

Social Entrepreneurship for Poverty Eradication in Light of SDG 1

Qinqin Li¹, Dr. I Wayan Ruspindi Junaedi², Dr. Gopinath Chintala³, Giehlito C. Dulin⁴

¹Faculty of Management, Shinawatra University, 18778386106@163.com, 0009-0004-1452-526X

²S.E., M.A, Faculty of Business and Tourism, Dhyana Pura University,
ruspindijunaedi@undhirabali.ac.id

³Director, MITS, Rayagada, ODISHA, gopinathcv@yahoo.com

⁴Cagayan State University Andrews Campus, giehlitodan@gmail.com, 0009-0002-7273-5543

Abstract

The persistence of global poverty remains one of the most critical challenges in achieving sustainable development. Despite advancements in economic growth, over 700 million people continue to live in extreme poverty, especially in regions with limited access to basic services, education, and employment opportunities. This research explores the transformative role of social entrepreneurship as an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable strategy to reduce poverty, with particular reference to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1): "No Poverty."

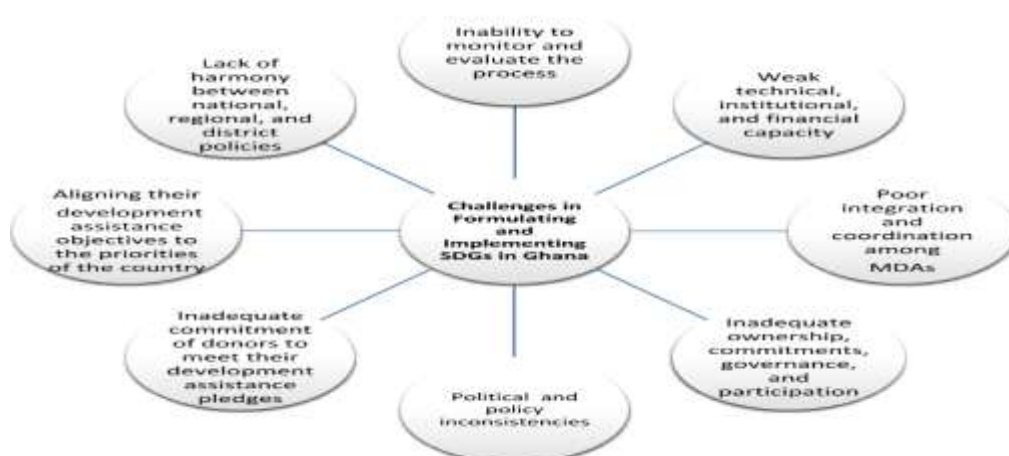
Using a qualitative, secondary-data-driven approach, the study reviews existing literature, case studies, and impact reports to analyze how social enterprises address multidimensional poverty through mission-driven business models. It highlights successful examples like Grameen Bank, BRAC, and Aravind Eye Care, and evaluates their operational strategies, impact metrics, and alignment with SDG targets. The paper also presents a comparative analysis between the Global South and Global North, identifies key barriers to scale, and recommends policy and funding interventions to amplify the impact of social entrepreneurship. The findings affirm that social enterprises are not only viable actors in poverty alleviation but are crucial enablers of systemic change toward equitable development.

Keywords: Social Entrepreneurship; Poverty Eradication; Sustainable Development Goals; SDG 1; Inclusive Growth; Social Innovation; Impact Metrics; Global South; Development Economics

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Context

The issue of poverty is one of the most urgent ones in the world; thousands of people all over the world live with poverty. In spite of all the efforts, poverty eradication still remains a challenging task that has lately been aggravated by the global crisis. Combined with conflicts and climate-related disasters, after the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a roll back on years of improvement in poverty reduction. The United Nations estimates that 23 million more individuals were clinched into abject poverty and more than 100 million people were hungry relative to 2023. (Dzingirai, M, 2021).



In this regard, it is critical to use innovative solutions since poverty is a complex phenomenon that needs to be addressed. One of the new opportunities is social entrepreneurship that combines the efficiency of business practices and the social mission. Social entrepreneurs use entrepreneurial solutions to address

social problems with the goal of generating sustainable solutions to empower the population and transform the system. (Shafik, W,2025).

1.2 Global Poverty: An Overview

As of 2024, global poverty remains a pressing issue despite significant progress in the past few decades. According to the World Bank, approximately 8.6% of the world's population—about 680 million people—live on less than \$2.15 per day, the updated international poverty line. This marks a decline from previous years but highlights the persistent inequality across regions. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the most affected, with over 35% of its population still living in extreme poverty. In contrast, South Asia has seen notable improvement, with extreme poverty rates falling below 10%, driven by economic growth in countries like India and Bangladesh. However, inflation, conflict, and climate change continue to threaten these gains, especially in vulnerable and low-income countries.(Samanta, P,2021).

