



BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE : THE ROLE OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN INDONESIA ”

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Abstract

This research strengthens the role of social entrepreneurship in supporting the SDGs, stronger collaboration between the government, the private sector, and the community is needed as well as policies that encourage access to funding and capacity building for social enterprises. inclusive and sustainable in 2030. Social entrepreneurship has an important role in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia. With a focus on social and environmental impacts, social entrepreneurship is a transformational force that is able to overcome various development challenges, such as poverty, inequality, education, health, and environmental conservation. This study aims to analyze the contribution of social entrepreneurship in the achievement of the SDGs in Indonesia, identify the challenges faced, and explore optimal strategies to strengthen the role of this sector. The results of the study show that social entrepreneurship in Indonesia contributes significantly to the achievement. This research study highlights the alignment of social entrepreneurship efforts with certain SDGs, their real contributions, as well as the motivations and challenges faced by social entrepreneurs.

Keywords: *SDGs, Sustainable Future, Social Entrepreneurship*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia with its large population and high social diversity, faces complex challenges in achieving the SDGs. Data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS, 2021) shows that although Indonesia has made progress in several SDGs indicators, problems such as poverty, inequality, and environmental damage are still major obstacles. Therefore, innovative approaches are needed to encourage more inclusive and sustainable development. In this case, social entrepreneurship is present as a solution to answer these problems through business development that is not only profit-oriented, but also community welfare and environmental sustainability (Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, 2022).

Social entrepreneurship education is also important in empowering students to contribute to the SDGs. By incorporating social entrepreneurship projects into various courses can make students feel more empowered in terms of their social entrepreneurial potential, which can lead to the development of innovative solutions for sustainable development (García-González & Ramírez-Montoya, 2021). In the context of rural development, rural social entrepreneurship (RSE) is considered an important factor to achieve sustainable rural development (SRD) and improve the socio-economic status of rural communities. RSE initiatives, such as the Wad Balal Project for rural investment and development in Gezira State, Sudan, have demonstrated the potential of social entrepreneurship in creating jobs, sponsoring poor households, improving infrastructure, and reducing poverty (Muhmode, 2021)

Social entrepreneurship can have a significant impact on sustainable development by addressing social, environmental, and economic challenges. This involves creating innovative solutions to social problems and promoting sustainable development goals (Seelos & Mair, 2004). Social entrepreneurship, better known as sociopreneur, is considered to play an important role in encouraging poverty alleviation and contributing to the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This is because the approach used by social entrepreneurs is considered practical, innovative and sustainable in strengthening society by targeting marginalized and poor community groups. In recent years, the world has witnessed an increase in recognition of the urgent

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need to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation. In response, the United Nations (UN) The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a comprehensive framework to guide countries in achieving sustainable development by 2030. The SDGs include 17 interconnected goals, each with specific targets to address pressing social, economic, and environmental issues and create a more equitable and sustainable future for all. Social entrepreneurship plays a critical role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. By focusing on creating social value and meeting the needs of society, social enterprises contribute to the SDGs in various ways, such as reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, ensuring quality education, and fostering a sustainable society (Dodo et al., 2021; Goyal et al., 2021; Schmiedeknecht, 2019

In conclusion, social entrepreneurship plays an important role in achieving the SDGs by addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. By focusing on creating social value, fostering partnerships, and promoting education in social entrepreneurship, these initiatives contribute to global efforts to achieve the SDGs and create a more sustainable future for all. Indonesia, as a densely populated and diverse archipelagic country in Southeast Asia, is no stranger to the various challenges outlined by the SDGs. Although the country has made significant progress in various fields, it still continues to grapple with poverty, income inequality, environmental degradation, and other social and economic disparities. In this context, developing innovative approaches that prioritize positive social and environmental outcomes while ensuring economic continuity is critical (Coyanda, 2020; Febrian & Maulina, 2018; Mappigau & Maupa, 2013; Margiono & Feranita, 2021; Purwati et al., 2021).

DESCRIPTION OF THE THEORY

This theory discusses the forms of social problems including unemployment, poverty, crime, mental illness and domestic violence. Social problems often occur structurally, attached to the social conditions and systems of the community, so that the solution must also be centered on efforts to change the social conditions and structure of the community. Social entrepreneurship is one of the approaches that is growing in an effort to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia. Focusing on social and environmental impacts, social entrepreneurship not only aims to generate economic benefits, but can also create solutions to fundamental social problems, such as poverty, education, health, and environmental conservation. In Indonesia, the role of social entrepreneurship as a catalyst for positive change is becoming increasingly important given the high level of social inequality and the complexity of development challenges. The explanation related to sustainable development in more detail is:

1. Sustainable Development Goals and Indonesia

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2015, are a comprehensive and ambitious global agenda to address the world's most pressing challenges. These 17 interconnected goals cover a wide range of goals, from poverty alleviation and zero hunger to quality education, climate action, and gender equality. The SDGs aim to achieve a balance between economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability to create a more just and prosperous world by 2030 (Adikusuma, 2020; Bimantara et al., 2021; De Silva Lokuwaduge et al., 2022; Kopnina, 2020; Medvedeva et al., 2021; Schroeder et al., 2019).

