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# Social Entrepreneurship and Percieved Social Entrepreneurship Intention among University Student

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#### Abstract

The study examined social entrepreneurship and perceived social entrepreneurship intention among university student focusing on Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba and University of Delta Agbor (UNIDEL), Delta State. The specific objectives were to; evaluate the effect of emotional intelligence on social entrepreneurship intention among university student in Delta State and to determine the effect of self-efficacy on social entrepreneurial intention among university student in Delta State. A descriptive study design was used. The target population was two hundred and fifty nine (365) members of students involved in Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba and University of Delta Agbor (UNIDEL), Delta State. The sample of one hundred and fifty seven (191) participants were selected through simple random sampling technique. Primary data were collected on the subject matter. OLS statistical analysis was also used to evaluate the effectiveness of the independent variables on the dependent variables. Results were presented using tables along with their associated interpretations, which revealed that social entrepreneurship have significant and positive effect on perceived social entrepreneurship intention. The study concludes that intelligence and self-efficacy significantly influence social entrepreneurship intention. The study recommends that policymakers will be able to organize effective plans for training the next generation of social entrepreneurs and increase social entrepreneurship rate, the government must emphasize developing personal dispositions that strongly affect social entrepreneurship behaviour.

**Keywords:** Social entrepreneurship, Social entrepreneurial intention emotional intelligence, Self-efficacy

#### Introduction

Social entrepreneurship as an emerging research area, not only promotes economic development but is also an important way to solve societal problems, create shared values and enhance economic development (Stoffers, Gunawan, & Kleefstra, 2018; Huda et al.,

2019). With the development of social entrepreneurship, practitioners, and policy makers, scholars and other stakeholders are becoming more interested, in social entrepreneurship which could give dual benefits. Social entrepreneurship could help disadvantaged individuals or groups in the

society, given their economic benefits (Tracey & Phillips, 2007). However, after several decades, social entrepreneurship is yet to develop a full-fledged academic system. Several reasons can be advanced for this. Firstly, the academic community majorly, understands the phenomenon/concept social entrepreneurship be it social entrepreneurship/social entrepreneurs (Bacq & Alt, 2018; Teasdale et al., 2022) and innovative behaviour of social entrepreneurs, their business strategies/ models of social entrepreneurship, creation. value dissemination, and the likes of social entrepreneurship (Bacq & Janssena, 2011; Cherrier et al., 2018; Dickel & Eckardt, 2020). Again, the economic, social or environmental impact/value created, cannot be completely stripped away, since it combines solving societal problems market-oriented with techniques/tools but for non-profit organizations. A combination of opportunity, entrepreneurship and philanthropy creates a sustainable and globular path of development for the society, the economy and institutions (Xu et al., 2022; Koehne et al., 2022). Also, social entrepreneurship comprises a wide range of study directions, but related results showed the characteristics of divergence and decentralization. Stirred by this, this paper is built on antecedents, processes, performance of social entrepreneurship and suggestions on the construction of a systematic theoretical system, for social entrepreneurship to fully understand different behaviours. (Lindenberg & Steg. 2007).

The notion of entrepreneurs is also browsed by the government because the influence of this entrepreneurial process is demonstrated to surge growth in the social, economic sector and also support political stability in the country. Research that assist this from Thurik & Wennekers, (2004) which says that the role of entrepreneurs can be effective tool to reduce societal problems, then research from Nawaser et al, (2011) which says that there is

positive relation between poverty reduction and entrepreneurship from kebaili et al (2017). The functions of entrepreneurship can be deposition in development of effective instruments for financial sustainability and at the same time it can solve various societal problems. The concept which has two fold characteristics turn out to becoming very popular in theory and practices, so that these two notions have the name of a new research, namely "Social Entrepreneurship" (Nicholls, 2010). The social entrepreneurship concept is be in need for developing countries as one of the mechanism to foster the process of identifying gaps in economic, political and social development so that social and economic development can be an anticipate (Tiwari et al, 2017).

Social entrepreneurship has emerged as a powerful force for addressing complex societal challenges through innovative and sustainable solutions. Unlike traditional entrepreneurship, which primarily focuses on profit maximization, social entrepreneurship blends social impact with business principles. However, despite growing global interest in this field, the level of engagement in social entrepreneurial activities remains limited, especially among young people and potential change-makers in developing regions. A key factor influencing the emergence of social entrepreneurs the perceived is social entrepreneurial intention—the individual's conscious mindset and motivation to start a social venture. While several studies have explored entrepreneurial intention in general. there is a significant research gap in understanding the specific factors that shape intentions toward social entrepreneurship. These factors may include personal values, social awareness, perceived self-efficacy, institutional support, and exposure to social issues.