The COVID-19 pandemic reversed years of poverty reduction, pushing millions back into extreme poverty. While many countries have since recovered, 2024 estimates suggest that 75 million more people are poor today than would have been without the pandemic's impact. Children are disproportionately affected—one in six children globally lives in extreme poverty. Access to education, healthcare, and clean water remains limited for many. Furthermore, poverty is increasingly concentrated in fragile and conflict-affected areas. The global community aims to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030 under the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but current trends indicate this target may not be met without urgent, coordinated action. Efforts to expand social protection programs, invest in sustainable livelihoods, and promote equitable economic growth are critical. As global inequality widens, targeted policies, financial inclusion, and resilience-building for climate-vulnerable populations are essential to accelerate poverty reduction and ensure no one is left behind.

1.3 Emergence of Social Entrepreneurship

The theory of social entrepreneurship has become a known notion that tries to fill in the gaps of the previous models of tackling social ills. Social entrepreneurs are people interested in new solutions to social problems without focusing only on profit, but bring social value. This strategy combines the enthusiasm of a social purpose with disciplines, inventiveness and resolution associated with business.

In the past, such personalities as Muhammad Yunus, creator of Grameen Bank have demonstrated the concept of social entrepreneurship, which has helped to bring microloans to the Bangladeshi to empower the poor, especially the females. This has led to the fact that social enterprises have been recognised as key elements in solving complex issues in society due to its potential on rousing economic and social progress.

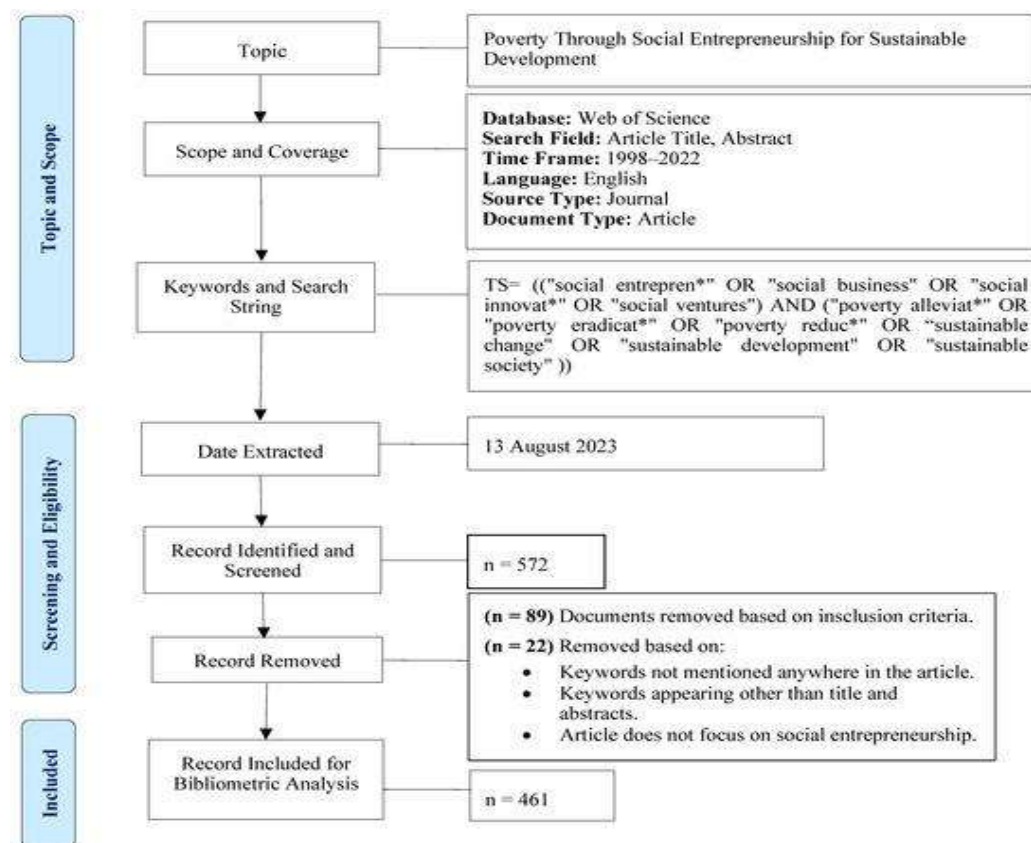
1.4 Linking Social Entrepreneurship with SDG 1

The initial one, Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) aims at achieving that poverty is eliminated in all its forms by the year 2030. To implement this the strategies have to be multidimensional in a way that they aim at the causes of poverty. The concept of social entrepreneurship is reflected by SDG 1, which supports the inclusive economic development agenda, creates new jobs, and offers essential services to the underprivileged members of the communities..(Baskara, F. R,2024).

The site of the social enterprise activities is normally in the area of the unserved/underserved because it implies provision of upstream solutions to the area requirements. The organizations reinvest the money that they make towards their causes and this will result in sustainable development as well as lessening of poverty. The reason why they are good actors in the battle to stamp out poverty in the entire world is that of their flexibility to situations and change them, as well as get to work with communities.

