Characteristics and Definition of Social Entrepreneurship

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Brouard and Larivet (2010) have analyzed several definitions of social entrepreneurship to identify primary and secondary characteristics and to present a definition from those characteristics.

Characteristics

Primary characteristics of Social entrepreneurship (SE_SHIP) are:
(C1) SE_SHIP represents a variety of activities and processes
(C2) SE_SHIP wants to create and sustain social value
(C3) SE_SHIP encourage more entrepreneurial approaches for social use
(C4) SE_SHIP displays various degree of innovation and change
(C5) SE_SHIP is constrained by the external environment

Secondary characteristics of Social entrepreneurship (SE_SHIP) are:
(C6) SE_SHIP may have various degree of positive social transformation
(C7) SE_SHIP may take advantage of new opportunities
(C8) SE_SHIP may use business concepts, principles, models and tools
(C9) SE_SHIP may be constrained by relative resource poverty
(C10) SE_SHIP may resolve social market failures
(C11) SE_SHIP may invested the profit in the activity of venture itself rather than returned to investors
(C12) SE_SHIP may take a wide variety of legal form
(C13) SE_SHIP may be achieved by creating a new business

Definition

Building upon these characteristics,

Social entrepreneurship is a concept which represents a variety of activities and processes to create and sustain social value by using more entrepreneurial and innovative approaches and constrained by the external environment.
More information in: