

A Review on Development of Social Entrepreneurship Projects among Indigenous People

Aminah Binti Ahmad and Siti Sarah Maidin

Abstract--- *This paper aims to present a systematic literature review which illustrates the development of social entrepreneurship projects among indigenous people. This literature also examines the various characteristics of indigenous entrepreneurship projects. The research is based on a review of 15 different sources from the literature. Different research databases containing peer - reviewed articles and general online resources were utilized to gather the information. The outcome from the review revealed that there is potential for the indigenous people to be engaged in social entrepreneurship.*

Keywords--- *Indigenous Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, Indigenous, Project Management, Culture.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Currently, “indigenous” definition has not been addressed widely by the United Nation. However, the current understanding of the term has been accepted on the basis of a series of characteristics which are (i) identifying oneself as an indigenous person and accepted by its member by their indigenous society (ii) historical connection with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies (iii) solid connection to their own terrains and natural resources (iv) an identifiable and unique social political or economic systems, (v) unique linguistic, values and opinions (vi) established themselves as non-dominant social groups and (vii) a resolution to uphold their ancestral environments and systems as a distinctive human group [1].

Social Entrepreneur (SE) includes a variety of people with dissimilar backgrounds and in certain cases, the social objectives are their only motivation [2]. SE has been widely accepted as "an innovative, social value-creating activity that can take place within or through the non-profit, business or government sector" [3]. SE may therefore consciously pursue social and/or economic goals. Indigenous social entrepreneurship is defined as "the efforts of an indigenous group to address or create broadly defined social value through entrepreneurship" [4].

According to [5], there are several factors exacerbates Indigenous People (IP) economy. Among the factors are: living remotely from commercial areas, possess limited skill and infrastructure bases, possess low modern education, low skill levels, poor health, largely out of the proximity to the market, limited financial resources and largely dependent on government assistance need to overcome significant social and cultural challenges.

Indigenous community prefers initiatives that recognize the interdependency of caring, respecting and conserving the people and fauna residing in the surrounding areas they live in. Therefore, human, natural and spiritual realms objectives that promotes sustainability and reciprocity are most favoured by them [6]. In addition to tradition, heritage, culture and collective ownership, communities benefits are considered as significant element in

Aminah Binti Ahmad, Asia Pacific University (APU). E-mail: TP051251@mail.apu.edu.my
Siti Sarah Maidin, Asia Pacific University (APU). E-mail: dr.sitisarah@apu.edu.my

any indigenous led social enterprise [7]. It is projected that there are more than 370 million IP who are still bounded with their unique culture as well as retaining their own social, traditions, economic and political features which is totally different from the country in which they live in [1].

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

A systematic approach was adopted and the search criteria addressed the research issues. These parameters were identified as criteria for eligibility:

- i. Returned search keyword: indigenous economic development / indigenous enterprise; social enterprises, entrepreneurship;
- ii. Date of publication from 2010 to 2019;
- iii. Publications written in English; AND
- iv. The article addresses SE projects undertaken by indigenous communities.

The sources of the articles are from Scopus Indexed Database, Google Scholar and Mendeley. The accessed date were from January 2019 to February 2019. The results obtained from the search using criteria (i) above were examined in order to include potential articles using each individual title, keyword set and abstract of papers that met the criteria of (ii) and (iii). Due to language and year of publication requirements, the database search provided 133 articles and 47 was eliminated. The remaining articles have been examined more carefully to achieve the research goals and 15 papers were chosen to be included in there view due to their suitability to the issues being discussed.

Study Characteristics

Important features of the reviewed 15 papers are discussed in this section in relation to the statements made in the abstracts. The research has raised three (3) questions which are (i) What are the characteristics of Social Entrepreneurship Projects undertaken by the IP? (ii) What are the developments among Indigenous Entrepreneurships (IE)? (iii) What are the potentials and limits of the projects in relation to IE?

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section will explain the result from the review. The review is performed with the goal to answer the three (3) questions which has been raised up earlier in Section 2.1.

