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The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Enhancing the Dimensions of Sustainable Development

Lakhder Nour El Houda [1], Rouabah Abdelbaki [2], Zaouache Zoheir[3]

[1]*Laboratory of Economics and Management, Abdelhamid Mehri University – Constantine 2, Algeria. nourelhouda.lakhder@univ-constantine2.dz*
[2]*Laboratory of Economics and Management, Abdelhamid Mehri University – Constantine 2, Algeria. abdelbaki.rouabah@univ-constantine2.dz*
[3]*Laboratory of Economics and Management, Abdelhamid Mehri University – Constantine 2, Algeria. zoheir.zaouache@univ-constantine2.dz*

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Corresponding Author
Lakhder Nour El Houda
Email:nourelhouda.lakhder@univ-constantine2.dz

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Abstract: This research paper aims to explore how social entrepreneurship plays a role in advancing the objectives of sustainable development. Methodologically, the paper mainly adopts a descriptive- analytical approach to examine the intricate relationships among the study's variables, while also using the historical method as a complementary tool to trace the evolution of the phenomenon under investigation. The study ultimately concludes that social entrepreneurship involves a veriety of activities and initiatives that do not solely seek economic profit but rather strive to provide optimal solutions to social and environmental issues such as poverty, unemployment, and pollution, among others. This, in turn, contributes to enhancing economic growth rates, achieving social well-being, and ensuring environmental sustainability, thereby reinforcing the core principles of sustainable development and embodying the goals established by the United Nations and their intended outcomes.

Keywords: Economic Growth; Environmental Sustainability; Social Entrepreneurship; Social Innovation; Sustainable Development.

1. Introduction:

- **Context and Significance of the Study**

In contemporary economic literature, the topic of economic and social development - often referred to as sustainable development - has emerged as one of the most important issues at the national and global levels. All nations, regardless of their level of economic or social advancement, aims to achieve balanced growth across various sectors, consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set for 2030. To realize this objective, it is essential to create favorable conditions that allow societies to adapt effectively to the rapid transformations in economic, social, environmental, and technological spheres, in a positive manner that ensures the attainment of the desired goals.

Entrepreneurship represents one of the most suitable options for addressing the previously mentioned challenge and achieving the stated objectives. Given the advantages it offers, It serves as a platform for developing skills, a tool for boosting economic growth and

encouraging diversification. Moreover, it offers practical solutions to numerous socio-economic problems, particularly in developing countries, making it an important force for economic progress in all its forms.

In this context, entrepreneurial thinking with a social orientation -commonly referred to as social entrepreneurship or socially responsible entrepreneurship - has recently gained significant prominence. It has emerged as an essential approach to meeting development needs at the economic level while upholding social responsibility. Within this framework, a relatively fair redistribution of income constitutes a cornerstone in the analysis of this socio-economic mindset, as it contributes to reducing income inequalities among different social groups and to meeting the growing needs of the population without disturbing the ecological balance at both the local and global levels. This approach ultimately seeks to fulfill the core requirements of sustainable development.

- **Research Problem**

Social entrepreneurship combines business initiative with a social mission, seeking to meet to community needs while ensuring economic self-sufficiency. It represents a form of entrepreneurship that balances market logic with public interest. Based on this perspective, the study poses the following main question:

How does social or socially responsible entrepreneurship contribute to achieving sustainable development through the interaction of its economic, social, and environmental dimensions?

- **Research Hypothesis**

The study proposes that social entrepreneurship supports sustainable development by generating innovative solutions that stimulate economic growth, strengthen social cohesion, and promote environmentally responsible practices.

- **Research Methodology**

To answer the main question, the study adopts a descriptive and analytical approach to describe the phenomenon and explain the links between its different aspects. In addition, a historical approach is employed to trace the evolution of the study's variables and their different dimensions over time.

- **Structure of the Study**

To cover all aspects of the topic, the research is organized around three main axes:

Axis 1: introduces the concept and characteristics of social entrepreneurship.

Axis 2: discusses the idea of sustainable development.

Axis 3: presents the current situation and future prospects of social entrepreneurship in achieving sustainable development.

2. The Concept of Social Entrepreneurship

Before defining social entrepreneurship, it is necessary to first outline the broader concept of entrepreneurship, as it constitutes the general framework and theoretical foundation that serves as the basis for the emergence of social or socially responsible entrepreneurship. This analysis will proceed in a gradual manner, beginning with a definition of conventional entrepreneurship, which will pave the way for a more precise examination of social

entrepreneurship as an advanced model that integrates economic objectives with social value creation.

