

Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & REVIEWS

journal homepage: www.ijmrr.online/index.php/home

CONCEPTUALIZATION AND SCOPE OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN INDIA

Dr. Nimish Mishra

Asst. Professor, Dr. Rammanohar Lohia Avadh University, Ayodhya, U.P. India.

How to Cite the Article: Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.



<https://doi.org/10.56815/ijmrr.v4i2.2025.286-293>

Keywords

Social entrepreneurship, social transformation, sustainable development, social responsibility, inclusive development, social enterprise, India.

Abstract

In India, social entrepreneurship has developed as a growing field that integrates innovation, entrepreneurship, and community-based accountability to resolve social, economic, and environmental issues. The rapid growth of global integration, widening economic gaps, persistent poverty, and insufficient healthcare availability and quality education have made social entrepreneurship increasingly important. This study explores the fundamental mechanisms of social entrepreneurship in India, its main difficulties and barriers, and the considerable opportunities for upcoming growth. It draws on secondary data from books, journals, government and non-government reports, and online sources and references. The study shows that social entrepreneurship is vital for encouraging social change, long-term development, and economic development through community-oriented and innovation-led business models. Obstacles such as limited investment and financing, uncertain policy frameworks, infrastructure-related problems, and unskilled personnel hinder its progress. Still, digital innovations, public-sector support, participation of educational institutions, and expanding social



[The work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
Non Commercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.

	opportunities for innovation offer substantial capacity for the sector's growth. The study aims to show that socially driven entrepreneurship is emerging as a powerful means to promote inclusive and India's long-term sustainable growth, improve livelihood standards in both rural and urban areas, and resolve community problems with sustainable approaches.
--	--

Introduction

In India, social entrepreneurship is a comparatively new approach. It includes thrill-seekers who explore deeply into pressing public issues and try to find solutions not by handing over responsibilities to businesses or the government, but by changing structural frameworks overall and motivating social orders to involve themselves in new activities.

A foundational model for social innovation in India should be established while considering in mind the country's rich traditional diversity, community requirements, and the environmental limitations of the natural world. Indians are working to establish new opportunities for social development across domains and sectors, including education, healthcare, housing, farming, and employment. There is sufficient evidence to indicate that the most underprivileged sections, whether they have access to creativity or not, are making progress at the local level. These advancements, which include elements such as environmental sustainability, low effort, adaptability, and asset enhancement, are significant not only in India but globally. India's social development sector needs support for capacity building and go-to-market strategies. Since the publication of Schumpeter's seminal work in 1911, social entrepreneurship has become a significant subject of study within economic theory (Kaumenova, 2014). However, according to Steyaert and Hjorth (2006), until recently, research on socially oriented venture was primarily conducted by scholars and experts associated with the traditional study of entrepreneurship. Lepoutre et al. (2011) argue that most research in this field relies on case studies and examples of overcoming challenges, while maintaining a strong theoretical foundation. Generalizing these specific findings remains difficult. Although experts distinguish between the concepts of social enterprise and social entrepreneurship (Defourny & Nyssens, 2008), the field is expanding rapidly; in the United States, for instance, these entities are growing faster than any other type of organization (Austin et al., 2003). Consequently, universities worldwide now offer courses on this subject, sparking significant interest among working professionals (Hulgård, 2010). In India, social entrepreneurship is regarded as a transformative approach that adopts novel business framework to address social, environmental, and economic disparities (Satar, 2016). Initiatives address issues such as availability and environmental damage, while the main aim primarily aims to achieve a balance between sustainable social well-being and financial sustainability (Verma, 2024). In the Indian context, fast industrial development has



Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.

additionally increased the importance of social entrepreneurship, as developmental imbalances have become increasingly noticeable. There is a rising emphasis on shifting from a profit-centric business approach that focuses only on profit towards models that maintain an integration of socio-economic development (Jagathi, 2024). This study analyzes and evaluates the institutional, financial, and functional challenges that impact the expansion potential of social ventures.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The social entrepreneurship concept has witnessed global evolution. Once considered only as a support to charity, it has now developed into a successful strategic approach for accomplishing social, environmental, and economic development (Bansal & Deepti, 2022). Research carried out in India shows that social ventures play an essential role in addressing regional issues, mainly in industries such as agriculture, sustainable energy, and inclusive development (Gupta & Srivastava, 2021). The idea of "blended value" highlights the importance of balancing social aims with economic sustainability to maintain the long-term success of community-based organizations (Chauhan, 2023). Additionally, there is a need for further study on the measures adopted by social enterprises to address the operational difficulties encountered by individuals at the 'Base of the Pyramid' (BoP) including financial constraints and a shortage of infrastructure (Lashitew et al., 2021). Likewise, there are insufficient studies on how community-based successfully address market-based challenges such as financial limitations and infrastructural-related challenges faced by populations at the "Base of the Pyramid" (BoP) (Lashitew et al., 2021).