The following specific objectives were formulated to guide this study:

i. To evaluate the effect of emotional intelligence on social entrepreneurial intentions among undergraduates in Delta State.

ii. To determine the effect of selfefficacy on social entrepreneurial intention among undergraduates in Delta State.

# Review of Related Literature Social Entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship (SE) has progressed as a research area in great significance (Kannampuzha and Hockerts 2019; Rey-Marti et al. 2016b). Several issues such as economic poverty or deficiency and human welfare have driven various firms to delve into business, with an embedded societal drive (Huda et al. Doherty 2014). et al. entrepreneurship acts as a catalytic agent for social change, and social entrepreneurs do not anticipate direct monetary benefit from their social ventures (Barberá-Tomás et al. 2019). Bygrave and Minniti (2000) found that every entrepreneur has a social function. However, social entrepreneurs differ from traditional entrepreneurs with a mission of social value creation rather than generating immediate economic gains for oneself (Bedi and Yadav 2019; Pless 2012; Santos 2012; Mair et al. 2012a). Schramm (2010) opines that the economic value created by an entrepreneur cannot be easily disconnected from the social benefits, as social and commercial activities are intertwined.

Moreover, as previously defined, entrepreneurship opportunities generate a sustainable cycle for social, institutional and economic development. Social enterprises merge public social goods with the marketaligned tools and techniques for profitoriented organisations (Urbano et al. 2010). Thus, social enterprises essentially function at the boundaries of the traditional philosophies of these organisations (Mamabolo and Myres 2019; Defourny and Nyssens 2010; Dees

2012). Thus, social entrepreneurship may be considered a novel activity, that reduces negative externalities and/or creates positive externalities via the integration of the essence of social as well as entrepreneurship constructs (Newbert and Hill 2014).

Extant literature provides enough evidence that social entrepreneurs are social enterprises and social ventures (e.g. Hota et al.2019; Bacq and Alt 2018; André and Pache 2016; Bacq et al. 2016). Therefore, it is essential to integrate these perspectives to develop a complete and fair understanding of social entrepreneurship phenomena. Social entrepreneurship has been defined differently by different scholars (Kannampuzha and Hockerts 2019; Short et al. 2009; Peredo and McLean 2006). Lasprogata and Cotton (2003) described social entrepreneurship as a nonorganisation Tamarack-An profit (e.g. Institute for Community Engagement, and Meal Exchange, Canadian non-profit oriented Social organisations funded by J. McConnell Family Foundation), Wallace (1999) viewed social enterprises as profit-oriented companies managed by nonprofit organisations. Furthermore, Mair and Marti (2006) defined social enterprises as organisations engaged in business activities in order to accomplish social goals. Certo and articulated Miller (2008)that entrepreneurship relates to individuals and business entities engaging in entrepreneurial activities specifically, for a social gain,

Number of social entrepreneurs and increasingly publications have gained recognition over the last two decades (Hota el al. 2019; Zahra et al. 2014; Short et al. 2009; McQuilten 2017; Nguyen et al. 2015), perhaps because of the innovations by social entrepreneurs (Rao-Nicholson et al. 2017; Miremadi 2014). Social entrepreneurs' business strategies and business models (George and Reed 2016; Roy and Karna 2015), as well as value creation and value dissemination now trending are

disseminated by social entrepreneurs (Sulphey and Alkahtani 2017; Nega and Schneider 2014; Brandsen and Karré 2011).

## **Emotional Intelligence**

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the ability to know and understand our own emotions, how we can manage ourselves, how to connect with others, and influence others' emotions (Goleman, 2011). Emotional intelligence is also meant to understand the capability to comprehend and manage a person to act prudentially in society. Emotional intelligence affects creativity, proactivity and plays an essential role in cultivating attitude toward innovation (Tsaousis & Nikolau, 2005; Zampetakis et al.,2009). "Emotional intelligence involves the following elements: self-awareness. empathy, handling relationships, managing feelings, and motivation (Goleman, 2011)". From a business perspective, the role of emotions could affect the cause of success or failure in business (Shepherd, 2004; Humphrey, 2013). In the context of social entrepreneurship, a previous study by Tiwari et al. (2017) stated that emotional intelligence will always be predict social entrepreneurial intentions. Most of the social entrepreneurship research defines empathy as a critical element in developing social business. Emotional intelligence helps entrepreneurs gain empathy as part of social awareness (Humphrey, 2013; Tiwari et al., 2017). It concludes, to increase social entrepreneur intention, people also need to improve their emotional intelligence to supply more benefits/value.