1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study

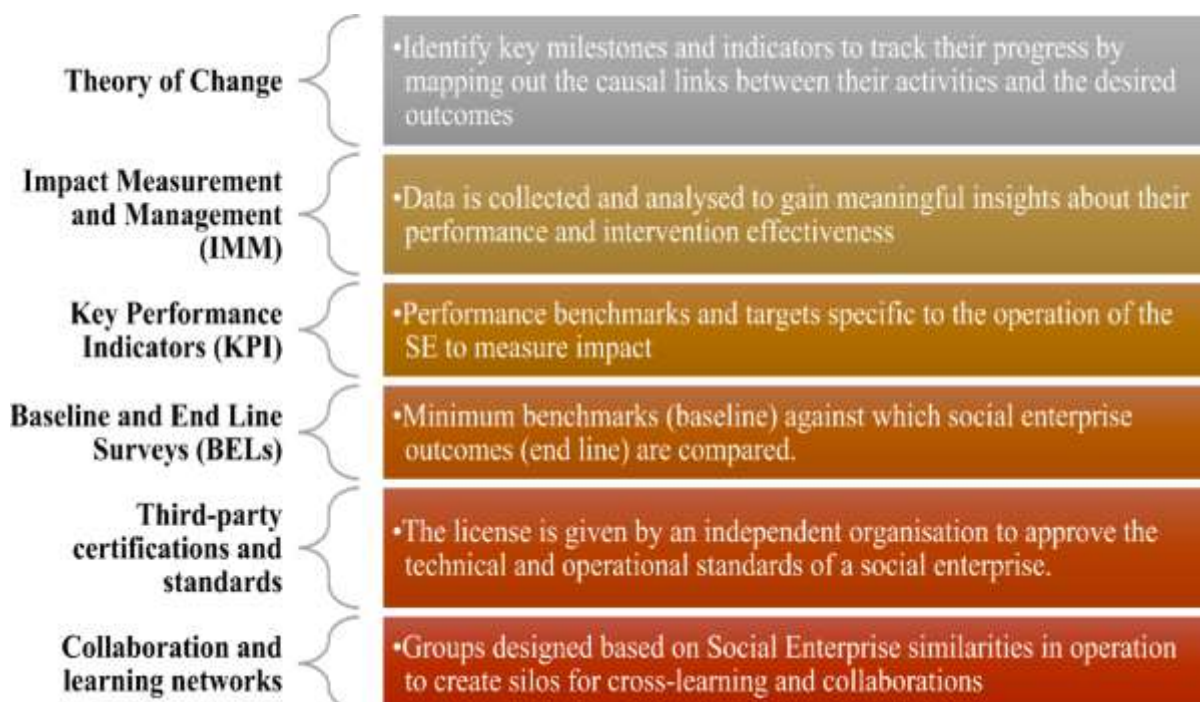
This paper is devoted to the discussion of the role of social entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation in relation to SDG 1. Existing literature, case studies, and secondary data are reviewed, according to which it is examined how the social enterprises help to reduce the poverty. The study focuses its objectives on finding out best practices, associated challenges, as well as the effects of social entrepreneurship on poverty alleviation in general.



The study is subjected to the limitation of using secondary data, meaning that not the most up-to-date changes and local peculiarities might be identified. Moreover, due to the variety of social enterprises and different definitions of social entrepreneurship that apply under different conditions, it might be harder to make general statements. Although such factors contribute to these limitations, the study offers meaningful knowledge of what social entrepreneurship can be as a means of getting to SDG 1.

2. Purpose of the Study

The main aim of the given study is to investigate and critically analyse the relevance of social entrepreneurship in ending poverty in the context of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1): No Poverty. Through the perspective of how social enterprises can grow, expand their operations, and continue to support economic inclusion, employment opportunities, empowerment of the marginalized, and access to the necessary services, the research will implement the benefits of social enterprises and how they contribute to these economic activities. Social entrepreneurs are in a special position to help in the reduction of poverty using innovative, grass-roots-led measures that may not be realized by conventional state or market players. This study therefore aims to learn how such ventures create sustainable social value besides filling developmental regional disparities existing in various socio economic environments.



This study will also seek to analyse secondary data, which include academic journals, institutional reports and case studies and come up with the mechanisms through which social entrepreneurship serves as a solution to structural poverty. It will also research the facilitating aspects (like legal frameworks, funding mechanisms and stakeholder networks) that help to foster these initiatives as well as barriers which they usually encounter. This way the study does not only add value to academic literature but also offers policy makers, professionals and future social entrepreneurs some practical practical policies that they can adopt to ensure that they place their acts in sync with the global efforts aimed at poverty eradication. Finally, the study aims at helping develop a better comprehension of how a social business model can serve as a booster of inclusive and transformative progress.

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

3.1 Defining Social Entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship is complex and it combines social impact with entrepreneurship spirit. Whereas conventional entrepreneurship is concerned with profit maximization, social entrepreneurship involves the development of societal value by resolving social issues using new solutions. These two missions are what make the difference between social and commercial entrepreneurs since the former group is more focused on the social goals as well as financial viability.

