

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

capacity to be self-sufficient and play a role in economic development. Moreover, the other two determinants of social entrepreneurship which are participation and coalition, increase the power of the community to refuse to be only the passive beneficiaries but also act as the active agents of change.

And this is where social workers come into the picture. As facilitators in community empowerment, social workers nurture active community involvement in addressing social issues. Community empowerment, as defined by Midgley (1995), is a mechanism that aims to enhance the capacity of individuals and groups to influence and shape their own lives. Social workers provide assistance for the vulnerable population in building skills and knowledge for a positive and sustainable way of life, as well as bringing people together with the providers and bridge necessary for starting a business within the social entrepreneurship context. This is consistent with Healy's (2014) perspective that it is the ethical job of social workers to assist people to have social welfare in a sustainable way.

This is seen as a social entrepreneurship in terms of potential development of the local society as they were the ones whom we are connected with and cared about. Using this approach, communities are empowered to develop their own solutions to the issues they experience, such as issues of unemployment and limited access to education or health. Social workers play the role of identifying the needs and potential of the community, imparting skill training and mentoring until the community becomes self-reliant. According to Alvord, Brown and Letts (2004), social enterprise plays an important role in economic empowerment, bringing social capital to a community, leading to increased income levels, wider social acceptance and a sense of belongingness and solidarity in the community.

Social entrepreneurship has great potential to transform the social and economic landscape of communities; however, its practice is not without challenges. These include limited capital and human resources and the community's reliance on external support. Social workers play a critical role to minimize such dependency to ensure that programs run sustainably through social entrepreneurship. As Chambers (1997) argues, because capacity building and local initiatives are essential in community-based development, people must be empowered to realize development. In addition, social workers even become mediators and advocates in the process of synergy or collaboration between the community and stakeholders, both the government and the private sector. This resonates with Defourny and Nyssens's (2010) argument that social entrepreneurship needs supportive inclusive public policies in order to blossom. This is where social work can bridge the gap through dialogue between government and communities, facilitating that community voice in policy-making. Moreover, social workers must also emphasize the importance of sustainability in all social entrepreneurship activities so that the social enterprises that are built do not go away and can survive and adapt to changes in the social and economic order.

The social worker who is involved in social entrepreneurship also affects the increasing social capacity of the community, such as strengthening social networks and increasing self-confidence. It correlates with the concept of "community empowerment" as described by Ife (2002), it is a process in which this individuals and groups in society, are being empowered to gain control over their lives and influence decisions that affect vih. Social workers help communities identify relevant economic opportunities in a way that allows for action plans to be developed to actively pursue these opportunities.

However, the scar in the literature aspect related to the direct relationship between the role of social workers and the triumph of social entrepreneurship proves to be harmful for the development of this practice. Social entrepreneurship is mostly treated as an economic and business phenomenon in the literature, yet the gap in literature is that there is no explicit literature relating social entrepreneurship to the contribution of social workers in the level of community empowerment. Such work should include systematic reviews of key populations in social entrepreneurship, this research needed of the role social workers play and provides a consideration of best practices, as well as policy recommendations to fortify social workers in efforts to support social entrepreneurship programs in sustaining their endeavours'.

In short, the two intersects at the level of serving the community and contribute to social change. However, this synergy between these two approaches requires a clear and implementable framework, which should include improving the entrepreneurship competence of social workers and lessening its dependency on other sectors by cultivating relevant Strategic alliances (Gild et al., 2020). The focus on creating sustainable social impact is among the key determinants of social entrepreneurship success (Yunus, 2010). In this context, the role of social workers needs to be emphasized in making sure this impact is experiencing and, more important, reaching all level of society.

Informed from the aforementioned analysis, the present study poses the central research question: How do/direct do social workers develop social entrepreneurship in order to empower the communities and achieve social transformation? This finding is expected to fulfil the aspect of social entrepreneurship development so that it could be more inclusive by identifying roles and obstacles experienced by social workers and based on community empowerment practices.