Hulgård (2010) focuses on the foundation and main impetuses: Research on social business was, in its early stage, driven in the USA and Europe by specialists and scientists partly with common methodologies and understandings and partly with some real refinements. Thus, the field is made up of a blend of common patterns and foundations, from one perspective, and a lot of variety in the ways social business is rising conversely; this variety is arising from changing dynamics and relations between market, State and civil society in the provision of welfare services and work reconciliation in the USA and Europe. According to Mort, Weerawardena, and Carnegie (p.82, 2003), social business people have the "capacity to perceive chances to make better social value for their customers". Hence, social business visionaries are inspired to address issues that business markets ineffectively value: social improvements and public goods (Austin et al., 2006). Amin, Cameron, and Hudson (2002) focused on the possibility that cross-country contrasts in social entrepreneurial activities reflect differences in welfare frameworks and political and institutional settings. Research in this area centers around the setting in which social endeavors operate. It has direct bearing on their capacity to meet the dual mission of delivering social benefits while developing a



Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.

financially stable business model.(Bacq et al 2011) emphasize that this model includes a broad scope of various issues: it envelops non-profit, for-profit, and hybrid types of associations and activities, beginning with the private, the general public, or the third sector with no limitation on their organizational form, revenue-generating processes, extent of activities, or division in where they functions.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the concept of social entrepreneurship in India
- To explore the issues and challenges of social entrepreneurship in India
- To understand the scope of social entrepreneurship in India

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

SOURCES OF DATA

The study is based on data collected from secondary sources. Secondary data are obtained from the internet, various published and unpublished records, magazines, books, and journals.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is based on examining the concept of social entrepreneurship in India by exploring its theoretical fundamentals and evaluation, which indicates social and environmental challenges and social issues. The findings are intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of current status, challenges, and future prospects of social entrepreneurship in the context of India.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

INDIAN CONCEPT OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This research analyzes how entrepreneurial innovation and social responsibility resolves the developmental issues resulting from rapid globalization in India (Reddy, 2024). It emphasizes specifically how Indian social enterprises adopt innovative business methods to overcome continuing social problems like poverty, income disparity, and restricted access to standardized healthcare and education (Verma, 2024). Based on this analysis, the research highlights the pivotal contribution of entrepreneurship in supporting sustainable growth, empowering communities, and ensuring sustainable positive social transformation and lasting impact (Chauhan, 2023).

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

The fast growth of India's social innovativeness sector is currently delayed by significant structural barriers, including resource shortages and the absence of a uniform policy



Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.

framework (Satar, 2016). The social enterprise sector has a long history, but recent global networks and fierce competition for charitable funding have shifted its focus toward a more prominent place in the business world. Unlike traditional organizations, social enterprises prioritize their mission, with revenue generation being important but secondary. These businesses seek to innovate in tackling major social issues sustainably. Besides financial constraints, they often struggle with a shortage of skilled personnel and limited access to professional training, which affects their ability to innovate and expand efficiently (Oberoi et al., 2019). Like conventional businesses, social ventures face growth and operational challenges. They also uniquely struggle to demonstrate their social value, social returns, or social impact alongside their business success. Additionally, obtaining sustainable funding remains difficult, as established financial organizations often fail to completely appreciate their operational models or long-term social impact goals (Bhatt, 2017).

SCOPE OF SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN INDIA

The field is evolving from traditional philanthropic practices to sustainable and hybrid models that include business-based changes to more effectively reduce socio and economic inequalities (Gupta & Srivastava, 2021). As digital trends such as big data and the sharing economy grow, such organizations are expanding their impact in important areas like humanitarian aid, education, and rural development (Usman et al., 2024). These issues reveal that organizations are increasingly adopting joint strategies that unite local agencies with both international and regional benchmark standards to ensure long-term social sustainability (Bansal & Deepti, 2022).

CONCLUSION

This research examines the growth and future of social entrepreneurship in India. Social entrepreneurship addresses problems related to our society, such as social, cultural, and environmental problems. This sector remains in its infancy and faces many challenges to its existence. It also offers many opportunities, so many entrepreneurs are entering the field of social work with innovative thinking, starting social startups, and solving major issues through meticulous, systematic planning. Additionally, in India, there is key contributions to the progress of social entrepreneurship in social work and for starting your own social startup. Social entrepreneurship will play a major role in the growth and development of the rural and urban masses in India. Therefore, it can be concluded that social entrepreneurship is a new concept in India and is being actively pursued by many entrepreneurs to build their brand image and solve the problems of Indian society.



Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.

AUTHOR(S) CONTRIBUTION

The writers affirm that they have no connections to, or engagement with, any group or body that provides financial or non-financial assistance for the topics or resources covered in this manuscript.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

PLAGIARISM POLICY

All authors declare that any kind of violation of plagiarism, copyright and ethical matters will take care by all authors. Journal and editors are not liable for aforesaid matters.