Social entrepreneurship as a concept has experienced a change in definition over the years and as such has resulted to several interpretations that exist in the academic literature. According to some scholars it is defined as the identification, evaluations, and exploitation of opportunities that lead to the creation of social values. It is considered by others as systemic change through the strategy of solving the root causes of social issues using entrepreneurship approaches (Chanu, A. I, 2021).

Though there is no single definition of social entrepreneurship, there appears agreement on some of the major features of social entrepreneurship, such as innovation, risk cut, forward looking social problem solving. These qualities allow the social entrepreneurs to come up with long-lasting solutions that empower disadvantaged individuals and lead to societal prosperity

3.2 Historical Evolution and Theoretical Perspectives

The idea of social entrepreneurship is based on the philanthropic work of people and companies that operate to solve the social challenges. It has developed later to become a unique sector that draws elements of both entrepreneurship, social innovation, and nonprofit management. Social entrepreneur has come into prominence in the 80s and has played a major role in popularizing the term due to the actions of individuals such as Bill Drayton, the founder of Ashoka

Theoretical concepts which support social entrepreneurship are based on many fields such as economy, sociology and management fields. Among the prominent ones, one should mention the Resource-Based View, in which it is stressed that resources should be utilized strategically to attain a competitive advantage; and the Social Capital Theory and the focus on the role of networks and relationships in social change (Theoretical Perspectives on Social Entrepreneurship, 2024). The theories offer information pertaining to the motives, actions and consequences of social entrepreneurial actions.

The need to create more encompassing models that reflect the dynamic and implicit nature of the social entrepreneurship has recently been the work of scholars. As an example, the framework of antecedents-processes-performance analyzes the antecedents that result in the birth of social entrepreneurship, the processes that accompany the realization of social ventures and the results realized in terms of performance (Dey, P., & Steyaert, C, 2012). These models help us get a better insight on how social entrepreneurship works and how it can trigger systemic change.

3.3 Social Enterprises and Development Goals

Social enterprises are a very important part of achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG 1, which aims at ending poverty in all its forms. Using a market-oriented solution to social problems, social enterprises also develop sustainable solutions that can empower underprivileged groups of people and the overall growth of an economy through inclusiveness.

These organizations are working in different spheres such as education, health, and environmental sustainability with the implementation of their missions towards particular SDG targets. As another example, education-centered social enterprise will help to achieve SDG 4 (Quality Education) by offering the right to education to the most underprivileged layers of the population. Observing environmental issues on the same note, participants in their reduction, namely SDG 13 (Climate Action), contribute with simple but practical ideas that help reduce the effects of climate change (Siddhanta International Publication, 2025).

Nevertheless, there is a challenge in the social enterprises since they have trouble measuring and communicating the impact they produce in regard to the SDGs. This also makes them unable to show their effectiveness and solicit funding due to the absence of uniform measures and assessment systems. Combined efforts of the stakeholders are then needed to come up with the strong tools of impact assessment that would measure the complex effects of social entrepreneurial endeavors (Pereira, J, 2024).

3.4 Key Models and Frameworks (e.g., Grameen, Ashoka, BOP Models)

Various models and frameworks have mainly come to light to inform the practice of social entrepreneurship, providing details about good practices in establishing social impact. One of the most obvious examples will be the Grameen Bank model developed and initiated by Muhammad Yunus, which is based on offering microfinances to those people with low income and women in particular, with the idea of empowering them by giving them the opportunity to have access to credit without collateral. This has proved to be very effective in reducing poverty levels and financial inclusion (Diaz-Sarachaga, J. M, 2022).



Another very successful model is Ashoka that was established by Bill Drayton to promote social entrepreneurs with funds and mentorship and by connecting them to a worldwide network. Through discovery and financing of people with creative ideas as solutions to social issues, Ashoka has enabled the expansion of effective enterprises internationally.

The Bottom of the Pyramid (BOP) model concentrates on addressing the needs of the poorest peoples through creating cheap products and services. Such a strategy persuades companies to consider low-income neighborhoods as potential markets and promotes an inclusive economic development. The fact that the BOP model combines social goals with business plans indicates the possibility of profit-oriented to alleviate poverty (FasterCapital, 2025).

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 Research Design and Approach

The research design used in this study is qualitative because it uses the descriptive and exploratory approach. This is to critical analyse and synthesize the available body of knowledge about the contribution of social entrepreneurship to poverty eradication, and in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1). The OSHRI research is valueable to be conducted using a secondary data method because there is a quality literature, case studies, institutional reports and impact assessment data available by reputable international sources. The design will allow the researcher to achieve patterns, themes and theoretical elements without necessarily engaging in field work or extensive data collection.