Research Methods

A Systematic Literature Review (SLR) based approach was adopted in this study by following Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) protocol. Since SLR systematically identifies, selects, and analyzes literature regarding the subject matter of the research, it is appropriate to use as it will guide insight into the role of social workers in social entrepreneurship and community empowerment. Such a systematic search of the literature is often useful for obtaining highly reproducible

scientific evidence through comprehensive testing, but it does use some bias, since article selection in the library is clearly subjective.

Research Design

Some systematic approach based on literature review typically requires including number of steps in the form of identification, selection, data extraction and analysis. The SLR method works as an open avenue of reference to published scientific articles which would augment the clarity of the research subject matter (Booth, Sutton, & Papaioannou, 2016). As reported by Moher et al., the PRISMA protocol (2009), this literature selection process contributes to the logical flow of the research, reducing the bias and raising the reliability of the review results. This study followed similar principles of transparency and accountability at each step of the literature selection.

Article Selection Criteria

We obtained literature from relevant biomedical databases and applied inclusion and exclusion criteria to select articles that were the most applicable and credible.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Publications that specifically address social entrepreneurship and community empowerment through peer-reviewed articles.
- A social workers guide to entrepreneurship activities — article
- Publications in English or Indonesian to sustain contextual relevance and international and local coverage.
- The whole thing will be published over a ten-year period from 2014 to 2024, to reflect the most recent developments in the field of social entrepreneurship practice and the role of social workers.

Exclusion Criteria:

- Irrelevant articles not connected to community empowerment, social entrepreneurship, etc.
- Case studies that either do not draw generalisations or do not offer wider implications for the work of social workers.

This strategy of inclusion and exclusion was in accordance with Petticrew and Roberts (2006), who state that establishing boundaries for the study will help ensure the SLR results will be more targeted and related to the research thematic area.

Search and Selection Process

The literature search was performed using a number of respected academic databases:

- Scopus – A multidisciplinary database that contains many articles in social and economic peer-reviewed journals.
- Google Scholar — An open-access academic gateway to college papers, theses and scientific reports.
- SAGE Journals – Offers specialized journals in social studies and without-for-profit community empowerment.
- SpringerLink - Has academic journals covering entrepreneurship and social innovation

The article selection was performed in the following phases:

- Identification: A set of keywords such as "social entrepreneurship" "community empowerment," and "role of social workers," were used to identify relevant articles.
- Initial Selection Stage: By reading the title and abstract of the articles, articles that did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded.
- Advanced Selection: The retained articles were systematically evaluated on the full text level for their relevance and validity.
- Last step: Review and thematic classification of articles.

To prevent article duplication and increase the accuracy of the selection, each step of the selection process followed the PRISMA guidelines. So we have followed this process to get to the best articles that will help you lens the social workers in social entrepreneurship.

Data Analysis

Thematic analysis was used to analyze the data retrieved. One will be a thematic synthesis of the results and conclusions from studies included in the literature process. Thematic analysis is thus considered a flexible and informative approach for investigating particular social settings, including the role of social workers in community empowerment (Braun & Clarke, 2006). This analysis identified five recurrent and significant themes across the data:

- For Example, a Social Worker as Facilitator: For instance, Social Workers are involved in bridging communities to the economic resources and opportunities.
- Social worker as educator - Social workers providing entrepreneurship training to communities
- Barriers and Challenges to a Social Work Practice Model of Integrating Social Work & Social Entrepreneurship

The themes were identified through extensive literature research and were connected to relevant theoretical concepts. For example, the review revealed that social entrepreneurship has not only managerial skills requirements but also the capacity of social workers to keep good relationships with communities (Nicholls, 2006). Social workers have an important role in this, to ensure that the social entrepreneurship does

not just become a tool of commercialization, and that it really makes a difference in terms of community empowerment. The analysis includes sustainability of social entrepreneurship. According to the literature examined, the sustainability of a program is reliant upon social work encouraging active participation by the community leading to a decreased reliance on outside help (Chambers, 1997). For this reason, the third major area considered is how social workers may establish an environment for the social entrepreneurship long-term development.

