



UNIVERSITÀ
CA' FOSCARI
VENEZIA

CÀ FOSCARI UNIVERSITY OF VENICE



EUROPEAN MASTER'S DEGREE
IN HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEMOCRATISATION

Social Entrepreneurship as a Human Rights Based Approach to Development and Poverty Reduction

A Theoretical Analysis on its Sustainability

Supervisor: Prof. **Adalberto Perulli**

Co-supervisor: **Valentina Cagnin**

Candidate: **Joo Hee Kim**

A.Y. 2012/2013

Abstract

Social entrepreneurship is receiving increasing attention at a global scale in the recent years. Many governments, international organisations, and NGOs view it as an effective and a sustainable strategy for development, especially in the area of poverty reduction. In the current international development agenda, human rights based approach has become a key word as violation of human rights is identified as the root cause to underdevelopment and poverty. However, most of researches on social entrepreneurship are made in the areas of business economic studies, and the current academic literature does not provide studies on social entrepreneurship and human rights.

Through theoretical analysis, this study closely examines the definition of social entrepreneurship, its link to human rights, and its sustainability as a human rights based approach to development and poverty reduction. The study finds that social enterprises have a strong link with human rights since they start with recognising human rights violations and operate to enhance those rights. Even though there are some issues, there is a great potential for social entrepreneurship to become a human rights based approach strategy to development and poverty reduction in the future.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Aldalberto Perulli, and my co-supervisor, Valentina Cagnin, for giving me the opportunity to study at Ca Foscari University of Venice.

I am grateful to all my friends and flatmates in Venice, for they have made my experience in Venice very special. Especially, I want to thank Fernanda and Simi for going through all the good and bad times together. I will also truly miss the great times we spent together in Venice and Geneva.

I also want to thank my dear friends, Claire, Maria, Elizabeth, and Marie. I wouldn't have been able to finish my thesis without your messages filled with encouragement and love.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for always supporting me and believing in me. I am truly blessed to have my parents who have provided me with abundant love and support to do this master's program and all the wonderful opportunities I have had in my life.

Table of Content

Abstract	3
Acknowledgement	4
Introduction	7
CHAPTER I	12
What is Social Entrepreneurship?	12
1.1 History	12
1.2 Difficulty of Defining	13
1.3 Social Enterprise and Social Entrepreneur	14
1.3.1 Social Enterprise	14
1.3.2 Social Entrepreneur	15
1.4 Existing Definitions	16
1.5 ‘Social’ and ‘Entrepreneurial’	19
1.6 Organisational Forms	20
1.7 Working Scope	21
1.8 Globalisation and the Emergence of Social Entrepreneurship	23
1.9 Current Trends in the World	26
1.10 How Social Entrepreneurship is Different	27
1.11 Workable Definition for the Study	29
CHAPTER II	31
Human Rights and Social Entrepreneurship	31
2.1 Freedom, Equality and Dignity	31
2.1.1 Freedom	31
2.1.2 Equality	36

2.1.3 Dignity	38
2.2 Background to Human Right Based Approach	40
2.3 Definition of a Human Rights Based Approach	43
2.3.1 Empowerment	44
2.3.2 National and International Human Rights Normative Framework	44
2.3.3 Accountability	44
2.3.4 Non-discrimination and Equality	45
2.3.5 Participation	46
2.4 Importance of Economic Aspect of Poverty	46
2.5 An Ideal Example	49
CHAPTER III	52
Sustainability	52
3.1 The ‘Social’ Aim.....	52
3.2 Embeddedness and Political Influence.....	54
3.3 Allocation and Use of Created Social Wealth	56
3.4 In Conflict with State’s Obligation as Duty-Bearers	57
3.5 In Conflict with Equality and Non-discrimination	59
3.6 Accountability.....	60
3.7 Complementary Role of Social Entrepreneurship	61
Conclusion.....	66
Bibliography	70