The study is on exploratory basis although it seeks to know the different models, mechanisms and outcomes of social enterprises both operating in the developed and developing environment. The research questions are fulfilled by examining and analyzing already available knowledge and provide the

answers to meanings of relevant conclusions and strategic recommendations that could be used to inform practice, policy, and research in the future.

4.2 Sources of Secondary Data

The secondary data used in this research was collected from a wide range of **academic, institutional, and practitioner-based sources**, including:

- Peer-reviewed journal articles from databases such as JSTOR, ScienceDirect, and Google Scholar.
- Reports and whitepapers from international development organizations (e.g., UNDP, World Bank, OECD, GIIN).
- Case studies published by think tanks and research institutions (e.g., Ashoka, Schwab Foundation, Brookings).
- Official publications from successful social enterprises like Grameen Bank, BRAC, and Aravind Eye Care.
- Industry reports from platforms such as the Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) and Acumen Fund.

All sources selected were published between 2010 and 2025 to ensure relevance, with emphasis placed on data post-2015—the year the SDGs were formally adopted.

4.3 Criteria for Data Selection and Inclusion

To ensure the quality and relevance of the data, the following **inclusion criteria** were applied:

- Publications must address the concepts of social entrepreneurship, poverty reduction, or SDG 1.
- Documents must include empirical findings, case-based evidence, or theoretical insights.
- Priority was given to sources published in English, accessible through reputable academic and institutional databases.
- Only data from verified institutions and recognized experts in the field was included to enhance credibility.

Exclusion criteria included:

- Blogs, non-reviewed opinion pieces, and data lacking citations or transparency.
- Outdated reports (pre-2010) that do not reflect the contemporary SDG framework or modern social enterprise practices.

4.4 Methods of Data Analysis

A **thematic analysis** method was employed to examine the collected data. This involved systematically reviewing the selected literature to identify recurring themes, concepts, and frameworks related to social entrepreneurship and poverty eradication. Thematic codes were categorized under key areas such as business models, impact metrics, regional focus, funding mechanisms, and alignment with SDG 1.

Comparative analysis was also used to evaluate differences and similarities in the functioning of social enterprises between the Global South and Global North. Tables were constructed to represent quantitative figures (e.g., impact statistics) and qualitative lessons derived from case studies.

4.5 Limitations and Ethical Considerations

As this study relies solely on secondary data, one major limitation is the lack of primary, field-based insights, which may have provided more contextualized and current perspectives. Moreover, the study is dependent on the quality and scope of available sources, which may not uniformly cover all regions or types of enterprises.

From an ethical standpoint, all data was sourced from publicly available and credited platforms, ensuring intellectual honesty and citation integrity. No human participants were involved, and therefore, the study does not require ethical clearance from an institutional review board. However, every effort has been made to interpret and represent source material fairly and without bias.

5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Role of Social Enterprises in Poverty Reduction

The social enterprises have become the key players in the worldwide endeavor to mitigate poverty. They help curb systemic problems like unemployment, inability to have access to vital services and economic marginalization as they combine an understanding of business with social missions. Their unconventional

strategies tend to bridge the gap generated by the traditional sectors that include public and those involved in the private sectors, especially the underserved communities.

Such organizations not only offer goods and services that suit the needs of the marginalized groups, but also enable individuals by building their capacities and providing them opportunities that are not discriminative. Social enterprises build sustainable models when they reinvest their profits back to their social missions, thus leading to the long-term cessation of poverty.

Role/Function	Description	Example Initiatives
Employment Generation	Provide jobs to disadvantaged groups, reducing income inequality and dependency.	Toms Shoes employment program in Haiti
Access to Basic Services	Deliver essential services like healthcare, clean water, and sanitation in underserved areas.	Aravind Eye Care in India
Skill Development & Education	Offer training and educational programs to improve employability and entrepreneurship.	Barefoot College solar engineer training
Microfinance & Financial Inclusion	Enable the poor to access credit, savings, and insurance services, fostering economic participation.	Grameen Bank in Bangladesh
Women Empowerment	Promote gender equality by supporting women-led enterprises and ensuring income autonomy.	SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association) in India
Sustainable Livelihoods	Create long-term economic opportunities in agriculture, crafts, and renewable energy.	EcoPost recycling initiative in Kenya
Community Development	Invest in local infrastructure and social services to strengthen communities.	BRAC's integrated development programs
Market Access for Marginalized Groups	Connect small producers and artisans to national and international markets.	Ten Thousand Villages fair trade supply chain

5.2 Successful Case Examples and Lessons Learned

Several social enterprises have demonstrated significant impact in poverty alleviation through innovative models:

- **Grameen Bank (Bangladesh):** Pioneered microfinance by providing small loans to the impoverished without requiring collateral, enabling them to start small businesses and achieve financial independence.
- **BRAC (Bangladesh):** Evolved from a relief organization into one of the world's largest NGOs, focusing on education, healthcare, and economic development, thereby transforming the lives of millions.
- **Barefoot College (India):** Empowers rural women by training them as solar engineers, facilitating access to renewable energy in off-grid communities and promoting gender equality.

