored to specific cultural, economic, and social contexts, will be key in enhancing their effectiveness and sustainability.

Ultimately, the future of social entrepreneurship is promising, with ample opportunities for further research to strengthen its impact on society, the economy, and the environment.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, social entrepreneurship models present a transformative opportunity to address pressing social, economic, and environmental challenges while fostering sustainable development. These models, driven by a blend of innovation, empathy, and business acumen, create impactful solutions that go beyond mere profit generation. By prioritizing social value alongside financial success, social entrepreneurs are not only contributing to their communities but also influencing broader systemic changes across industries and nations. The integration of sustainability principles into business practices, combined with collaborative partnerships, can help scale solutions to global challenges, such as poverty, climate change, and inequality.

While obstacles remain, including financial sustainability and scalability, the growing interest in social entrepreneurship signals a shift toward more responsible, inclusive, and resilient business practices. It is imperative for policymakers, investors, and other stakeholders to support the growth of social enterprises through appropriate regulations, funding mechanisms, and institutional frameworks. Ultimately, social entrepreneurship models provide a powerful pathway for creating lasting, positive change, where the focus is on enhancing both social and environmental well-being, ensuring a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

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