2.1. Definition of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is often viewed as a key driver of economic growth, a fundamental factor in enhancing economic competitiveness, reducing unemployment rates, and improving the quality of social services.

The concept of entrepreneurship has been defined in various ways, reflecting the diverse academic backgrounds of researchers and their varying levels of engagement with the field's literature. However, despite these differences, there is a general consensus on a core set of features and characteristics that distinguish entrepreneurship from other concepts.

Cantillon defines the entrepreneur as individual who risks his own or borrowed capital under conditions of uncertainty without any guarantee of earning profits. These are expected to arise from sales or returns on the factors of production that may or may not cover the costs involved. In doing so, the entrepreneur assumes various types of risk, including financial and non-financial, as well as systemic and specific (سيدي صالح و لونيس ، 2022 صفحة 555).

Entrepreneurship also gained significant importance in the work of Joseph Schumpeter, who introduced the influential concept of creative destruction. In his view, fundamental transformations in the global economy are a natural consequence of the transition from a traditional economic system to a modern one, led by innovation and risk-taking under the leadership of the entrepreneur.

Given that the concept of entrepreneurship encompasses multiple dimensions, such as economic, social, environmental, and cultural it lends itself to analysis from various perspectives. These may be broadly summarized into the following three main approaches (مولاي، 2019/2020):

- **The Economic Approach:**

Also referred to as the functional approach, this perspective traces the historical development of entrepreneurship in parallel with broader economic changes. This evolution can be traced through successive historical phases, each characterized by specific standards and elements shaped by the economic, social, and cultural context of the time.

- **The Psychological or Behavioral Approach:**

This approach focuses on the psychological and behavioral traits that distinguish entrepreneurs. These include, among others, a strong sense of challenge, responsibility, self-motivation, and creativity in problem-solving. It also considers certain demographic factors such as the entrepreneur's environment, family background, level of education, and professional experience.

- **The Approach Centered on Entrepreneurial Activity:**

This approach directs attention to the actual work carried out by the entrepreneur and the broader environment in which it occurs. Rather than examining the entrepreneur's personal traits, this perspective focuses on the key factors that contribute to entrepreneurial success. In essence, it redirects attention from the entrepreneur's identity to their concrete actions.

The set of approaches outlined above provides a complementary framework for understanding and explaining the multifaceted nature of entrepreneurship, even though they

differ in the perspectives from which the phenomenon is examined.

2.2. Origins and Key Definitions of Social Entrepreneurship

The origins of social entrepreneurship go back to 1983, when Young wrote on "innovative non-profit entrepreneurs," inspired by Schumpeter's ideas. Another early contribution to the field came from Waddock and Post in 1991, who published a short paper on the topic. However, aside from these early works, the concept of social entrepreneurship did not gain much attention until the 1990s. The term "social entrepreneurship" began appearing more frequently in academic literature in the late 1990s, especially in the US (e.g., Boschee, Bornstein, Dees, Drayton, Thompson et al.) and in the UK (e.g., Leadbeater, School for Social Entrepreneurs).

Several key definitions have shaped the field. Boschee (1995) described social entrepreneurship as the activity of non-profit executives who pay increased attention to market forces without losing sight of their underlying mission, attempting to balance moral imperatives with profit motives — a balancing act he considers the heart of the movement. Dees (1998) defined it as combining the passion of a social mission with a business-like discipline, innovation and determination.

Bornstein (1998) highlighted the profile of the Ashoka social entrepreneur as someone with a powerful new idea, who combines visionary and real-world problem-solving creativity, has strong ethical fiber, and is totally possessed by their vision for change. Thompson, Alvy, and Lees (2000) viewed social entrepreneurs as individuals who identify unmet social needs that the state cannot fulfill, and who gather resources (people, often volunteers, money, and premises) to make a difference.

In the UK context, Leadbeater (1997) offered a broader view, describing social entrepreneurship as a vast array of economic, educational, research, welfare, social and spiritual activities undertaken by various organizations.

During the 2000s, the concept of social entrepreneurship evolved significantly, reflecting a growing interest in its role as a driver of social change. Mair and Martí (2004) viewed it as the innovative use of resources to exploit opportunities that address basic human needs sustainably, while Roberts and Woods (2005) emphasized opportunity recognition and pursuit as key mechanisms for social transformation (Bacq & Janssen, 2011, pp. 375-376).