3.1 What are the Characteristics of Social Entrepreneurship Projects undertaken by the Indigenous People?

3.1.1 Dimensions

Motivation for innovative products or services for IP, such as utilizing native assets, resources and acknowledgement of the key role played by countries to support indigenous innovation and business are highly encouraged. The protection of environmental equilibrium, unity, cultural conservation and community fiscal fairness are IP basic values and convictions. 14 out of 15 articles states that the SE Projects undertaken by the IP encompasses a variety of dimensions into consideration such as integrating economic objectives, social objectives, environmental objectives, cultural heritage and community ownerships. Projects come in different sizes,

distinctiveness and complexity. Therefore, the success measurement criteria vary from project to project. To gain competitive advantage in the real business world, IE project success should also include: efficiency (adherence to timetables and budgetary objectives); effect on clients (client benefits end product performance and client requirements); success in business (the benefits of the project in terms of commercial value and market share); and future preparation (creating new technological and organizational facilities as well as opportunities for the market).

3.1.2 Collective Decisions

Decision making in SE Projects undertaken by the IP are done in a collective and democratic manner where common good interests replace personal interests [8]. The community importance is the most distinct differences between IE and conventional entrepreneurship. The use of the reciprocal principles promotes a sense of belonging and unity with the group members who cooperate in gaining group security and consensus [7]. 9 out of 15 articles agreed collective decisions making as one of the features of SE Projects commenced by the IP while 6 did not mention it as one of the criteria of such entities. In the context of Project Management (PM), group decision-making is a participatory process in which team members' analyses problems and work together to find solutions. Group decision-making in PM is usually organized by the leader while the group's members are responsible for the decisions they have made. As such, the collective decisions practiced by indigenous entrepreneurs are in line with the concept of group decision-making advocated by PM theories.

3.1.3 Transparency with Main Stakeholders

Wider array involving beneficiaries and stakeholder's responsibility and accountability has been identified in the operation of their enterprises. These enterprises takes into account a broader range of stakeholders and a widespread range of issues especially social effects. Only 2 out of 15 articles reviewed stated transparency with main stakeholders as one of the characteristics of the projects carried by IP. Transparency in PM should be adopted, as its many advantages often outweigh the disadvantages. While many things benefit a project, there are a few things (such as finances, contracts or personal topics) that need not be shared with everyone. Providing a deep level of visibility not only makes the work easier, but can also make the project more efficient and easier.

3.1.4 Wealth Creation

The community defines business success based more on skills developed by working within the aquatic ecosystem's natural productivity [7]. 8 out of 15 articles mentioned the same objectives in the wealth creation view of the projects undertaken by related companies. Entrepreneurship is one of every economy's ways of creating wealth.

3.1.5 Competitive Advantage

Indigenous trade or competitive advantage is in culturally industrial-based where the advantage is the uniqueness of the product, not quality or price [9]. 5 out of 15 articles agreed by taking into account product uniqueness as the component in competitive advantage. Among the mechanism to give projects a competitive market advantage is to differentiate between product and service.

3.2 What are the Developments among Indigenous Entrepreneurship?

3.2.1 Self-dependence and an end from Dependence

IE projects are considered flawed because most initiatives are not being executed by IP themselves [10]. The majority of indigenous leaders worldwide are recognizing the fact that through economic independence, community integrity, including lifestyle, legacy and values, the desire to improve the sovereignty and economic prosperity of IP are preserved at individual, group, society and continent level through the creation of new endeavours, new programs and new wealth [11]. Economic independence can be assumed as sustaining self-determination for IP, which can be regarded as the ultimate objective of IE [12]. 8 out of 15 articles supported the notion that IE Projects need to be self-dependence and end the dependence from government support.

3.2.2 Innovation

IE projects need to be innovated in a way in which the perceived tension between entrepreneurialism and responsibilities to the indigenous group are addressed [13]. 6 out of 15 articles supported the idea of innovation as a prerequisite to the success of SE Projects by IP. IP have a long history of heritage and culture that characterize them and make their tribe unique. Innovation can in many ways disrupt these traditions such as diverting them from what matters.

3.2.3 Land and Resource Ownership

A variety of international organizations represented indigenous groups worldwide including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the Assembly of First Nations, Survival International, the World Council of IP and the Indigenous Environment Network [14]. However, the extent of the granted privileges implementation is highly questionable.