SOURCES OF FUNDING

The authors received no financial aid to support for the research.

REFERENCES

- ADB (2009). Asian Development Bank Study on “Institutions And Governance InThe Poverty
- Austin, J., Stevenson, H., & Wei-Skillern, J. (2006). Social and commercial entrepreneurship:
- Bacq, S., Hartog, C., Hoogendorn, B. and Lepoutre, J. (2001). Social and commercial entrepreneurship: Exploring individual and organizational characteristics. *EIM Research*
- Bansal, V., & Deepthi, B. (2022). *Trends in Social Entrepreneurship Landscape of India* (pp. 39–51). <https://doi.org/10.1201/9781003256663-3>
- Bhatt, B. (2017). *The Role of Social Enterprises in Building Inclusive Social Capital: Evidences from Multi-Case, Qualitative Field Study*. <https://doi.org/10.22215/etd/2017-11920>
- Chauhan, S. G. J. S. (2023). Relevance and Importance of Social Entrepreneurship in India: A Survey based Analysis. *Journal of Informatics Education and Research*. <https://doi.org/10.52783/jier.v3i2.53>
- Defourny, J. (2009). Concepts and r s of social enter prise: a European perspecve.
- Discourses of Social Entrepreneurship – Variations of the same theme? https://www.socioeco.org/bdf_fiche-document-121_en.html
- Elgar.



Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.

Frumkin, P. (2002). *Social Entrepreneurship On Being Nonprofits*. Cambridge, Mass.:

Gupta, P., & Srivastava, R. (2021). Research on Social Enterprises from an Emerging Economy—Systematic Literature Review and Future Research Directions. *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, 15(2), 458–493. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19420676.2021.1974926>

Gupta, R. (2001) “Creating Indian Entrepreneurs. *India Today*”, organizations in Harvard University Press pp.129-162.

Hulgård, L. (2010) Discourses of social entrepreneurship – variations of the same theme? *India*. “Participatory Research in Asia” (PRIA)(2002),167-195.

Jagathi, P. H. (2024). *FUTURISTIC TRENDS IN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ITS IMPACT ON IN UPLIFTMENT OF THE SOCIETY – A THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE* (pp. 7–13). <https://doi.org/10.58532/v3bhma4p1ch2>

Kaumenova, A. (2014). Social Entrepreneurship: The new World Trend. European Conference on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, (), 522–526.

Lashitew, A. A., Narayan, S., Rosca, E., & Bals, L. (2021). Creating Social Value for the ‘Base of the Pyramid’: An Integrative Review and Research Agenda. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 178(2), 445–466. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-020-04710-2>

Obero, R., Cook, I. G., Halsall, J. P., Snowden, M., & Woodcock, P. (2019). Redefining social enterprise in the global world: study of China and India. *Huddersfield Research Portal (University of Huddersfield)*, 16(7), 1001–1012. <https://doi.org/10.1108/srj-09-2018-0248>

Reddy, D. N. (2024). Social Entrepreneurship Concept and Reality: an Indian Perspective. *International Journal For Multidisciplinary Research*, 6(6). <https://doi.org/10.36948/ijfmr.2024.v06i06.27847>

Reports.

Response” Poverty in the Philippines: Causes, Constraints And Opportunities,2009 pp-51.

Same, different, or both? *Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice*, 30(1), 1-22.

Satar, M. S. (2016). A Policy Framework for Social Entrepreneurship in India. *IOSR Journal of Business and Management*, 18(9), 30–43. <https://doi.org/10.9790/487x-1809013043>

Steyart, C. & Hjorth, D. (2006) (eds.) *Entrepreneurship as Social Change*, Cheltenham: Edward



Nimish Mishra (2025). *Conceptualization and Scope of Social Entrepreneurship in India*. International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research & Reviews. 4(2). 286-293.

Swedberg, R. (2000) Entrepreneurship. The Social Science View. Oxford University Press
<https://www.whizsky.com/2015/01/social-entrepreneurs-of-india/>

University, Durham, NC, USA.

Usman, F. O., Kess-Momoh, A. J., Ibeh, C. V., Elufioye, A. E., Ilojiyanya, V. I., & Oyeyemi, O. P. (2024). Entrepreneurial innovations and trends: A global review: Examining emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in the field of entrepreneurship, with a focus on how technology and globalization are shaping new business ventures. *International Journal of Science and Research Archive*, 11(1), 552–569. <https://doi.org/10.30574/ijjsra.2024.11.1.0079>

Verma, B. (2024). SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION IN INDIA. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INNOVATIONS & RESEARCH ANALYSIS*, 4, 225–232. [https://doi.org/10.62823/ijjira/4.2\(ii\).6829](https://doi.org/10.62823/ijjira/4.2(ii).6829)