Building on this, Austin, Stevenson and Wei-Skillern (2006) defined social entrepreneurship as an entrepreneurial activity guided by a social mission, combining innovation with the creation of social value. Zahra et al. (2008) highlighted its global relevance, and Seelos and Mair (2005) described it as the development of new business models that meet essential human needs. Overall, these perspectives portray social entrepreneurship as an evolving economic phenomenon that merges innovation, opportunity, and social purpose (Santos, 2012, p. 02).

Another comprehensive definition is offered by Nicholls (2008), who defined social entrepreneurship as a set of innovative and effective activities that strategically address social market failures, aiming to create systemic social value using diverse resources and organizational formats to maximize social impact. In simple terms, he summarized it as being defined by two key components: a prime strategic focus on social impact and an innovative approach to achieving this mission (Bacq & Janssen, 2011).

In addition to the definitions proposed by economists, several international organizations have also provided their own perspectives of social entrepreneurship. According to the United Nations (2020), social entrepreneurship is defined as entrepreneurial activity

undertaken with the explicit objective of addressing societal problems. This institutional view highlights the role of social entrepreneurship as a practical mechanism for achieving social objectives and contributing to sustainable development (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2015, p. 01).

In the same context, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (1999) defines a social enterprise as a private activity conducted in the public interest and organized with an entrepreneurial strategy. Its main objective is not profit maximization but the pursuit of specific economic and social goals, with the capacity to offer innovative solutions to challenges such as social exclusion and unemployment (OECD, 1999, p. 10).

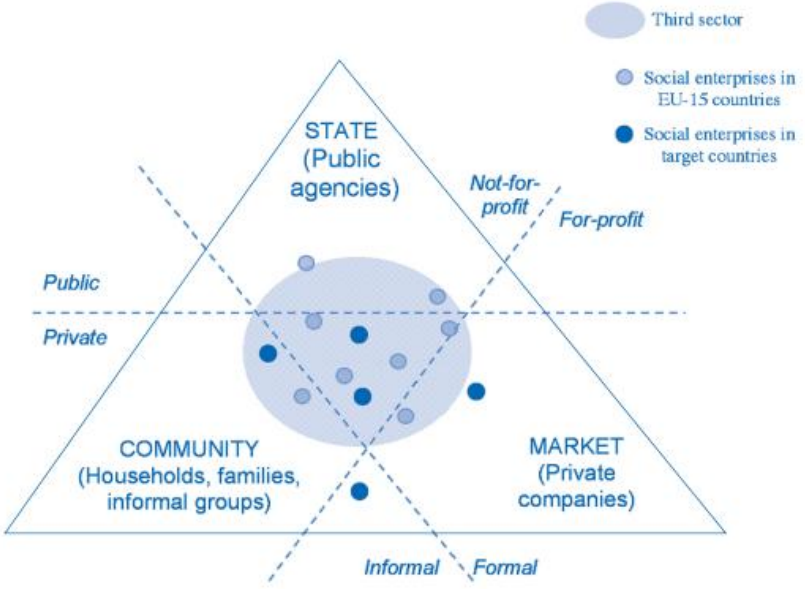
Likewise, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) defines a social enterprise as a business that exists specifically to make money and a positive social impact at the same time, and can be for-profit or not-for-profit. An inclusive business is described as a particular form of social enterprise, a for-profit business that uses its value chain to raise people out of poverty. While it has all the characteristics of a social enterprise, it also brings a focus to low- income communities and is often linked to the agricultural sector (ESCAP, n.d.).

Similarly, the European Commission defines a social enterprise as an operator within the social economy whose primary goal is to have a social impact rather than profit for owners or shareholders. It provides goods and services to the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative manner and reinvests most of its profits to advance social objectives. Moreover, it operates with transparency and accountability, involving employees, consumers, and other stakeholders affected by its commercial activities (European Commission, n.d.).

Finally, social entrepreneurship can be described as an entrepreneurial activity that pursues social objectives through innovative and economically sustainable approaches, aiming to create social value and provide effective responses to societal challenges.

To better illustrate the place of social enterprises within the broader economic system, Figure 1 presents their position across the intersections of the state, the market, and the community sectors.