Indonesia, as a country with a population of more than 270 million people and a rich cultural diversity, faces various challenges in its journey towards sustainable development. Indonesia's unique geographical diversity, with thousands of islands stretching across the archipelago, contributes to complex socio-economic disparities and environmental issues. Although Indonesia has made considerable progress in various sectors, significant disparities in income distribution, access to basic

services, and environmental degradation still persist (Adikusuma, 2020; Nasir & Halim, 2022; Santoso et al., 2020; Toni et al., 2021).

2. The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Promoting the SDGs

In the field of education, social entrepreneurship plays an important role in expanding access to quality education for underprivileged people or those living in remote areas. According to data from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek, 2022), inequality in access to education is still a major challenge in Indonesia. Several technology-based social enterprises, such as online learning platforms, have provided solutions by providing educational materials that can be accessed by students anywhere. This helps reduce the gap in the quality of education and allows more Indonesian children to get a proper education, which ultimately supports the development of human resources in the country (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2022).

3. Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development

Social entrepreneurship, as a concept and practice, has gained traction globally as a means to address social challenges through innovative and sustainable business approaches. Unlike traditional entrepreneurship that prioritizes profit maximization, social entrepreneurship places the same emphasis on generating positive social and environmental impacts in addition to financial sustainability. Social entrepreneurs, driven by a strong sense of purpose and empathy, aim to create measurable and replicable solutions that contribute to sustainable development (Pomare, 2018). The core characteristics of social entrepreneurship include a mission-driven approach, innovation, community engagement, and a commitment to solving social and environmental problems at their root causes (Kurniawan & Iskandar, n.d.).

By leveraging market-driven strategies, social entrepreneurs seek to build businesses that not only meet urgent needs, but also bring lasting positive change. These changemakers often collaborate with various stakeholders interests, including governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local communities, to amplify their impact (Dari & Al Huda, 2021; Elvira M et al., 2017). As we already know, many social entrepreneurship success stories from around the world show the potential of this approach in addressing the various SDGs. From providing access to clean energy in rural communities to empowering marginalized groups through education and skills training, social entrepreneurship has emerged as a dynamic force in driving meaningful progress towards sustainable development.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive approach that emphasizes data collection involving in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. In-depth interviews will be conducted with a subset of social entrepreneurs who have demonstrated a significant impact on a particular SDG or have overcome significant challenges on their journey. The interviews were conducted in a semi-structured manner, which allowed the participants to share their experiences, insights, and perspectives in an open and communicative manner.

DISCUSSION

The results of this study highlight the important role of social entrepreneurship in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia. Through a qualitative case study approach, this study provides comprehensive insights into the impacts, challenges, and supporting factors of social entrepreneurship in the context of sustainable development. This research can be found that social entrepreneurship in Indonesia is mainly motivated by a strong sense of social responsibility and a desire to create positive change in society. Entrepreneurs are driven by a mission to address social and environmental challenges through innovative and sustainable business models. Challenges Faced by Social Entrepreneurs: Social entrepreneurs face various challenges in their ventures.

Key obstacles include navigating complex bureaucratic processes, dealing with legal and regulatory hurdles, and securing adequate funding for their ventures. In addition, the lack of public awareness and understanding of social entrepreneurship is also a challenge to get wider support and

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recognition. Supporting Factors for Social Entrepreneurship: Apart from the challenges that exist, certain supporting factors contribute to the success of social entrepreneurship ventures in Indonesia. Government policies and initiatives that support access to mentorship and networking, collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities, and increased interest from social investors play an important role in driving the growth and impact of social entrepreneurship.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that this study has an important role of social entrepreneurship in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Indonesia. Through a mixed method approach, this study presents comprehensive insights into the impacts, challenges, and supporting factors for social entrepreneurship in the context of sustainable development. The findings of the study show that there is a strong alignment between social entrepreneurship initiatives in Indonesia and various SDGs, especially in the fields of poverty alleviation, quality education, renewable energy, and gender equality. Social entrepreneurship has made a real contribution to the achievement of several important SDGs, such as affordable and clean energy, quality education, and sustainable agriculture.

Despite its significant contribution, social entrepreneurship in Indonesia still faces various challenges in achieving the sustainable development goals. These challenges include limited access to funding, bureaucratic barriers, legal and regulatory constraints, and a lack of public awareness. To optimize the potential of social entrepreneurship, this study emphasizes the importance of building an ecosystem that supports innovation, collaboration, and conducive policies. A diversity of funding sources, including impact investing, grants, and social venture capital, is urgently needed to drive the growth and impact of social entrepreneurship across different sectors and regions.

The intrinsic motivation and enthusiasm of social entrepreneurs also act as a strong driver to create a positive impact. Building a supportive environment and raising public awareness of the importance of social entrepreneurship can attract more individuals and organizations to actively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Overall, this research encourages collaboration between policymakers, investors, and stakeholders to create an environment that supports the development of social entrepreneurship in Indonesia. By leveraging the findings of this study, policymakers can design appropriate strategies to strengthen the role of social entrepreneurship in achieving sustainable development goals. Empowering social entrepreneurship in the face of pressing social and environmental challenges will bring Indonesia closer to a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future for all its citizens.

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