This study brings theoretical contribution in terms of social entrepreneurship and involvement of social workers, while suggesting practical implications for social workers when it comes to strategizing social empowerment. Why is it important social workers are key actors in this process, ensuring that social entrepreneurship is most beneficial to communities and that they can lead to sustainable change.

Results and Discussion

Social Entrepreneurship Contribution on Community Empowerment

Social entrepreneurship is a particularly innovative approach toward solving social problems that integrates business practices with a social mission. This idea was born from the "failure" of the government and the private sector in solving social problems on a large scale, particularly for the marginalized (Yunus, 2010) who lack access to economic opportunity and social services. Social entrepreneurs distinguish themselves from traditional profit-oriented companies in that the key focus is on generating a beneficial effect on society and encouraging social sustainability through community empowerment. In this regard, social workers play a crucial part as agents of change; guiding communities on how to harness resources in order to achieve self-sustainability.

The site notes that one of the most important contributions of social entrepreneurship is generating jobs for marginalized communities: the unemployed, people with disabilities and female-headed households. By creating social value through business activities, social entrepreneurship creates opportunities for community members often excluded from the formal labor market. As Alvord, Brown and Letts (2004) explained, social entrepreneurship can improve individual income and also promote a community's sense of self-esteem and social identity.

Social entrepreneurship in these programs takes attention to local craft production, micro-services and community-based small businesses. Some initiatives in Indonesia, for instance, engage communities in making local handicrafts or food products for wider market distribution. Through programs such as these, communities learn new skills and can thereby enhance their economic well-being. Additionally, the profits from social enterprises typically are reinvested through community engagement to further strengthen education, health, or other empowerment programs providing a multiplier effect on social development.

Social entrepreneurship not only looks into the financial aspect but rather enriches the skills and capacity of the community. Social workers take on the role of call for entrepreneurs as teachers to train small business people, such as what business how to manage or how to market their products. The approach assists them in building new skills and grow in the competencies that are relevant in the job market. Community capacity building which is defined by Healy (2014, p. 94) as the process of helping to individuals and communities reduce their vulnerability to social and economic changes is has been highlighted as fundamental component of empowerment.

Finally, these training programs tend to be tailored to local need and potential. Social workers can assist communities in developing and managing homestay services or organic agricultural products in rural areas of potential agro-tourism destination. Such local potential-based empowerment is in agreement with asset-based community development (ABCD) that focuses on the role of community strengths and assets to develop (Kretzmann & McKnight, from 1993). Social workers in this practice also play a mediating role (procedure) in a sense that the trainings and mentoring programs are in accordance with the need and desire of the community.

It is not just economic effects of social entrepreneurship you need, there are also jobs generated and skills developed through social enterprises which contributes to the strengthening of social networks and social capital of a community. Social capital is the network of the social relationship, the trust and cooperation between individuals and groups, and networking within and between communities that build the foundations for empowerment and development. Social capital, as highlighted by Putnam (1995), is critical for creating high-trust, high-functioning communities. With a focus on social entrepreneurship, social networks become stronger when communities collaborate on social ventures, help one another, and exchange knowledge and skills.

Community participation in social entrepreneurship also fosters social cohesion and participatory decision making. They are better equipped to cover challenges and complications together and build resilience against fluctuations in the economic environment with cooperation among the community members. Additionally, the [stronger] social-network makes it easier for communities to establish partnerships with third-parties like government, NGOs, or private enterprises to gain resources in the form of funding money or access to market capital.

Social entrepreneurship empowers people and helps communities become less reliant on external aid. Such projects are sustainable social enterprises so the communities will be able to create their own sources of income and not rely solely on government handouts or assistance. According to Chambers (1997) one of the principles of sustainability in social development is that communities should be self-reliant and have the ability to organize and management resources. Not only do successful social entrepreneurship programs generate returns at the bank, but they also build the capacity of managerial and leadership capabilities of the community. With a jointly managed cooperative enterprise, for instance, community members understand the values of

transparency, accountability and participatory decision-making. Social workers thus contribute to a shift in paradigms, moving away from dependency towards self-reliance where the community is encouraged to work towards its own potential rather than waiting for aid.