Fig. 1. The Position of Social Enterprises in the Economy



Source: UNDP, Social Enterprise: A new model for poverty reduction and employment generation, 2015, p 20.

The diagram provides a visual interpretation of the role and position of social enterprises within the overall economic framework. Placed at the intersection of the public, private, and community sectors, their location reflects a hybrid identity that merges social aims with economic tools. This reinforces the conceptual understanding discussed earlier and highlights how social enterprises take different forms across countries, depending on their national and institutional contexts. It confirms also that social entrepreneurship is not a fixed structure, but rather a flexible and context-sensitive approach.

2.3. Social Entrepreneur

A social entrepreneur is defined as any individual who is capable of providing and innovating a product or service aimed at improving social conditions in areas such as education, health, housing, and the environment. The performance of social entrepreneurs is measured not only by the financial returns they generate, but also by the extent of the social value their initiatives create within the community.

The effort to reconcile two seemingly contradictory objectives - economic profit and social impact- gives the social entrepreneur a unique profile characterized by a set of exceptional qualities. These include strong awareness and perception, creativity and innovation, risk-taking, initiative, persuasive skills, managerial competence, and the capacity to build external networks (بن حكوم، 2021/2020 صفحة 68).

In alignment with this profile, one of the most commonly used definitions was provided by Dees (1998, revised 2001), who describes social entrepreneurs as change agents in the social sector who (Huybrechts & Nicholls, 2012, p. 03):

- ✓ Adopt a mission to create and sustain social value (not just private value),
- ✓ Recognize and relentlessly pursue new opportunities to serve that mission,
- ✓ Engage in continuous innovation, adaptation, and learning,
- ✓ Act boldly without being limited by the resources currently available
- ✓ Exhibit a strong sense of accountability toward the communities they serve and the outcomes they generate.

It can thus be concluded that the social entrepreneur is someone who possesses the ability to innovate and market a product or service, while also building effective networks within financial and business sectors that contribute to enhancing both economic and social well-being within society. This type of entrepreneur demonstrates the rare capacity to effectively bridge goals that are often seen as conflicting.

This clearly reflects the crucial role of social entrepreneurship as a safe and effective mechanism for addressing many social challenges and promoting sustainable development, especially in developing countries. In this context, voluntary engagement in the social field represents fertile ground for enhancing cohesion among various social classes.

3. The Concept, Dimensions, and Goals of Sustainable Development

The concept of sustainable development has emerged as a logical response to the evolution of modern development theories and approaches. The intensifying environmental challenges and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources in recent decades have driven the global community to adopt development strategies that seek to balance present needs with the rights of future generations. In light of this, the upcoming discussion explores the essential concepts of sustainable development, including its key goals, and fundamental dimensions.

3.1. The Concept of Sustainable Development

Etymologically, the term "sustainable development" consists of two components: "development," which signifies growth and expansion, and "sustainable," which conveys the idea of continuity and durability. This linguistic composition expresses the essence of a model of progress that persists over time without depleting resources.

Conceptually, sustainable development refers to a comprehensive model that balances economic growth, social inclusion, human advancement, and cultural progress, with an emphasis on long-term sustainability and intergenerational equity (يحياوي و عاقلي).

One of the most widely recognized interpretation of sustainable development is the definition provided by the Brundtland Commission in 1987. Established by the United Nations in December 1983, the Brundtland Commission-comprising 22 prominent international figures under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister of Norway- was mandated to examine the relationship between development and environmental sustainability. In its landmark report « Our Common Future », the commission defined sustainable development as:

"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (بايزيد، 2022).

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), sustainable development is described as “the management and conservation of the natural resource base, and the orientation of technological and institutional change in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations. Such sustainable development (in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors) conserves land, water, plant and animal genetic resources, is environmentally non-degrading, technologically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable (Corsin, Funge-Smith, & Clausen, 2007).

In a complementary perspective, sustainable development is also described as a set of policies and actions designed to improve societal conditions by employing environmentally appropriate technologies. This approach seeks to achieve a balance between the regeneration of natural resources and their degradation caused by human activities, within the framework of both local and international strategies for environmental preservation (ليمان، 2022).

Based on the earlier definitions of sustainable development, it can be understood as a comprehensive developmental model founded in fairness in resource allocation and the satisfaction of essential needs for both current and future generations. It operates within a long-term perspective aimed at realizing a set of interlinked economic, social, and environmental goals, known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on continuous development in various areas of life.