These cases underscore the importance of community engagement, adaptability, and sustainable practices in achieving lasting social impact.

Social Enterprise	Country	Focus Area	Impact Figures	Key Lesson
Grameen Bank	Bangladesh	Microfinance & Financial Inclusion	Over 9 million borrowers served (96% women); \$2.5B in loans disbursed	Empowering women with microloans can lift entire communities out of poverty.
BRAC	Bangladesh	Integrated Development (Health, Education, Livelihood)	110 million people reached; operating in 11 countries	Holistic, scalable development models can achieve systemic change.
Barefoot College	India	Renewable Energy & Women Empowerment	3 million people in 93 countries benefited; 1,000+ rural women	Training local women as leaders enhances

			trained as solar engineers	sustainability and community resilience.
SELCO India	India	Solar Energy Access for Poor Households	Over 650,000 solar systems installed; 2 million lives impacted	Affordable clean energy access boosts productivity and income.
Aravind Eye Care	India	Affordable Eye Care	Over 5 million surgeries performed; 60% of patients receive free/subsidized care	High-volume, low-cost models can deliver quality healthcare at scale.
KickStart International	Kenya	Irrigation Tools for Smallholder Farmers	More than 300,000 irrigation pumps sold; 1 million+ small farmers benefited	Simple, scalable technology improves food security and farmer incomes.

5.3 Comparative Insights: Global South vs. Global North

Social enterprises in Global South usually work with basic human needs, like growing healthcare, education, and clean energy in environments with developed infrastructure and resources. The so-called nature of their models is always grassroots-oriented with an emphasis on the empowerment of the community and talent development locally. On the other hand, social enterprises in the Global North often address such dilemmas as social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and unemployment of marginal groups of people. They can usually enjoy larger support mechanisms, such as pro-friendly policies and funding accessibility, which results in increased scalability and innovation. In spite of the contextual variation, both areas have common challenges, like impact measurement and financial sustainability, which outlines the problem of flexibility of approaches in different environments.

Aspect of Comparison	Global South	Global North
Primary Focus Areas	Basic services: 600M+ lack electricity; 1 in 3 lack safe drinking water	Focus on SDGs 8, 10, 12, and 13; 60% target sustainability & inclusion
Nature of Social Problems Addressed	Over 85% of informal employment in Sub-Saharan Africa	Youth unemployment in EU ~ 14% (vs 7% general unemployment)
Business Model Orientation	70% of enterprises are non-profit or hybrid mission-first models	60%+ enterprises operate as B Corps or benefit corporations
Access to Funding and Support	Only 3% of global impact investments reach Africa (GIIN, 2022)	\$40B+ invested annually in impact ventures (OECD, 2023)
Policy and Legal Framework	Less than 20 countries have formal social enterprise policies	Formal structures in 40+ countries (e.g., CICs in UK, L3Cs in US)
Innovation Style	Relies on frugal innovation; avg. cost per solution < \$5	High-tech: 65% use digital/AI-enabled platforms
Scalability and Replication	Low scale: most enterprises serve <10,000 beneficiaries	50%+ operate in multiple countries or regions
Impact Measurement	Limited: only 30% of enterprises use standardized metrics	Over 70% report using tools like SROI, GIIRS, or IRIS+

5.4 Social Impact Metrics and Outcomes

Measuring the social impact of enterprises is crucial for assessing effectiveness and guiding strategic decisions. Common metrics include:

- **Output Metrics:** Quantitative measures such as the number of beneficiaries served or products distributed.
- **Outcome Metrics:** Assess changes in behaviour, skills, or conditions resulting from interventions, like improved health outcomes or increased income levels.

- **Impact Metrics:** Evaluate long-term effects on communities, such as poverty reduction rates or enhanced social cohesion.

Implementing robust impact measurement frameworks enables social enterprises to demonstrate value, attract investment, and refine their approaches for greater efficacy.

Impact Metric Type	Description	Example Indicators / Values
Output Metrics	Measures direct activities, e.g., number of products/services delivered.	10,000 solar kits distributed in 12 months
Outcome Metrics	Tracks short-term behavioral or situational changes among beneficiaries.	85% of trainees gained employment within 6 months
Impact Metrics	Evaluates long-term, systemic changes in quality of life or community status.	60% reduction in child malnutrition over 5 years
Social Return on Investment (SROI)	Calculates social value created per dollar invested; includes qualitative and quantitative value.	SROI of 3.5:1 (i.e., \$3.50 social value per \$1 invested)
Beneficiary Feedback Score	Captures satisfaction and perception of beneficiaries (e.g., Net Promoter Score).	Beneficiary satisfaction rate of 92%
Job Creation Index	Quantifies employment generated, particularly for marginalized populations.	Created 2,500 new jobs for low-income youth
Poverty Alleviation Rate	Estimates percentage of beneficiaries who move above poverty line.	40% of supported households above poverty line after 2 years
Environmental Impact Score	Assesses reductions in carbon emissions, resource use, or waste.	30% reduction in CO ₂ emissions across service area

5.5 Barriers to Scaling and Sustainability

Social enterprises face several challenges in scaling their operations and ensuring long-term sustainability:

- **Access to Capital:** Limited funding opportunities hinder growth and the ability to reach wider populations.
- **Regulatory Hurdles:** Navigating complex legal environments can impede expansion and innovation.
- **Talent Acquisition:** Attracting and retaining skilled personnel is often difficult due to resource constraints.
- **Measuring Impact:** Demonstrating tangible outcomes is essential for credibility but can be complex and resource-intensive.