#### **Self- Efficacy**

Self-efficacy in business is known as a person's belief in their ability to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the entrepreneurial process and the capacity to meet the requirements of success in tasks associated with the development of a new enterprise (Hsu et al., 2017). According to

social cognitive theory (Bandura, 1986), individuals' behavior and level of persistence are related to higher levels of self-efficacy. High self-efficacy individuals frequently favor more challenging tasks and are more resilient in the face of challenges. Selfefficacy enables people to have faith in their ability to choose a career path and overcome any obstacles that may stand in their way (Kumar & Das, 2019). Self-efficacy is positively associated with new business, especially in nascent projects (McGee & Peterson, 2017). According to Godwin et al. (2016), self-efficacy affects behavior, choices, decision-making, perseverance, and goal adherence. Self-efficacy is suggested as an important premise for shaping entrepreneurial intention. A comprehensive review of the research on entrepreneurial self-efficacy shows a strong correlation between selfefficacy and the entrepreneurship intention of both employees and students (Newman et al., 2019). With the above arguments, strong selfefficacy students are thought to be more likely to develop an intention to launch a new firm.

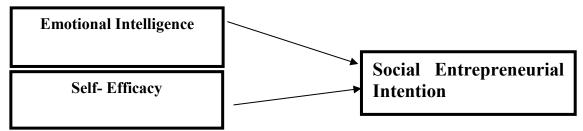
## **Social Entrepreneurial Intention**

Behavior intention could be predicted and clarified by some personality's lifestyles and values (Chen & Tung, 2014). Their study demonstrates that attitude, behavior, or intention must be at the same level of exclusivity. It cannot be expected that general attitudes will be strongly associated with individual behavior (Chen & Tung, 2014). In previous vears. the concept entrepreneurial intention and its predecessors have received increasing attention entrepreneurship studies on predicting entrepreneurial behavior and understanding the interaction (Fayolle & Gailly, 2015). The entrepreneurial intention is much needed toward the launch of the enterprise. The fact that social entrepreneurial intention (SEI) is challenging to develop, the role environment and culture also influences

entrepreneurial intention (Tiwari et al., 2017). In predicting entrepreneurial intention and behavior, it has to be recognized that the decision would be starting from the personality, personal values, attitudes, and perception which are not identical to the

subject (Ernst, 2011). Motivations encourage people toward entrepreneurial intention and the perceived reward. The motivation for each person is probably different, depending on their values. Therefore, as suggested by Tiwari et al. (2017).

# Conceptual Framework for the study



**Source:** Researchers Model (2025)

# **Review of Empirical Studies**

Akanchha Rekha Social (2024)entrepreneurship is fascinating because this research is obsessing on attaining profit but also generate assistance / social securities for the community, particularly in the last decades. This research is to identify what is the consequences of social entrepreneurial intention as a intervene to perform a literature review to acknowledge the new discoveries and developments that have apparent in prior studies. To explain an extensive review the systematic literature review method is used in this study. Based on the disclosures of the literature review study, it is anticipated that there are frameworks and methodologies that can be employed for practitioners as well as researchers to comprehend the evolution of social entrepreneurial intentions so that they can motivate future researchers.

Aiwen & Cheok (2023)Social entrepreneurship has increasingly emerged as an important strength for solving social problems and promoting social innovation, and has quietly become an emerging issue in management. This paper is based on antecedents-processes-performance of social entrepreneurship. The perspectives and theories mainly involve theory of planned

behavior, entrepreneurial intention model; Hockers modified model, social capital theory, social network theory, institutional theory, system theory, performance event measurement model, etc. The results show that the research mainly focuses on the antecedents, establishment and management of social entrepreneurship, but less attention of sociological perspectives such as social governance and population theory, and also lacks attention to entrepreneurial performance. framework The theoretical ofsocial entrepreneurship needs to be further improved. Finally, it was pointed out that future research topics should focus more on the internal problems of social enterprises, the interplay of factors affecting social entrepreneurship, the disciplinary study of social entrepreneurship, and the institutional and cultural context of different countries.

Tuan, Hong & Pham (2023) examine an ongoing conflict between economic development and social needs, especially in developing countries. Social enterprises have been seen as a key to solving this problem. Universities however, has not focused much social entrepreneurship as an academic course, unlike corporate social responsibility. The aim of this study therefore, was to examine the

relationship between mindfulness and social entrepreneurial intention (SEI) and intermediary role of perceived controllability and self-efficacy to generate ideas for academics to develop new generations of social entrepreneurs. The study used structural equation modelling (SEM) to test the research hypotheses. A total of 294 students at all academic levels (bachelor, master, and PhD) at selected universities in southern Vietnam participated in this study. The data was collected between August 2019 and October 2019 by using questionnaires. The results showed a positive relationship between mindfulness and SEI.. Additionally, the study noted students' perceived controllability and especially self-efficacy can enhance this relationship.

