

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

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Abstract

This research focuses on the study of the role of social workers in the assessment of the development of social entrepreneurship in the context of empowering the community as a tactic to achieve social change. This paper applies Systematic Literature Review (SLR) by following the PRISMA protocol, through identifying, selecting and analyzing academic literature to look for the eventual role of social entrepreneurship which contributes to social changes and community welfare. Here, we show that the review findings indicate the importance of social entrepreneurship in the economic potential, skill sets, and social ties of marginalized populations. Social workers also serve as facilitators to connect communities to resources and economic opportunities, as educators to offer entrepreneurial skills training, and as advocates for inclusive policies. Social entrepreneurship is promising in many aspects, but there are still challenges to be faced, such as limited resources and dependencies of the communities on external assistance. The preliminary findings of this study will inform best practices in social entrepreneurship, including into how social workers can best develop their competencies and strengthen cross-sector partnerships, as well as how cross-sector partnerships can develop robust impact indicators.

Keywords: Social Change, Social Entrepreneur, Social Work, Community Empowerment, Inclusive Policy, Social Outcome

Background

Social change is the changes that occur in social structure improve the welfare and quality of life of the community, both in the economic, economic and cultural aspects. This process entails a transformation of values and norms as well as widespread economic and political restructuring, to develop a fairer and more sustainable society. Social entrepreneurship is one of the emerging approaches of social transformation. Dees (1998) defines social entrepreneurship as the development of social value through a systematic and innovative approach to addressing social issues that stem from disillusioned business models by bringing together sustainable business strategies with social systems that will alleviate poverty, foster economic empowerment, and increase educational attainment. Here, social entrepreneurship is defined not solely by financial returns, but sustainable social impact.

Social entrepreneurship arises through the need for individuals to penetrate broader economic foundations, particularly the poor, individuals with disabilities, and the unemployed. Zahra et al. (2009) with the statement that social entrepreneurship fosters transformation through social value generation, enabling communities to develop their