3.2. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations, through its efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, aspires to build a more equitable and enduring future. The SDG framework consists of 17 goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030, addressing a wide range of development challenges such as poverty, health, education, inequality, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace, and justice. These goals are interrelated and closely connected, as reflected in their structure and the accompanying visual representations.



Goal 1: End extreme povert in all forms by 2030.

Poverty stands as a deeply troubling and morally unacceptable reality in today's world, especially as globalization continues to be framed as a driver of justice and improved quality of life. the United Nations has pledged to eliminate poverty by 2030, relying on the mobilization of significant resources from various international actors, including developed countries, to assist poorer nations in creating the necessary material, technical, and human conditions to help eradicate poverty and advance sustainable development.



Goal 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

Through this goal, the United Nations is determined to eliminate hunger entirely, as this persistent issue remains a stain on a world that claims progress, development, democracy, and justice. The initiative aims to ensure that the poor have access to adequate food and to combat malnutrition in various forms, particularly in low-income countries. Fulfilling this will require the establishment of effective food production systems and the adoption of sustainable and resilient agricultural policies.



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

This goal aims to ensure a decent standard of living and access to essential healthcare services, enabling individuals to live in peace and well-being, regardless of their age group. To achieve this, the United Nations emphasizes the importance of maternal and child health, as well as the prevention and treatment of infectious and non-infectious diseases, environmental health issues, and mental health conditions. This involves establishing an effective healthcare system that enhances coverage, improves health infrastructure, supports medical research, and contributes to the production of vaccines and treatments, while also promoting the rational management of health.



Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

High quality education stands as a foundational pillar for achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions. When it is inclusive and accessible to all segments of society, education brings tangible benefits at both the individual and societal levels. On the one hand, it empowers individuals to improve their living conditions, thereby contributing to the reduction of poverty and unemployment. On the other hand, an educated population creates a favourable climate for investment for both domestic and foreign investment, which plays a vital role in stimulating economic growth and expanding future development oopportunities.



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Achieving gender equality is essential for eliminating discriminatory practices across various sectors, while also fostering a more competitive and inclusive economic environment.



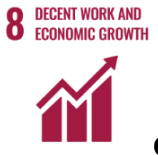
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

This goal includes a set of environmental dimensions that countries are expected to address. At the national level, promoting the rational and sustainable management of water resources, along with ensuring fair access to clean water and sanitation services for all, is considered important. At the international level, the equitable allocation of shared water resources between countries plays a crucial role in reinforcing peace and stability, which are essential conditions for achieving sustainable economic and social development (L'Agenda 2030 en France : le site des objectifs de développement durable).



Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

This goal seeks to ensure the optimal use of sustainable energy resources. Achieving this objective necessitates prioritizing the integration of renewable energy technologies into the national energy framework and promoting investment in the sector. These efforts are expected to progressively and positively transform the energy mix in favour of clean energy by 2030. In parallel, these measures support energy security, grid stability and the systemic transition toward a more sustainable energy model.



Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Encouraging innovation creative capacities is fundamental to achieving the overarching objective of sustainable economic growth. Removing discriminatory practices and facilitating equal access to financial resources-particularly for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, as well as large wealth-generating firms- can have a positive influence on growth rates. Such actions also contribute to building a supportive infrastructure for inclusive and sustainable industrialization (PNUD, 2018).



Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Infrastructure represents a critical foundation for the formulation and implementation of any country's economic and social strategies. In this context, Goal 9 focuses on strengthening infrastructure in a way that responds to development, social, and environmental needs. This objective calls for the promotion and widespread adoption of environmentally sustainable industries across diverse economic sectors (لجنة الأمم المتحدة للقانون التجاري الدولي، 2022).



Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

This principle aims to foster an inclusive cultural, economic, and social environment that is entirely free from discriminatory rooted in unequal access to income based on gender, religion, race, or ethnicity. It underscores the importance of equality and social inclusion as foundational elements for sustainable development and social cohesion.



Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

This goal envisions to promote the development of sustainable cities and institutions capable of effectively addressing population needs across key sectors such as transportation, healthcare, education, housing, energy, and access to green and recreational spaces.



Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 12 serves as a collective appeal to individuals, governments, and consumers alike, urging a shift toward more rational and efficient patterns of production and consumption. It highlights the imperative of minimizing waste and maximizing resource efficiency, in alignment with the core principles of sustainability.



Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Goal 13 calls for enhanced international cooperation among countries through the implementation of advanced early warning systems to confront natural and climate related disasters.



Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 14 aims to mobilize both local and international efforts to conserve marine ecosystems and ensure the responsible management of oceans, seas, and aquatic resources, while preserving biodiversity.



Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

This Goal focuses on the importance of safeguarding terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity through coordinated local and international efforts. This includes managing forests and mountainous areas in a sustainable way, protecting endangered species, and implementing strong environmental regulations to combat land degradation and maintain ecological balance.



Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 16 reflects a tri-dimensional vision built on the interconnected principles of peace, justice, and institutional strength, all of which are vital components for advancing sustainable development in any national context.



Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

The final goal encourages deeper collaboration among key actors- such as governments, public institutions, the private sector, and civil society- in order to advance the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through global collaboration and efficient use of resources (L'Agenda 2030 en France : le site des objectifs de développement durable)[1].

A closer examination of the previously mentioned Sustainable development goals reveals that they are not only interconnected, but also complementary. Achieving them- whether fully or partially- requires substantial efforts at the local, regional, and international

1 **NB:** All graphics related to the Millennium Development Goals are sourced from the following website, with modifications made to their original form. https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/

levels. These goals are visually presented in the following figure.

Fig. 2. Official representation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted by the United Nations in 2015.



Source: United Nations Development Programme, Sustainable Development Goals Booklet, 2015, p 01.

3.3. Dimensions of Sustainable Development

Sustainable development can be understood as a unified developmental process encompassing economic, social, environmental, and cultural dimensions. They are characterized by structured governance and the efficient use of resources to meet the growing demand of society.

- **The economic dimension:** The economic dimension forms a core element of sustainable development, and often requires the greatest investment of effort in the development process. It involves the restructuring of all economic activities in a way that safeguards natural resources and preserves the rights of future generations while still meeting the current needs of present society. Sustainable economic development refers to a process that seeks to maximize the net benefits of economic growth, on the condition that environmental integrity and natural resource availability are maintained over time (الربيعي، 2009 الصفحات 49-50).
- **The Environmental Dimension:** This aspect constitutes a key pillar of sustainable development, as it centers on the need to preserve natural systems while supporting human advancement. It includes protecting agricultural land from excessive urban growth, conserving water resources and biodiversity,

combating desertification and soil erosion, and addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

These actions aim to enhance the capacity of future generations to maintain climate stability and protect the integrity of ecological, geographical, and physical systems (الصفحات 2015توات، 4-5).

- **The Social Dimension:** The social dimension focuses on the development of human resources by paying attention to health, educational, and cultural aspects, while enhancing society's capacity to overcome poverty and achieve social justice (Mesbahi, 2021, p. 347)

Sustainable development policies must necessarily take into consideration a set of fundamental social elements that, at the same time, present structural constraints for governments. One such factor is the rising demographic growth rate, which places considerable pressure on natural resources and challenges the state's ability to absorb increasing demand for essential services such as healthcare, education, housing, access to drinking water, sanitation, employment opportunities, and income generation. These are all critical to mitigating negative social conditions, including poverty, deprivation, hunger, and malnutrition.

Additionally, imbalanced population distribution represents another burden for governments, especially in the context of rural development. Investing in and revitalizing rural areas is vital for stabilizing populations in villages and for limiting internal migration toward urban centers.

The social dimension within sustainable policies requires ensuring a fair distribution of resources. This can only be realized through income distribution and redistribution mechanisms that prioritize vulnerable groups and address patterns of social stratification.

4. Prospects of Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Development

Social entrepreneurship plays a fundamental role in promoting economic diversification and in transforming the structure and nature of value creation, in ways that support the emergence of living conditions consistent with the principles of sustainable development. Social enterprises typically incorporate social responsibility-either directly or indirectly- into their operations, thereby contributing to the development of interconnected economic and social structures that support the achievement of sustainable development objectives within society at multiple levels.

- **At the economic level**

The unprecedented rise of global capital and the rapid scientific and technological progress, has led to profound transformations in production and consumption patterns, as well as in cultural and social behaviors. These shifts have laid new foundations for economic growth and development.

Recent research underlines the active contribution of start-ups and entrepreneurial ventures, including social enterprises, to sustainable development. These entities play a vital role in job creation, poverty alleviation, and reducing social exclusion through community-oriented services that enhance social cohesion and promote a more equitable redistribution of income, particularly among of vulnerable populations and across geographically dispersed areas.