Community empowerment is significantly supported by social entrepreneurship but has its own set of challenges. One of these is the scarcity of financial resources and access to markets. Many social enterprises struggle to raise start-up capital and have limited access to wider markets. The social workers in this position are required to serve as the group's voice for the community in order to gain access to a market expansion network and monetary support. Moreover, it also has challenges on managerial skills and business sustainability. Not everyone in the community is trained or capable of managing a business in a professional manner. Managers in the communities need managers developed in consultation with the social workers who will mentor them continuously. This also includes instruction in marketing, finance and risk management. Mentorship in the Social Enterprise (if there is not enough mentoring, then there is a fear of bankruptcy of the social enterprise)

The uncertain economic environment is another difficult factor." Social enterprises can succeed based on changes (good or bad) in government policy or the market. So, social enterprises need to be very flexible and adaptable. Social workers also need to work in communities to help identify potential risks and develop appropriate risk mitigation plans." To enhance social entrepreneurship and its impact, here are some suggestions you may consider applying. Strengthen partnerships between public, private and community sectors. Social workers must act as enablers of collaboration between stakeholders, to ensure support for social entrepreneurship programs. Second, to make entrepreneurship training programs more relevant and effective, local needs and potentials must be taken into account in designing these programs. Third, develop clear indicators of success to quantify social entrepreneurship impact objectively. It will help to assess the impact of the program and to integrate feedback to re-define and improve it. Fourth, social workers need to enhance competencies around entrepreneurship and business management to aid communities more effectively. In the end, social entrepreneurship is a powerful force for social change and improvement in community. Social workers have the support necessary to help communities grow in a way they are able to solve social and economic problems more on their own.

Social Workers in Social Entrepreneurship

Building, enabling, and strengthening social entrepreneurship are areas of community empowerment, where social workers continue to play an essential role. Here, social workers do not only function as practitioners who advocate for disadvantaged individuals or groups, but also as practicing agents of social change that enable autonomy and empowerment within the social system. Below are some of the most important roles that social workers have in social entrepreneurship, with references to

expert opinions and proven practices in the this field. As facilitators social workers link communities with resources and economic opportunities they can share to support their social enterprises. As facilitators, social workers assist communities in differentiating and gaining access to the capital, skills and partner networks necessary to establish and grow social enterprises. This is especially crucial for marginalized communities that do not have access to information or have formal economic opportunities.

Identifying existing assets or potential in the community (Kretzmann and McKnight, 1993) Here social workers try to discover the potential of the community like local handicraft, agriculture or service skills and connect them to the remote areas of the market. They also serve as intermediaries with funding agencies and businesses, providing communities access to capital and technical expertise. Social workers as facilitators also contribute to build networks of cooperation between community and local government, NGOs and private sector. This partnership serves as a key to the survival of social enterprises. In Indonesia, for instance, social workers helping to connect communities with government programs like Pahlawan Ekonomi Nusantara (PENA), which offers to help make micro-enterprises work for their beneficiary families (PwDs)? In doing so, communities are provided with the technical assistance and resources essential in growing their businesses.

Another vital function social workers serve as is the role of an educator. Social workers in this role provide training and mentoring on the skills needed to set up and run social enterprises. Entrepreneurial training usually includes general business management skills (logistic management, marketing, financial management) and may also focus on improving the specific technical skills required for the type of business. Community empowerment has three major components education, training, and acquire possession of people in projects. (Healy, 2014) This enables them to realize the dream of starting their own business while at the same time making sure that they are capable of running the business on their own. Education about the process is significant as it helps build confidence and resilience in the community. Moreover, social workers are also mentors and coaches who directly guide communities in the operational and managerial challenges faced by social enterprises. It helps communities create creative ways to solve our problems and keep their social enterprises viable and sustainable. For example, if social workers organize a rural economic empowerment program, they could provide training for digital marketing that allows communities to market their products to a broader market through online platforms.