Addressing these barriers requires strategic partnerships, supportive policies, and capacity-building initiatives to foster an enabling environment for social enterprises.

5.6 Alignment with SDG 1 Targets and Indicators

Social enterprises contribute directly to several targets under SDG 1:

- **Target 1.1:** By providing employment and income-generating opportunities, they help eradicate extreme poverty.
- **Target 1.2:** Through inclusive services and products, they reduce the proportion of people living in poverty.
- **Target 1.4:** By facilitating access to essential resources and services, they ensure equal rights and opportunities for all.

Aligning operations with these targets enables social enterprises to systematically address poverty and contribute to broader sustainable development agendas.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Summary of Key Findings

This paper has highlighted why social entrepreneurship has great potential in eradicating poverty in a sustainable manner, especially concerning the demolition of the SDG 1. The social enterprises, globally, are addressing the social discomforts like unemployment, financial exclusion, lack of education, and enabling access to health by applying innovative, community-based and the mission-driven dynamic.

Successful examples point to programs, such as Grameen Bank, BRAC and Barefoot College, and to how selective, scalable programs are able to empower marginalized groups and produce lasting social transformation.

In addition, the comparative discussion between the Global South and the Global North shows that there are different types and forms of operational issues and innovations, which are context-specific. Whereas a social enterprise in the Global South tends to work toward human beings who address the issue of basic needs in conditions with scarce resources, social enterprises in the North are more likely to tackle the idea of inclusion, sustainability, and mental health in the terms of digital and hybrid revenue-generating functions or models. Cluster encouragement and Cluster contributions on social impact on a closer look, both regions give priority on social impact, and major roles on the SDG 1 goals to be achieved.

6.2 Theoretical and Practical Implications

Theoretically, this study adds to the growing body of literature that frames social entrepreneurship as a hybrid paradigm situated between traditional enterprise and nonprofit models. It confirms that social enterprises do not merely supplement existing development efforts but act as autonomous, adaptive systems capable of systemic transformation. Concepts like social innovation, frugal entrepreneurship, and bottom-of-the-pyramid strategies are reinforced as effective mechanisms for social change.

Practically, the study illustrates that social entrepreneurship can act as a bridge where government capacity is limited and private-sector incentives are misaligned with equity goals. Successful enterprises exhibit strong community engagement, context-sensitive innovation, and commitment to reinvesting profits for impact. These characteristics should be emphasized in policy and funding strategies to scale such models more widely, especially in underdeveloped and conflict-prone areas.

6.3 Strategic Recommendations

1. **Enhance Policy Frameworks:** Governments should institutionalize support for social enterprises through clear legal definitions, tax incentives, and inclusion in development plans.
2. **Expand Access to Finance:** Impact investors, donor agencies, and financial institutions must increase funding for early-stage and grassroots social enterprises, especially in the Global South.
3. **Capacity Building:** Training programs focused on business management, impact evaluation, and digital literacy should be developed for social entrepreneurs.
4. **Promote Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Partnerships between governments, corporations, and civil society can enhance resource sharing, visibility, and collective impact.
5. **Standardize Impact Metrics:** Encouraging the use of globally accepted tools like IRIS+, SROI, and GIIRS will improve transparency and comparability across initiatives.

6.4 Areas for Further Research

While this study has provided valuable insights, several areas warrant further exploration. Firstly, more empirical research using longitudinal data is needed to understand the long-term sustainability and systemic impact of social enterprises. Secondly, studies should investigate the role of technology in scaling impact, particularly in remote and resource-constrained settings. Thirdly, comparative regional studies could further illuminate best practices and replicable models across diverse cultural and economic contexts.

Additionally, there is a need to explore the intersectionality of social entrepreneurship with gender, disability, and climate justice, as these dimensions are increasingly relevant in global poverty discourse. Finally, future research should focus on developing and validating culturally appropriate metrics that reflect local priorities and lived experiences of poverty.

REFERENCES

1. Tee, M. (2024) *Redefining educational paradigms: Integrating generative AI into society 5.0 for sustainable learning outcomes*, *Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development*, 6385.
2. Zhou, F. (2023.). *Journey to the south: A case study of a Chinese PhD student in a Malaysian university*, *Int J Eval & Res Educ* ISSN, 8822,
3. Walton Wider. (2022). *The effects of transformational leadership dimensions on employee performance in the hospitality industry in Malaysia*, *Frontiers in psychology* , 913773.
4. Vasudevan, A. (2024). *Predictive analytics on artificial intelligence in supply chain optimization*, *Data and Metadata*, 395-395.