Furthermore, socially innovative enterprises introduce new dynamics into production and distribution processes, contributing to increased economic and enhancing the overall quality of life within communitie (بن حكوم، 2020/2021 صفحة 215).

- **At the social level**

Beyond its economic contributions, social entrepreneurship plays a key role in promoting the social development through several mechanisms (Zouyene, 2019, pp. 13-14):

- ✓ **Contribution to reducing unemployment:** This is achieved by expanding employment opportunities, which leads the enterprise to bear costs equivalent to the productivity of additional labor that is, in reality, equal to zero. Thus, the enterprise's contribution to reducing unemployment obliges it to accept such costs for social considerations. These costs can therefore be considered as a social subsidy provided by the enterprise, measurable through the value of wages paid to surplus labor.
- ✓ **Contribution to improving workers' living standards:** Gouvernements often intervenes to set a minimum wage that guarantees workers a reasonable level of well-being. In reality, there is no universal wage level suitable for all enterprises, it depends on the prevailing economic and social conditions. The enterprise's contribution to improving workers' living standards is based on the assumption that the average wage in a given sector reflects the normal level of labor productivity. Therefore, if an enterprise's average wage is higher, it indicates greater worker productivity and, consequently, higher social and environmental contributions.
- ✓ **Provision of housing for workers:** The amounts borne by the enterprise to provide worker housing are indicators of its social contribution in this field. The benefits obtained by workers may exceed these costs; thus, it is preferable to use a reference value that reflects these benefits, such as the equivalent rental value, which represents society's perception of the sacrifice borne by tenants for access to housing, as well as the return to property owners for dedicating resources to construction.
- ✓ **Provision of transportation for workers:** Such contributions can be estimated by the costs incurred by the enterprise in operating means of transport, or by the benefits gained by workers from using this service. The best basis for assessment is the value that workers would be willing to pay to benefit from this service.
- ✓ **Contribution to providing safe working conditions:** Corporate commitment to social responsibility improves the overall performance of workers and helps preserve human resources, as socially responsible enterprises comply with legal requirements concerning occupational safety and industrial protection.
- ✓ **Contribution to consumer protection:** This area includes actions primarily aimed at protecting consumers and thus falls under mandatory environmental and social responsibility, within the limits required by consumer protection laws. The most important of these actions involve monitoring product quality standards and testing product safety.

- **At the environmental level**

This field includes a set of activities that directly affect the quality of the natural environment, such as avoiding sources of pollution, managing waste in ways that limit its spread, and improving the aesthetic aspect of nature. These contributions are generally mandatory, as institutions are legally required to comply with pollution standards that reflect the environment's capacity to absorb emissions. Failure to meet these legal requirements can result in significant harm to both the environment and society. When an enterprise meets the legally prescribed pollution levels, the costs it incurs to achieve this are considered a mandatory environmental and social contribution, reflecting compliance with environmental and social responsibility laws. However, if the company exceeds these standards and achieves better environmental performance, the additional costs it bears are classified as a voluntary environmental and social responsibility. In addition, when an enterprise adopts a socially responsible approach and embraces the concept of a "corporate citizen," it integrates environmental considerations into its management structure by implementing an environmental management system (EMS). This involves applying modern administrative

techniques and tools that ensure a strategic management style aligned with environmental goals, such as those guided by the international ISO 14001 standard (Zouyene, 2019, p. 14).

5. Conclusion:

Looking ahead, social entrepreneurship is likely to gain even more importance in reshaping development models across the world. As economies move toward sustainability-driven policies, this type of entrepreneurship can become a key instrument for translating global goals into local realities. The growing use of digital technologies, green innovation, and circular economy principles opens new horizons for social ventures to increase their influence, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and social inclusion. In this sense, social entrepreneurship could evolve into one of the main catalysts for the ecological and social transitions that define the twenty-first century.

At the same time, it will be crucial to reinforce the institutional and financial frameworks that support social enterprises remains essential. Cooperation among governments, universities, and the private sector can help build ecosystems that encourage ethical investment, innovation and technological adaptation. The future of social entrepreneurship lies in its ability to connect creativity with inclusion - to turn economic innovation into a shared instrument for addressing global challenges such as inequality, unemployment, and climate change. In doing so, it can move from isolated initiatives to becoming a cornerstone of sustainable development strategies worldwide.

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