3.3 What are the Potentials and Limits of the Projects in Relation to Indigenous Entrepreneurship?

3.3.1 Entrepreneurial Spirit

Social enterprises seem to collect indigenous habits and customs that strengthened social unity in an environment where traditional values have the ability to control individuals. Indigenous communities have an inherent entrepreneurial spirit although the inaccessibility and lack of experience. This is indicated by the number of self-employed people as compared to those who are in employment. 5 out of 15 articles stated this as one of the potentials of IE.

3.3.2 Attachment to Community

Members are able to apply social motivations and drawbacks that impose general codes of conduct which can lead to collective actions that benefit the entire community whenever a social enterprise is established within the indigenous community [7]. 5 out of 15 articles stated this as potentials within the IE endeavour.

3.3.3 Traditional Skills

Traditional skills accrued within the community assists the development of an entrepreneurial activities within indigenous communities [15]. Indigenous traditional expertise are also used as contribution factors in the

establishment of biodiversity conservation companies [7]. 5 out of 15 articles stated Traditional Skills as one of the potentials for the IE Projects.

3.3.4 Heavy Reliance on Government Support

Inability to gaining traction before expenditure of government financial support, lack of business activity, failure to master the business skills required to meet corporate governance and business rules are factors that have been identified as impediments to indigenous economic participation and self – reliance [15]. 6 out of 15 articles stated this as one of the limits to the IE Projects.

3.3.5 Access to Financial Support

Some of the reasons are low transmission of wealth between generations (inheritance) and lack of financial support from capital institutions [9]. 4 out of 15 articles stated this as a limitation to Indigenous Entrepreneurship Projects.

3.3.6 Lack of Other Forms of Capital

Indigenous communities are starting a varieties of new business projects that are not needed by the broader needs and realities of the whole community, which are characterized as a risky development approach [11]. It is believed that many indigenous community-based companies failed because their business plans did not take into consideration the realistic demand of the market targeted. 4 out of 15 articles strongly agree that limitation to the IE endeavours is due to lack of other forms of capital.

3.3.7 Rights to Properties

A clearly defined property rights is a prerequisite to implement a successful business projects. However, in the context of norm, commonly held property rights are very difficult to use as surety in a way individual mainstream entrepreneur does [11]. 4 out of 15 articles strongly agree to this as limitation to the IE endeavours.

3.3.8 Location

Access to the Internet or Internet services poses a problem and in addition to this most of the centres are built along the borders which causes growth to be limited or stagnant [7]. 5 out of 15 articles strongly agree to this as limitation to the IE endeavours.

3.3.9 Burden of Social Entity

Some development companies' governance structure poses risk which directors might be pressured to pay profits to members instead of reinvesting them in business or other investment opportunities [13]. 4 out of 15 articles strongly agree to this as limitation to the IE endeavours.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The aim of this paper is to understand the characteristics, development, potential and limits of the SE Projects undertaken by IP. Three question were asked: What are the characteristics of SE Projects undertaken by the IP? What are the developments among IE? What are the potentials and limits of the projects in relation to IE? The articles reviewed has proven that the SE Projects have used innovation, traditional skills, community attachments,

land ownership and other related vehicles in implementing entrepreneur projects. Characteristics of the IE projects were looked in terms of their dimensions, competitive advantage, wealth creation, collective decisions and transparency with main stakeholders. IE development areas are referred to be more self - dependence and in the process of ending their dependencies, having the right innovation and moving towards land and resource ownership. The SE projects carried out by the IP have potential in terms of the people who run the projects as having the right entrepreneurial spirit, their attachment to the community, which will ultimately benefit the projects carried out and using their traditional skills as a unique niche. However, they still need to overcome limitations in the form of high dependence on government support, difficulty in accessing financial support, lack of other forms of capital, property rights, their location and the burden on the social entity. The results of there view suggests IE projects is not only considered as a vehicle for development, but also a platform for transformation to the community and progressive business models to help transform society. Politicians and analysts deserve considerable attention to the key and increasing challenges faced by related government agencies and indigenous communities. Regardless of these limitations, many IE projects have been proven to be successful. Those successful projects have generally been supported by the incorporation of culture and their community into their business operations, have access to financing and operate their businesses on the basis of sound governance, business advice and networks.

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