Education also means building social and managerial skills like communication, leadership and decision-making. Social workers are committed to developing a collaborative culture in the community, where individuals collaborate to attain shared requirements. The latter is fundamental to establishing a robust and enduring social enterprise. Social workers advocate for the rights and interests of communities, including within public policy. This advocacy role is essential for establishing an enabling ecosystem to entrepreneurial social innovation. Advocacy, as defined by Chambers (1997), is a form

of "social intervention" that aims at ensuring that the voice of the community will be heard and that the policies will be inclusive. In the field of social work, they collaborate with policymakers to appropriately fund social entrepreneur programs through the government. They also advocate for regulations that allow start-ups in underserved communities to participate directly in social entrepreneurship, including access to venture capital and training. This role in Indonesia is also found in social work initiatives that collaborate with local governments to produce pro-community policies like simplified micro-enterprise licensing and unsecured credit schemes.

Advocacy is about breaking down social and economic barriers more often faced by underprivileged groups. Social workers may argue, for instance, that women heads of households need access to equal capital and training as their male counterparts. Social workers help ensure that these programs are available to all people, without bias, as we support Descendents through programs, including Social Entrepreneurship Programs in this case. I know—thankfully; you have been trying to teach the public about the need for social entrepreneurship to create social change that is part of advocacy. Social workers are often the spokespeople for the community, sharing the success stories, showcasing the positive results in a social enterprise and ultimately encouraging individuals to become more engaged. According to Yunus (2010), for social entrepreneurship to have widespread effect, its advocacy should come from all levels of society.

Social workers often fill a role as facilitators, educators and advocates in a simultaneous and complementary manner. In high-impact social entrepreneurship programs, social workers support communities with access to resources, training and mentoring, and policy advocacy to sustain the businesses as well. This integrated model ensures that communities not only launch social enterprises but also sustain them over the long haul. Social workers are aware of when to monitor and evaluate the social enterprise and provide feedback to the community as well as assist them in eliminating barriers. However, this monitoring has great importance to map the direction of the social enterprise in line with the strategy set and is able to produce the desired impact in a sustainable way.

Social entrepreneurship plays a significant role in fulfilling this need of practice, but when it comes to realising it on ground, it poses challenges. This is because social workers do not have the resources and training to understand the entrepreneurial facets in-depth. Thus, Training social workers have business management and entrepreneurship competences specifically for helping the community. Social and economic problems existing in communities complicate matters as well. Following are few challenges faced by social workers, Community resistance to change Limited access to markets Government Policy Uncertainty As a result, social workers must have adaptable skills and be able to work in dynamic situations.

The strategic role of social workers in developing social entrepreneurship in a community empowerment effort Educators and advocates, social workers facilitate communities' access to resources, skills and policies that bolster social enterprises. This

leads to sustainable social change and greater collaboration, empowering communities toward self-reliance. However, properly training social workers and cultivating cross sector collaboration will allow social entrepreneurship to do the most good for society. Challenges and limitations in the social entrepreneurship for community empowerment Challenge — Community empowerment via social entrepreneurship Social entrepreneurship is an effective approach for dealing with social and economic challenges, but there are hurdles to implementation that merit special attention. Here are some prominent challenges faced by social workers in developing social entrepreneurship and how expert insights can facilitate understanding and resolution.

Shortage of financial and non-financial resources is a major problem for social entrepreneurship development. Start up capital, infrastructure and access to markets are needed for social enterprises to scale up and create impact in the community. Yet, many social enterprises, and especially those located in marginalized communities, struggle to find the necessary resources to start up and grow. Brown and Letts (2004) reported success for social entrepreneurship is significantly dependent on availability of resources capital and effective human resource support. Many social initiatives are constrained due to limited access to formal sources of funding such as banks and financial institutions, who are typically unwilling to provide credit without collateral and clear track record to social enterprises. Another challenge in running social enterprises is the lack of managerial capacity and technical skills among the people of the community.

In order to address this issue social workers must build upon existing partnerships with the public, private and philanthropic sectors to find alternative funding. Furthermore, if communities are to peer up with the needed entrepreneurial capacities, they must receive extensive training and long-term mentoring. According to Yunus (2010), linking social entrepreneurship with new platforms to generate funding, like community-based financing or crowd-funding, is essential to receive investment from the larger segment of the community. Dependency is one of the most serious challenges for community empowerment in terms of reliance on external support from government assistance or grants from private agencies. It reduces communities to a position of dependency that undermines their ability to be self-reliant and can discourage them from pursuing a sustainable win-win solution. Communities overly reliant on aid may lack the motivation to innovate and create social enterprises on their own.