Sabri, Mohamad, Abidin, Ghazali & Hareeza (2023)Social entrepreneurship burgeoning research area that has recently garnered significant attention. Consequently, the concept of social entrepreneurial intention (SEI) has emerged as a topic of considerable interest. This paper aims to explore the factors influencing the intention to become a social entrepreneur in Malaysia. While SEI is deemed a crucial precursor to launching a social enterprise, existing empirical research on SEI factors lacks a structured and quantitatively integrated approach. Furthermore, most studies have centered on commercial enterprises rather than social ones. The dearth of research on social entrepreneurial behaviors necessitates an exploration of the critical elements that drive such behaviors and actions. A comprehensive literature review has been employed to organize existing research and establish the study's research direction, which focuses on the intentions of social entrepreneurs. This study is expected to provide insights for both society policymakers, and thereby contributing to the advancement of social entrepreneurship in Malaysia.

# Theoretical Review Theory of planned behavior

Theory of planned behavior (TPB) defines the connections between attitude toward behavior, subjective norms, and behavioral control to decide behavioral intention and its impact on action (Qalati et al., 2022). Personal attitude refers to the individuals' self-perceptions of their own competence and capability to perform activities (Ajzen, 1991). In an entrepreneurial context, it can be difference between concepts of personal desirability in becoming self-employed and the desire to work as an employee (Souitaris et al., 2007). The way individuals perceive the benefits and value of starting a business can influence their attitude toward entrepreneurship as an opportunity personal career growth and a way to contribute to societal development (Wang et al., 2020; Lihua, 2022). Therefore, if individuals view the advantages and rewards of entrepreneurship as valuable, as well as getting exposure and knowledge to various aspect of entrepreneurship, they are more likely to express a strong desire or attitude to become entrepreneurs (Mwiya et al., 2017; Urban & Chantson, 2017).

Subjective norms refer to the perception regarding whether the majority of individuals within a family or society are likely to be in favor of or against a particular behavior (Ajzen, 1991). In entrepreneurial context, subjective norms reflect how individuals perceive influential people around them, who either encourage or discourage them from starting a new business (Doanh, 2021). Subjective norms encompass normative beliefs, which involve perceiving likelihood of approval or rejection from influential individuals or groups, shaping the expected behavior for the individuals, and the motivation to comply, reflecting individuals' willingness to conform to these norms and meet the expectations significant referents (Moriano et al., 2012).

Therefore, subjective norms can be a pressure that triggers or prevents individuals from the growth of entrepreneurial careers (Ruizalba Robledo et al., 2015). Perceived behavior control (PBC) can be defined as individuals' belief regarding the level of ease and difficulty they perceive in handling a given situation (Ajzen, 1991). While considering entrepreneurs as a career choice, perceiving the easiness in engaging entrepreneurial activities seems to influence individuals' perception (Tsordia & Papadimitriou, 2015). Perceived behavior control is influenced by human capital, which encompasses factors such as the individual's professional skills, entrepreneurial skills, past experiences, and personal characteristics (Lihua, 2022). Hence, when presented with a particular opportunity, individuals relevant education. with experience, or exposure may view themselves as more competent to take advantage of the opportunity, thus motivating them to seize it (Mwiya et al., 2017). Perceived behavior control is not only about individuals' belief in their ability possess the necessary skills for starting and succeeding in a business but also the perception of having control over their actions to overcome the greater uncertainties, such as financial, technological, and legal, which commonly associated with new ventures (Miranda et al., 2017).

#### **Research Method**

The main instrument for data collection was structured questionnaire. The student of Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba and University of Delta Agbor (UNIDEL) participated in this study. A sample size of One hundred and fifty four (191) was derived for this study. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS version 24.0) was used to analyze data. The study population was 365 student of both Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba and University of Delta Agbor (UNIDEL).

# **Results and Discussion**

## **Hypothesis One**

 $H0_1$ : There is significant effect between Emotional intelligence on social entrepreneurial intention among university student.