5. Somthawinpongsai, C. (2022). *Electricity Theft Detection and Localization in Smart Grids for Industry 4.0, Intelligent Automation & Soft Computing*.
6. Arejiogbe, O. E., Moses, C. L., Salau, O. P., Onayemi, O. O., Agada, S. A., Dada, A. E., & Obisesan, O. T. (2023). Bolstering the impact of social entrepreneurship and poverty alleviation for sustainable development in Nigeria. *Sustainability*, 15(8), 6673.
7. Baskara, F. R., Vasudevan, A., Sain, Z. H., Tee, M., Arumugam, V., Parahakaran, S., & Balakrishnan, R. (2024). Redefining educational paradigms: Integrating generative AI into society 5.0 for sustainable learning outcomes. *Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development*, 8(12), 6385.
8. Chanu, A. I. (2021). Sustainable entrepreneurship development and poverty eradication. *International Journal of Finance, Entrepreneurship & Sustainability*, 1.
9. Dey, P., & Steyaert, C. (2012). Critical reflections on social entrepreneurship. *Social entrepreneurship and social business: An introduction and discussion with case studies*, 255-275..
10. Diaz-Sarachaga, J. M., & Ariza-Montes, A. (2022). The role of social entrepreneurship in the attainment of the sustainable development goals. *Journal of Business Research*, 152, 242-250.
11. Dugarova, E. (2015). *Social inclusion, poverty eradication and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development* (No. 2015-15). UNRISD Working Paper.
12. Dzingirai, M. (2021). The role of entrepreneurship in reducing poverty in agricultural communities. *Journal of enterprising communities: People and Places in the Global Economy*, 15(5), 665-683.
13. Günzel-Jensen, F., Siebold, N., Kroeger, A., & Korsgaard, S. (2020). Do the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals matter for social entrepreneurial ventures? A bottom-up perspective. *Journal of Business Venturing Insights*, 13, e00162.
14. Harnida, M., Vasudevan, A., Mardah, S., Fajriyati, I., Mayvita, P. A., Hunitie, M. F. A., & Mohammad, S. I. S. (2024). Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) sustainability: The strategic role of digitalization, financial literacy, and technological infrastructure. *Journal of Ecohumanism*, 3(6), 1248-1260.
15. Majeed, A. H., Younis Agha, M. N., Abbas, A. F., & Kadhim, K. G. (2025). Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development: The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Alleviating Poverty. *Journal of Social Entrepreneurship*, 1-31.
16. Pereira, J., Rodrigues, R. G., & Veiga, P. M. (2024). Entrepreneurship among Social Workers: Implications for the Sustainable Development Goals. *Sustainability*, 16(3), 996.
17. Rasli, A., Zhou, F., & Abas, I. (2024). A framework for higher education institutions sustainability: A multi-method study. *Journal of Infrastructure, Policy and Development*, 8(5), 3566.
18. RATANAKVISAL, Z. F., & NG, C. P. The Effective Implementation Of The 5s Concept OnThe Performance: A Case Study OfA Manufacturing Company In Malaysia.
19. Sackey, O. (2023). *Exploring innovative roles of social entrepreneurship in poverty alleviation: The case of Ghana* (Master's thesis, Ohio University).
20. Samanta, P. (2021). Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development and Poverty Eradication. *Sustainable Entrepreneurship Development and Poverty Eradication* (August 20, 2021).
21. Shafik, W. (2025). SDG 1: No Poverty—Leveraging Technology for Economic Inclusion. In *Factoring Technology in Global Sustainability* (pp. 75-105). Springer, Singapore.
22. Shao, H., Jin, Q., Rasli, A., Prestianawati, S. A., Zhou, F., & Lu, L. (2024). Impact of Digital Economy on Living Standards and Equality in Rural and Urban Areas of China.
23. Shao, H., Peng, Q., Zhou, F., & Wider, W. (2024). Environmental regulation, industrial transformation, and green economy development. *Frontiers in Environmental Science*, 12, 1442072.
24. Siddhanta International Publication. (2025). The Role of Social Enterprises in Advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Link
25. Teoh, C. W., Khor, K. C., & Wider, W. (2022). Factors influencing consumers' purchase intention towards green home appliances. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 927327.
26. Tian, L., Kanchanawongpaisan, S., & Fei, Z. (2025). Advancing Sustainable Engineering Practices In Industrial Parks: A Pathway to Achieving SDG 12 and SDG 13 in Thailand. *Journal of Lifestyle and SDGs Review*, 5(1), e04134-e04134.
27. Zainal, N. S. B., Wider, W., Lajuma, S., Ahmad Khadri, M. W. A. B., Taib, N. M., & Joseph, A. (2022). Employee retention in the service industry in Malaysia. *Frontiers in sociology*, 7, 928951.