Introduction to Social Entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurship is a part of the social economy. Organizations belonging to the social economy have long been an important part of Europe's social, economic, and political history.

The term 'social economy' first appeared in France during the beginning of the 19th century and its relevance has gone far beyond France's borders. What social economy organizations share and what sets them apart from conventional enterprises, is the overall aim of their activities. The pursuit of profit is not the ultimate goal. In fact, the main goals of social economy organizations are the production of goods, services, and activities that benefit society at large.

Textbooks for Change – Partner with student groups/clubs to collect used textbooks at the end of each semester. Students donate their used textbooks. Some of the textbooks are re-sold to students at the college/university where they were collected and some of the textbooks are donated to students in need at underserved universities in the developing world. Profits are split between student groups/clubs and program administration. Any remaining funds are used to support social programs in developing communities.
Source: https://textbooksforchange.com/our-impact/

Social entrepreneurship explicitly aims to improve personal and collective well-being by reducing inequalities and increasing social cohesion, as well as by benefiting the community. This is accomplished through:[1]

1. Creation of suitable jobs for marginalized and ostracized people
2. Reintegration of people with disadvantages into the labour market
3. Provision and delivery of collective goods and social services for low-income individuals
4. Increase of social capital
5. Dissemination of social innovation

What makes social entrepreneurship, 'social'.
1. Social objectives are as important as economic objectives
2. The governance system
3. Orientation to the collective interest
4. Profit is not the ultimate goal
5. Social responsibilities towards employees, clients, and products

A social entrepreneur is, in general, someone who recognizes a social problem and uses entrepreneurial principles to organize, create, and manage a business to make social change.

Social enterprises are private, not-for-profit organizations that produce or exchange social goods or services which are aimed at pursuing general interest goals.

[1] http://www.oecd.org/regional/leed/37508561.pdf

There are two kinds of social enterprises:

- enterprises working to re-integrate unemployed people and redevelop deprived areas
- enterprises offering goods and services to the community in traditional fields (in-home help, care for the elderly, etc.)

Water Health International

Build small water-purification stations in developing countries using off-the-shelf products. Initial funds to build stations come from traditional charitable methods, or through debt/equity financing; the communities can be partial owners (or full owners, if using a cooperative business model). Ongoing costs to maintain and staff the water station come from the sale of purified water to its beneficiaries, but at near break-even levels, costing almost nothing for the beneficiaries.

Source: https://www.waterhealth.com/index.php/

Social entrepreneurship is a term that refers to the growing number of scholars, researchers and organizations that have garnered interest in it. It has become an academic field that yields significant findings to individuals who embark on assessing its bases and scopes. Despite the growing attention to social entrepreneurship, there are still points which require clarification and development. Social entrepreneurship is based on a variety of concepts, unlike other types of entrepreneurship. Creating value and social benefits that existing institutions and enterprises failed in creating are the subjects of interest. Hence, social entrepreneurial actions are the effective voice of individuals that deal with current forms of services that do not meet the desired level of the needs of communities. Success of social entrepreneurship comes from people whose discontent at current standards made them react.