Community empowerment (Chambers 1997) will only take place if people have actual control over the programs that run and not entirely depend on outside resources. Social workers play a crucial role in encouraging the paradigm of self-reliance in such cases and to help communities develop their capacity to utilize local assets and the potential they possess. A possible solution could be to use asset-based community development (ABCD) approach. Underlying this approach is an emphasis on the aspirations and assets communities possess rather than their needs or deficiencies (Kretzmann & McKnight, 1993). I think that social workers have to help communities to be able to identify local resources, including skills, land, and social networks, so that they will

not depend on outside help in the future. Also, empowerment alone will not be enough unless we help you to set up sustainable business plans and an entrepreneurial climate that drives action and creativity. This will assist communities in recognizing the significance of income diversification and lower the danger of reliance on a single source of funds.

Measuring long-term social impact is another key challenge of social entrepreneurship. Unlike traditional profit-oriented companies where the performance can be measured by the financial statements to a full extent, social enterprises have to balance social and financial goals. Measuring social impact is not easy as it involves multiple qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Defourny & Nyssens (2010) stress the need for clear, all-encompassing indicators for social entrepreneurship and its effect on society. Many social enterprises lack the proper evaluation tools to measure the long-term social impact they have. This problem is made even worse by the fact that a lot of social impact only really manifests long after the intervention has taken place. The reduction in severity in these events may only be measurable after some years of intervention, for example improvements in the quality of education of children in marginalized communities. Also, social workers and community have limitations for monitoring and evaluation (M&E) Complex evaluation methods are not often used because social workers do not have the technical skills required to use them (e.g., social impact analysis, Social Return on Investment (SROI)). This means that there is a serious lack of sufficient data to prove the effectiveness of social entrepreneurship programs.

In dealing with this challenge, social workers need to work together with academics and practitioners in formulating clear-but-sufficient social impact evaluation frameworks. Furthermore, M&E trainings and capacity building for communities and social workers must be undertaken so that they can carry out evaluations by themselves. Similarly, the state of elevated digitalization can bring advantages in terms of collection and systems analysis for social impact assessment.

Cross-sector collaboration and innovative approaches will be needed to tangibly address these challenges. Social workers cannot build social entrepreneurship in isolation, therefore support is needed from a variety of stakeholders including government, the private sector, academia and civil society. Partnerships can overcome resource limitations and facilitate access to wider networks and markets. Finally, social entrepreneurship exists alongside the innovation of business models, financing, and collaboration with the private sector to ensure the financial viability of social entrepreneurship. For instance, the use of digital technology can provide communities with an opportunity for marketing their products online as well as increasing access to microfinance. We need to adapt to technology and market trends if we want to serve our communities better.

Some of the challenges and constraints in the road to empower communities through social entrepreneurship include: limited resources and funding, dependency on external aid, and measuring long lasting social impact. This article has provided an

overview of some of the challenges ahead for North American social workers and how they can help navigate these issues with asset-based community development, community self-reliance and increasing cross sector collaboration. Finally, the establishment of a social impact evaluation mechanism and the utilization of digital technology are also key points related to the sustainability of social entrepreneurship itself. When played such an adaptive and innovative role, social workers help communities transcend their constraining state in order to be economically and socially liberated.

Conclusions

The research reinforces the great potential of social entrepreneurship as a tool for community empowerment and social transformation. Social entrepreneurship combines both social and economic values through providing economic opportunities that not only help marginalised groups, but also encourage stronger networking for social purposes and enhance community solidarity. Social workers become key facilitators, educators and advocates in the process of ensuring that the communities can utilize the entrepreneurial opportunities available to them and transcend to self-reliance. However, the success of such social entrepreneurship initiatives can significantly rely on social workers being involved in areas such as business training and contributed to policies that will support business sustainability.

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