

Feasibility of introducing social enterprise to Sri Lanka

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The objective of this article is to identify the feasibility of introducing Social Enterprise to Sri Lanka. Entrepreneurship has been the engine propelling much of the growth of the business sector as well as a driving force behind the rapid expansion of the social sector. This analysis highlights key similarities and differences between social enterprise sectors in developed and underdeveloped countries. Further it presents a framework on how to approach the social entrepreneurial process more systematically and effectively in Sri Lanka.

Societies that predominantly hold strong communal and collective values such as South Asian societies support social enterprise more than individualistic wealth. Ideologies, social and economic consequences and attitudes, values and beliefs combine to either promote or inhibit social enterprise activities. Social Enterprise in Sri Lanka should be considered in this context. Although the concept of social enterprise is taken from the western world, seeds of social enterprise can be identified in South Asian countries. The framework suggested by this article will highlight the ability of using those cultural values. On the other hand it reveals the drawbacks of the cultural values which inhibit the expansion of social enterprise in Sri Lanka.

The driving force of Social Enterprise in Sri Lanka are Non-Governmental Organisations. This article will examine the relevance of their livelihood enhancement projects as social enterprises. The model exposed by this article can be used by both practitioners and researchers.

Key words: Social enterprise, Non-Governmental Organisations, Livelihoods

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