Table 3 Model Summary								
			Adjusted R					
Model	R	R Square	Square	Std. Error of the Estimate				
1	.890a	.879	.879	.48295				
a. Predictors	: (Constant	t), Emotional intellig	gence (EI)					

Tabl	es 4ANOVA <sup>a</sup>					
				Mean		
Mod	el	Sum of Squares	Df	Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	66.393	1	66.393	24.210	.000 <sup>t</sup>
	Residual	534.774	195	2.742		
	Total	601.168	196			
a. De	pendent Variable: Perc	eived Social Entrepres	neurship Int	ention (PSE	I)	
b. Pro	edictors: (Constant), So	cial Entrepreneurship	(SE)			

Tabl	es 5Coefficients <sup>a</sup>					
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
1	(Constant)	10.890	1.026		10.615	.000
	Emotional Intelligence (EI)	.292	.059	.332	4.920	.000
a. De	pendent Variable: Emotional int	elligence (El	<u>(1)</u>			·

Source: Field Survey Analysis, 2025

From the regression result in the table 4.8 above, the p-value is less than 0.005. This shows a positive beta value of .332 (33%), which shows that Emotional intelligence (EI) has a significant effect on perceived social

entrepreneurship intention among university student in Delta State, as the probability value of .000 is also less than the critical level of significance (i.e. p< 0.005.

# Hypothesis Two

H02: There is significant effect between Self-efficacy on social entrepreneurial intention among university student.

Table 6: Model Summary									
			Adjusted R						
Model	R	R Square	Square	Std. Error of the Estimate					
1	.156a	.024	.019		1.7343				
a. Predictors:	a. Predictors: (Constant), Self-efficacy (SE)								

		Cyma of				
Mode	1	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	14.644	1	14.644	4.868	.029 <sup>t</sup>
	Residual	586.524	195	3.008		
	Total	601.168	196			

			Standardized		
		Unstandardized Coefficients			
Model		Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
stant)	13.575	1.063		12.775	.000
efficacy (SE)	.143	.065	.156	2.206	.029
(	/	B 13.575 efficacy (SE) .143	stant) 13.575 1.063 efficacy (SE) .143 .065	Unstandardized Coefficients         Coefficients           B         Std. Error         Beta           stant)         13.575         1.063           efficacy (SE)         .143         .065         .156	Unstandardized Coefficients         Coefficients           B         Std. Error         Beta         T           stant)         13.575         1.063         12.775           efficacy (SE)         .143         .065         .156         2.206

a. Dependent Variable: Perceived Social Entrepreneurship Intention (PSEI)

Source: Field Survey Analysis, 2025

In table 8 above shows a positive beta value of .156 (16%), which shows that Self-efficacy (SE) has a significant impact on Perceived

social entrepreneurship intention (PSEI) (i.e. p>.005).

Table 9	Coefficients <sup>a</sup>	_				
		Unstanda Coeffic		Standardized Coefficients		
Model		В	Std. Error	Beta	T	Sig.
1	(Constant)	9.837	1.390		7.075	.000
	EI	034	.053	050	631	.529
	SE	.061	.063	.073	.974	.331
-				COCE		

a. Dependent Variable: Perceived Social Entrepreneurship Intention (PSEI)

Source: Field Survey Analysis, 2025

The results in table 9 above, shows that the tested variables exhibited positive coefficients, implying that, there is a significant positive effects between the studied variables of social entrepreneurship and perceived social entrepreneurship intention among university student in Delta State. Also, apart from

# Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations Summary of Findings

Key Findings revealed the following:

i. High levels of empathy and a strong sense of moral obligation were found to be intrinsic motivators. These emotional drivers significantly

emotional intelligence with a higher beta significant value of .050, self-efficacy also exhibited better positive beta values. Emotional intelligence seems to be most significant variables to Perceived social entrepreneurship intention among university student in Delta State.

contributed to the intention to pursue social entrepreneurship.

ii. Self-efficacy, or the belief in one's capability to initiate and manage a social enterprise, was a significant predictor of intention. Respondents who felt confident in their skills and resources were more likely to express intent to engage in social entrepreneurship.

#### Conclusion

The results conclude that two hypotheses are analysis showed supported. The that emotional intelligence and self-efficacy significantly influence social entrepreneurial intention. In contrast, emotional intelligence partially has no significant influence on social entrepreneurial intention (SEI). On the other hand, emotional intelligence and self-efficacy simultaneously have a significant influence on social entrepreneurial intentions (SEI). This concludes that the use of the vicarious learning model of social entrepreneurs should involve social persuasion. Therefore, to students' intention on entrepreneurship, higher education institutions need to redesign the entrepreneurship curriculum to accommodate emotional

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intelligence in terms of empathy. In theoretical contribution, this study provides a better understanding of emotional intelligence's role on social entrepreneurial intention.

#### Recommendations

The following recommendations have been made. Thus:

- i. The policymakers will be able to organize effective plans for training the next generation of social entrepreneurs and increase SE rate.
- ii. The government must emphasize developing personal dispositions that strongly affect social entrepreneurship behaviour.
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